

## **Editorial: SEEF adds to educational experience in Shakopee**

Shakopee Valley News Editorial | February 2013

Minnesota school districts have been under financial constraints the past few years as state funding for education has been curtailed.

School boards and administrators across the state simply have to make do with available funding, which often means not being able to hire needed teachers. It also could mean districts are too strapped to provide equipment and tools to enhance classroom learning.

Luckily for the Shakopee School District, there's been an organization in place since 1992 whose goal it is to enhance educational offerings.

The Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation (SEEF) is made up of volunteers who work hard to raise money that can be given in the form of grants to fund things that will help enhance the educational experience for Shakopee students. SEEF's voluntary board of directors, which is totally independent of the School Board, accepts written grant proposals from district staff. The board considers the requests and then awards grants for those proposals it determines would best benefit students.

SEEF's stated purpose says it all: "The purpose of the Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation is to maintain, improve, and further enrich the quality of education in the Shakopee School District by funding opportunities that go beyond the district's budget."

In December, SEEF announced that it awarded nearly \$24,000 in grants for 24 proposals. In the 20 years of its existence, SEEF has doled out nearly \$220,000 in funds.

Of course, SEEF depends on donations, and they come from various sources, including individuals, service organizations, businesses and school district staff. SEEF also accepts gifts through estates, wills, trusts and annuities. Annual pledges are welcome. Donations can also be made in someone's name — perhaps a school district staff member who has enriched the academic life of a family member. Donations are tax-deductible, and those of \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a donor plaque at Shakopee High School. And because SEEF operates on a strictly a volunteer basis, there are minimal administrative costs, meaning every penny donated goes directly to the program.

More information on how to donate can be found on SEEF's website: [shakopeeedfoundation.org](http://shakopeeedfoundation.org). Kudos to SEEF for contributing to Shakopee's excellent educational opportunities.