

## ***What is a School Foundation ?***

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) views education foundations as tax-exempt organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. State laws must be investigated before forming a foundation and foundations should not start fundraising until tax exempt status is granted both for the foundation and its donors.

Some school foundations are set up to exclusively fund scholarships for students attending college or trade programs after graduation. The new wave of school foundations are being designed to support innovative programming and capital improvements that are not traditionally funded through school tax dollars. Recently, some foundations are granting districts monies to create and sustain professional positions.

### ***Please Help Enhance Our Schools***

***Homer High School***

***Homer Junior High School***

***Homer Intermediate School***

***Homer Elementary School***

***Hartnett Elementary School***

## ***Will The Homer Education Foundation Affect Other HCSD Fundraising Groups ?***

The Foundation has set clear parameters when discussing how to raise funds and where the best possible funding opportunities may be found. The Foundation will keep clear lines of communication open with other HCSD Fundraising Groups (Alumni, Sports Boosters, Music Boosters, etc.) to make sure that funding sources are not being exhausted and that existing funding streams are not compromised.

## ***The Importance Of Encouraging Employee Contributions***

Involvement and support from Homer Central School District Employees is one of the greatest keys to the success of the Foundation. Their involvement provides the opportunity to promote a powerful alliance of committed individuals who make a difference in the lives of our school children daily.

Homer Central School District employees should view their contributions as a “win-win” situation, due to the fact that their donations will directly enhance and add to the workplace.

The alliance formed by the Foundation and Employees will also serve as a means of positive public relations.



## ***MISSION***

*The mission of the Homer Education Foundation is to promote the development of excellence in instruction, to encourage innovation in programming and to ensure pride in the Homer Central School District by students, staff, alumni and the greater school community.*

*The Homer Education Foundation will strive to provide financial resources for student scholarships, educational initiatives, programs, and projects that will enhance and add to those already included in the annual school district budget.*

## ***Homer Education Foundation's Current Funding Priorities***

### **Mini-Grant Program**

The Homer Education Foundation Mini-Grant Program is designed to encourage, facilitate, recognize and reward innovative and creative instructional approaches that will lead to the accomplishment of meeting curriculum goals and the New York State Learning Standards. Any teacher or guidance counselor who is involved in the direct instruction of students, currently employed by the Homer Central School District, is eligible. The number of awards will depend on funds available from the Homer Education Foundation.

### **Student Scholarships for Horizons Summer Enrichment Program**

The Homer Education Foundation will make available student scholarships for the Horizons Summer Enrichment Program. Students who are unable to meet the financial requirement for attending the Horizons Program, may apply to the Foundation for partial or full scholarships. Scholarships will be provided to students based on need and will depend on funds available from the Homer Education Foundation.

### **Student Scholarships & Recognition**

The Homer Education Foundation will look to secure funds so that they may provide ALL students of the Homer Central School District with available resources which will support the continuation of their education and career development. The funds will also be used to recognize students' outstanding academic or career development accomplishments and achievements.

## ***How Will The Foundation Secure Funds ?***

Funding will be secured through a number of sources, these may include but not be limited to the following:

- ◆ ***Individual Donations***
- ◆ ***Corporate Donations***
- ◆ ***Program-Specific Donations***
- ◆ ***Employee Contributions***
- ◆ ***Gifts of Appreciated Stock***
- ◆ ***Planned Giving and Bequests***

## ***How Can I Give A Contribution To The Foundation ?***

If you wish to promote the development of excellence in instruction, to encourage innovation in programming and to ensure pride in the Homer Central School District, you can obtain a donation form from our web site located at:  
<http://www.homercentral.org/foundation>.

If you have any questions about donating to the Homer Education Foundation or if you would like a donation form sent to you, please contact Michael Falls at (607) 842-6216 or via e-mail at [mfalls@homercentral.org](mailto:mfalls@homercentral.org).

*The Homer Education Foundation reserves the right to decline any donation that does not fit with the Foundation's mission or by-laws.*

## ***Who Will Lead The Foundation ?***

The Homer Education Foundation will be guided by a group of Volunteer Trustees, all community members, dedicated to educational enhancement and enrichment of students and staff within the Homer CSD community.

The work of the Foundation will be carried out by the trustees and a number of standing committees:

- ◆ Executive Committee
- ◆ Finance Committee
- ◆ Special Events Committee
- ◆ Grant Making Committee
- ◆ Public Relations Committee
- ◆ Trustee Development & Nominating Committee

### ***Expectations Of Trustees***

- ◆ Trustees will be asked to serve terms of one to three years. A Trustee shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- ◆ Trustees will be expected to attend regular meetings of the Board that shall be held quarterly at a time and place to be determined by the Board.
- ◆ Trustees will recruit volunteers to sit on committees in order to carry out the mission of the foundation.