

Nanaimo - Ladysmith Schools Foundation



"Helping our Students Reach for Tomorrow"

Stock the Lockers Campaign Rocked! Over \$40,000 Raised

Isn't it fantastic when the community gets together to support young people in their community? The second annual Stock the Lockers campaign is proof that charity begins at home, even during tight economic times. The campaign that provides school supplies for students raised \$40,583.02 this year.

For the second year our wonderful partner **Staples** promoted the campaign and took donations at the checkout raising \$15,240. **Coastal Community Credit Union** branches also accepted donations raising \$1,505. Media sponsors **Island Radio** and **Black Press** did a wonderful job spreading the word to the community. Thank you to our major donors this year: **Kinette Club of Nanaimo** - \$3,000, **CBI Hustle for Hunger Event** - \$2,730, **Oceanside Rotary Club of Nanaimo** - \$4,500 and **Daybreak Rotary** - \$2,500, **Mid-Island Whiskey Club** - \$1,751, **Gyro Club of Nanaimo** - \$1,000, **Cedar Lions Club** - \$1,000, **Gyro Club of Nanaimo** - \$1,000, **Rotary Club of Lantzville** - \$1,000, and **Kevin White Productions** - \$1,000. Thank you to one and all!

Thanks also to the retired teachers and volunteers who stuffed hundreds of back packs full of supplies for kids in September.

Monies raised from Stock the Lockers also goes into the Student Support Fund to buy more supplies for students in January when they need to restock.

If you haven't given yet, please give on-line or call Erin at the Foundation. Student Support funds confidentially provide vulnerable children with shoes or coats, band or athletic fees, bus passes and other necessities.



"Heart Wrenching," says Roger Prior Learn How You Can Help

You want to hear about tough decisions? Foundation Board member Roger Prior reported to the Executive after the Awards selection meeting last Spring and said that making the choices was heart wrenching. "We had such a pool of incredibly bright and promising kids and we just didn't have enough scholarships and bursaries," said Prior.

You can imagine what the Awards committee members did next. They made a list of nine fields of study that the Foundation did not have Awards for and went out to local businesses and families to talk about the need.

Thanks to these great donors seven new Awards will be given to deserving students:

- **Business Administration** – The Grand Hotel/Sirri Family (\$1,000), Investors Group Financial Services (\$500)
- **Computing** – The Campbell Family (\$1,000), The Ethier/Pearson Awards (\$1,000)
- **Engineering** – Newcastle Engineering Ltd (\$500)
- **Forestry** – Timberwest (\$1,000)
- **Education or Arts** – The Judy Simmons Memorial Award (\$500)

However, our community's brightest students still need your help. Financial awards in the fields of environment, graphic design, pharmacy, physiotherapy and veterinary medicine are still needed. Your donation would be welcomed. Donors receive a tax receipt, an opportunity to promote their professional field and are kept updated on the activities of the Foundation.

All donors with financial awards over \$500 are invited to personally present their award to the winning student at the District Honours Night at The Port Theatre. They also receive a photograph and often a thank you note from the student. Please contact the Foundation Office if you would like to help students succeed in the future by sponsoring a financial award.



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Farewell Kathy Smith



The Foundation is saying goodbye to a dedicated volunteer - Kathy Smith. Since the mid 1980's, Kathy has helped District 68 students find scholarships and awards for post secondary education. Working as a counselor in the District Career Program office, Kathy became involved with the District 68 Awards Society, the precursor to this Foundation, and then helped found NLSF. Kathy has served on the Board for many years and chaired the Awards Selection Committee.

Kathy says that "believing in youth can give them the courage and tools to change their whole future." Certainly Kathy has changed the future of hundreds and hundreds of young people through her dedication and belief.

After retirement from the NLSF Board, Kathy and her husband now enjoy the warmer climate of Arizona and Mexico. She continues to be involved with Rotary and the Youth Exchange Program.

The Foundation, students and parents of District 68 thank Kathy for her years of tremendous dedication and strong belief in the future of our students.

BE THE DIFFERENCE...
Support our kids

Local Child Poverty Focus of New Foundation Video

If you haven't seen it already, check out the Foundation's new video **Be the Difference...Support our Kids** at www.nlsf.ca.

We decided to tackle this project to bring awareness to the issues of poverty in Nanaimo and Ladysmith, how the Foundation is making a difference and why our loyal donors are so important. Local band Braeden Marshal donated an original song called "The Simple Life" for the project. The song "The Simple Life" can be downloaded for 99 cents on iTunes with all proceeds going to NLSF.

The unemployment rate in Nanaimo hovers between 8-16 per cent according to Statistics Canada and at certain times of the year that is double the provincial average. Unemployment or living in a working poor family has an impact on kids and their success in school. The Foundation's Student Support Fund exists to help keep kids in school.

If you are interested in having this video shown to your service club, at your workplace or organization please contact us.



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Hungry Kids Getting Meals. We're Making A Difference

Think back to the last time when you forgot to eat for most of the day. Do you remember how you felt? Staff and teachers see kids every day who do not have proper nourishment. The students are tired, lethargic, moody, disruptive and generally unable to participate in school as they are too hungry to concentrate.

Breakfast Clubs of Canada has teamed up with the Foundation and together we are getting food to kids who need it. Hundreds of the most vulnerable students from Nanaimo District Secondary School, Forrest Park Elementary, Brechin Elementary, Park Avenue Elementary and Fairview Elementary Schools now get a breakfast. NDSS and Forrest Park Elementary currently do not have a breakfast program so the teachers and families there are beyond pleased. Additional funding will augment existing programs at the other three schools because demand has increased in the last few years.

The Foundation was awarded a total of \$110,000 over three years. \$36,000 was used to ensure each school had fridges, stoves, dishwashers, dishes, etc. The remaining funds will be split between the food programs at each school over the three years.



Your Donations Helped A Student in Pain



An elementary school student needed help. Your donations meant she got that help quickly.

A girl walked into her school's office in tremendous pain – she had a tooth that badly needed attention. The girl couldn't sit still she was in so much pain. The school called the father to pick her up, but he said he didn't have coverage or money to pay a dentist. Staff checked with a couple of social assistance programs, none of which could pay for the cost of the dental visit. A call to the Foundation ok'd use of Student Support funds and a local dentist agreed to see the girl. The dentist extracted the problem tooth and gave her a prescription for the infection.

Thanks to our donors, the Student Support Fund was able to pay for the dental trip, x-rays and prescriptions for this girl. The student is reported to be doing fine and her family is extremely grateful to the donors who give to the Student Support Fund.

The Kinette Club of Nanaimo - Helping Students Excel for over 20 Years



For more than twenty years, **the Kinettes** have sponsored an annual \$1,500 scholarship for students to attend post-secondary education. The Club also supports the Mini O for Special Needs Students sports event, the Student Support Fund and the Stock the Lockers campaigns. "We believe that kids are so important and education is a tool that helps them to help the community," says Cathy Johns, **Kinette Club of Nanaimo** Treasurer.

The Kinettes are one of the oldest service clubs in Nanaimo, celebrating their 60th anniversary a few years ago. When asked why the **Kinette Club** has chosen the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, Johns remarked, "we like the Foundation because the funds and the help goes right to the kids. It's hands on and the results have an immediate positive impact on their lives. The families know that they are not alone in their struggles". We are lucky to partner with such a community minded and committed group. Thank you to the **Kinette Club of Nanaimo** on behalf of all the students and families that you have helped in so many different ways.



There are many ways you can continue to support NLSF's programs. Renew your gift online at www.nlsf.ca or make an additional gift to the Student Support Fund or new breakfast programs.



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