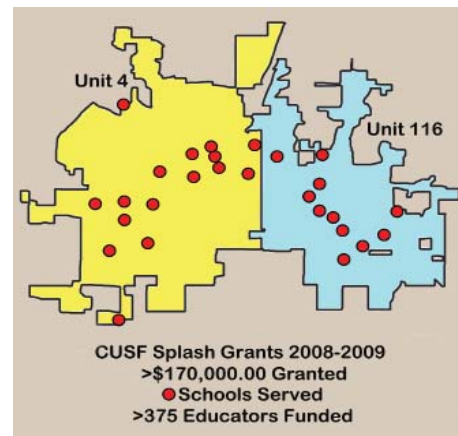


CUSF

Your Education Foundation Supporting K - 12 Public Schools in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

...And the Receipts Keep Rolling In...SPLASH Grants Having a Tremendous Impact on our Classrooms! Year 2 Starts July 1!

FY09 saw the kick off of the dynamic new CUSF grant program called "Splash Grants". May and June of 2008 were spent on the nitty gritty details of the program including program design, the web application and marketing materials. July 1, 2008 was the opening day for accepting applications; we received just a few in the first days. By the end of the month however, we received 75 applications. The majority of applications came in during August, September and October as word spread across the districts. By January 1, 2009, the available 2008-2009 funds were committed. As the program was implemented, issues arose that were swiftly resolved and new information was posted to the website regularly so that our teachers would be kept up to date. The program continued to evolve over the next few months as we observed how the teachers responded to the program and collected data.



As we go into year 2 of this program we now have more information to help us make the program run seamlessly. A voluntary survey was sent out in March 2009 to all grant recipients; we had an approximate 42% response rate which is quite high for surveys. The survey indicated an overall approval rating of 96% for the user-friendly nature of the program and high marks for Foundation interactions. Teachers who wished to fund larger projects were able to partner with up to 3 additional teachers. We have been able to handle the

complexity of several requests concerning ability to pay. The Foundation has received many letters and notes of thanks from teachers who have all stated that the funds they received from Splash Grants have had an extremely positive impact on them and their classrooms. Many of the teachers who received new technology for their classrooms said that it has dramatically changed the way they teach and opened up unlimited possibilities.

As of May 13, 2009 the Splash Program has paid out approximately \$107,000.00 of the allocated dollars with an additional \$57,000.00 yet to be reimbursed to teachers in the next 10 weeks. All of the additional dollars yet to disburse have a deadline of August 1. Data collection has provided a breakdown of how the grant dollars were allocated by school, district, grade level and 23 different tracks of content. Guidelines for the grant requests were very flexible. Support for the classroom is the primary requirement for receiving Splash

Grant money and expenditure types must be demonstrated through the receipt process. The top two areas of purchase were technology and books for the classroom. Other areas of content are the arts, field trips, assessments and incentives. Below are the current totals for 2008-2009:

Unit 4 - \$115,108.35

Unit 116 - \$54,922.98

Total requested support:
\$170,031.33

2007-2009 Board Chair, Phil Van Ness



It's hard not to take enormous pride in all that the CUSF has accomplished in the last two years while I have been Board Chair. We implemented a sweeping Strategic Plan several years in the making – and promptly ditched part of that plan in an ongoing effort to form a more perfect union of vision and functionality. Willingness to change was not and is not a symptom of wobbly uncertainty but of focused refinement of purpose in the face of changing circumstances. Our constant

Continued on Page 3...Phil Van Ness

Achievement in Music: Excellence for All Students

YOUR **\$\$** at Work!



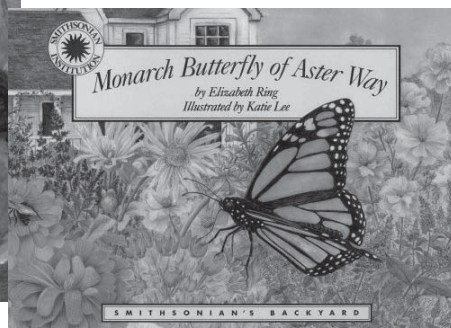
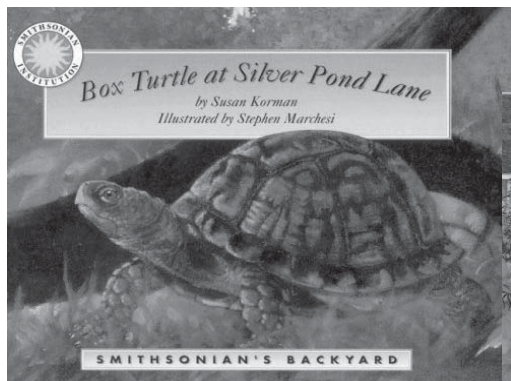
Ellen Elrick is a music teacher at Urbana Middle School and was the recipient of a CUSF Master Grant for the 2008-2009 school year for her project titled Achievement in Music (AIM): Excellence for All Students. Ms. Elrick along with other music teachers at Urbana Middle School observed that low-income students often dropped out of music before realizing the benefits of the time they had already invested. She looked at possible reasons and concluded that individual instruction and exposure to live music performances might encourage the students to continue their studies. To address these areas of concern music faculty at UMS, in partnership with “Mo’ Betta’ Music” developed a program focusing on achieving music excellence for low-income and minority students. Components of their program consist of:

- Small group instruction (up to 4 students in a group) during the school day
- Jazz instruction after school for selected students
- SmartMusic interactive practice and assessment software
- Guest Artists – live performances plus workshop sessions for students
- Field trips to attend live rehearsals and performances
- Parent meetings and student performances

The small group instruction sessions have been the heart of the program. During these sessions students set specific goals, work toward those goals and then experience the reward of achieving those goals. Students are also learning effective practice habits working with the SmartMusic interactive software which is available to all students in the UMS music program.

