



# Davenport Schools Foundation

Volume 5 Issue 1

Published two times this year, Winter 2004

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## Mission Statement

The Davenport Schools Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, seeks to provide otherwise unavailable resources to enhance the District's educational environment to help students pursue full potential.

## *Foundation Loses Long Time Supporter, Treasurer Everett Sortor*

Everett Sortor, Davenport Schools Foundation treasurer and former Vice President at Northwest Bank, died suddenly on October 16 from a heart attack.

Everett worked tirelessly to keep the Foundation finances in order and worked closely with board members on numerous programs.

Everett was elected to the board in September 1990. He and his wife, Elaine, had been active volunteers while their two daughters attended Davenport schools, most notably with the swim team at West High School.

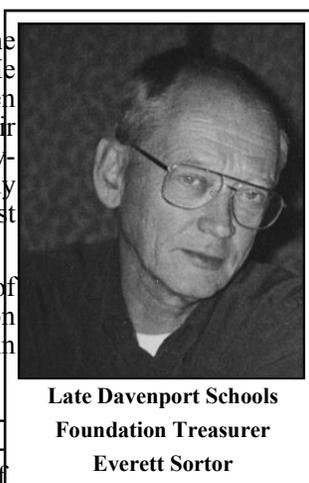
He assumed the duties of Treasurer of the Foundation in October 1994 and served in that position until his death.

Foundation Executive Director Laura Cleaveland remembered, "Everett was one of those people who would give you the shirt off his back. He also had a wicked sense of humor that he would sneak in at just the right moment. His loyalty and time to the Foundation will be greatly missed."

In his position as Treasurer, Everett was instrumental in raising funds and budgeting. The early 1990s were a period of growth for the Foundation with the creation of the Schools of Excellence staff

development program. His background in finance was especially helpful as the Foundation raised the \$1.8 million needed for this program.

He also managed the scholarship investments along with scholarship chair Lola Fike.



**Late Davenport Schools  
Foundation Treasurer  
Everett Sortor**

Over the last few years, Everett's role as treasurer had grown along with the programs that the Foundation was supporting.

Foundation President Larry Minard stressed, "We were very fortunate to have had Everett's expertise and guidance over the past years. He was a very generous and talented person."

Everett was a member of the Iowa Bankers Association; Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants; and American Institute of Certified Public Association.

Everett is survived by his wife, Elaine, and two grown daughters, Melissa and Michelle. A memorial with the Foundation has been established in his honor.

# A Letter from President Larry Minard

This has been a very busy year for the Davenport Schools Foundation.

The GREAT MINDS program has provided 202 activities for 8,500 students since the beginning of the school year. GREAT MINDS makes distinguished people, places and performances available to our students by bringing activities and performances into the classroom or by providing for site visits that take students out to local and regional learning centers. While GREAT MINDS has flourished under Dave Dix's leadership, we continue to raise funds to ensure its viability for the upcoming school year.

The sudden death of our long time treasurer, Everett Sortor, left a huge void on the Foundation board. His commitment and long time association with the Foundation had a huge impact on our accomplishments. We will miss him, his expertise and his humor, and we wish his family our heartfelt sympathy during this difficult time.

We were fortunate to have Penné Duncan agree to serve as acting treasurer and guide us through this

current situation. She has researched our accounting system and assisted in establishing new policies relating to our funds. In addition to scholarship funds and raising money for GREAT MINDS, the Foundation holds funds for many groups, such as

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Davenport Schools Foundation  
President Larry Minard

GREAT MINDS Music Fund; and the Coats for Kids program. We accept donations on their behalf, handle all accounting and reporting, and pay out on bills as needed.

The scholarship committee is already hard at work. All applications have been completed and will be distributed to the high schools soon. Lola Fike, scholarship chair, devotes countless hours to scholarship invest-

ment, organization, election and distribution. In 2003 the Foundation awarded over \$20,000 in scholarship funds.

This has also been a year of new faces on the Foundation board. We welcome Steve Ahrens, Christine Hester, Steve Hunter, Tracy Schwind and Reg Shoesmith to the board (see story at right). We look forward to their energy and expertise in continuing our mission of providing otherwise unavailable resources for the students in the Davenport Community Schools.

While this has been a very successful and productive year for the Foundation, there is still much to be accomplished. We will work diligently to raise the necessary funds to continue to operate the GREAT MINDS program. The Foundation board thanks you all for your interest and commitment to the students of Davenport. We hope that you will find a way to make a difference in a student's life today.

## GREAT MINDS Hits the Lottery!

Well, not quite. But what did happen was something almost as remarkable and valuable.

The Foundation was recently notified by the Putnam IMAX Theater that the GREAT MINDS program was the recipient of 350 free tickets to the film *Mt. Everest*.

The tickets were made available through the resources of a joint grant received by the National Science Foundation and the Putnam. The film,

while exhibiting significant science content in a remarkable visual context, will also carry the themes of perseverance and striving to meet goals, even when they seem as difficult to reach as the pinnacle of Mt. Everest.

The lucky recipients of the tickets will be an entire grade level (yet to be determined) at J.B. Young Intermediate and more than 200 students at Frank L. Smart Intermediate. GREAT MINDS will assist in this effort by providing transportation to and from the theater.

Once again, the connection between the Foundation's GREAT MINDS program and a local agency results in an exciting and valuable learning opportunity for students. The Foundation and the intermediate school are very grateful for this gift and the experience it will give these students.

## Foundation Board Welcomes New Members



The newest Davenport Schools Foundation members are Tracy Schwind and Christine Hester (front row, l-r); Reg Shoemith and Steven Hunter (back row, l-r). Not pictured: Steve Ahrens.

**Steve Ahrens** is employed by St. Ambrose University and is a member of the Davenport City Council. He has been active with the Davenport schools since he was a student at West High School.

**Christine L. Hester** is a business teacher at Davenport Central High School. She is the mother of two adult daughters. Christine is also on the Mississippi Valley Minority

Blood Advisory Council.

**Steve Hunter** is a lawyer practicing in Davenport. He and his wife, Mary Ellen, have three adult children who attended Davenport Schools. Steve recently completed a term on the Davenport School Board.

**Tracy Schwind** is Marketing Director for Lujack's Northpark Auto Plaza. Tracy and her husband, Matt, are graduates of Davenport Central

High School and currently have two children in Davenport Schools.

**Reg Shoemith** recently retired after thirty-five years with the Davenport schools where he was a teacher, a curriculum coordinator and an associate principal. He is now and administrator with Scott Community College.

## Cleaveland named Executive Director

The Davenport Schools Foundation provides numerous programs to students and teachers in the Davenport Community School District. The board has grown from an all-volunteer organization to one with two part-time employees.

As with any group, the Foundation has encountered a period of momentous learning and growth and has seen an increased need for Laura Cleaveland, Development Director, to take on new duties and responsibilities. With these new tasks in mind, the board moved to promote Laura to the position of Executive Director of the Foundation while maintaining her part-time hours.

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

The Foundation is available to assist in planning a reunion tour of your high school. This is a great addition to any reunion weekend. Please contact Laura Cleaveland at (563) 336-5004 and she will work with the current administration at your alma mater to organize a reunion tour for you and your classmates.

