

*Tuesday, February 17, 2009*

The Humble ISD Education Foundation is, for me, one of the best organizations in our area. It supports the education of our children and the future of our world.

I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of our community through my involvement in the Foundation. Through innovative grant programs, students are presented a unique learning experience. These enrichment opportunities are a way for teachers to share their creativity with their students in projects that support the current curriculum.

I have seen the excitement these projects instill in my own children. My boys have been able to participate in "Camp Write Along," "Stock Market Project," "Mad Scientist" and the Fine Arts Festival, to name a few. The projects provide an enhanced educational experience that would not be possible without the dedication of our creative teachers and the generosity of our donors, both local business partners and caring individuals like you.



These grant projects inspire tomorrow's leaders to think outside the box. The projects explore a variety of subjects from different perspectives. Many students are surprised to find out they are really interested in a subject because of the alternative way it is presented.

I've also enjoyed being on the Foundation board and serving as the Grant Committee Chair. Grant decision day is always tough because there are so many great projects. There are wonderful projects that don't get funded every year, simply because we run out of funds.

I applaud all the grant applicants for their fantastic ideas and devoting the time to write well-thought-out grants. It's evident how much they care about their students' educational experience.

Prize Posse day is the highlight of the year. It is great to travel from campus to campus sharing the news with the grant recipients. They are grateful to have their idea funded and exuberant as they share the details of their project with us and their students. Many tears of joy are shed on Prize Posse Day.

It's an honor to be involved with the HISD Foundation. As a photographer volunteering my time for the Foundation, I have photographed many grant projects in action . . . a real treat for me.

These students are our future scientists, writers, mathematicians, ecologists and leaders. My hope is that our Foundation grants inspire these students to reach for the stars.

I encourage you to find out how you can support and become involved with the Humble ISD Education Foundation. I guarantee it will be one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do. We have a little saying amongst board members, "It's about the kids." This sums up what we do, and why we do it.

– Kim Riley