The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation was formed in 1984 to raise and receive funds to support academic programs in the Rock Island-Milan School District. A board of directors, composed of volunteer professional, business, and community leaders, governs the operations of the Foundation.

For every point scored by Rockys football team, the Foundation will receive $1. For every point scored by the girls or boys basketball teams, the Foundation receives $3!

Chris Elsberry State Farm Insurance and QCSPortsNet will guarantee a minimum of $1,000 to the Foundation whatever the total score.

Go to QCSPortsNet.com & support your Rocks as QCSPortsNet supports our mission!

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded a record $79,047 in PRIME Grants (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) during the Opening Day Ceremony for the District on August 1, 2016 at Rock Island High School.

42 grants were awarded supporting a wide variety of programs and providing resources to improve the quality of education for our students. All teachers and schools are encouraged to apply for funding from the Foundation. Teachers may apply for grants up to $1,000; departmental and school grants are available for up to $3,000; and district-wide grants of $4,000 are available where multiple schools will be affected.

This year, the overwhelming number of grant requests clearly illustrated the critical need for the PRIME Grant program. For the 2016-2017 School Year, grant requests increased by 50% over last year to total $150,000. As in past years, the Foundation worked with the Department of Teaching and Learning in the school district to find sources for some of those unfilled requests totaling approximately $21,000.

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation’s PRIME Grant program is funded by the generous donations of individuals, businesses, and other organizations such as the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, the Rausch Family Foundation, and the Junior Board of Rock Island. Our Major Saver fundraiser also supports the program providing a little over 40% of the available funds.

Please consider donating and give our teachers the resources they need to provide “enhanced opportunities for student success” for our students throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District.

Contact us at rimef@rimefd41.org

Rock Solid! Our History
Alumni Doug Frazier, Rick Miers, and Dave Sebben have authored a book of the history of Rock Island High School. Rock Solid! is filled with stories and photographs collected from countless school newspapers, yearbooks, and the archives of the high school, Rock Island Library, and Rock Island County Historical Society. The 230-page book is loaded with interesting Rocky facts, bios of some more famous Rockygrads, military service of graduates, and more. Rock Solid! would make a terrific gift for anyone who walked the halls of RHHS!

The authors are generously donating all the proceeds from the sale of the book to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation.

Rock Solid: Our History is available for $30 and can be purchased online at: www.amazon.com
30 years ago, a group of committed, caring advocates of educational excellence for Rock Island youth established the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation as a 501(c)(3). Since 1986, through the dedicated efforts of board members and the generosity of alumni, individuals, families, and businesses, the Education Foundation has awarded hundreds of dollars in scholarships, funded hundreds of PRIME or Teacher grants, and given thousands more in assistance for programs, supplies, and initiatives throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District.

Today, the Education Foundation would not be able to maintain its mission to “enhance academic opportunities for student success” without the magnanimity of our supporters. We appreciate our many donors who, like our founders, understand the impact of their gifts. Each contribution provides the resources for programs that would otherwise go unfunded or save a deserving graduate a scholarship to further pursue their career goals.

The Education Foundation has grown tremendously in 30 years: growing our starting assets of $15,000 to over $3,000,000; compiling a database with nearly 6,000 names of alumni & supporters; and hosting two major programs - the PRIME Grants and the Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night. In 2016, these programs awarded over $150,000 to teachers and graduating seniors.

Support the ongoing work of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation by helping us celebrate our 30th Anniversary with a donation to our “30 for 30” campaign. If you have never given to the Foundation in the past, please consider a donation of $30. If you have already contributed, please consider an additional donation of $30 or increasing your regular annual donation by 30%.

Thank you for being the “Rock” of our Foundation!

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has received a $100,000 gift from long-time, strong supporters and donors Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds. The donation was given at the beginning of August and will be invested carefully to establish a future program to benefit the students of RISD.

Over the years, the Reynolds have made multiple contributions to the Education Foundation and endowed two scholarships: the Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship in 2012 and the Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship in 2014. Those donations and scholarships have provided resources for Rock Island-Milan teachers and assisted graduates to further their education. This most recent, act of philanthropy will allow the Foundation to invest even more in the future of our children by providing excellence in education.

