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The Helena Education Foundation is proud to salute the Spring 2011 winners of the Great Ideas Grant Program



What is the Great Ideas Grant Program?

Great Ideas Grants put money directly into the hands of classroom teachers, empowering educators to turn their ideas for innovative teaching strategies into action.

- Grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation. The amounts of the grants do not reflect the contribution of the donor.



HEF Success Express!

Partners with Helena businesses:

“ We look forward to sponsoring and participating in many of the wonderful opportunities HEF provides in the enrichment of our children’s Helena Public School education. Our students’ dreams and successes are our community’s future.”

—TIM LYNCH, *The Base Camp*

“ Mountain West Bank has been with the Helena Education Foundation since HEF’s inception. The Bank recognizes the need for a high quality public education system in Helena which provides strength to our community.

—MIKE DALTON, *Mountain West Bank*

1. A Nook for Reading

Recipient: **Barbara Lockman**

School: **Helena Middle School**

Sponsor: **Mountain West Bank**

“A Nook for Reading” project is a fun, engaging activity where middle school students read books from a Nook eReader, sparking their interest and getting them to read in a format that gadget-centric teens can appreciate. When the students are actively engaged in reading, their test skills will improve, naturally leading to higher test scores and an increase in reading confidence.

2. Get Caught Listening to Audiobooks

Recipient: **Katie Meyer**

School: **Helena Middle School**

Sponsor: **Jean Baucus**

The goals of this project are to broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension and promote academic excellence for middle school students, assisting reluctant readers in building reading skills. Through the use of MP3 players students will be able to listen to audio books as they follow along with the printed text, developing fluency and vocabulary.

3. Helena Antarctic Snowshoe Expedition

Recipients: **Donna Hathy and Karry Hauck**

School: **Four Georgians Elementary**

Sponsor: **Heritage Propane**

Strap on those snowshoes and head south! Elementary students at Four Georgians will travel great distances on the Bill Roberts Golf Course using newly acquired snowshoes. Explorers will map their destinations, avoiding frozen water hazards and sand traps, while challenging their physical strength to endure!

4. iCan Succeed

Recipient: **Carrie McCue**

School: **Smith Elementary**

Sponsor: **Robert Peccia and Associates**

iPads bring learning right to the fingertips of students with special needs. Using engaging applications for learning, fine motor development, and communication, students at Smith Elementary will have access to their world and ownership in their learning that goes above and beyond the use of textbooks.

5. In Touch with Nature

Recipient: **Justine Huschka**

School: **Kessler Elementary**

Sponsor: **Dowl HKM**

Ipod touches will be used in conjunction with the Kessler Elementary Nature Space/Bird Habitat, on school grounds and the project will collaborate with community programs, local businesses Cornell University, and volunteers. These members will aid students in constructing a Bird Watch and Feeder program to collect data to be analyzed through the touches, student interaction, and Cornell Labs.

6. Wanderlust

Recipient: **Toni Person**

School: **Capital High and Helena High**

Sponsor: **Beartooth NBC**

Twenty high school students from Capital High and Helena High will have the opportunity to spend a weekend at a German language immersion workshop. The immersion weekend will take place in an alpine setting, 10 miles outside of Helena. The workshop is intended for students enrolled in a German class, to come together, play games, cook meals and immerse themselves in the kind of all-German environment that cannot be created in the classroom. This will be an opportunity to spend an extended period of time living with and using the German language in their daily lives.

Thank you to our Spring 2011 grant sponsors:



Jean Baucus



Eliza Frazer and Barry Hood





Congratulations!

Helena Education Foundation **Spring 2011 Grant Recipients**

Amount funded to date: over \$330,790

177 grants to date involving over 85% of Helena's teachers

75 high school grants

6 PAL grants

40 middle school grants

56 elementary school grants

Enhanced the education and experiences of virtually all of Helena's 8,000 students

7. Let's Get Our Kids on the Ball

Recipient: **Kristen Uggetti-Lyndes**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign**

"Let's Get Our Kids on the Ball" will promote proper body mechanics and good posture, increase seat behavior, productivity, participation and readiness, and decrease sensory overstimulation for students with special needs at Helena High by using therapeutic balls and light filters in the classroom.

8. On the Trail of Native American Art

Recipient: **Robyn Duff**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **Eliza Frazer and Barry Hood**

"On the Trail of Native American Art" will allow Art History and Design Applications students at Helena High to explore the rich visual history left upon the land through Native American pictographs, petroglyphs, medicine wheels and archeological sites in an authentic place-based educational experience.

9. Rigor and Relevance: The Case of the Curious Cadaver

Recipient: **Jim Schulz**

School: **Helena High School**

Sponsor: **St. Peter's Hospital**

Juniors and Seniors in the CSI: Helena High class will augment their anatomical, cultural, and professional knowledge of corpses by reading *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach, who as a gifted and curious science writer, will bring this topic to life.

Would you or your business like to sponsor a Great Ideas Grant or give a gift to the Helena Education Foundation?



Make an investment in the future of your community today! Thanks to so many generous supporters, Great Ideas Grants have helped make 177 great ideas a reality. Here are some highlight grants from 2010:

- Rossiter Elementary began the “Prints & Scrolls” project that brought local artist Phoebe Toland to every 4th grade classroom in the Helena School District to instruct students and teachers in the art of printmaking. Watch for their beautiful display at the Lewis and Clark library this spring!
- Students at Broadwater Elementary are tracking their good fitness habits with pedometers, while evaluating health related lifestyle behaviors and applying math skills to analyze and organize their data.
- Expansion of the Catty Shack is underway at Helena High, as students from the Small Business Management and Marketing classes continue their collaborative work to improve the school store.
- Jim Darcy Elementary students are “Discovering the World of Treasures” using Geomate geocaching GPS devices to experience how technology, the environment and community can inspire multiple learning opportunities as well as increase their understanding of geography.
- Capital High student reporters are integrating new technology to report on events as they happen and are developing a paperless, online format. Their project is designed to use modern technology such as iPads and the Internet to extend the reach of the school newspaper to the digital generation it serves.
- Music students at C.R. Anderson Middle School have expanded their listening library to include 50 classical recordings that National Public Radio rates as essential for every classical music collection.

For more information about Helena Education Foundation upcoming events and programs, please visit HEF online at hefmt.org

The **MISSION** of the Helena Education Foundation is to enrich education in the Helena Public Schools through consistent community investment in time, talent, funding and other resources, providing students, staff and the community with unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences. The Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following **GOALS**:



- Promoting the understanding that everyone in the community is responsible for creating quality public education
- Inspiring parents, business and the community to participate with the school district in enriching education
- Promoting and celebrating student academic success
- Increasing the visibility and value of Helena public schools
- Recognizing staff for creative and innovative teaching

YES! I believe great schools are everyone's business. I want to support this important public education partnership

Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed \$ _____ (make checks payable to Helena Education Foundation)
- I'd like to pledge \$ _____ (please bill me)
- Please contact me regarding a planned gift or gift of securities or other assets

The Foundation is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation, allowed to receive and distribute funds, property and gifts of any kind for the benefit of public schools located in Helena. It also maintains a qualified endowment. Planned gifts are eligible for the Montana State Tax Credit. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Send to: **Helena Education Foundation**
PO Box 792
Helena, MT 59624

Credit card payments are accepted online at www.hefmt.org

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How would you like to be listed? _____

I am a graduate/former student of the Helena Public Schools:

School: _____ When/Graduation year: _____