

Fall/Winter 2020



ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President—Sherm Carlson



Sherm Carlson,
REA³D President

It all started with renting a condo unit during the month of March last spring and introducing myself to the neighbor next door, Dr. Tom Kelly. As author of a rather extensive book on school reform, I felt compelled to give it some attention, as any future conversations (highly likely) would expose I hadn't read any of it. (It brought back all the anxiety of trying to bluff my way through that oral book report back in high school.)

In his book, Dr. Kelly related the following incident while trying to teach social studies to eighth grade students in the Bronx, N.Y., comprised of 100% economically disadvantaged minority students. Finding that most were reading far below grade level, he switched gears and started teaching his secondary course of study: Reading.

Well, sure enough, in comes the principal to see how his "social studies" class was going, only to discover there was nary a semblance of the material being taught.

"Why are they doing reading?" he asked.

"Because they can't understand social studies," Mr. Kelly replied.

Would you like to teach reading full-time?" pursued the principal.

"Yes, maybe next year my schedule can be changed."

"Why not this year? Just keep teaching reading instead of social studies with your present schedule," the principal concluded without hesitation.

This focus on the importance of reading became the topic of discussion at one of the first REA³D board meetings in the beginning of October. By then, it was becoming evident that the Proctor elementary grades would be implementing the hybrid instructional model in accordance with health guidelines. In short, these students would now be limited to only two days of in person direct teacher contact with the remainder of the week being distance learning.

Especially for K-2 primary students, the fear arose that the development of basic reading skills for this population could be in jeopardy. "Let's start someplace," the REA³D board concluded, "and see what we can do."

In a little over two weeks, a highly qualified teacher was hired through a REA³D grant to provide direct instruction to children in the old hockey arena (now known as the Rails Indoor Facility) which serves as a daycare site for both Pike Lake and Bay View Elementary Schools. The site was in compliance of health directives and the children were already there.

But REA³D didn't want to stop there; parents of primary students in the outlying areas might be looking for some extra assistance, as might households in the greater Proctor community. The question was posed, "How about a Monday school as no classes are in session on that day and availability of teachers might be greater?"

When Grand Lake Township Chairman Duayne Anderson was approached, he could not have been more accommodating in offering the town hall as an outlying site.

Solway Township encouraged bringing forth a similar request if an additional site was needed, with the school district quickly following suit to identify a location in the City of Proctor.

Of course, with any new venture money is essential to ensure sustainability. The REA³D board has committed the greater portion of the dollars raised from last winter's REA³D by Candlelight dinner to this end, but that will not be enough to carry through the remainder of the year if current conditions continue.

TO FURTHER THE EFFORT DESCRIBED, ALL DONATIONS MADE IN RESPONSE TO THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE USED DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT REA³D'S READING INITIATIVES.

On a lighter note, when so many have questioned over the years, *What is REA³D?* ... in this case it's all about reading.



WINTER FUNDRAISER

*Surprise
announcement
forthcoming!*

Thank You ISD 704 Faculty and Staff

The REA³D Board of Directors would like to recognize the ISD 704 Faculty and Staff for their generous contributions of \$8,464 during the 2019-20 school year, a 8% increase over the 2018-19 contributions!

Erica Amborn
 Carlie Anderson
 Robin Anderson
 Stephen Anderson
 Nicole Appelwick
 Katherine Bjonskaas
 Leah Carlson
 Todd Clark
 Rochelle Cleary
 Gina Cole
 Brandon Delacey
 Noah Dennis
 Erik Edmunds
 Melissa Ellis
 Sherry Frerichs Vail Harnell
 Leah Gagne
 Bill Gates

Glen Gilderman
 Josh Gookins
 Tanner Hall
 Jennifer Harnell
 Lowell Harnell
 Suzy Hartwick
 Sheila Held
 DeeAnne Hoffman
 Mark T. Hughes
 Rachel Johnson
 Marcie Keppers
 Anna Kidd
 Ted Kiefat
 Jess Kramer
 Joseph Krasselt
 Jonathan Kresha
 Jill Lackner

