



ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

2023-2024 PROGRESS REPORT



WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS®



BEING PRESENT

Every school day starts with roll call, taking a count of all who have shown up for another full day of learning. For our schools to be truly successful, it's not just the students, teachers and faculty who need to show up. We all need to be present in the lives of these children. That's why we continued our Adopt-A-School program into a third year of supporting Harry Street Elementary and Park Elementary through contributions of funds and volunteerism. The results outlined in this report reinforce a clear message to these future community leaders:

We are here for you.

PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: A FOND FAREWELL

In March 2024, the Wichita Board of Education announced plans to consolidate six elementary schools to address funding gaps in the 2025 fiscal year budget. Unfortunately, one of our adopted schools was earmarked for closure. We take comfort in knowing that the students we've come to know and love at Park Elementary will continue to thrive under the instruction and care of their new schools. We were honored to build relationships in support of their incredible community of students, parents, teachers and administrators, and we'll be forever grateful for the many cherished memories they gave us in return.



HOW WE HELP

The secret to success for our Adopt-A-School partnership has always been the close collaboration with teachers and administrators to maximize the impact of every dollar and every hour we spend. As in years past, we organized our plans around four areas of need: classroom enhancements, teacher appreciation, community building and mentorship.

CLASSROOM ENHANCEMENTS

To lay the foundation for academic success, a safe and comfortable environment is needed so students can focus solely on learning. Close collaboration with the teachers of Harry Street and Park Elementary resulted in an efficient distribution of resources tailored for each classroom and the needs of individual students. From snacks to supplies to stools, no request was too big or too small. Our teachers knew precisely what their pupils needed, and we were happy to supply it.

- After-school club supplies, snacks and volunteer support.
- Interactive tools to support Park's special education program.
- Welcome gifts for new staff members at Harry Street.
- Supplies for Harry Street's Meaningful Work program.
- Flexible seating for Park's Newcomer classroom.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

No business card is large enough to fully capture the duties of an educator: surrogate parent, friend, nurse, coach, cheerleader, confidante and counselor. Regardless of title, you'll know an educator by their deeds. We're immensely grateful to these kind souls, and it was a pleasure to show our appreciation on several occasions throughout the school year.

- Fulfilled staff wish lists during the holiday season.
- Supported staff with catered appreciation meals throughout the year.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Building a student's sense of civic pride begins with introducing them to the organizations and attractions that give our community its distinct character. This was accomplished with a variety of off-campus field trips, volunteer classroom visits and after school activities, each tailored to meet a particular need or interest of the students.

- Social work support including holiday gifts, a bus pass for a student whose family did not have personal transportation, shoes, a pair of spare reading glasses for a student and the creation of an emergency fund for Harry Street families in crisis.
- Family Night event support to promote togetherness among both Park and Harry Street's school communities.
- Yearbooks and t-shirts to commemorate Park Elementary's final year.

MENTORING

Because our community is wonderfully diverse, the needs of each student are unique, presenting teachers with a challenging teaching environment. One proven solution to address the problem is mentoring. While building relationships with individual students, our volunteers were able to focus time addressing their specific areas of concern, making tangible improvements especially in the area of reading proficiency.

- In partnership with Junior Achievement, Fidelity volunteers took to the classroom to share financial literacy lessons with students at Harry Street.
- In partnership with Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, employees were paired with students from Park and Harry Street to serve as mentors throughout the school year, visiting with their Littles weekly during the lunch hour.
- In partnership with United Way of the Plains, volunteer reading coaches met with their Read to Succeed buddy weekly for 20 minutes to practice skills and instill in them a love for reading.

MOVING BRAVELY ONWARD

As we reflect on the third year of our Adopt-A-School partnership, we're proud of its meaningful impact on each school community, but there's no time to rest. As a community partner invested in their success, the students, teachers, administrators and parents of Harry Street Elementary can count on the Fidelity family to stand by them, customizing our support to match their needs.

2023-2024 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT




\$50,492.31

VOLUNTEER HOURS

308

FUNDING



PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS SPENT

Classroom Enhancements:		32%
Community Building:		66%
Teacher Support:		2%



VOLUNTEERISM

VOLUNTEER HOURS BY AREA

# Hours Community Building:		54%
# Hours Mentoring:		46%



A CALL TO ACTION

Wichita Public Schools have pledged to make every child Future Ready. This monumental responsibility requires the active engagement of the wider community. Whether you're able to give time, talent or treasure, your most valuable contribution is your presence. We invite you to stand with us in support of the students, teachers and administration of Harry Street Elementary and all Wichita Public Schools.

Contact Suzy Finn at **316.973.4630** to learn about partnership opportunities for your organization.

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