

Spring/  
Summer 2020



*REA³D funded "theme boxes" that promote vocabulary growth and topic knowledge for Bay View students.*



***Help REA³D Continue to Make a Difference !***

Consider becoming a member of the REA³D Board of Directors. Please check our website for more information or call Sherm Carlson, REA³D President, at 218-391-0016.

## **REA³D Efforts Support Distance and Life-Long Learning**

A core value of the Rails Endowment (REA³D) since its inception in 1996 has been to support lifelong learning. This focus is especially meaningful as the advent of the recent COVID-19 pandemic required changes in how learning happened for students, particularly distance learning. REA³D's past support for various innovative educational technologies helped with the transition to this modality. In the past, REA³D grants realized outdoor projects, graphic arts, reading, athletic, and music activities and expanded learning horizons for students which continued from anywhere. REA³D support for services and activities that raised awareness of the plight of others also contribute to calming and managing the turbulence of transitions faced during a major national upheaval such as the recent pandemic. For more about REA³D's most recent grant awards, see pages 5-7.

## ***REA³D funds "Learning from Home--What Parents and Kids are Doing"***

What a surprise that spring break 2020 ended up being much longer than anticipated! Social distancing to avoid spreading "the virus" necessitated new kinds of learning arrangements for students and families. To support this challenging transition, REA³D funded a "discretionary" grant which encouraged students to reflect on the adjustments and opportunities connected to learning from home. Students were challenged to submit their academic, art and athletic projects or reflections in a competition for scholarships. Results from the Learning at Home Initiative will be featured in our REA³D Fall Newsletter.

### ***What is a Discretionary REA³D grant?***

Typically REA³D awards grants twice annually in November and January. However, according to REA³D bylaws, section 10, g. and h., the REA³D board has the authority to approve discretionary grants at any time, to projects that do not fall within these regular deadlines. Last November's Blue Grass Collaboration Concert (page 5), facilitated by Suzy Hartwick, and funded in part by a REA³D discretionary grant outside the regular deadlines, is another example of REA³D's flexibility to be responsive to the needs of students and families.

## ***Fall Tasting Event***

***Remember Last Year? The Food - The Fun  
The Depot !\*  
(Did we mention the food?)***



**October 29, 2020  
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.  
Depot's Great Hall  
Tickets \$25.00**

***Available at [rea3d.org](http://rea3d.org) beginning August 1, 2020,  
or contact a REA³D Board member***

*\*We sincerely hope to be able host this delightful event again, but will need to abide by whatever guidelines regarding social gathering are in place at that time.*

*A big thank you to the businesses and individuals who generously contributed to our REA<sup>3</sup>D by Candlelight dinner held on February 21, 2020. In order to continue its work, REA<sup>3</sup>D depends on continued financial support.*

**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE GENEROUS BUSINESS SPONSORS, AND LET THEM KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO REA<sup>3</sup>D!**

**These PLATINUM SPONSORS made a contribution of \$1,000.00 or more to the REA<sup>3</sup>D by Candlelight Dinner!**

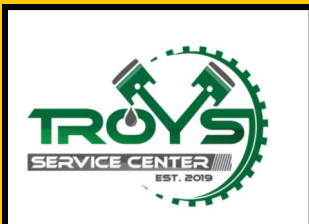


**Barb Olson, Ben Bourman, Abby Bourman**  
*In Memory of Ken Bourman, PHS Class of '69*

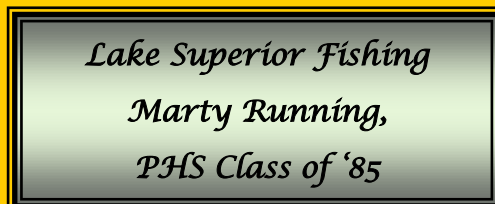
**These GOLD SPONSORS made a contribution of \$500.00 to the REA<sup>3</sup>D event!**



*The John Evans and Scott Witty Families  
in support of  
6th/7th Grade Rails  
Girls Basketball*



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## INDIVIDUAL GOLD SPONSORS

*Sherman and Louise Carlson \*\*Ted and Lynn Peterson \*\* Lynn Dart Nelson,  
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**Gaylin and Julie Short**  
**Valentini's Restaurant**  
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**Yellow Bike Coffee**



Featured speaker Glen Gilderman offered heart-warming recollections of growing up in the Proctor community and praised the community and schools for their impact on the educational development of its children.