Becky LaPlante
 Matthew Lind
 Julie Lysher
 David McNamee
 Carli Mitchell
 Lindsay Moen
 Gina Mogen
 Philip Mogen
 Diane Morin
 Patti Myre
 Teresa Nyberg
 Kelly Okstad
 Jennifer Olson
 Teresa Olson
 Renee Pederson
 Erick Perala
 Tiffany Quade

Luke Ratike
 Stephanie Reinsch
 Tim Rohweder
 Andrea Ruth
 Katie Sandor
 James Savre
 Anna Sederski
 Dehli Seim
 Theresa Shanoff
 Nathaniel Simpson
 Jesse Smith
 Dan Stauber
 Anna Urban
 Emily Vos
 Heidi Voss
 Gordy Westendorf

REA³D Distance Learning Challenge Winners

REA³D sponsored a challenge to students in K-12 to reflect on their experience during the pandemic. Students were encouraged to submit work in the areas of academics, arts, and/or athletics that related to their surviving and thriving during the current pandemic. Students submitted artwork, essays, poems, videos, and exercise routines. Eleven students were awarded \$100.00 scholarships for their efforts. The submissions that appear below represent two of these talented Proctor students.

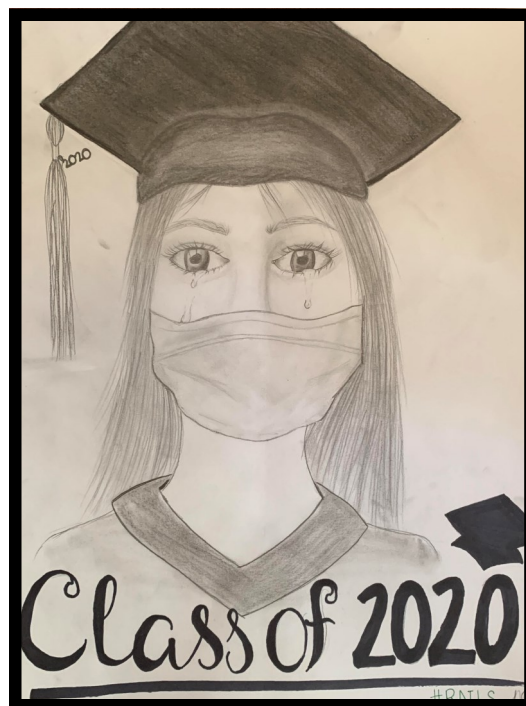
HOPE

*My heart like lint blowing in a spiral current.
 Wild flowers bleach the mossy fields,
 like covid-19. This horrid pandemic,
 That somewhat extends my déjà vu
 to lonely times.*

*My brain a humid trench of acid, the fear, the
 hate, the confusion
 But I take comfort in the resplendent hope
 radiating from the citizens of my country.
 Hope stirs in the scintillating hearts of well
 meaning Americans.*

*I exhort all Americans to have hope
 like these people,
 Who are as sweet as rich chocolate and as wise
 as eucalyptus and sage.
 Stay safe, stay resilient, stay Railstrong! :)*

Isabella Norstrom
 Bay View Elementary



Madeline Heine
 Proctor High School

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

REA³D began fundraising efforts in 2000, starting with a zero balance. Since 2000, the REA³D Board of Directors reached out to YOU – local residents, businesses, school district employees, and Proctor Alumni - to fund the REA³D mission, to support life-long learning in the Proctor school district communities. In 2007, our fund had grown to \$100,000 and we were able to award grants for academic, art, and athletic projects in our communities. We have awarded nearly \$80,000 to many worthy projects. A donation envelope was not included in our Spring 2020 newsletter, but is included in this fall's postal mailing. With the ongoing pandemic, many may have had economic challenges, and we chose to be sensitive to those situations. Now, we are still amid a pandemic with no immediate end in sight. Our schools have gone to hybrid or on-line learning. Recent grant requests have reflected the need for more support in our schools and communities. Your donations are greatly appreciated and enable our schools, students, and communities to provide the best learning opportunities during this difficult time.



The **REA³D Legacy Initiative** is made up of individuals and families who have included the Rails Endowment for Academic, Art and Athletic Development in their wills and estate plans. This act of generosity ensures that the giving power of REA³D will be sustained for generations to come.

