

Foundation Donors Bring the World to the Students!



Students from Southwest Elementary with world globes!

What in the world? With computers, monitors and white boards we sometimes forget the importance of non-technical classroom amenities in the classroom. But Julie Cox, teacher and Literacy Director of the Danville District 118 Curriculum Department, and her fellow teachers in Curriculum are getting back to the basics. Mrs. Cox submitted an endowment application to the Danville Public School Foundation to purchase 120 new globes so that students in each elementary classroom would have access to an up-to-date, three-dimensional view of the Earth.

When told the the Foundation awarded \$6,180 to fund this project Mrs. Cox could not hide her enthusiasm; She wrote: “Get ready for adventure students! We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our elementary schools have received a grant from the Danville Public School Foundation to purchase a brand-new set of globes for our classrooms! These

aren’t just any old globes- they’re a dynamic new tool that will bring our new reading series to life in a whole new way.

As we dive into stories that take us all over the world, these globes will be our personal guides. Our students will be able to touch, spin, and explore the exact locations they are reading about, from the bustling cities of Asia to the vast deserts of Africa and the lush rainforests of South America. It's one thing to read about a place, but it's another thing entirely to see it with your own eyes, to trace the rivers and mountain ranges, and to truly understand the geography that shapes the stories we love. They can see where characters live, where events happen, and understand the vast distances and diverse cultures that exist across the globe.

We are incredibly grateful to the Foundation for this generous funding. Their support has enabled us to provide our students with a resource that will enrich their learning for years to come, making geography an engaging, interactive, and unforgettable part of their education. We can't wait to see our young explorers discover the world, one spin at a time! **LET’S GET READY TO TRAVEL!”**



Julie Cox

 Award: \$6,180

What's **NEW** From YOU

Because you deserve a chance to see the difference your generosity makes in the classroom.



Sensory Light Tables at Mark Denman Elementary

Mark Denman Elementary kindergarten teacher Rita Donizoda had experience with light tables when she was a Pre-Kindergarten teacher and found that students enjoyed the learning opportunities they offered. She explained, “the sensory light table provides engaging ways for students to explore and foster their creativity. This helps promote cognitive, physical, and emotional development. Students can use this for math by sorting, matching, counting, adding, building shapes, and making ten frames. For literacy it can be used for spelling words, matching letters, matching beginning sound letter to images and so much more!”

DPSF Award: \$631



Portable DJ Rig at North Ridge Middle School

Music teacher Melinda Learnard requested a Disc Jockey (DJ) Rig for North Ridge Middle School. She stated, “bringing an intermediate DJ Rig into the classroom is a fun, hands-on way for middle schoolers to dive into music, creativity, and self-expression. DJing isn’t just about mixing beats—it teaches rhythm, timing, and how different styles come together to create something new and exciting. The creative project also helps address the need for more engaging, hands-on activities showing students how music-making can go beyond traditional instruments.”

DPSF Award: \$2,700



Drumline for Meade Park Elementary

Music teacher Kahlar Drews has established a drum program for the kindergarten through 4th grade students at Meade Park Elementary. “The world drums and drumline equipment provides students the opportunity to explore and learn how music is portrayed all over the world. Students will learn visually, kinesthetically and auditorily”. In addition to the regular curricular instruction, Mr. Drews plans to start an after-school drumline enrichment group that will provide 30-45 minutes of instruction on drumline techniques. This will be an essential part in growing the love for music at both Meade Park, and the entire D118 Music Department.

DPSF Award: \$10,871



The Danville Public School Foundation Receives \$20,000 RISE Grant Award



Pictured from left to right are Justin Pau, Earthrise Senior Associate Developer; Ellie Ginnis, Earthrise Project Development Manager; Curt Ellis, DPSF Foundation President; Stephanie Yates, DPSF Executive Director and Talya Tavor, Earthrise Director of Community Engagement.

Earthrise Energy has awarded a \$20,000 RISE Grant to the Danville Public School Foundation to support students across Danville Community Consolidated School District 118. The funding will help to add creative classroom projects, advance technology

to enhance curriculum, and bring in engaging speakers for schoolwide assemblies.

