

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

### **Summary: Major Accomplishments for 2009:**

**Golf Tournament**---the sixth annual Dan McLaughlin Golf Tournament to benefit the Special Education Foundation was the most successful event to date raising more than \$180,000 for services and programs to enhance the lives of children with disabilities

**Fred Saigh Youth Leadership Program**—the fifth leadership program was successfully implemented with 17 high school students from 13 St. Louis County school districts.

**Dana Brown Teacher Mini-Grant Program**—the Dana Brown Mini-Grant Reception awarded 49 grants to special education teachers for innovative classroom projects for a total of more than \$25,000.

**Commitment to Kids Banquet**---the Foundation partnered with the Special School District and the corporate community to host the annual banquet that honored 24 students for an audience of 375.

**Special Olympics**—the Foundation donated \$7,500 to the SSD Special Olympics for equipment, uniforms and other items to build students' athletic success.

**Fred Saigh Parent Leadership Institute**—in fall 2008, through a series of three programs, the Foundation sponsored the second Fred Saigh Parent Leadership Institute for 27 parents to enhance parent leadership.

**SSD Staff Involvement**—staff involvement through committee participation, event volunteers and donations continued to grow significantly.

**Successful Dianne Arbeiter Event**—the seventh annual event raised more than \$14,000 to benefit children who are deaf and hard of hearing through scholarships, camps and hearing aids.

**Annual Budget**—the Foundation, through a difficult economic climate, managed to have a balanced budget for the 2009 fiscal year.

**Camperships**—the Foundation donated \$20,000 that allowed more than 35 students to enjoy successful social, recreational, instructional and fine arts opportunities.

**Scholarships**—more than \$44,000 in scholarships were awarded to 19 college-bound students.

**Laura K. Sherman Laughlin Scholarship**—a scholarship to be provided annually to a student who has sustained a brain injury was established by the L6 Foundation and the family of Laura K. Sherman Laughlin as a tribute to Laura. Laura died at the age of 24 due to a brain injury caused by a car accident. The first two scholarships were awarded at the Commitment to Kids Banquet

**Hearing Aids**—the Foundation provided \$26,000 to students who are deaf and hard of hearing for hearing aids, repairs, replacements, sonic alarm clocks and other items.

**Print Media**—the Foundation enjoyed the placement of several articles in the *Suburban Journals* for the Fred Saigh Youth Leadership Programs, scholarships, and events. The Foundation also was spotlighted in the *St. Louis Business Journal's Giving Guide* thanks to the generosity of the Dana Brown Charitable Trust.

**F.O. B. Saint Louis, Inc.**—the Foundation was the recipient of a fund raiser for children who are deaf and hard of hearing by F.O. B. Saint Louis, Inc. in June that raised more than \$4,000 for hearing aids.

**Irene Orlando Fund for Children with Autism**---this fund was established as a tribute to Irene Orlando who devoted her professional career to children with autism. The Orlando family held a successful fund raiser and received donations that brought \$26,000 to help children with autism.

**Focus for next year:** Increased funding/grant exploration, program expansion, strategic plan.