Historic Endowment Campaign Underway for HP Schools

HPHS Park Version vocal ensemble performed at the kickoff of the Lead for Tomorrow campaign.
Rallying our entire community to raise the critical funds necessary for advancing Highland Park ISD's tradition of exemplary education

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From the Executive Director

It is with great excitement and honor that I begin my role as HPEF Executive Director following the unprecedented growth of the Foundation under Lauren Holloway. I first joined HPEF in March 2020 as Director of Alumni Relations and have been inspired every day since then by the generosity and support of friends like you.

While there are many highlights of the past year, one of the greatest is our strengthened ties with the PTA/PTOs and Dads Clubs. There is a spirit today of collaboration between all these groups, which will only continue to bolster the District’s future. Most importantly, these groups are full participants in the Lead for Tomorrow campaign, as each established a new fund in the Tartan Endowment during the last fiscal year (See page 7 for more about this campaign).

I’m a third-generation Park Cities family, and the fourth is in school now – with my two children, Charles at HPMS and William at MIS. Through my parents and grandparents, I know how important these generations feel about sustaining the same high standards for excellence that shaped the lives and careers they went on to experience. With my children following this same path, I fully embrace the Foundation’s responsibility to secure the financial resources to support our students and teachers today and those to come in future generations.

Meg Jones Boyd ’96
Executive Director
From the President

It has been a remarkable year for Highland Park Schools, which only adds to my excitement and gratitude entering my first year as HPEF president. My wife, Lisa, and I have seen firsthand the educational excellence of HPISD through the experience of our three children. And we know that you and countless others in the Park Cities and beyond help make this possible through your contributions as volunteers and donors.

Among the many highlights in this report, the public launch of the Lead for Tomorrow campaign stands out as a fitting example to our common refrain of “Scots Find a Way” when faced with a challenge. This campaign to add $40 million to the Tartan Endowment is ambitious and necessary. We must strengthen this permanent fund to help provide a long-term solution to increase our teacher salaries, which rank near the bottom of all North Texas school districts.

When the Lead for Tomorrow campaign launched in August, we announced more than $17 million in gifts and pledges had already been committed to the Tartan Endowment. That figure has grown to over $20 million, propelling us toward our $40 million goal by 2026.

We are grateful to all the early donors supporting this campaign and hope their leadership inspires others to join this historic effort. Our public schools are the engine powering this community, and with your support, future generations of students will experience ever-higher standards of HPISD excellence.

Thank you and Go Scots!

Bill Ogle
President
Captivated by the generosity of founding donors to the Lead for Tomorrow endowment campaign, event guests were excited to learn of the amount of support already committed prior to the public launch.

For almost 100 years, supporters have met the Highland Park Independent School District’s (HPISD) immediate needs through annual fundraising efforts spearheaded by PTA/PTOs, Dads Clubs and other volunteer groups, as well as HPEF’s annual campaign, Mad for Plaid. But the Foundation’s Lead for Tomorrow campaign aims to meet current and future needs by growing the Tartan Endowment, a permanent source of support managed by HPEF for the benefit of teachers, students, and staff throughout HPISD.

The leadership phase of the campaign began in January 2021 and has already raised $20 million in new gifts and pledges, including 90 new funds in the Tartan Endowment.

The Dads Club members at each school typically give their time for cafeteria duty or campus fundraisers, but they are also excited to be part of a campaign that will make a long-term impact.

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“The Lead for Tomorrow campaign is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to grow funds that will contribute to HPISD’s legacy of academic excellence for years to come,” said Nick Peters, president of the Park Cities Dads Club, the centralized 501(c)(3) that operates as the umbrella board over the individual school Dads Clubs.

“HPISD is special because of the teachers and administrators who work hard each and every day to foster our kids’ education,” he explained. “The community is also special because of parent and community involvement. The opportunity to contribute a Legacy Fund to the overall campaign demonstrates just how important our teachers and administrators are to this community.”

