

Watchdog Education Foundation

News Articles and Press Releases

March, 2011

Watchdog Education Foundation Recognizes Tri-County Bike Tour Logo Contest Winners

Sue Christensen, President of the Beresford School Board and member of the Watchdog Education Foundation Board was present at the Beresford School Art Fair to recognize and award the Tri-County Bike Tour Logo Contest winners. The logo contest was open to students in grades 6-12. Entries submitted had to meet the following criteria for logo design: 1) a bicycle; 2) a Watchdog; and 3) the 3 counties of Clay, Lincoln, and Union. Twenty-five entries were submitted for the logo contest.

The winner of the logo contest was junior Rachel Olson-Baer. First runner-up was freshman Ashlynn Selwyn-Heikkinen. Second runner-up was sophomore Sam Wyatt. Each of the award recipients were presented with a certificate of recognition and gift card.

All proceeds from the upcoming June 18, 2011 Tri-County Bike Tour will be donated to the Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship fund, a designated fund within the Watchdog Education Foundation. Cyclists can register online at www.allsportcentral.com. The Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a Beresford High School senior.

All Watchdog Education Foundation information can be accessed on the Beresford School District website at www.beresford.k12.sd.us by clicking on "Community" and then clicking on "Watchdog Education Foundation." If you have any questions or you are interested in making a contribution to the Foundation, please contact Brian Field at Beresford Schools, 605-763-4293 or by email at Brian.Field@k12.sd.us.

February, 2011

Watchdog Education Foundation Partners with Farmers Cooperative Elevator of Beresford in “Bushels for Education” Campaign

This month the Watchdog Education Foundation in partnership with Farmers Cooperative Elevator (FCE) of Beresford will kick-off its ***BUSHELs FOR EDUCATION CAMPAIGN***. The purpose of this campaign is to raise capital for the Foundation. Area farmers who would like to participate in the Bushels for Education Campaign will fill out a Watchdog Education Foundation Grain Voucher at the FCE office located at 101 N East Street in Beresford. The bushels donated will be priced at the market the day of delivery or the next market day if delivery is made after market close. Checks will be issued to the Watchdog Education Foundation no later than two weeks following the delivery of grain. The delivery of grain must occur between February and August, 2011. The Foundation’s goal is to raise 5,000 bushels. If your contribution is 10 bushels or several 100 bushels, every bushel counts and will help enhance and enrich education of local youth.

According to Gary Vande Vegte, a certified public accountant for Van Bruggen & Vande Vegte, P.C. in Orange City, Iowa, “If an operating farmer makes a charitable contribution in the form of an agricultural commodity, the unsold inventory is removed from income before recognition and the farmer receives an income tax, and possible self-employment tax benefit.”

The mission of the Watchdog Education Foundation is to provide resources to genuinely enhance educational opportunities for students in the Beresford School District. The Watchdog Education Foundation will be utilized to promote fundraising efforts that will focus on making improvements to the academic and activity programs in the Beresford School District. Working in partnership with educators, students, alumni, parents and friends, the Watchdog Education Foundation will provide support for programs and resources which are beyond the scope of the regular school budget.

The Watchdog Education Foundation is a separate legal entity from the Beresford School District, but will cooperate in concert with the district. The Watchdog Education Foundation Board of Directors will determine the distribution of the fund’s earnings. The Watchdog Education Foundation is a sub-fund of the Beresford Area Foundation and has 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, tax-exempt status. Tax-deductible contributions to the Watchdog Education Foundation will ensure support of the students and staff of the Beresford School District now and into the future.

If you have any questions regarding the ***Bushels for Education Campaign***, please contact Watchdog Education Foundation board members Nathan Jensen (605) 595-7072 or Brian Field

(605) 763-4293 or FCE manager Brad McCoy (605) 763-2108. You can also visit the Watchdog Education Foundation website at www.beresford.k12.sd.us by clicking on "Community" and then clicking on "Watchdog Education Foundation."

January, 2011

Watchdog Education Foundation Conducts Quarterly Meeting

"Innovative Education" Grant Guidelines Established

The Watchdog Education Foundation Board held their second quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Beresford School District South Campus conference room. The following board members were present: Helen Grace, Chairperson; Gerald Dahlin, Vice-Chair; Sue Christensen, Treasurer; Brian Field, Secretary; and Nathan Jensen, Director. Minutes from the October 13, 2010 board meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board. Beresford High School alumnus Nathan Jensen was appointed and approved as the fifth member of the Watchdog Education Foundation Board.

