



Vermillion Public Schools FOUNDATION

Tanager Update Fall 2023

Supporting Opportunities to Learn

Two New Angel Fund Programs Fulfill Basic Needs of Vermillion Public School Students

The Vermillion Public School Foundation's Angel Fund is designed to provide basic necessities for students in need so that they can focus on learning. The Angel Fund supports the needs of many students, and the 2022-23 school year brought the need to extend the program in two new areas.

Tanager Meal Assistance. This program was initiated about one month into the school year. By then, many students had negative school meal balances. For the prior two years, all school meals were paid for by the federal government as part of COVID-19 relief. In August 2022, these federal funds were no longer available. To assist in restoring all meal accounts to zero and to continue to feed impoverished children while attending the Vermillion School District (VSD), the Tanager Meal Assistance program was initiated. With this program, families slightly above the Federal Free and Reduced-Price School Meals income threshold were given a Tanager Meal Assistance (TMA) application. The VPSF provided meal support for the TMA approved children.

Over 85 students were provided support with school meals. In addition to Angel Fund donors throughout the year, substantial funding for the 2022 – 2023 Tanager Meal Assistance program was provided by the Dakota Hospital Foundation and the Clayton & Odessa Lang Ofstad Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee grants.



Hygiene Corner. The concern for the ability of some families to afford basic hygiene products was brought to the VPSF by the VSD Lead Nurse Amy Askew. With a grant from the Dakota Hospital Foundation, the VPSF purchased a collection of hygiene products to be distributed in the schools. Davis Pharmacy provided all hygiene articles at their cost, which allowed the VPSF to purchase even more with the grant dollars. The first project provides a personal package for each fifth-grade student for their first hygiene talk. Many other hygiene products were purchased, to be placed at each school location. School nurses will provide students with hygiene products as needed.



Tanager Tailgating Returns

This year we kicked off the 2023 season with a tailgate at Vermillion High School's first home football game, September 1. The Tanagers played Lennox in the Dome. We found a shady spot under the trees and enjoyed chili, cookies and drinks which were sponsored by Sodoxy's Coyote Catering and First Bank & Trust. The Vermillion High School Marching Band got us in the spirit while everyone was able to take part in fun activities or just catch up with the rest of the fans. The VPSF accepted free-will donations which will go toward expanding accessible playground equipment at the new elementary school.

Tanager fans enjoy great food, wonderful company, fun games and the VHS band prior to a Fall 2023 Tanager football game.

Visit us: vermillionpsf.org

Jolley Elementary Students Enjoy Washington Pavilion Activities

Whether it was rock climbing, science experiments, visual arts, or farming, Vermillion third graders enjoyed a day of exploration at the Washington Pavilion on May 17. Sponsored by the VPSF's Student Experiential Learning Fund, Jolley Elementary third-grade students and staff traveled to Sioux Falls to learn at Washington Pavilion Visual Arts Center and Kirby Science Discovery Center. Hands-on activities included education about science, weather, building construction, dinosaurs, farming, the human body, and exercise. The science experiments were a student favorite.

The Student Experiential Learning Fund strives to provide students with meaningful opportunities to learn outside the classroom. These students loved the chance to explore science and art through all their senses.



The beauty of the Lakota/Dakota culture was shared with our elementary, middle, and high school students through performances by local student groups of singers, grass and jingle dress dancers creating wonderful memories and learning experiences for all participants. The groups represented various tribes from the region. These cultural events were sponsored by grants from the Vermillion Area Arts Council and the Clayton & Odessa Lang Ofstad Foundation. We hope to be able to sponsor more of these types of events.

Entrepreneurship Experience Capstone Class Teaches Business and Design

Being creative and becoming an entrepreneur is now a reality at Vermillion High School. The Entrepreneurship Experience capstone class began as an idea for a school store by High School teacher, Sara Rohde. With administrative support they applied for CTE funds from the state for the course but did not get approved. The VPSF stepped in to support the course for hands on learning and collaboration between the business and art teachers and curriculums. VPSF purchased a vinyl printer/ink set, a laser cutter, a screen-printing system, a Versa Studio direct-to-garment printer and other supplies to support the class.

There were 20 students in the Spring 2023 semester course. After the teachers had a chance to learn how to work the screen-

printing press, they taught the students the process. They had several projects printing shirts and started a website and social media pages. Students began selling items in the High School Commons on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00.

VHS students returned to class on August 17 and are enjoying working with new customers. One new project for this fall is the printing of the senior athlete banners that will hang in the school.