The market value of the Tartan Endowment combined with these new gifts and pledges exceeds $52 million.

“As a PTO, our hearts are with our teachers and our staff,” explained Claire Swope, past president of the Boone Elementary School PTO. “We wanted more than a temporary fix for the budget issues the district faces, and we understand that supporting the endowment with a Legacy Fund offers a permanent solution,” said Swope.

This fall, the Highland Park Education Foundation (HPEF) launched Lead for Tomorrow, a $40 million, multi-year endowment campaign to bolster teacher salaries and boost student achievement for generations to come.

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The Dads Club, and PTO/PTAs at the elementary, middle, and high schools have created districtwide Legacy Funds, unrestricted permanently endowed funds that will be used in the immediate future to strengthen teachers’ salaries.

“As a PTO, we’re there to support our schools, and we do this mostly through our annual fundraisers,” said Jessica Turner-Waugh, past president of the MIS PTO. “But with how much money our district loses to recapture, we just can’t keep up,” she explained.

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Co-chairs of the campaign Leadership Committee are Cindy and Guy Kerr, both HPHS alumni. Honorary chairs are Judy and Jim Gibbs and Marla and Mike Boone. The full committee and additional campaign information are available at leadfortomorrow.org.

**CAMPAIGN GOALS:**

- Empower HPISD with the resources to increase teacher salaries to competitive levels
- Support every school in the district through new endowed funds designated by donors specifically to support their academic programs and activities
- Position HPISD to be financially adaptable to future challenges
- Positively impact residential property values in the Park Cities by strengthening the permanent financial resources available to HPISD that are not subject to state control
- Ensure the continued legacy of academic, arts and athletic achievement established in HPISD’s first century
HPEF and HPISD: A Vital Partnership

For more than four decades, the Highland Park Education Foundation and the schools of Highland Park Independent School District have worked together to build a brighter future for thousands of children and educators in the community.

This vital partnership started in the 1980s when changes in public school finance threatened potential harm to Highland Park ISD in those years leading up to the state’s recapture system, commonly known as “Robin Hood.” A forward-thinking group of parents and alumni realized the need for mechanisms for additional private support, so they created the Foundation in 1984.

Since the founders – George Connell, Judy Gibbs, Jack Hammack, Darrell Lafitte, Charles Seay, Don Williams and Walter Spradley – started the Foundation, the 501(c)(3) has granted more than $35 million to HPISD.

HPEF supports Highland Park Schools in four core areas. Fundraising programs Mad for Plaid and the Tartan Endowment provide increasing financial support for the district’s critical needs, like teacher and staff salary support. The Foundation also brings alumni together, housing the HPHS Alumni Association with all of its activities, including the annual Golden Scots Reunion, Class Reunions, and the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Students and faculty receive scholarships and opportunities for learning through HPEF’s programs and special events.

The Tartan Endowment

The Tartan Endowment was started in the 1990s as a way to make a positive impact on teachers, students and staff in Highland Park.

Most of the early gifts to the Tartan Endowment went into one large fund, but donors later began establishing individual funds within the Tartan Endowment. Some funds address specific purposes.

But during the quiet phase of Lead for Tomorrow in 2021 and 2022, the Foundation’s $40 million, multi-year endowment campaign, a record-breaking number of new funds were created thanks to a new option, explained Meg Jones Boyd ’96, HPEF Executive Director. Legacy Funds are similar to other types of endowed funds but are unrestricted and can be utilized to meet changing needs over time.

“Over its first 25 years, the Tartan Endowment grew to 50 donor-established funds,” said Boyd. “In just over the past two years, that number has jumped to more than 140. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all these donors who have invested in the future of Highland Park Schools.”

Though John Yeaman’s three children have long since graduated from HPHS, and now he’s watching his grandchildren do the same, he’s seen the impact great schools have had on his community. In gratitude, he recently created the Yeaman Family Legacy Fund.
The Association’s Distinguished Alumni Awards event is held annually to honor members of the HPHS community who have outstanding professional accomplishments and have demonstrated community service and loyal support to the district.