How Does It Work?

There are many ways to make a lasting gift which helps assure REA³D's operation into perpetuity:

- * naming REA³D in your will or revocable trust agreement
- * listing REA³D as a beneficiary on a retirement account or life insurance policy
- * setting REA³D as the payable on death ("POD") designation for financial accounts or stock portfolios.

An example of gift language is:

"I give _____ [the sum, percentage, or description of property] to the Rails Endowment for Academic, Art and Athletic Development, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, to be used for its general tax-exempt purposes, but without other restriction as to use."

REA³D can't give you legal advice or tax advice, but we can provide information for you to use in consultations with your attorney and financial/tax advisors. We can also provide you with our federal tax identification number which is necessary in directing bequests. *As many are approaching age 70 1/2, you may be aware that the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) kicks in. If you choose, any or all of the amount you must distribute (or more) can be directly given to REA³D as a tax free donation, referenced on your tax form as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). As REA³D is a qualifying non-profit organization, we are eligible to receive these gifts. The donor simply signs a form provided by his/her accountant, attorney or investment advisor.* More information can be obtained by calling or emailing Louise Lind at 218- 428-7327 or louiselind@yahoo.com.

REA³D Steps Up Response to Reading Needs

Typically, when people donate to REA³D, their contributions go into the REA³D fund and only the interest on that money is spent to support grant projects, all of which to date have focused in some way on academics, art and/or athletics. However, given the present pandemic situation, the REA³D Board of Directors has made a decision to step up their efforts to support licensed reading instruction for our littlest learners for the first semester of this school year, with the hope of its continuation. With current direct teacher contact being limited to two days a week, REA³D seeks to assure that children do not fall behind in the development of this essential academic skill during the pandemic. **Toward this end, the REA³D Board voted to use in its entirety, both the proceeds of last winter's Candlelight Dinner event, and new contributions that are made as a result of this mailing, to augment as much as possible, the in-person teaching of reading for K-2 students.** This monetary commitment is far greater than any REA³D has awarded in past years, and at present only covers early reading instruction through first semester. Its continuation will depend largely on the contributions made in response to this newsletter, which will be allocated to sustain the program as needed. Your support of this effort, either by mailing a contribution to REA³D, 131 9th Ave., Proctor MN 55810, or by donating on-line at rea3d.org, will be greatly appreciated!

2019-20 REPORT OF CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions made by those listed are much appreciated and increase our capacity to award funding to academic, art and athletic projects which align with the REA³D mission. Those listed contributed to REA³D between July 2019 and June 2020. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions and ask that if you have a correction, please contact us at: rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us

Raylene Ahlgren	Dad's Electronics	Suzanne Hartwick
292 Design Group	Adylne Dardis	Sheila Held
Advantage Emblem	Bruce Dardis	William & Annette Helwig
Erica Amborn	Lynn Dart-Nelson	Deeanne Hoffman
Ameriprise	Brandon Delacey	Mark Hughes
Stephen & Lori Anderson	Noah Dennis	Rachel Johnson
Robin Anderson	DMC Auto Repair	Phil & Terri Johnson
Carlie Anderson	Burl and Claire Downs	Ron & Sheron Johnson
Evelyn Anderson	DSSO	Rory & Sherri Johnson
Michael Anderson	Dwight Swanstrom Company	Johnson-Wilson Constructors
Nicole Appelwick	Erik Edmunds	Kabeelo Lodge
Clifford Auge	Jack & Nancy Eilefson	Beverly Kaufman
Rachel Austreng	Melissa Ellis	Marcie Keppers
Barker's Island	Pam Elstad	Kennedy & Graven
LouAnn Baurle	John Engelking	Keyport Liquor
Bent Paddle Brewing Co.	Epicurian	Anna Kidd
Steven Berg	Teresa Erickson	Ted Kiefat
Bergey's Sports Bar	John Evans Family	Ernest Klang
Jim Bernard	Fannie Rose Candy	Kolar Toyota
Cathy Bianchet	Focus on Living	Julie Kolojeski
Kathy Bjonskaas	Skip & Sandra Fontaine	Jessica Kramer
Blackwoods Event Center	Annette Foucault	Joseph Krasselt
William and Lynette Bonkowske	Dennis Francisco	Jonathan Kresha
Abby Bourman	Fryberger Law Firm	Jill Lackner
Ben Bourman	Ron Gajewski & Family	Lake Superior Fishing Marty Running,
Deborah Bruce	Leah Gagne	PHS '85
Leah Carlson	Bill Gates	Lake Superior Spice Company
Sherman & Louise Carlson	GB Schneider	Rebecca LaPlante
Fleta Carol	Glen & Terri Gilderman	Marlys Lee
Jeff & Terry Caywood	Josh & Jen Gookins	Liberty Diversified Intl.
Cirrus Aircraft	Grand View Golf Links	Matt Lind
Todd Clark	Green Mill	Phillip & Louise Lind
Rochelle Cleary	Gerald Gruber	Lizzards Art Gallery & Framing
Janice Cleary	Tanner Hall	Wanda Sue Lundeen
Gina Cole	Bill & Kisty Haller	Julie Lysher
Sandra Ruhnke Collins	Hanft Fride	Patrice Mackereth
Contemporary Studies Book Group	Quenton Hanson	Dave McNamee
Carole Cotruvo	Lowell & Jennifer Harnell	



