

CLAREMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Making a difference in the life of a child through education

PURPOSE: The Claremore Public Schools Foundation was established in 1988 to assist the schools in improving the quality of education by providing funds for programs, projects and equipment that create enthusiasm for teaching and excitement for learning. The Claremore Public Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is exclusively educational.

FOUNDATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The goals and objectives of the Foundation are to solicit funds, equipment and services through gifts, grants, bequests, etc., from individuals, businesses and other appropriate sources.

GRANTS TO TEACHERS:

- The Classroom Grants program provides grants for the development and implementation of innovative teaching projects. Teachers submit ideas for the projects to the Allocations Committee who determine the approval of grants based on projects which inspire students, generate enthusiasm and promote academic excellence.
- School Site Grants support equipment needs or projects initiated by school-based teams of parents, students, teachers or administrators.
- The Experts-in-Residence program allows specialists on a variety of topics to become speakers and instructors to students at any grade level, sharing knowledge and creating excitement in learning.
- The Scholarships for Teachers and Administrators program provides funds for school staff to participate in symposiums, seminars, workshops and conferences. Personnel have the opportunity to learn about the most recent developments in their fields and be involved in special projects intended to inspire and motivate.

Four members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees form the **Allocations Committee**. Requests are evaluated upon (1) need for program/project; (2) program/project goals and objectives; (3) number of students affected, (4) means of assessment and (5) reasonable budget. Since 1988, 552 grants have been awarded through the Grants-to-Teachers program totaling \$633,935.67.

FAST TRACK GRANTS began in 2002 when state and district-wide budget cuts affected funding for numerous projects and programs in the schools. Fast Track Grant funds provided for immediate needs including academic field trips, library supplies, the Fine Arts and science classes - just to name a few. Since December 2002, over \$125,000 has been awarded through the Fast Track Grant program.

OTHER PROGRAMS

- Survival Training College and Career Fair provides students and parents an opportunity to explore post secondary options by visiting with a variety of college and career representatives.
- Principal for a Day puts community leaders into the schools to experience first-hand the joys and challenges of school leadership.
- Volunteers in Education provide assistance to the classroom teacher by working one-on-one or with small groups of students on special projects and every day activities.
- School Tours allow donors to see how their money is being spent and the grants "in action."

AWARDS

The Claremore Public Schools Foundation received the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence *Medal for Excellence Award* in 2001. The prestigious award is given to a local education foundation that has "most successfully enhanced the educational process in its community."