So far, more than 150 HPHS graduates, former staff, and community leaders have been honored.

The Golden Scots Luncheon was started to honor alumni who graduated from HPHS 50 or more years ago. During the reunion lunch, Golden Scots meet current students and visit with their former classmates, 300-500 of whom attend every year.

Programs

Students make their college dreams come true with help from scholarships through the Foundation, which administers more than 30 scholarship funds and applications for graduating seniors. Scholarships are also offered specifically for children of HPISD faculty, and for faculty seeking professional development opportunities and ways to bring creative learning to the classroom.

Teacher Innovation Grants allow teachers to request funds for projects that range from reading resources to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) projects to professional development opportunities. Last year, the Foundation awarded more than $15,000 in grants to 15 teachers, who in turn were able to provide additional learning opportunities for their students.

For more information on all these Foundation programs and services, visit hpef.org.
The Year in Review

There were celebrations galore for HPHS Alumni and friends of the Foundation. We enjoyed connecting, celebrating, and supporting the many great events in our district and community in 2023.

Scholarship Ceremony
Did you know that the Foundation administers over 30 scholarship funds and applications for graduating HPHS seniors? The annual HPHS Honors Day Ceremony in May celebrated and recognized the achievements of graduating seniors with funding totaling over $150,000. Please visit hpef.org/scholarship-recipients for a full list of all scholarship funds and recipients.

Golden Scots
It was a golden opportunity to celebrate over 300 HPHS alumni at the 28th annual Golden Scots Reunion in September 2022! Scots who graduated over 50 years ago attended a lunch and program in the high school, in addition to tours led by HPHS Student Ambassadors. Learn more about our Golden Scots reunion and luncheon at hpef.org/golden-scots.

Class Reunions
HPHS Alumni came near and far to celebrate 12 class reunions in the fall of 2022! Classes celebrated milestones from five years to 60 years post-graduation. Class officers work hard to plan a memorable weekend! We invite you to stay connected with your class by sending updated contact information to hpef.org/alumni.

HPHS Distinguished Alumni
For 33 years, HPEF and the Alumni Association have honored over 150 men and women during the HPHS Distinguished Alumni Awards. In April 2023, to a packed ballroom of 350 guests, the Alumni Association honored distinguished alumni, Foster Poole ’50 (posthumously), Steve Van Amburgh ’71, and Chris Young ’98. For the Distinguished Service Award honoree, we celebrated our very own “Star Lady” and former HPISD Planetarium Director Donna Pierce. For helping the HPISD community and beyond, we were pleased to celebrate Highlander honoree, Cordelia Boone. More information and past recipients can be found at hpef.org/alumni-awards.

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Financial Report

10-Year History Of Public Support

Revenue and Expenses

Total Number of Funds in the Tartan Endowment

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Celebrating Your Generosity

Alumni Lifetime Donors
Thank you to the following alumni who became Lifetime Members of the HPHHS Alumni Association last year. These leaders are among the nearly 700 new dues-paying members of the association in 2022-23.

Sarah Beecher Allman ’09
Tiffany Lane Anderson ’13
Shelley Foran Appel ’08
Dana Wilcox Ayres ’92
Benton Banowsky ’10
Robert Banowsky ’13
William Banowsky ’05
Art Barnes ’08
Ellie Barrett ’23
Cynthia Williams Beecherl ’75
Louis Beecher ’74
Adam Bechhara ’92
Brooklynn Brown ’20
Krispy Spence Brusso ’89
Taylor Burns ’02
Shannon Wilson Callewart ’78
Allison Cannon ’23
Steve Chamblee ’56
Ellis Coggin ’23
Marin Davenport ’23
Trey Deitch ’11
Lucy Feld ’23
Colleen Irby Flowers ’46
Robert Funk ’00
Nancy Gannon ’91
Mary Katharine McCulloch Gill ’96

