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Breakfast with the Stars showcases efforts of La Porte Education Foundation grant winners

The La Porte Education Foundation held its annual Breakfast with the Stars on Aug. 17, 2009, bringing in over \$11,000 to enhance education in La Porte ISD schools.

The event, which was held at Heritage Elementary School, showcased the efforts of teachers who were awarded grants by the Foundation during the 2008-09 school year. Over 400 community members, business and industry representatives, and teachers were in attendance to show their support for education in La Porte.

Rick Ewan, president of the La Porte Education Foundation, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Music was provided by the LPISD string quartet of faculty members Debbie Barker, Rachel Carlton and Clint Brown and La Porte High School student Katrina Hilson.

“The La Porte Education Foundation’s Breakfast with the Stars brought our entire community together to celebrate the start of another school year in La Porte ISD,” Ewan said. “We greatly appreciate the support of the many business and industry representatives and community members who attended this annual event to help us recognize our ‘Stars,’ the outstanding teachers who were recipients of Foundation grants during the 2008-09 school year. Thanks to this support, the breakfast brought in over \$11,000, which will help the Foundation to award approximately \$70,000 in grants to deserving educators during the 2009-10 school year.”

The guest speaker was Linda Larsen, who discussed “How to Stay Right Side Up When Everything’s Upside Down.” Larsen has worked in the field of education for almost 20 years as a guest adjunct faculty member for two Florida State University graduate programs and Stetson Law School. She also is the author of *True Power*, which is based on her real-life experience of being kidnapped by an escaped convict and held hostage at gunpoint for over five hours.

The Bill and Helen Crowder Foundation was the Solar Spectacular breakfast sponsor for the event, with numerous other companies and individuals serving as breakfast or table sponsors.

The event also included a silent auction for items donated by Foundation directors and Friends of the Foundation as well as a text-message auction for a generator donated by DuPont.

Ewan recognized 2008 grant recipients, noting that the Foundation awarded 83 grants totaling almost \$70,000 this year. Foundation Board members are currently preparing for the 2009-10 grant cycle, with grant applications due by Sept. 25. Applications are available on the LPISD web site at www.lpisd.org.

The mission of the La Porte Education Foundation is to enhance education by funding innovative, creative instructional projects for students and teachers in La Porte schools. To date, the Foundation, established in 1993, has awarded 714 grants totaling over \$602,693.

These grants have impacted 823 teachers and all 12 LPISD schools. In addition, the Foundation has awarded over 70 student scholarships through designated funds and sent 40 La Porte High School students to China through the Global Studies Exchange Program.

For more information on the La Porte Education Foundation, call the LPISD Communications Office at 281-604-7001.