

## 2004 ANNUAL REPORT ACSDF

The Foundation board wants to thank all that have come tonight to join us in this board meeting. Again, as last year, I will look back and see where we have come from and finish with looking to the future.

We have at least 115 individuals, families or corporations who have made financial donations to the foundation. Last year we had 87, so our numbers continue that slow but steady climb. One of the challenges we face is how to bring people to see the value in this project and sense the importance and need of their participation. We continue to send out updates and information to alumni and district members through mass mailings, the Linn News Letter and the school newsletter.

As most of you know, this year initial stages of work began at the site. The land was cleaned and cleared. The FFA started a windbreak on the West Side of the property line. During the summer, initial grading was completed on the north end. This area will be home to the softball fields, parking lot, entryways and roadway through the facility. Shortly after this work was completed, tiling work began. This area was worked and tilled, then seeded down by FS. Lastly, this fall we started our windbreak on the north end of the complex.

All of those projects required a lot of hands and sweat equity to complete. The best part in our eyes was the way several businesses and individuals stepped forward and helped us out. I know if FS had not provided the water tanker and water to do the tree watering, we would still be out there yet. That in and of its self, was a tremendous help to us.

Last year we secured a \$40,000 10-year interest free loan from USA Communication/FMT Company. Those moneys went toward the grading, tiling, rock, driveway needs and engineering expense.

We have applied for several grants, the Pioneer Grant and Witwer Grant, but at present have not heard back from either. In the near future, we will be applying for several other grant money sources. One of those is the Youth Power Grant, which is an arm of the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation. This Youth Power Grant is youth driven and several National Honor Society members have undertaken this project. The Board sees this as a tremendous way to get youth involved, feel ownership and contribute positively to the project.

During homecoming another successful Pass, Punt and Kick contest was held. The Sports Boosters and Foundation also had a successful Tailgate Celebration despite the weather. Both of these venues are positively received and will hopefully continue in the future.

The biggest step in our fundraising effort was to retain Helen Arnold-Olson. Helen is a Certified Fund Development Exec who has been instrumental in multiple fund raising campaigns. We hope to gain insight, knowledge and the correct approach to fund raising through our consultation with her.

Our biggest thrust now, as a board is to develop our Capital Campaign. We have gone back to

beginning to complete the necessary and vital steps to move this campaign forward.

Lastly, the Board again just wants to say thank you to those here, in the community and district that have stepped forward and given of their time, equipment, knowledge or resources. We truly value your belief and trust in us as we continue to move forward with the Martin Complex.

The Foundation Board  
Patty Shaffer, President