Cate Gould ’23
Caitlin Grove-Collins ’23
Elizabeth Hunt Harris ’07
Anna Hawkins ’91
Mary Niendorf Heine ’63
Bill Hightower ’61
Margaret Hoppier ’23
Marian Powell Huey ’56
Ward Huey ’56
Caroline Jackson ’23
Sydney Johnson ’23
Ellie Jones ’22
Lane Jones ’22
Hannah Jed ’23
Olivia Kight ’23
Kendall Kligman ’16
Lt. Charles Leary ’00
Janine Brown Lichstein ’64
Tom Littlepage ’69
Aubry Loewen ’20
John Mallare ’23
Patrick McEvoy ’67
Carol Woooley McEvoy ’68
Tyler McKinney ’09
Todd McPherson ’23
Bob McBrae ’61
Jennifer Young Miller ’92

Ava Mitchell ’23
Jeff Montgomery ’91
Lewis Montgomery ’23
Elizabeth Morgan ’23
Bobbitt Noel ’68
Morgan Passanante ’23
Thomas Paul ’58
Riley Lainie Peterie ’23
Paul Peters ’76
Michele Armstrong Petersen ’70
Randy Pharo ’70
Phil Milkin ’23
Lisa Prather ’86
Holly Reed ’19
Gig Reesves ’84
Greer Schmerbeck ’23
Liz Mizell Schoervogel ’69
Don Singleton ’56
Chriyss Trajoc Sledge ’68
Webb Spradley ’70
Jack True Jr. ’23
Carol Carter Utkov ’64
Eric Wang ’23
Drew White ’23
John Wilkinson ’84
Savannah Willis ’15
Benjamin Woodward ’23

Mad for Plaid Leadership Society
The Leadership Society is the cornerstone of the Mad for Plaid campaign, providing donors the opportunity to significantly invest in the excellence of HPISD and set an example of leadership that inspires our HP community to give.

Visionary ($50,000+)
Clements Foundation
Leslie and Bill Conneg
La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas
Katy and Kyle Miller

Legacy ($25,000-$49,999)
Anonymous
Kamela and Kenneth Aboussie
Eddie King-King Architectural Metals
Simon and Louise Henderson Foundation
Elsa and Stephen Summers - The Trinity Family Foundation

Luminary ($10,000-$24,999)
Anonymous
Lori and Jon Altschuler

Luther King Capital Management
Origin Bank
Holly and Phillip Philbin
Kay and Greg Porter
Jan and Trevor Rees-Jones
Tav and Sean Rogers
Gail and Dan Settle
Catherine and Tom Sharpe
Jean and Jason Signor
Tartaglino Richards Family Foundation
The Trammell Foundation
Robert and Melissa Turner Charitable Fund at The Dallas Foundation
The Bill and Katie Weaver Charitable Trust
Westwood Private Bank
Kathy and John Yeaman

Super Scot Society Donors
These gifts recognize the thoughtful foresight of those who embrace HPHHS Class of 1983 graduate Chuck Lingos’s spirit of generosity and commitment to HPISD by including the Foundation in their estate plans.

Anonymous
Janelle & Adam Hickey
William R. Janowski ’52
Cindy & Guy Kerr ’71
Shirley Kochman ’53

Lissie & Wayne McCullough ’89
Nancy MacGregor O’Neil ’54
Ann Marks Scroggins ’60
Sandra & Bill Snyder
John G. Taylor ’43

Our donor list is carefully compiled, but there is the possibility of error. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact us at 214-780-4060 or info@hpef.org. Gifts made June 1, 2023, or later will be listed in next year’s Annual Report.