Above and right top and bottom:  
 The Dessert Auction turned out to be the big surprise of the evening, in a bidding frenzy that generated \$3,649, from our generous guests, for 22 phenomenally delicious desserts. A big thank-you to our "sweetest sponsors:" Black Woods, Colleen Viebahn, Cupcake Lady, Rustic Inn, Johnson's Bakery, Rocky Mountain Chocolates, The Cozy Hen, Super One Bakery, Proctor High School Hospitality and Restaurant Management Class.



REA<sup>3</sup>D president Sherm Carlson, flanked by trusty REA<sup>3</sup>D secretary Lynn Peterson, inspired the Candlelight Dinner crowd into unprecedented bidding competition for live auction items.

*All photos on this page provided  
 courtesy of Jake Benson*



## *REA<sup>3</sup>D by Candlelight 2020* An Evening of “Fun”draising and Friends

wanting not to be supportive, when finally one of the trio said he’d take care of it.

Then it appeared...a matted 40”x30” picture of a buffalo (actually a bison) with haunting eyes regardless of the angle from which it was viewed, donated by internationally acclaimed wildlife photographer, Daniel J. Cox, PHS '78. That’s it! Blend this animal with some type of plaid clothing.

The evening surpassed all expectations. PHS graduate, teacher, coach, and mentor Glen Gilderman offered heart-warming recollections of growing up in the Proctor community and praised the community and schools for their impact on the educational development of its children. A statement which is at the heart of the REA<sup>3</sup>D mission.

In the end, over \$20,000 was raised. The first choice of the dessert offering went for \$435, and the “Reserved for REA<sup>3</sup>D” parking spot at PHS brought \$300, with many donated items selling in excess of their assessed value. The spirit of generosity could not have been more pervasive.

Did our “furry friend” find a home? Absolutely!...as its “adoption” became very competi-

tive among a number of former PHS graduates. The male REA<sup>3</sup>D trio arrived...clad in plaid T-shirts emblazoned with the buffalo design.

Nailed it!



*REA<sup>3</sup>D President and event “auctioneer” Sherm Carlson unveils the Buffalo themed attire sported by the male REA<sup>3</sup>D contingent. (Photo courtesy of Jake Benson.)*

“Buffalo Plaid!” “Yes,” nodded most of the female members of the REA<sup>3</sup>D Board, “let’s change it up with the table decorations.” The three male members simply looked at each other with raised eyebrows, conveying they didn’t have a clue as to what they were talking about.

Two weeks prior to this annual event, there was the traditional scurrying which comes with its preparation. But this was unfolding to be a fundraiser unprecedented in scope. The floorplan at Black Woods Restaurant and Event Center was reviewed again to see if any more seats could be added... assigned, as there wasn’t a chair to be spared. Last minute requests for a ticket were noted as the sale had ended.

Desserts had to be confirmed with the return of the dessert auction, last minute donations forwarded to ensure recognition in the program, and the final logistics associated with the live and silent auction reviewed. But there was still the issue of “Buffalo Plaid.”

Subsequently, an email was sent by a Board member, encouraging us as hosts, to complement the table decorations by wearing clothing with the same theme. The three bewildered males caucused...not



*Daniel J. Cox, NaturalExposures.com*





*The REA<sup>3</sup>D “Leave a Legacy” Initiative is made up of individuals, families and business entities 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 REA<sup>3</sup>D will be sustained for generations to come. Please visit [rea3d.org](http://rea3d.org) for more information.*

Do you have a great idea? Apply for a **REA<sup>3</sup>D** Grant!

Next Granting Cycle Deadline: November 6, 2020

Request a grant application at [rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us](mailto:rea3d@proctor.k12.mn.us) or go to [www.rea3d.org](http://www.rea3d.org); or download the grant application and mail it to REA<sup>3</sup>D (c/o Proctor High School) 131 Ninth Ave, Proctor, MN 55810

Contact the president at [sherman47@mchsi.com](mailto:sherman47@mchsi.com) or call 218-428-0098 for more information.



### Blue Grass Collaboration Excites Community

A REA<sup>3</sup>D discretionary grant helped bring this once in a lifetime concert and artist in residency programming to Proctor choir students. Working with a live band, learning about an historic style of music from professionals, this experience is not going to be forgotten any time soon. Student reflections on

the event indicated meaningful insights and learning about the process of collaboration, as well as connections from the music to the history of the style in the United States. It was a magical night for all performers and audience members alike. Project coordinator Suzy Harwick says, “I can’t count the number of times I heard people say they had goosebumps at so many different points throughout the concert!” Coincidentally, the success of this concert also generated a lot more interest in membership for the choir program!

