

# ALBURNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

*Enriching the quality of life for the greater community by bringing people together and dreams to life.*

## **2007 Annual Report**

In 2007, the Alburnett Community School District Foundation, now in its sixth year of existence, continued to carry out its purpose of providing greater educational, social and recreational opportunities for the school, students, faculty and members of the communities within the Alburnett School District.

This past year was a busy and productive year for the Foundation Board and its community volunteers.

The Foundation continued its tradition of providing games for young children during the Alburnett Children's Benefit Day in August as well as a tailgate meal during at the Homecoming football game in October. The tailgate event is always well attended and is a good fundraiser for the Foundation. But the Alburnett Sports Booster Club's donation of concession proceeds from the evening each year makes it an exceptional fundraiser. In 2007, that donation totaled \$2,556!

The Foundation continued to expand its presence in the community through the addition of several new annual awareness/fundraising events:

- A pancake breakfast the morning of Alburnett Children's Benefit Day in August
- Soup & Shop Home Sales Consultant event in November
- Lindale Mall Pizza Hut fundraiser weekend in December in conjunction with the National Honor Society, Student Council, FBLA and School Cents

In 2008, the Foundation will hold its first Annual Foundation Gala at the Cedar Rapids Marriott the evening of April 12<sup>th</sup>. The event will include a dinner, silent auction, live auction and games. The Foundation Board hopes to make this a fun and entertaining night out for parents and community members as they raise money to support the Foundation's expanding Pillars Scholarship program and secondly, the Back the Track project.

Speaking of the Pillars Scholarship program, the following Alburnett senior students each received a \$500 scholarship in May 2007:

- Dana Kuehl           Academics
- Bill Meiners        Athletics
- Merrick Robison   Arts

The program is being expanded in 2008 to award six \$500 scholarships, two in each of the above categories.

If you have an interest in creating an endowed scholarship for a graduating Alburnett senior, please contact a Foundation Board member. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization.

We continued to improve our financial position in 2007 from fundraising event proceeds, grants received, follow through on financial pledges and new donations/pledges. See the Treasurer's Annual Report for more details. Of note, over \$244,000 has been given or pledged to the current "Back the Track" project to date.

Development at the Martin Complex was greatly limited in 2007 due to the wet weather conditions that persisted for much of the year. The fact that 2007 was the fourth wettest year on record in Iowa with nine inches more rain than average foiled three attempts to finish rough grading of the remainder of the complex. The Board recruited experienced volunteer labor and secured free use of first class industrial CAT tractor and scraper equipment from Altorfer, Inc. When the weather would finally break we had to wait for subsoil to dry or our volunteers would not be available to operate the equipment. In the fall the Board met with a local grading contractor who was willing to give us substantial discounts on labor and equipment usage. The early winter weather in November ended our last attempt at grading. The contractor has indicated he wants to continue the grading work in the spring when his schedule allows.

While the Foundation was unable to make progress on the needed grading which precedes construction of a track and football field, we were able to develop a youth baseball/softball diamond at the Martin Complex, a much needed recreational facility in the community.

The Minnesota Twins Community Fund, in partnerships with Toro Corporation and Land O' Lakes, provided a \$5,000 grant which required 100% matching funds from the community. The Alburnett Sports Booster Club stepped up to the plate and delivered a home run with a \$7,000 donation. In addition, several individuals and businesses in the community donated time and or services to this project. The Board is planning a dedication event in the spring of 2008. More details to follow.

If you, your business or your organization has an interest in donating funds, time, materials and/or services to construct a second youth baseball/softball field at the Martin Complex, please contact a Foundation Board member.

Additional development at the Martin Complex in 2007 included the following projects:

- Rocking of one half of the parking lot
- Drilling of a well. This work was completed and donated by Lyle McBurney.