Mr. Reynolds, a 1965 graduate of Rock Island High School and successful businessperson, has always felt that giving back was very important. “The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation is an excellent way to give back to the community and I would strongly encourage everyone to take time and talk to the amazing people at the Foundation. No one has ever become poor by giving!”

The Education Foundation is humbled and grateful for the benevolence of Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds. Their gift is a profound demonstration of trust and commitment to the mission of the Education Foundation. The impact of the Reynolds’ astounding generosity on the education of Rock Island-Milan students will be felt for years to come.
In 2010, the RIMEF entered into a partnership with the Hunter Aaron Vondran Memorial Foundation or HAVLife. It was a perfect collaboration as their mission and vision “to allow all youth to experience life to the fullest...” closely match our own. HAVLife was established in memory of Hunter Vondran and provides the resources in the areas of athletics, music and the arts. Too often the cost of associated with these areas prevent a student from pursuing an interest in these areas leading to what HAVLife calls “Lost Potential.”

Starting with an initial grant of $10,000 the Education Foundation has awarded over $34,000 in grants to our district students and schools for extra-curricular activities and after-school programs. Teachers or coaches must submit a needs request providing the student’s name, age, interest, a need summary and a brief assessment of commitment & dependability. Over the past 5 years, the Education Foundation has awarded grants to cover the cost of art/ballet classes, music supplies, athletic camps, and the rental or purchase of musical instruments. Many of these youth would be unable to participate in these areas if it weren’t for the available funds. The RIMEF takes great care in ensuring that there is a financial need coupled with the passion/talent before issuing an award.

If you know of a RIMSD student between the ages of 10-15 who could be eligible, please contact the Education Foundation for more information. We have funds available for these students to follow their dreams!

Brown Farrar Scholarship Honors Rock Island-Milan Schools

The Ben D. & Nancy K. Brown Farrar scholarship was established by Nancy Brown Farrar to honor the couple’s commitment to the importance of a good education and our Rock Island schools. The $2,000 scholarship is available to senior students exhibiting good work ethic and potential for success. Special consideration is given to students not in the top ten or without the highest GPA as their hard work often flies underneath the radar and goes unrewarded.

Nancy (and her family) not only attended Rock Island schools from K-12 but she taught in them as well. Nancy started her teaching career as a Kindergarten teacher at Denkmann and later moved to the “new” Ridgewood school from which she retired in 1994.

“Both my husband, Ben, and I felt strongly about getting a good education. We were pleased to start our scholarship this year.”

The Education Foundation thanks the Farrars for their support and providing a scholarship opportunity for one of our deserving Rock Island High School students. Nancy you are a Rock!

RIMEF Celebrates 30 Years with “30 for 30” Campaign!

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Thank you for being the “Rock” of our Foundation!

Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Gift $100,000 to RIMEF

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has received a $100,000 gift from long-time, strong supporters and donors Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds. The donation was given at the beginning of August and will be invested carefully to establish a future program to benefit the students of RIMSD41.

Over the years, the Reynolds have made multiple contributions to the Education Foundation and endowed two scholarships: the Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship in 2012 and the Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship in 2014. These donations and scholarships have provided resources for Rock Island-Milan teachers and assisted graduates to further their education. This most recent, act of philanthropy will allow the Foundation to invest even more in the future of our children by providing excellence in education.

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Be a Rock
This year, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded over $150,000 in scholarships and grants to RS students, teachers and schools. The RIMEF is able to fulfill its mission to “provide for expanded academic opportunities for student success” only through the generosity of every individual, family, or business who sends a check, donates online, supports a program, buys a Major Saver card, or establishes a scholarship. Our “Rocks” make this all possible!

Be a Rock – donate by cash, check or online at any level to support one or all our programs.

Be a Rock – make a memorial or honorary contribution for a friend or family member.

Be a Rock – make a substantial gift through planned giving in a bequest or will.

Be a Rock and support the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation so every student in the Rock Island-Milan School District has the opportunity to achieve academic success!

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