

Regular Board Meeting – November 16, 2010

**SUBJECT: DISTRICT 68 ANGEL FUNDS**

**Overview**

In 2006, Angel Funds were established at each school in District 68 to provide a means for faculty and staff to donate and/or raise money to assist economically disadvantaged students who lack financial resources for school-related “extras.”

The Angel Funds have provided for K-5 school supplies, Halloween costumes, winter clothing/outerwear, eye exams and glasses, field trip expenses, and for grades 6-8 team uniforms, 8<sup>th</sup> grade yearbooks, graduation attire and graduation gowns, materials for school projects, field trip expenses, and summer school enrichment classes.

In addition, Angel Funds have provided Jewel gift cards to some of District 68’s neediest families to help with Thanksgiving and other holiday meals. Old Orchard Angels also work along with the Student Ambassadors Club to provide clothes, food, cleaning supplies, healthcare items, gift cards, and basic necessities to those same families in need.

**Process for Requesting Angel Funds**

At Old Orchard Junior High, a formal Angel Fund Committee was established in 2006. Student need is typically identified by a teacher or social worker and a request for financial assistance is made to a Committee member. The Angel Fund Committee member confirms that the student in need has been approved by the District for free or reduced-priced lunch. Committee members then decide how Angel Funds will be used to support the request for assistance.

The request process at each elementary school is more informal and varies from school to school. Some requests for financial assistance are referred by a teacher or principal to an ad hoc committee made up of teachers, social workers, psychologists, and other staff; some simply forward an e-mail request to their building colleagues for donations.

**Fundraising**

Fundraising methods for Angel Funds are varied and creative. For instance, staff at the K-5 schools have sold personalized note cards, cookbooks with favorite staff recipes, participated in walk-a thons, and have even donated \$20 per person for the privilege to wear jeans to work for a week.

At the junior high, a large Silent Auction is held bi-annually in January. Private vendors are solicited for donations. Southwest Airlines, Panera, Tony & Tina's Wedding, and H.C. Nahigian & Sons are just a few of the vendors which have donated products or services in the past. Staff will also donate items from home that they think will be of interest to co-workers. OOJH has made up to \$4400 at their most successful silent auction.

Additionally, the Angel Committee at OOJH sells *Manna Gift Cards* each month for purchases from local restaurants, grocery stores, clothing stores, gas stations, Amazon, and I-Tunes. A percentage of the proceeds are returned to the Angel Fund as profit. Local restaurants have held fundraisers as well, with a portion of the proceeds from food sales going to District 68 schools Angel Funds.

Angel Funds for each school are held in formal activity accounts managed by the District 68 business office. All fund activities such as deposits, check requests, and transfers are processed and channeled utilizing standard District 68 procedures.

### **Conclusion**

With the rapid increase in the District's low-income demographic over the past seven years, Angel Funds at each school serve a critical need by personalizing financial support to students. The Angel Funds also contribute to an inclusive sense of school-community and the value of community service. The District 68 faculty and staff are commended for their dedication to our students through their professionalism and generosity.