Rodger & Katherine Magnuson	Proctor Journal	Nathanial Simpson
Connie Olson Male	Proctor Pizza	Laurence E. Skog
Jim & Betty Merling	Proctor Public Schools	Jesse Smith
Mesabi Preschool Academy	Proctor Rails All-Class Reunion	Kelly Smith
Midway Sewer & Pumping Service	Representatives	Connie Olson Stanley
Miller Trunk Family Dental	Proctor Schools—Hospitality &	Dan Stauber
Joan E. Miller	Restaurant Management Class	Larry Stauber
Pam Miller	Liz Proepper	Todd & Barb Steen
Carli Mitchell	Tiffany Quade	Stewart's Bike, Sports & Trophies
Clint Moen	Radisson Hotel & Restaurant	Stokke's Meats
Lindsay Moen	Peg Rantala	Marlene Stronge
Gina Mogen	Walter Rapp	Super One Foods
Philip Mogen	Luke Ratike	Super One Liquor
Morin's Siding & Windows	Diane Rauschenfels	Kathy Sylvester
Diane Morin	Brian & Suzane Rauvola	Daniel & Nancy Talarico
Jim & Betty Morin	Stephanie Reinsch	Charlene Talbot
Patti Myre	Reliable Agency	Glenn Tridgell
Natural Exposures, Daniel J. Cox	Steve & Charlene Reno	Top Side Bloody Mary Mix
Northland Country Club	Tim & Kara Rohweder	Troy's Service Center
Northwest Outlet	Gerald & Karen Ruona	Gerald & Sara Undem
Teresa Nyberg	Andrea Ruth	United Truck Body
Seth Oliver	George & Mary Saarela	Ana Urban
Kelly Okstad	Kathy Salo	Sherry Vail-Harnell Frerichs
Jennifer Olson	Sammy's West Duluth	Valentini's Restaurant
Barb Olson	Kathryn Sandor	Jim & Emily Vos
Teresa Olson	Dr. Erik and Erin Sather	Heidi Voss
Leslie Ostrem	James Savre	Walmart
Outback Steakhouse	Carol & David Schreck	Bill Watson
Steve Patronas	Anna Sederski	Jeffery & Anna Weis
Renee Pederson	Dehlia Seim	Thomas Whittaker
Erick Perala	Theresa Shanoff	Diane Wippler
Ted & Lynn Peterson	ShopVivianJane.com	Scott Witty Family
Rich Petersson	Gaylin & Julie Short	Yellow Bike Coffee
PHS Chem Free Grad Party	St. Lukes Hospital	Zen House
Proctor Federal Credit Union	The Shack	

You Can Support REA³D in the following ways:

Attend one of our events—when they resume—such as the REA³D by Candlelight Dinner, Fall Tasting Event or our new “mystery” winter event.

Serve as a sponsor or promoter for our fundraising efforts.

Become a REA³D Board Member.

Contribute items for auctions held at fundraising events.