Stephanie Yates, Executive Director of the Danville Public School Foundation, stated the Foundation is grateful for the support from Earthrise Energy and their commitment in support of the Foundation’s mission of providing enhanced educational opportunities for the children attending Danville Public Schools. “Earthrise Energy is proud to support the Danville Public School Foundation in its mission to uplift and inspire students,” said Ellie Ginnis, Project Development Manager at Earthrise Energy. “By investing in creative, student-centered learning, we’re helping build brighter futures for the entire community.”

In addition to the \$20,000 grant, Earthrise Energy is also going to be the “Mission Sponsor” at the Foundation’s **2026 365 Club Breakfast** in April, with a generous \$10,000 sponsorship! Thank you Earthrise!

New Tax Rules Help Donors Who Do Not Itemize The Danville Public School Foundation is a Qualifying Charity



Beginning in **2026**, new tax rules will affect how individual donors can deduct charitable gifts if they do not itemize on their personal income tax returns. The legislation introduces a new universal charitable deduction of \$1,000 for individual taxpayers and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly - even if you do not itemize. This permanent deduction is available to anyone taking the standard deduction, making it easier for all donors to receive a tax benefit for giving. It is important to note that gifts made to donor-advised funds (DAFs)

supporting organizations or private foundations do not qualify for this new universal deduction.*

**Source: National Philanthropic Trust post July 31, 2025*

Non-365 Club Donations Received Since Our Last Newsletter

General, Memorial, Restricted and Scholarships

Mark A. Denman Earthrise Energy John A. Stevenson Estate

Brick by Brick Walk of Honor

Kimberly & Ted Silvey



Foundation Feedback

Sharing the Impact of Your Gifts

Southwest Students Visit the Zoo!

Southwest Pre-K teachers Kristin Dailey and Maurita Keyser wanted to provide their students with a trip to the Indianapolis Zoo and requested funding from the Foundation to make this possible. They explained how very young children are usually able to name basic wild animals, but found this skill lacking in their students. Many families do not have the financial resources or a means to travel to the zoo. Such experiences can create life-long memories and enhance relationships between students and staff. The Foundation was honored to make this educational experience possible.

“Thank you so much for providing our Southwest full-day Pre-K students with the amazing opportunity to visit the Indianapolis Zoo. It was an experience that many of our students may never have. The learning opportunities that this trip provided were phenomenal. Not only were we able to learn about animals and their habitats, we also incorporated map studies as we plotted our course for the trip!”

Maurita D. Keyser, Pre-K teacher Southwest Elementary

DPSF Award \$1,616.40



South View Adds Bowling to PE Classes



South View Upper Elementary PE teachers Kimberlyn Youhas and Aubrey Orr submitted an endowment request to fund two Premium Bowling Packs. Each pack included a heavyweight carpet that simulates a bowling lane, as well as weighted pins, a rubber ball, and pin setup templates. Basically, it was everything required to set up games for their PE classes. Ms. Youhas stated, “Bowling addresses many fitness components including hand-eye coordination and strength. It also provides a cross-curricular math component as students learn to keep score. Along with all of the physical benefits bowling provides it also is a lot of **FUN!**”

DPSF Award \$9,153



Donor Spotlight

Dr. Donald Rokosch - DHS Class of 1968

Sometimes the calling to serve your community and your country begins within the walls of a school. That spark

is kindled by a teacher who inspired you and challenged you. Sometimes that spark can lead to great things. An example of that is evident in the lifetime achievements of physician, veteran, leader and community advocate, Dr. Donald Rokosch.

A four-sport athlete and member of the DHS Class of 1968, he graduated 10th out of 700 students also serving as President of his Junior class and the Student Council. Dr. Rokosch credits his teachers and coaches at Danville High School for motivating him academically and giving him a solid foundation. They did more than teach, they believed in him. "Education was respected. Students were accountable. We were challenged. It was a serious thing. The teachers, coaches and staff at Danville High School left a positive imprint on thousands of students. I was just one of them," he stated.