### Patsy Toor Lowe Her Spirit Lives on in REA<sup>3</sup>D

Pat Toor Lowe was elected to our REA<sup>3</sup>D board in 2007. Although she was diminutive in size, she was a giant in terms of her involvement with the greater Proctor community and REA<sup>3</sup>D. A proud 1951 Proctor High School graduate, she led John Moody's Marching band for four years in high school and again in 1988 with the resurgence of Moody's Marchers. In much the same manner, Pat led her fellow REA<sup>3</sup>D board members. Pat strove to make people feel special with her hand-written thank you notes on REA<sup>3</sup>D's behalf. When tables were set for events, including the

Tasting Event and the Candlelight Dinner, it was Pat who made sure that each decoration made people feel welcomed. She cut hydrangeas from her yard to adorn tables and arranged them with care. During the Tasting Event when board members were asked to sign up for one session to serve, Pat always signed up for two. When it came to grant awards, Pat tirelessly supported those who took the time to apply. She applied her PHS “eagle eye” editing skills before each newsletter went to print. Her smile and infectious laugh brightened our lives at each meeting. We will miss her presence, but her spirit will live within each board

member. As we move forward without our dear friend, we will keep her alive by always asking, “What would Pat do?”







## REA³D Awards \$8,925 in Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 Grant Rounds

Name of REA³D Project	Contact	What was funded with REA³D grant	Population Served	AWARD AMOUNT
<b>Whiteboard Tables</b>	Kristen Kilpo	Contribution toward purchase of 14 interactive whiteboard tables for math study.	Jedlicka Middle School 7th graders	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Clothes Closet</b>	Sarah Klyve	Shelves, organizational bins, personal items for developing secondary school-site Clothes Closet for youth in need.	50+ students in grades 7-12	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Record Board</b>	Jon Nelson	Purchase of a new swim team record board featuring team and pool records in each event to honor those who hold them.	60-70 PHS Swimmers	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Wolf Ridge Trip</b>	Thereasa Hansmeier	Scholarships for 5th grade students to attend Wolf Ridge	Bay View 5th Graders	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Outdoor Learning Program</b>	Luke Ratike, Ana Urban, and Anna Kidd	Snowshoes: 15 at \$50 a pair; Maple syrup tapping supplies: \$250	Grades K-5 Bay View	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Outdoor Playscapes</b>	Mark Hughes	Materials to construct nature-based playscapes particularly the Net Rail Climb	Grades K-5 Pike Lake	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Quality Art Lessons</b>	Anna Urban	Art supplies to improve quality of third grade art experiences	Bay View 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Screenagers</b>	Emily Vos	Film rental, honorarium for speakers, coordination cost for presentation and Q&A on impact of technology and screen use by youth.	General public and parents of school age children	<b>\$,1000</b>
<b><i>A Long Walk to Water</i></b>	Gina Mogen	161 copies of <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> , by Linda Sue Park--a true story about a real man named Salva and his journey as a refugee in Africa	Jedlicka Middle School 6th graders	<b>\$725</b>
<b>Reading and Language Intervention</b>	Sara Yost and Michaela Flanagan	Theme boxes (8), coordinated books and Velcro bins, lamination to promote development of life and social skills	Bay View Students with Down Syndrome, Autism, and low cognition	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Bluegrass Collaboration Concert</b>	Suzy Hartwick	Bluegrass Collaboration Concert featuring JMS & PHS Choirs with Black River Revue	Proctor students in grades 6-12	<b>\$1,000</b>



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RAILS ENDOWMENT FOR ACADEMIC, ART AND ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT SPRING/SUMMER

PAGE 8

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2019-20**

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*Where's the donation envelope?  
Sensitive to the economic challenges of  
the times, we are not including the  
envelope in this mailing; hopefully,  
conditions for people will improve, and  
you will find it in our fall annual report!*

Visit our website [www.rea3d.org](http://www.rea3d.org) to:

- **Donate online**
- **Apply to become a REA<sup>3</sup>D board member**
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**Like us on Facebook and spread the word**

*Payroll Deduction option available to ISD 704 staff*



A 2019-20 REA<sup>3</sup>D grant supported manipulatives for Bay View students with special needs, to help address specific language and literacy concepts.