Donate by using the enclosed envelope, or by mailing a check (if you are reading this online) to REA³D, 131 9th Ave., Proctor MN 55810, OR visit our website for on-line donation information .

Like us on Facebook and spread the word.

Visit our website - www.rea3d.org —Read about what REA³D has accomplished and how to apply for a REA³D grant!

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS 2019-20

◆ Clifford Auge	In Memory of Pat Auge (Renaud)
◆ LouAnn Baurle	In Memory of Patricia A. Lowe
◆ Steven Berg	In Memory of Patricia A. Lowe
◆ William and Lynette Bonkowske	In Memory of Brian Gilderman, PHS Class of '76
◆ Deborah Bruce	In Memory of Patricia A. Lowe
◆ Fleta Carol	In Memory of Leif Sawyer Chilman, PHSClass of 2005
◆ Fleta Carol	In Honor of Pat Toor Lowe
◆ Jeff and Terry Caywood	In Memory of Susan Running
◆ Sandra Ruhnke Collins	In Memory of Byron Ruhnke, PHS Class of 1943; Cindy Ruhnke Stauber, PHS Class of 1967; Lois Ruhnke, PHS Class of 1946; Ken Ruhnke, PHS Class of 1972
◆ Contemporary Studies Book Group	In Memory of Pat Toor Lowe
◆ Adylne Dardis	In Honor of PHS Class of 1941
◆ Lynn Dart-Nelson	In Memory of Gloria Dart
◆ Burl and Claire Downs	In Memory of Pat Toor Lowe
◆ Jack and Nancy Eilefson	In Memory of Jeff DeLoia, PHS Class of 1970
◆ Jack and Nancy Eilefson	In Memor of Andrew Maeckelbergh, PHS Class of 1997
◆ Pam Elstad	In Memory of Gloria Dart
◆ Pam Elstad	In Memory of Carol Jean Soderberg
◆ Skip and Sandra Fontaine	In Honor of PHS Classes of 1957 and 1960
◆ Skip and Sandra Fontaine	In Memory of Pat Toor Lowe
◆ Skip and Sandra Fontaine	In Memory of Carol Jean Soderberg
◆ Bill and Kisty Haller	In Memory of Glen Sorenson's mother Elsa
◆ Bill and Kisty Haller	In Memory of Pat Toor Lowe
◆ Quenton Hanson	In Honor of the PHS Class of 1964
◆ Ron & Sheron Johnson	In Memory of Jean Voltzke, Evie Peterson, LaVone Peterson
◆ Julie Kolojeski	In Memory of Gen, Joe, & Dean Kolojeski, Jo Sjodin, Jan Bort
◆ Marlys Lee	In Memory of Bonnie Erickson
◆ Marlys Lee	In Memory of Pat Lowe
◆ Phillip & Louise Lind	In Memory of Sue Running
◆ Wanda Sue Lundeen & Bruce Dardis	In Memory of Pat Lowe
◆ Rodger & Katherine Magnuson	In Memory of Bud Towner, PHS Class of 1955
◆ Connie Olson Male	In Honor of the PHS Class of 1967
◆ Joan E. Miller	In Memory of Bonnie Erickson
◆ Pam Miller	In Memory of Gloria Dart
◆ Barbara Olson, Ben Bourman, and Abby Bourman	In Memory of Ken Bourman, PHS Class of 1969
◆ Leslie Hutchins Ostrem	In Memory of Lola Zegott Case
◆ Rich Petersson	In Memory of David Hylla
◆ Peg Rantala	In Memory of Chuck Rantala
◆ Diane Rauschenfels	In Memory of Phillip Nelson
◆ Brian & Suzanne Rauvola	In Honor of Sheila Held's Retirement
◆ Tim and Kara Rohweder	In Memory of Jan Rohweder
◆ George and Mary Saarela	In Memory of Bonnie Erickson
◆ Kelly Smith	In Honor of Todd Eliason, PHS Class of 1981
◆ Connie Olson Stanley	In Memory of Kenneth L. Bourman, PHS Class of 1969
◆ Connie Olson Stanley	In Memory of Pat Toor Lowe
◆ Larry Stauber	In Memory of Cindy (Ruhnke) Stauber
◆ Marlene Stronge	In Memory of Patricia A. Lowe
◆ Daniel & Nancy Talarico	In Memory of my sister Peggy Bryant Ruhnke Johnson, PHS Class of 1973
◆ Diane Wippler	In Memory of Sue Running