Following his graduation from Danville High School in 1968, Dr. Rokosch earned his B.S. degree in Physiology from the University of Illinois. While there he was awarded a prestigious Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship which allowed him to study abroad at Queen's University of Belfast in Northern Ireland where he obtained his medical doctorate degree. From there, he furthered his studies in Columbus, Ohio to obtain his Ob/Gyn residency experience. Dr. Rokosch returned to Danville and provided 26 years of dedicated service to the community delivering over 5,000 babies in Vermilion County. He operated as an independent Ob/Gyn doctor, or as he described, a GDI (Gosh Darn Independent). He served as Chairman of the Ob/Gyn department at the Danville Hospital for many years as well as the Illinois State Medical Society as their Second Vice President, Chairman of the Council of Economics and delegate to the American Medical Society. He also respectfully served his country in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps, commanding three medical units before retiring at the rank of full Colonel.

A long standing Rotarian, Dr. Rokosch is an active member of the Danville Noon Rotary Club to this day. He has a passion for conservation and owns and

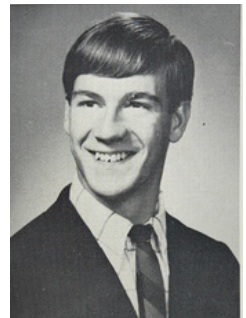
operates the North Fork Outdoor Club in Bismarck, IL and the Rainbow River Ranch in Craig, MT. He was named the *Illinois Outdoor News Person of the Year* in 2016 for his commitment to conservation and mentoring area youth. Dr. Rokosch served on many boards including the American Red Cross, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Vermilion Healthcare Foundation, Vermilion Heritage Foundation and the Danville Public School Foundation. He is widely known for his commitment to community health by founding a task force to provide free medical services in the mid-1980s for those without health insurance. Currently he is working with the Vermilion County Health Department to reopen an infectious disease clinic for the community.

He is a strong believer in education and advocate for prioritizing the trades as highly as a college degree. One of his most memorable classes at DHS was Mechanical Drawing where he was issued drawing instruments that he still uses to this day. Mr. John Sanders, his English and Humanities teacher, stands out as one of the most influential teachers. Mr. Sanders encouraged critical thinking and deductive reasoning. His classes were very insightful. It was also during his tenure at Danville High School that he met his wife, Cindy, mother to his three grown daughters Emily, Abby and Susie.

Being selected for the Danville High School Wall of Fame is his greatest personal honor. He speaks about it with humility and without hesitation gives credit to those who first believed in him.



Iroquois Federal President Tom Chamberlain and Dr Rokosch at Noon Rotary



DHS Medley Class of '68

365 Club Campaign for 2026 Kicks Off in November

Throughout this newsletter, the Danville Public School Foundation is highlighting many projects that have provided enhanced educational opportunities for students attending Danville public schools. This is made possible because of our donors' commitment to the Foundation's mission through their support of our annual fundraising campaign the **365 Club**. **To our current donors we thank you. Your efforts are making a difference and we cannot do it without you.**



In November we will begin our **365 Club** campaign. As in the past, we will be making contact through a phone call, asking you to continue and possibly increase your pledge for 2026. If you make your pledge in November or December and provide your gift in January you will be able to take advantage of the new tax rules that we have highlighted on Page 3 of this newsletter.

We are extremely grateful that the **Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation** is continuing their support as the **365 Club's** 2026 Title Sponsor.

If you are reading this and are not a **365 Club** member we would like you to consider becoming a member by pledging at least \$1.00 a day in support of the Foundation's mission. Please give us a call at 217-444-1038 or visit dpsf.org for more information.



JULIUS W. HEGELER II
FOUNDATION

WE ALREADY HAVE SOME 2026 365 CLUB MEMBERS!

Ameren Earthrise Energy Michael & Shauna Gourley Chuck & Cheryl Schroeder
Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation

For those who prefer mail, please use the form below.

YES, I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY & JOIN THE 365 CLUB!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____


TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Gift Level (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> My Check is Enclosed	Please Mail To: Danville Public School Foundation 516 N. Jackson Street Danville, IL 61832
<input type="checkbox"/> \$365 \$1 a day	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Invoice the Full Amount	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$730 \$2 a day	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Invoice Quarterly	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,095 \$3 a day	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Invoice Monthly	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$4 or more a day	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Charge My Gift	

VISA Master Card Discover American Express

Number: _____

Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____



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