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Lead for Tomorrow Campaign Donors

Districtwide Greatest Needs

Armstrong Elementary PTA Legacy Fund
Boone Elementary PTA Legacy Fund
Bradfield Elementary PTA Legacy Fund
Highland Park High School PTA Legacy Fund
Highland Park MIS/HPMS PTO Legacy Fund
Hyer Elementary PTA Legacy Fund
La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas Legacy Fund
Park Cities Dads Club Legacy Fund
University Park Elementary PTA Legacy Fund
Kamelia and Kenneth Abussiie Legacy Fund
Gayle and Jeff Barnes Legacy Fund
Barrett Family Legacy Fund
Julie and Louis Beecher, Jr. Memorial Legacy Fund
Amy and Bryce Benson Legacy Fund
Mandy and Robert Blount Legacy Fund
Maryjane and Chris Bonfield Legacy Fund
Marla and Mike Boone Legacy Fund
Meg and Chris Boyd Legacy Fund
Nicole Metzger Brewer Legacy Fund
Carpenter Family Legacy Fund
Margaret and Syd Carter Legacy Fund
Gail and Bob Clark Legacy Fund
Leslie and Bill Cornog Legacy Fund
Crouch Family Legacy Fund
Lucy and Brooks Cullum Legacy Fund
Rochelle and Stuart Cullum Legacy Fund
Bev and Larry Dale Legacy Fund
Dalton Family Legacy Fund
Maryann and Michael Denton, Jr. Legacy Fund
Dowler Legacy Fund
Alyson and Robert Engstrom Legacy Fund
Meredithe and Corby Ferrell Legacy Fund
Ashley and Pete Flowers Legacy Fund
Friends of the Tartan Endowment
Mario and Bill Goodwin Legacy Fund
Gwinn Family Legacy Fund
The Halpin Family Legacy Fund
Juli and Bob Harrison Family Legacy Fund
Libby and Brian Hegi Family Legacy Fund
Laurie and Jim Hitzelberger Legacy Fund
The Hoglund Foundation Legacy Fund
Elizabeth and Taylor Hunt Legacy Fund
Herbert and Nancy Hunt Family Legacy Fund
Ifff Family Legacy Fund
Kerr Family Legacy Fund
Cindy and Guy Kurr Legacy Fund
Langley Family Legacy Fund
Ellen and Paul Lee Legacy Fund
The Litton Family Legacy Fund
Anne and Preston Massey Legacy Fund
McCoy Family Legacy Fund
Lolise and Wayne McCullough Legacy Fund
Carol and Patrick McKevoy, Jr. Legacy Fund
Katy and Kyle Miller Legacy Fund
Sandy and Barry Moore Legacy Fund
Anna and Ryan Moss Legacy Fund
Betsy and Cary Newman Legacy Fund
Denise and Ray Nixon Legacy Fund
William D. Oates Memorial Legacy Fund
Lisa and Bill Ogle Legacy Fund
Nancy M. O’Neill and John Q. Stilwell Family Legacy Fund
Connie Bliss O’Neill Legacy Fund
Park Family Foundation Legacy Fund
Holly and Phillip Phibbin Legacy Fund
Pincoffs Family Legacy Fund
Prichard Family Legacy Fund
Rees-Jones Legacy Fund
Rowsey Family Legacy Fund
Marcy Wilson Sands Family Legacy Fund
Jean and Jason Signor Legacy Fund
Kacy and Carter Tolleson Legacy Fund
Steve and Lee Ann Van Amburgh Family Legacy Fund
Garry Weber Foundation Legacy Fund
Brenda and Bob-White Legacy Fund
The Yeaman Family Legacy Fund

