

Dollars for Scholars=dollars for CIHS grads



Tuesday, 12 February 2008

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Since its inception in 1990, Dollars for Scholars has awarded \$1,353,400 in Scholarships to graduates of Cambridge-Isanti High School.

Approximately 80 of the scholarships awarded each year are given by those listed on the Dollars for Scholars' Wall of Honor, which recognizes donors who have given a minimum of \$2,500 to the program.

Pictured: Jane Skogman and Ray Hoheisel stand near the Wall of Honor plaques honoring donors to the Dollars for Scholars program. Photo by Rachel Kytonen



"The Wall of Honor was started in the early 1990s by Bud Parker to serve as a tribute, and to thank those who have given scholarships," said Ray Hoheisel, who serves on the DFS' Board of Trustees and is president of the DFS Foundation.

About one-half of the scholarship amount is donated by individuals, families, businesses and organizations that contribute and provide annual scholarships given out during awards night.

The remaining scholarships are funded by the annual DFS' phonathon and interest and/or gains on endowment funds. The foundation currently has \$684,049 in the endowment fund.

The Wall of Honor recognizes donors in seven categories based on donation amounts. The patrons category honors those who have donated \$2,500+; benefactor, \$5,000+; builder, \$10,000+; foundation builder, \$15,000+; master builder, \$25,000+; generation builder, \$50,000+ and century builder, \$100,000+.

The Wall of Honor is located near the lobby of the Hardy Performing Arts Center at Cambridge-Isanti High School. Each donor on the Wall has a plaque hung in their honor under its respective category. The plaques are relocated as necessary.

Hoheisel explained those listed on the Wall of Honor have either given donations that have reached the minimum \$2,500 or whose endowed funds have incurred the minimum amount.

Cambridge residents John and Bonnie Schlagel are currently the only donors who are listed under the generation builder category.

Approximately 14 individuals and businesses make up the master builder category, including DFS founders Dorothy Munkberg, Robert and Joyce Becklin and Robert and Julie Parker.

Hoheisel and Jane Skogman, DFS Board of Trustee and District 911 board member, feels DFS is important to education.

"I've been involved with Dollars for Scholars because I feel it's an important program, and is important in getting young people to college to receive more education," Skogman said. "It has really almost become a necessity that people have a good education and continue onto some form of higher education."

In 2001, 2005 and 2006, a DFS scholarship was awarded to every student who applied for a scholarship.

Skogman explained a donor can request their scholarship be given to a student pursuing a specific career, such as teaching.

Hoheisel said the DFS program is successful because of the support from the community.

"The success of DFS reflects the value of education in the community and the leadership of its founders," Hoheisel said. "It also reflects the skills of the phonathon students who make the phone calls, and the caliber of the awards night. It's all a very

positive experience.”

DFS is a non-profit organization managed by a local Board of Trustees including Dale Anderson, Mitch Clausen, Ray Hoheisel, Jim Lindberg, John Munkberg, Phil Nelson, Bruce Novak, Dennis Olson, John Schlagel, Jane Skogman, Cindy Szafranski and William Weinreich.

The Cambridge-Isanti DFS is part of the nation-wide dollars DFS program. Hoheisel said there are a handful of colleges across the state that match DFS scholarships, such as St. Thomas, St. Scholastica and Alexandria Technical College.

Hoheisel said once a student completes a semester at college and submits proof of their enrollment, their DFS scholarship is sent directly to the college or technical school.

This year's DFS phoneathon will be held April 14-15. Cambridge-Isanti High School students make all the phone calls between 6 to 9 p.m.

If Interested in donating to the DFS program call 763-689-6399.

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