The small
group
instruction
sessions
have been
the heart
of the
program.

“Backyard Animals” Book Series a **BIG HIT** with Students!



Kristin Camp is the K-12 Science & Health Curriculum Coordinator for Champaign Unit 4 schools. She has been involved in education in various capacities for the past 21 years. She says that “education is her passion”. While traveling, Ms. Camp stumbled upon a series of books published by the Smithsonian Museum on various nature themes for young children. She was intrigued by them and purchased the series titled “Backyard Animals”. Ms. Camp commented, *“I started using it with my grandchildren, and they have loved it! So, I was pretty sure the series would be a hit with school children.”* Ms. Camp received a Splash Grant to purchase twenty of these hardcover books, tapes and stuffed animal sets. Each set depicts a different animal in their backyard environment. They will be available for first through fourth grade classroom teachers to check out from the district’s Science Center for use as part of the science curriculum on animals.

At Booker T. Washington Elementary, students in Ms. Ricconi and Ms. Peoples’ fourth grade class and Ms. Koplinski and Ms. Fradkin’s first grade class have greatly enjoyed using the Smithsonian Backyard Series. The fourth grade students read the books and wrote reports on one of the animals featured in the books. In Visual Arts with Ms. Carey, the students made colored pencil renditions of their chosen animal and also made ceramic figurine whistles. These books were a wonderful asset that provided a springboard for all of these activities as part of the Animal Habitats Unit in fourth grade.

The B.T.W. fourth graders also shared the books with the first graders by reading with them. The first graders used the same books in their own classroom listening centers by using the cassette tapes or CDs that accompany the book purchases. This was a great introduction and addition to their first grade animal unit. The first graders and fourth graders alike enjoyed the snuggly stuffed animal that accompanied each book. All the students were intrigued by the beautiful illustrations and engaging storyline in these books. Because this series has been such a big hit with teachers and students, Ms. Camp plans to purchase the next series of these books entitled “Ocean Animals”.

Continued from Page 1...Phil Van Ness

drive to improve the delivery of services to our districts and ultimately the kids they serve, has put us in a far better position to withstand the economic storms that are sweeping the country and that have already claimed scores of other non-profit groups.

In the last two years, we moved from a broom-closet “office” to a suite of offices on Green Street in Urbana. We expanded from a part-time, one-person operation to a three-person professional staff focused on development, community service and active outreach to our school districts, faculty, staff, parents, alumni and other key members of our community. We made CUSF the centerpiece of an effort by local businesses (SPLASH GRANTS) to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional support for our kids and their teachers. We are playing a key role in coordinating our community’s response to the President’s economic stimulus and recovery program in a bid to ensure that our schools’ voices will be heard above the clamor of competing interests. We also accepted the challenge of advocating for our public schools and correcting the negativity directed from some quarters of our community. And, as we have for two decades now, we awarded grants to another crop of worthy projects designed to encourage innovation and excellence in public education.

In these times of change, CUSF was blessed with an Executive Board of “superstars”, hardworking persons of incredible courage and vision who insisted upon excellence and accountability. One cannot make all the changes I’ve mentioned above – especially in the face of a shrinking economy - without being willing to take reasonable but real risks. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Anne Broom, Jen Shelby, James Quisenberry, Julia Guth, Kent Williamson, and Paul Faraci for their work. Lastly, as I leave this leadership role, I want to thank all those members of the CUSF Board of Directors, past and present, who have shown the same courage and vision by supporting and advising our efforts every step of the way over the last three years.

**Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation
Board of Directors 2008-2009**

Officers

Phil Van Ness, Chair
Anne Broom, Vice-Chair
Kent Williamson, Treasurer
Julia Guth, Secretary

Appointed Board Positions

Arthur Culver, Unit 4 Superintendent;
Preston Williams, USD 116 Superintendent;
John Dimit, USD 116 Board Representative;
Scott MacAdam, Unit 4 Board Representative;
Kevin Erlinger, USD 116 Teacher Representative;
Cindy Schmidt, CSD 4 Teacher Representative

At-Large Board Members

Tom Berns
Paul Faraci
Paul Hobbs
James Quisenberry
Jen Shelby
Joan Walls
David Wetherell
Brenda Wiggins

CUSF Staff

Gail Rost, Executive Director
Roxann Bossenbroek, Assoc. Executive Director
Patricia Dessen, Director of Programs and Fund Development



P.O. Box 1166
Champaign, IL 61824-1166
217-384-4332
info@CUSchoolsFoundation.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Champaign, IL
Permit No. 234

Invest. Develop. Elevate. Achieve.

CAMPAIGN \$100

CUSF has launched a new campaign this year to support the Foundation and to create an opportunity for small business to participate by celebrating employees who have graduated from our local high schools and are contributing to our community through their employment here.

We gratefully acknowledge the following CHARTER MEMBERS of the Campaign and highlight our C-U graduate of the year!

- AmerenIP
- A&R Mechanical Contractors
- The Blind Man
- Energy Visuals, Inc.
- Human Kinetics
- Sam's Club
- Stocks, Inc.
- U of I Employees Credit Union

Campaign\$100

C-U Graduate Honor Roll:

Nick Donaldson, Central HS, '05

FLOWERS in the GARDEN, Flossie Wiley School, Unit 116



Order your cards today from the CUSF Store! These blank cards can be used for many kinds of notes to family, teacher and friends! The sale of these cards goes to support our grant projects in all of our schools. Contact Roxann at 217-384-4332 or go to www.IDEA-Store.org!