The financial report was given by Sue Christensen and it was approved by the Board. The Watchdog Education Foundation is a sub-fund of the Beresford Area Foundation and has total net assets of \$8,258.09 as of December 10, 2010. Additional contributions have been made to the Watchdog Education Foundation and they will appear on a future financial statement. Treasurer Christensen reported there have been a total of 42 contributions made to the Watchdog Education Foundation.

The Board reviewed and approved the Watchdog Education Foundation "Innovative Education" Grant guidelines, as well as the grant application. Grants are awarded for innovative and creative educational projects, which are beyond the scope of the regular school budget. Applicants may be one or more teachers, a group of teachers/staff, a teacher-parent group, or another Beresford School District employee group. The project may be for a classroom, a grade level, a school, several schools, or the Beresford School District. Innovative education grants can be:

A new or innovative technology tool that incorporates 21st century learning skills for students, a school or classroom;

A one-time event or experience that offers students a unique experience that would not otherwise be available; or

An immediate impact grant that boosts a program or activity to another level.

The Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship application was reviewed and approved by the Board. A special scholarship fund was set up by the David and Susan Christensen family in memory of their daughter Shanna Rae. The Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship is a sub-fund of the Watchdog Foundation and has total net assets of \$5267.44 as of November 30, 2010. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Watchdog Education Foundation Board each spring.

- The scholarship will be for a Beresford High School senior whose intended plan of post-high study will be in the area of special education, rehabilitation, or nursing.
- The senior must have two letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to character and activity involvement.
- The senior must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, demonstrate good moral character, and be involved in community, church and/or school activities.
- Work and/or volunteer experience with special needs children is preferred but not required.

The annual fund raiser for the Shanna Rae Christensen Memorial Scholarship will be from the proceeds generated by the Tri-county Bike Tour. This tour will be held during “Wheels and Squeals” weekend on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. Interested bike tour riders can register on line at www.allsportcentral.com.

The next two quarterly meetings for the Board of Directors are scheduled for March 2, 2011 and June 1, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the school district’s South Campus conference room.

The Watchdog Education Foundation mission, by-laws, board of directors, meeting minutes, upcoming meetings, press releases, scholarship information and application, Tri-county bike tour information and registration, donation and contribution information, and grant guidelines and application can all be accessed on the school district website at www.beresford.k12.sd.us by clicking on “Community” and then clicking on “Watchdog Education Foundation.” If you have any questions or you are interested in making a contribution to the Foundation, please contact one of the board members listed above or contact Brian Field at Beresford Schools, 605-763-4293 or by email at Brian.Field@k12.sd.us.

December, 2010

Watchdog Education Foundation Conducts First Organizational Meeting

Shanna Rae Christensen Scholarship Fund Established

The Watchdog Education Foundation Board of Directors held their first organizational meeting at the school district’s south campus conference room on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. The Watchdog Education Foundation is a sub-fund affiliated with the Beresford Community Foundation as administered by and between an agreement with the South Dakota Community Foundation in Pierre, South Dakota.

The following directors were appointed as officers for the Watchdog Education Foundation: Helen Grace, president; Gerald Dahlin, vice-president; Brian Field, secretary; and Sue Christensen, treasurer. The fifth director is Nathan Jensen. The Board adopted by-laws for the Watchdog Education Foundation and set their quarterly meeting schedule. The directors will meet quarterly on the second Wednesdays on January 12, 2011; March 9, 2011; and June 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the school district’s south campus conference room.

The Board reviewed and approved the Foundation's financial report. As of September 30, 2010, the total net assets of the Watchdog Education Foundation were \$6,357.61. Since then, a special scholarship fund has been established in the amount of \$5000 and a memorial in the amount of \$1697 has been contributed to the Foundation. Altogether, the Foundation would have an account balance of \$13,054.61. At this time, there are no dollars available for distribution.

A special scholarship fund was set up by the David and Susan Christensen family in memory of their daughter Shanna Rae. The fund agreement was set up with the South Dakota Community Foundation as a sub-fund of the Watchdog Education Foundation, and affiliated fund of the Beresford Area Foundation.

