

# ALBURNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

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

## 2009 Annual Report

In 2009, the Alburnett Community School District Foundation, now in its eighth 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.

### **Awareness/fundraising events**

- April – The Foundation held its Second Annual Gala at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. The event, which featured a dinner, silent auction, live auction and games, was a fun and entertaining night out for parents and community members as they raised \$13,500 to support the Foundation’s expanding Back the Track Project and Pillars Scholarship Program. Our 2010 event is scheduled for April 17th at the Marriott. Help us achieve our fundraising goal of \$15,000!
- July – The Foundation held its Second Annual Alburnett Alumni Softball Games in which Pirate alumni competed against the Alburnett varsity & JV softball teams. Pirate softball pride and competitive spirit were again plentiful that evening! Participants and attendees raised \$1,079 for the Back the Track project. While the varsity and JV players prevailed this year, the alumni are determined to come out on top again next year!
- August - The Foundation continued its tradition of serving a pancake breakfast and running a bingo tent at the Alburnett Children’s Benefit Day, raising \$753. The Foundation introduced a new event this year, the Pirate Dash, a 5-K run and 1-mile fun run/walk. Despite the unseasonable chilly morning, the Pirate Dash did very well for its maiden run, drawing 75 participants and raising \$1,276. We plan to make this an annual event going forward so start training now for this Pirate test of fitness!

- October - The Foundation held its annual Tailgate Meal at the Homecoming football game. The tailgate event is always well attended and is a great fundraising and awareness event for the Foundation. With the Alburnett Sports Booster Club's donation of the evening's concession stand proceeds again this year, this event was an exceptional fundraiser for the Foundation, raising \$4,306.
- November – The Foundation held its Third Annual Lindale Mall Pizza Hut fundraiser weekend in conjunction with the National Honor Society, Student Council, FBLA and School Cents. The event was again held on a School Cents Triple Points weekend which benefits the school even more in its competition against area schools. Alburnett pizza-eating boosters rang up \$1,195 of qualifying purchases, of which Pizza Hut donated \$239 back to the Foundation.
- November – The Foundation held its second Soup & Shop event, raising \$370. The event featured home sales consultants and crafters selling their product lines/crafts and, of course, several kinds of soup, refreshments and desserts to eat.

## Grants

We have continued to actively seek grants to support the activities of the Foundation. We successfully obtained a grant of \$2500 from the Linn County Non-Endowed Fund to assist with construction of the upper ball diamond. We applied for but were not successful in obtaining grants from the St. Louis Cardinals and Minnesota Twins. We recently completed our application for a Witwer Trust grant for 2010.

## Scholarships

The Pillars Scholarship program was expanded from three to six \$500 scholarships in 2009. The following Alburnett senior students received scholarships:

- Academics - Kollin Burns and Kyle Loux
- Athletics - Alyssa Neighbor and Tricia Miller
- Arts - Troy Hanson and Caleb Carver

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.

## Martin Complex Development

- Completed backstop fence, dugouts and cement work for the upper ball diamond. Additional development is planned for 2010. In addition to providing area youth with another ball diamond for practices and games, the upper diamond will be the future home for the Alburnett Junior/Senior High School girls' softball program.
- Limited progress was made on the remaining rough grading and improvements to the walking trail and surface drainage issues. Although 2009 was another very wet year,

the Foundation board fully expected the work to be completed in 2009. Accordingly, a contractor change will be made in 2010.

- Completed tiling of the remainder of the complex outside of the track oval.
- Completed two Eagle Scout projects – landscaping for fitness stations and two horseshoe pits & benches.
- A group of community members formed a committee to plan and fundraise for a new playground with true Pirate spirit. The Alburnett Pirate Ship Playground will be shaped like a large pirate ship and located in the northwest corner of the Martin Complex. The committee has held several fundraising/awareness events – a hayrack ride, breakfast fundraiser at Westdale Mall, coin crusade and rolling skating party. Solicitation of large sponsors and grants will begin in 2010. The Foundation has established a special account for project fundraising.

If you, your business or your community organization has an interest in donating funds, labor, materials and/or services to construct the second youth ball diamond or the track and football field at the Martin Complex, please contact a Foundation Board member.

### **Financial Report**

We continued to improve our financial position in 2009 from fundraising event proceeds, grants received, follow through on financial pledges and new donations/pledges. Please see the 2009 Treasurer's Report for more details.