Designated for Department or Program Needs

Anonymous
Carolyn and Randy Allen Fund for Highland Park Football
Barbara and Ben Cervin Family Legacy Fund
Janis and Roy Coffee, Jr. Legacy Fund for Teacher and Staff Salaries
Kathy and Bob Craine Legacy Fund for Teacher and Staff Salaries
Judy and Jim Gibbs Legacy Fund for Teacher and Staff Salaries
Libby and Brian Hegi Legacy Fund for Men’s Cross Country
Janelle and Adam Hickey Legacy Fund for Special Education
Jill and Carter Malouf Visual Arts Impact Legacy Fund
Park Cities Dads Club Teachers Cup Legacy Fund for Teacher and Staff Salaries
Phibbin Family Legacy Fund for Men’s Cross Country
Eva, David, and GB Stalnaker Legacy Fund for Academic Decathlon
Susan Rhoads HPHS Library Legacy Fund

List includes gifts received through August 31, 2023
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Authorized Signature
Thank You, Stark Sands ’97

Words cannot express thanks enough to Stark Sands, a 1997 HPHS graduate and star of stage and screen, for narrating the Lead for Tomorrow campaign video. The actor completed the recording for the video this summer from his dressing room in the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York. Why? Because the show he was starring in, & Juliet, performed eight shows a week.

As Sands explains in the video, he found his passion for acting by accident just before his freshman year. His experience at Highland Park encouraged him to earn a fine arts degree in acting from the University of Southern California, and his career has flourished since then.

Twice nominated for a Tony Award, Sands won a Grammy in 2013 for the Broadway musical Kinky Boots. His stage credits are extensive with major roles in other hits including Journey’s End and American Idiot.

His television credits span two decades, including appearances on Law & Order: SVU, Minority Report, and Six Feet Under. You may have recognized his voice on popular animated shows, including Family Guy and American Dad! And he has appeared with Hollywood icons in movies including The Post, Flags of Our Fathers, and Inside Llewyn Davis.

Check out the video at www.leadfortomorrow.org.

From the HPISD Superintendent

When I started in this role in May 2023, I already knew the tremendous history and tradition of excellence throughout Highland Park Schools. As I progress into my first school year, I am learning more everyday about the driving force behind our District’s extensive record of success – this community.

This annual report demonstrates Highland Park ISD is emboldened by countless volunteers and donors who tirelessly support our schools. The Lead for Tomorrow campaign is a shining example of this selfless care for our students and teachers.

By strengthening the Tartan Endowment, this campaign will empower the future of Highland Park Schools to an unprecedented degree. And the timing of this effort is critical. The competition for great teachers is intense and a challenge we must win.

I am so appreciative, as will be future superintendents in this role, knowing that the Highland Park Education Foundation is continually engaging donors who wish to see HP’s legacy of excellence continue. When combined with the dedicated work of the PTAs, PTOs, Dads Clubs, and other volunteer groups backing our schools and programs, the level of philanthropic resources powering HPISD sets the standard for districts in Texas and elsewhere.

I am truly grateful to every volunteer, donor, and friend for your support of Highland Park Schools.

Dr. Mike Rockwood
Superintendent, Highland Park ISD

How to Create a Legacy Fund

Creating a Legacy Fund in the Tartan Endowment strengthens the future of Highland Park Schools and advances the Lead for Tomorrow campaign. It’s also easy to do.

A gift agreement is required since this is a permanent fund. It will be managed in perpetuity by the Highland Park Education Foundation. These steps will help prepare you to create your own Legacy Fund.

1. Select your fund’s purpose. It can be either:
   - Districtwide – To support the district’s greatest needs from year-to-year (currently strengthening teacher salaries).
   - Designated – To support the greatest needs of a specific school, academic program, sport, or student organization (for examples of designated funds, see leadfortomorrow.org/all-legacy-funds)

2. How will you establish your fund?
   - Use cash, stock (and avoid capital gains taxes) or make a bequest intention through your estate.
   - Decide the gift amount. You may pledge this over a maximum of five years. Legacy Fund minimum is $15,000.

3. Contact HPEF to draft a gift agreement for your review.
   - Call 214.780.4060 or Email info@hpef.org
Thank you to our 2022-23 PTA/PTO Leadership for your valued partnership with the HP Education Foundation and HPISD.