

The East Rochester Alumni Foundation formed in 2005, seeking “to unite the school district, community, and students, and to raise funds and provide grants for programs critical to the education system that are not funded by the school budget.” Since the 2006-07 school year, when the Foundation began awarding grants, more than \$115,000 has been donated to help with a variety of diverse and worthy programs, benefiting students from Pre-Kindergarten right up through senior year. The summary below illustrates the numerous long-standing programs and new initiatives for which funds were provided this past school year. These grants continue to demonstrate what a supportive ER family we’re extremely proud to be a part of.

Funded Grants 2016-2017

After School Advantage: Funds were again donated to help support this popular and highly effective after-school academic-enrichment program for grades 6-12, run by teachers and volunteers.

Aquatics Special Olympics: Money was once again provided for t-shirts for ER Bomber athletes and the volunteers/ supporters representing our school at the April swim competition.

Building Minds in South Sudan: Funds were granted for this special visit from a young man – one of the Lost Boys of Sudan – to speak to our middle- and high-school students in late April about the challenges he faced and overcame in his long journey to America, and how he has shaped his life here. In his honor, our donation went toward the ongoing construction of schools in South Sudan.

Elementary Family Superheroes Learning Night: The goal of this initiative, in its second year, is to engage families in different fun learning opportunities. This year we provided a grant for math, science, and sensory materials and games, along with backpacks and refreshments.

FITS (Fun in the Sun) scholarships: Money was again provided for kids entering grades 1-7 to attend this fun and educational summer-enrichment program.

Girls with Goals: The Alumni Foundation was proud to provide a third year of funding for this initiative, which serves to empower girls in grades 7-10 to make important decisions with increased confidence, through intervention and support. This year, two of our Distinguished Alumni Award recipients – the Hon. Vicki Argento '80 and Mary Steigerwald Whittier '83 – also generously donated their time to be guest speakers.

High School Science Olympiad Team: For the eighth year, funds were granted to this award-winning team to pay for materials used in competitions. Each year members of the team come to an Alumni Foundation Board meeting to demonstrate some of their entries. Their talent, ingenuity, and hard work is clearly evident.

Middle-Level Alumni Connection Day: Funds were donated for t-shirts for this special day in June, when students in grades 6-8 meet with alumni, compete in fun grade-level contests, and enjoy a picnic.

Quarterly recognition of Honor Roll students: Money was again given for lunch-time ice cream sundaes for Junior/ Senior High students who earned a spot on the honor or credit rolls.

Second-grade smoke detectors: As in 2015-16, funds were provided to help pay for new smoke detectors for our second-graders. This partnership with the ER Fire Department – started as a way to remember and honor Tyler Doohan, who died in January 2014 – allows each child to receive a smoke detector during their annual October visit to the firehouse.

Senior Bash: Again this year, funding was granted to help seniors who couldn't otherwise afford to attend this year-end overnight celebration, which encourages them to have safe, responsible, substance-free fun.

Student of the Month backpacks – Funds were again used for orange ER backpacks for this program, which honors Junior/Senior High students for making positive contributions to the school community.

Washington D.C. trips: Money was donated to the Class of '21 and the Class of '18 (who were unable to go three years ago, as eighth-graders) for admission to the National Aquarium, in Baltimore. This excursion on the way home from our nation's capital has proven to be one of the most popular aspects of the traditional trip.

'Welcome to ER' Urban-Suburban Picnic: Funds were once again provided for an August picnic for our new UrbanSuburban students and their families as a way to welcome them to our ER family.

The Alumni Foundation sincerely appreciates all who have supported us, whether through our fundraisers or donations. Together we are providing our students with opportunities that truly help make our District special.