Longtime Donors Remember Loved Ones

Sandy and Skip Fontaine have been strong and consistent REA³D supporters since REA³D's beginnings in the early 2000s, and this year is no exception. Recently, the following heartfelt note was included with their third memorial this year, a contribution in memory of Carol Jean Soderberg:

Dear REA³D,

My sister, Jeannie, a 1956 graduate of Proctor High School, passed away on May 30, 2020. Since Jeannie loved children, taught fourth graders for thirty-seven years, and was supportive of educational endeavors, a donation to REA³D in her memory seems "just right". Enclosed is our memorial gift.

Thank you for all that you do!

*Sincerely,
Sandy Fontaine*

REA³D Awards \$9,764 in Fall Grant Rounds to five projects

Title of Project	Submitted by	What REA³D funds would purchase	Amount Awarded	# Learners/ Population Served
Learning Support for K-2 Children of Essential Employees	Jenna Kelly	Licensed teacher to provide academic support students of essential workers currently housed at the Rails Indoor Facility child care setting, through first semester of 2019-20 school year.	\$7,800	35 K-2 Bay View and Pike Lake students
Homecoming Weeks Event Planning and Implementation	Heidi Voss/ Glen Gilderman	Support for service projects which help our neighbors in the community of Proctor, promoting unity and empathy.	\$350	500+ 9-12 grade students
Touch Screen Stylus Pens	Ashley Brooks	One set of 30 stylus pens per class; 5 classes per grade level=20 teachers K-3.	\$319	383 K-3 Bay View students
A Long Walk to Water	6th Grade JMS Core Teachers	Purchase 155 copies of <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park, a book which promotes empathy and understanding of the environment and situations of others.	\$695	155 6 th grade JMS students
Outdoor Classroom	Julie Lysher/ Dehlia Seim	Purchase of items to use for a variety of learning projects in outdoor forest classroom	To be determined at a later date	600 K-5 Bay View students
Monthly Reading Incentive	Jodi Kehtel	Support for student study of National Parks; Prizes awarded at the end of the school year for all students who fully completed the course of study.	\$600	80-100 students; Pike Lake Elementary



REA³D Welcomes 50th and 51st New Board Members at Annual Meeting

PAGE 8

Originally from a small farming community in north-central Illinois, Janelle spent time in many places, including Alaska, before she arrived in Proctor six years ago. Janelle is married to husband, Aaron, and proud mom of two Proctor students, both involved in Proctor athletics.



Janelle Gomez

Janelle earned an undergraduate degree from the University of WI – LaCrosse and a master's in Food Science from the University of Utah. She has served in both paid and volunteer leadership roles with multiple agencies, including American Heart Association, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, American Dietetic Association, Academy of Sports Medicine, and the Minnesota Department of Education. She currently works as Agriculture Advisor for the Department of Agriculture. Janelle describes her family as "Rails for Life," and recognizes the value of contributing time, positive energy, and a voice of support for creating a healthy, thriving and greater school community. The REA³D Board of Directors thoroughly appreciates the skills and experience that Janelle brings to the board.

Katie is a 2009 graduate of Proctor High School and recently moved back to the area after a five-year employment related stint in Minneapolis. She graduated from UMD with a degree in accounting and also developed a special interest in coding, analytics, marketing, event planning, coaching/leading, and design.



Katie Cotrell

Katie is currently employed as Data & Business Intelligence Lead for Cargill, where she works with multiple data systems and pulls together information for analysis. Her prior experience outside of her regular jobs includes coaching for Irondale Girls High School hockey team, serving as a mentor in the Mentor Duluth program, packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, and building houses with Habitat for Humanity. Katie says she is honored to be involved with REA³D, and sees it as a way to give back to the community that has extended so much support for her and her family. Katie's diverse skillset, which includes facilitation of on-line meetings, is greatly appreciated by the REA³D Board.