### **Coming in 2010**

- Continue work on the upper ball diamond – infield tiling and lime and construction of bullpen areas. The majority of the funding has been secured through contributions and grants. Additional contributions for bleachers, picnic tables, outfield fencing and other accessories would be appreciated.
- Grading of the remainder of the complex including the track and football field.
- Tiling of the football field and area inside the track oval.
- Installation of three-phase electrical service. Prep work was completed before winter. A contract has been signed and paid in full in order to lock in pricing.
- Installation of a well pump, pressure tank and hydrant.
- Raise the height of and improve drainage for sections of the walking trail.
- Additional Boy Scout Troop 504 Eagle Scout projects – six fitness stations along the walking trail and other projects to be determined.

## **Additional funding still needed for the “Back the Track” project**

The leadership gift of \$150,000 from the Morris Neighbor Family and Farmers State Bank has allowed the Foundation to move forward with site preparation and utilities.

The Alburnett Sports Booster Club has also risen to the challenge and taken on the design and fundraising for the concessions/restroom/storage building at the complex. A building committee is being formed currently.

The Foundation has realized substantial savings over the original “retail” project cost estimates for work completed to date thanks to the generosity of community-minded individuals, businesses and community organizations. However, additional funding is still needed to for pay for the remaining rough grading, tiling, sewer line, electrical service, well pump, finish grading, seeding, field lighting, track construction, fencing, etc.

**Some people in the community assume the Foundation is receiving local option sales tax proceeds or other major funding from the school district. This is not the case. The projects and activities of the Foundation are funded solely through donations, grants and fundraising events. The track, football field and other projects noted above will not be completed until we receive additional monetary support from the community.**

Once grading and tiling are completed, the Foundation Board will be updating our funding needs and will undertake a “Close the Gap” capital campaign. Construction of the track could conceivably begin in early 2011 once the disturbed ground has had time to settle, if the needed funding is raised. We challenge the Alburnett community to help us achieve this goal! There are many ways to contribute: monetary gifts, employer matching gifts, in-kind donations, general labor, materials donations, stock, estate planning, organizing fundraising events, etc.

## **Special Thank Yous**

- The captains and crew members of the seven Pirates A-Weigh teams that together raised an amazing \$4,005 and provided great publicity for the Foundation’s Back the Track project! The teams led Pirate fans in the school fight song, gave their all in a tug-of-war competition and entertained fans with a precision pom routine. The Pirates A-Weigh teams made losing weight a fun and community-oriented event.
- Karen Miller for again organizing the Annual Run, Pass & Kick competition with proceeds of \$680 benefiting the Foundation.
- The Alburnett Sports Booster Club for their continuing support of our Tailgate Meal as well as their commitment to fund and build a large concession stand/restroom & storage building for the new track and football field.
- Marv Porter and Brian Huber for their work on the new dugouts and to Jim and Bert Carver for weeding, pruning and mulching of trees and bushes.

- Alburnett Boy Scout Troop 504 and their families for considering Eagle Scout projects at Martin Complex. Projects for Adam Miller (landscaping for fitness stations) and Will Townsend (two horseshoe pits & benches) were completed in the fall. These projects will provide expanded recreational opportunities for the Alburnett community.
- Rick & Melissa Smith for granting the Foundation a second easement to run the electrical service through their property, reducing the installation cost by approximately \$14,000! The first easement the Smiths granted the Foundation a couple of years ago greatly reduced the cost of the sewer line extension to the complex.
- The individuals, businesses and organizations that have sponsored, worked at or attended our awareness/fundraising events.
- The individuals, businesses and organizations that have made charitable contributions to the Foundation for the “Back the Track” project, the youth ball diamond projects and our Pillars Scholarship program.

Please visit our website @ [www.alburnettfoundation.com](http://www.alburnettfoundation.com) for a pledge/donation sheet, a list of employers with matching gift programs, electronic payment options, volunteer opportunities, news items, annual reports, meeting minutes and much more.

Lastly, I want to thank the Foundation board members who contributed their leadership, expertise, ideas, labor and money this past year. There are so many demands of a person’s time 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 Alburnett community.



Al Sorensen, President  
Alburnett Community School District Foundation

## Alburnett Community School District Foundation

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