Caged Creations students are engaged, have seen their idea come to fruition, and have pride in ownership and teamwork. If you are interested in working with Caged Creations, please contact them at vermillioncagedcreations@k12.sd.us.



VHS students create merchandise for their business.

July 2022-July 2023 Donations**In Honor of:**

Logan Augustine & Ava Goebel
Lenni Billberg
Jill Anderson Hieb

In Memory of:

John Dill
Emma Drissen
Anthony Edelen
Willard Fejfar
Robert J Fullenkamp
Byron Lee, class of 1963
Mary Minske
Francis Moul class of 1958
Harry L Scholten
Judith Sebesta's parents
Richard Sorensen

Donations

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Amazon Smile
Jerry Bartels
Jill Becker
Benevity Community Impact
Melissa and Wayne Berninger
Connie Berry
Lenni Billberg
Linda and Terry Brady
Paul and Ruth Bremer
Peggy Brower
Lisa and Hazen Bye
Casey's General Store
Catholic Daughters # 687
Denny and Marcy Chaussee
Anthony Clanton
Clay Post 3061 VFW of the U.S.
Patricia and C.V. Cook
Mark and Marie Dahlhoff
Donald and Jeanne Dahlin
Dakota Hospital Foundation, Inc.
Karen and Tom Davies
Davis Pharmacy
Lynne and David Day
Arlene DeVany
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East River Properties
Cleo and Carl Edeburn
Julie Fallan
Fidelity Charitable - Macy Needy Children Fund

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Steve and Jessica Freeling
Sue French
Claudia Frey
Bob and Karon Fuller
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James and Gail Gautier
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Lisa Goebel
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Community Foundation -Tom & Sally Graf
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Kurt and Susan Hackemer
Jessi Hanson and Kevin Brady
Ronald and Deborah Hesla
Janet Hoff
Joseph and Shawn Hoffman
Gregory and Susan Huckabee
Iola Foundation
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Trevor and Audrey Job
Andrew Johnson
Nikki Johnson
Warren and Mary Jean Johnson
Sue and Curt Jopling
Lisa Ketcham
Cindy and Mark Knudsen
Knutson Family Dentistry
Alvin and Han Leber
Chuck Lubbers and Brenda Fergen
John Lushbough
Maloney Real Estate
Pat & Kathy Merrigan Manning
Dan and Carrie Mart
Sara Mart
Brent Matter
Scott McGregor
Nick Merrigan
Karen and Azad Mesrobian
Joy Moore
Daniel and Kathleen Moulam
Connie and Dennis Nelsen
Curt Nelson
James and Leslie Nelson
Network For Good
Wendy and Wade Nilson
Dustin and Rachel Oelmann

Clayton & Odessa Lang Ofstad Foundation
Glenn and Patricia Olson
Melissa Orr and David Beverly
Paul and Jessica Preister
Shelby and Jacob Quail
Amanda and Joseph Raiche
Ribs, Rods, Rock'n Roll, Inc.
The Shepherd Roegiers
Lori Rolfes
Lana and Arthur Rusch
Susan Russo
Marjorie and Daryl Sanborn
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Andrew and Brianna Schulz
Judith Sebesta
Ann Settles
Margaret Shurr
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Richard and Janet Sunde
Berniece Ticknor
Alexis and Gerald Tracy
Susan and Douglas Tuve
Jane and Randy Uhl
Taylor Underhill
Joanne and Mel Ustad
Dan and Jennifer Van Peursem
Vermillion Athletic Booster Club
Vermillion Ford
Vermillion Lions Club
Vermillion Rotary Club
Vermillion WalMart
Dr. Carol Voss-Ward & Steve Ward
The Wellmark Foundation
Mark Wilkinson
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Mark Winegar
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FOUNDATION

2023-24 Project Goal: Accessible Playground and Equipment at New Elementary School

As the new elementary school continues to progress, the VPSF is working with the Vermillion School District to ensure the playground is accessible to all students, including those with limited mobility. A challenge of many playgrounds is a lack of accessible equipment, and the playground surface material is not designed with students with limited mobility in

mind. For example, it is very difficult to roll a wheelchair across wood chips or sand.

Although district funding has been designated for the playground at the new school, additional funds are needed. Therefore, starting September 1, 2023, the VPSF has initiated a fundraising campaign to purchase universally accessible playground equipment and surface material for the new elementary school with the goal of installing all the equipment before the school is scheduled to open for the 2024-2025 school year. Our fundraising target for the elementary playground is \$150,000.

For more information, please visit <https://vermillionpsf.org/>



The current Jolley Elementary School Playground equipment was purchased in 2007 and is nearing the end of lifespan for safe use.