The Foundation was successful in securing several grants in 2007:

- \$5,000 Minnesota Twins Community Fund grant for development of a youth ball diamond noted above
- \$3,000 Witwer Trust grant administered by the Linn County Board of Supervisors for recreational opportunities at the complex. This money was used to purchase cement picnic tables for use at the ball diamond. This is the third grant we have received from the Witwer Trust, totaling \$9,000.
- \$5000 Linn County Endowment Fund. The funds are to be used for engineering services, grading, fuel, seeding, bases, backstops and dugouts for two youth softball/baseball diamonds.

In 2008, the Foundation plans the following development projects at the complex:

- Grading of the remainder of the complex
- Installation of three-phase electrical service
- Installation of a well pump, pressure tank and hydrant
- Tiling of the remainder of the complex around the track perimeter
- Raise the height of and improve drainage for portions of the walking trail

The Foundation hopes to realize substantial savings over original project cost estimations for all of the items noted above thanks to the generosity of community-minded individuals, businesses and utilities.

Assuming the Foundation is able to complete the development projects noted above in 2008, construction of a track could begin as soon as the spring of 2009 once the graded ground has adequately settled. Absolutely critical to the construction of the track was the leadership gift of \$150,000 from the Morris Neighbor Family and Farmers State Bank. What a fantastic gift and opportunity for the Alburnett School District community!

But when exactly will construction of the track occur? In 2009? In 2010? In 2015? Before construction can be completed additional fundraising needs to occur within the Alburnett School community to “Close the Gap.” The “gap” to which I am referring is roughly \$160,000 and consists of the costs of the above 2008 complex development projects plus the following items:

- Construct a chain link fence around the track and football field to protect the area
- Make the final two land payments in 2008

- Build up of the Foundation's "Back the Track" construction account to \$150,000. This is approximately the amount that will be required for the final construction of the track. This account balance was approximately \$90,000 as of 12/31/07.

The Foundation is optimistic that donated or reduced rates on services, labor and materials will allow the above work to be completed at substantial savings over original project cost estimations. A much more precise estimate of the "gap" we need to close for will be calculated once 2008 development projects have been completed.

All other complex features included as part of the "Back the Track" project theoretically could come later as additional funding is raised or be moved from the current football field:

- Field lighting
- Concession/storage/restroom building
- Irrigation
- Scoreboard
- Crow's nest
- Rocking the driveway through the complex to the Quass Road entrance.

Can the Foundation count on your financial support to help us raise the needed \$160,000 to close the funding gap and complete construction of the track in the spring of 2009? I would especially like to challenge parents with children in junior high or elementary grades whose children could be among the very first students to use these facilities. Could you eat out one less time a month and contribute that savings to this project? Could you contact your employer's HR Department to see if they offer a matching donation program thereby stretching your donation? Could you allocate a portion of a bonus or tax return to the Foundation? Could you or your business provide donated or reduced rate services, labor or materials needed to complete the project? Are you able to assist with general labor projects at the Martin Complex such as mowing or weed trimming? Can we count on your support of our fundraising events throughout the year? There are many ways you can contribute. Please visit our website @ [www.alburnettfoundation.com](http://www.alburnettfoundation.com) for a pledge/donation sheet, electronic donation options and volunteer opportunities.

On behalf of the Foundation Board I would like to say "Thank You!" to the individuals, families, organizations and businesses who supported the Alburnett Community School District Foundation in 2007 and I hope we can count on your continued support in the new year.

I want to give special thanks to the Alburnett Sports Booster Club for their continued support as indicated above in this report as well as the donation of proceeds from their annual Run, Pass and Kick event each fall. The Booster Club has been and continues to be an important and valued partner regarding development efforts at the Martin Complex.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the Foundation Board members who contributed their leadership, ideas, time and money this past year in providing educational, social and recreational opportunities for the school, students, faculty and members of the communities within the Alburnett School District. There are so many demands of a person's time these days but the Foundation Board members have chosen to serve on the board because they care greatly about the success of students, the school and the community.

Al Sorensen, President  
Alburnett Community School District Foundation