The scholarship will be for a Beresford High School senior whose intended plan of post-high study will be in the area of special education, rehabilitation, or nursing. The senior must have two letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to character and activity involvement. The senior must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, demonstrate good moral character, and be involved in community, church and/or school activities. Work and/or volunteer experience with special needs children is preferred but not required. The Watchdog Education Foundation Board will make the decision in the spring time as to who will receive the annual Shanna Rae Christensen Scholarship.

The mission of the Watchdog Education Foundation is to provide resources to genuinely enhance educational opportunities for students in the Beresford School District. The Watchdog Education Foundation will be utilized to promote fundraising efforts that will focus on making improvements to the academic and activity programs in the Beresford School District. Working in partnership with educators, students, alumni, parents, and friends, the Watchdog Education Foundation will provide support for programs and resources which are beyond the scope of the regular school budget.

The Watchdog Education Foundation is a separate legal entity from the Beresford School District, but will cooperate with the district to enhance and enrich education. The Watchdog Education Foundation Board of Directors will determine the distribution of the fund's earnings. Since the Watchdog Education Foundation is a sub-fund affiliated with the Beresford Community Foundation, they have 501(c) (3) nonprofit tax-exempt status. Tax-deductible contributions to the Foundation will ensure support of the students and staff of the Beresford School District now and in the future.

The Watchdog Education Foundation Board believes with the loyal support of the alumni, community and friends, the Foundation will have a very bright future in making a difference in the lives of Beresford students. If you have any questions and/or are interested in making a

contribution to the Watchdog Education Foundation, please contact one of the directors listed above or contact Brian Field at Beresford Schools, 605-763-4293 or Brian.Field@k12.sd.us.

February/March, 2010

Beresford School District Newsletter

Watchdog Education Foundation Established

On December 16, the Beresford 125th All-School Reunion Committee contributed \$5000 to create the Watchdog Education Fund that will be governed by the Watchdog Education Foundation under the parameters of the Beresford Area Foundation and South Dakota Community Foundation.

An investment in education is an investment in the future and that is why the Watchdog Education Foundation has been established. The Watchdog Education Foundation will be utilized to promote fundraising efforts that will focus on making improvements to the academic and activity programs in the Beresford School District by encouraging and rewarding innovation. The mission of the Watchdog Education Foundation is to provide resources to genuinely enhance educational opportunities for students in the Beresford School District. Working in partnership with educators, students, alumni, parents, and friends, the Watchdog Education Foundation will provide support for programs and resources which are beyond the scope of the regular school budget.

The Watchdog Education Foundation will be governed by a volunteer board of directors that represent parents, alumni, community and business leaders. The Foundation is a separate legal entity from the Beresford School District, but will cooperate with the district to enhance and enrich education. The Watchdog Education Foundation has a designated endowment fund within the Beresford Area Foundation and South Dakota Community Foundation. The Watchdog Education Board of Directors will determine the distribution of the fund's earnings.

The Watchdog Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization. Tax-deductible contributions to the Foundation will ensure support of the students and staff of the Beresford School District now and in the future. Contribution options include planned giving, matched giving, annual fund campaigns, in-kind contributions and volunteering.

The Watchdog Education Foundation believes with the loyal support of the alumni, community and friends the Foundation will have a very bright future in making a difference in the lives of Beresford students. If you would like more information or you are interested in contributing to the Watchdog Education Foundation, please contact Superintendent Brian Field or Beresford Area Foundation President Mike McGill.

December, 2009

Watchdog Education Foundation Established

Caption for Beresford Republic picture:

Linda Anderson from the Beresford 125th All-School Reunion Committee is pictured presenting Beresford Area Foundation President Mike McGill with a check for \$5000 that will set up the Watchdog Education Fund to be governed by the Watchdog Education Foundation.

Article for Beresford Republic:

On December 16, the 125th All-School Reunion Committee contributed \$5000 to create the Watchdog Education Fund that will be governed by the Watchdog Education Foundation under the parameters of the Beresford Area Foundation and South Dakota Community Foundation. The Watchdog Education Foundation has been formed and will be utilized to promote fundraising efforts that will focus on making improvements to the academic and activity programs in the Beresford School District. The mission of the Watchdog Education Foundation is to provide resources to genuinely enhance educational opportunities for students in the Beresford School District. Working in partnership with educators, students, alumni, parents, and friends, the Watchdog Education Foundation will provide support for programs and resources which are beyond the scope of the regular school budget.