

LAPS Foundation Summary of Accomplishments

July 2020-June 2021

Goal A: Fund innovative opportunities and materials for our schools.

- Awarded \$5832 in Great Ideas Grants to teachers.
- Awarded \$4462 in Mini-grants to teachers.
- Extended our grant cycles to 3 months to allow more time for teachers to apply.
- Helped fund Los Alamos Online Learning Academy (\$6022 plus several mini grants), a new school created in response to the pandemic which did not have an initial budget.
- Purchased back to school materials (\$5134) to help with online and hybrid learning for the entire school district, including standing desks for teachers who needed them and earbud microphones for all teachers.
- Purchased and assembled music kits for all elementary students (\$4277) and provided tuners for orchestra students (\$1986).
- Successfully planned and carried out our April Showers Campaign in April 2021. 105 teachers participated. Raised \$14,804 from community donations. LAPS Foundation donated \$13,244 for a total funding impact of \$28,048.
- Looking ahead to next fiscal year: funding the Aspen Outdoor Classroom with Rynd funds.

Goal B: Create a school environment in which students are inspired to learn.

- Continued Wellness grants for LAPS employees/students and awarded \$3528.
- Provided \$3614 in teacher appreciation (gift baskets, yard signs, banners).
- Participated in “Celebrating the Seniors” month in May, including partnering with Kiwanis to purchase senior yard signs (\$470).
- Dispersed funding (\$2000) for two student grants, interrupted by the pandemic, for supplies for the Topper garden and outdoor classroom items.

Goal C: Provide quality professional development opportunities for district educators.

- Awarded \$4522 in Professional Development Grants to teachers.
- Awarded \$3069 in Book Group Grants.
- Gave \$1555 in stipends for Google certified educators.
- Provided \$2305 in funding for Los Alamos Middle School professional development to help with training for block scheduling which is new for the 21-22 school year.
- Reimbursed 12 teachers for completing the dossier process, a total of \$3840.
- Recognized the Teacher of the Year and Classified Staff of the Year with \$500 each.
- Helped LAMS science teachers with their goal of curriculum alignment (\$252 so far).

Goal D: Maintain a scholarship program to recognize outstanding LAHS graduating seniors.

- Awarded \$11,200 in scholarships to 2021 graduating seniors.
- Recognized 11 educators of distinction who inspired the students who won LAPSF scholarships.
- Administered \$39,000 in scholarships for others.
- Held a Covid-safe outdoor scholarship reception and had photographs of the students and their educators of distinction together.
- Looking ahead to next fiscal year: online submission of scholarship applications which will make the process easier; updating and finalizing the scholarship policy.

Goal E: Develop a funding base to provide financial support not available to LAPS from other sources.

- Had a successful “Cancelled Taste of Knowledge” fundraiser in October 2020. Raised a net total of \$13,145 with a mailing to regular attendees.
- Annual Appeal at end of 2020 raised \$26,867.
- Back to School/#KickCovid fundraiser brought in \$30,138.
- Received a \$1000 grant from LANL for STEM-related Great Ideas grants and professional development grants.
- Administered funds to LAPS from the Bombardt Music endowment (\$1975) with the Los Alamos Community Foundation which funded the Del Sol Quartet for orchestra students and online clinics for band students.
- Received \$6049 from Los Alamos Schools Credit Union credit card donations.
- Received \$37,333 from LANL employees who donate through Lab giving with matching funds.
- Received \$1867 from Smith’s Inspiring Donations.
- Maintained an email distribution list of 473 names and an alumni list of 825 names.
- Published 16 articles in the local online newspapers for FY21, including a series titled “A Day in the Covid Life”, publicity for the April Showers Campaign and articles recognizing all the scholarship students.
- Maintained a social media presence on Facebook with 815 followers and received \$3153 in Facebook fundraisers. Included recognizing LAHS alumni teachers and a “Why I Give” series of posts. Also asked teachers from each school to be our “Facebook Friends” and share posts.
- Looking ahead to next fiscal year: Alumni subcommittee is planning a social event over Homecoming, in addition to two tours; Taste of Knowledge will be in person at Pig & Fig Café (mostly outdoors); Five to Thrive Campaign is focused on recurring giving in small amounts.

Goal F: Develop a high performing Board of Directors, Executive Director and organization.

- Moved to new office on Central Avenue with more space and room for committee meetings.
- Remained flexible during the pandemic. Successfully maintained operations and Zoom meetings and transitioned to some in person activities as circumstances allowed.
- Successfully updated our strategic plan which now includes a goal specific to scholarships.
- Welcomed 3 new board members.
- Continue to have excellent student board members who fully participate in meetings and events and provide good feedback and info for student reports.
- Held three Teacher Advisory Discussions and received helpful feedback. Changed format to focus on particular groupings of teachers (music and secondary science teachers were selected for this year) and set aside funding for specific needs for them.
- Helped with retirement celebration for Superintendent Kurt Steinhaus, including planting a tree in his honor at the high school.
- Looking ahead to next fiscal year: Change from marketing committee to corporate fundraising committee to better utilize board members’ time and effort; Leadership Los Alamos class for executive director.