



Council Bluffs Schools  
**FOUNDATION**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation mission is to provide financial resources and support to benefit the children, families, and staff of the Council Bluffs Community School District.

# LEADERSHIP



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Executive Director



Bridgette Watson  
Director of Development



Mia Lastrup  
Director of STARS Scholarship



Greg Smith  
Director of Kids & Company

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# A NOTE FROM CHRIS

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Friends,

Wow, what a year! As I write this, our community, our country, and the world continue the fight against COVID-19 that forced schools to close in March. Despite the many hardships we have all endured over the past several months, our community came together in support of one another. For those reasons and so many others, I am proud to be a part of this wonderful Council Bluffs community.

The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation mission is to support the children, families, and staff of the Council Bluffs Community School District. The following pages provide a summary of our work this past year, work that is deeply personal to me because our schools are vitally important.

This summer, our schools prepared for truly unprecedented times. [Our schools](#) distributed more than 200,000 meals to children and families to address food insecurity. [Our schools](#) developed three different comprehensive learning plans, distributed computers, and established wifi connectivity options so that students could access high quality learning. [Our schools](#) installed sanitizing stations, developed social distancing protocols, and implemented many other measures to keep children and staff safe.

Our schools will need our help more than ever as they navigate the uncharted territory of learning during a pandemic. The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation is committed to doing everything we can to engage the community in pursuit of our mission to serve and advocate for our schools.

Thank you,

**CHRIS LAFERLA**

Executive Director

# CONNECTING, CARING &

## Emergency Childcare Collaborative

When schools closed due to COVID-19, Kids & Company shut down as well. During the closure, leaders at the Foundation partnered with others in the community to support those on the front lines battling the pandemic.

In just one week, we formed the Emergency Childcare Collaborative to address the childcare needs of first responders, medical providers, and other essential workers. The Collaborative made free daytime childcare available to those who needed it.

*When school closed, we didn't know what we were going to do for childcare. My wife and I were thrilled when we heard about the collaborative! Thank you to everyone involved!- Pablo, parent of child who utilized the ECC*

"The precautionary measure to close schools during the pandemic was necessary to prevent spread, but we risked losing the life-saving benefit of closing schools if healthcare workers, first responders, and other critical employees were not able to work because they didn't have childcare," Chris LaFerla, Executive Director of the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation.

Thank you to Pottawattamie County Community Foundation and Iowa West Foundation for your partnership in securing financial support.

Thank you to the staff at Kids & Company, Jumping Monkeys Childcare-The HUB, Shea's Learning Days, Children's Square U.S.A., & Lewis Central Lucky Children School-Age Childcare Program for your hard work and dedication to children and families.

Thank you to the Council Bluffs Community School District, Pottawattamie County Emergency Management, City of Council Bluffs, Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital, CHI Mercy Hospital, Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce, West Central Community Action-Child Care Resource and Referral for your support and advocacy.

So many of YOU stepped up to help, too!  
Thank YOU for your donations and support.





# SUPPORTING

## Highlights from the Emergency Childcare Collaborative



# \$50,000

To support families

# 900

Meals served

“  
*Thank you to everyone who made this happen. I am a single mother so when school closed and I had no daycare options, I was concerned I'd have to cut my hours. Because of this program, I didn't have to!*  
Kama, parent of child who attended ECC  
”

## Alumni and Friends Network Stepped-Up During Pandemic

The Alumni and Friends committee was blown away by the response after the annual Blast From the Past event was canceled due to COVID-19.

Thanks to the generosity of so many of our alumni, \$3,915 was raised to support the children, families, and staff of the Council Bluffs Community School District.

Along with financial support, many alumni shared stories of love and support for teachers during teacher appreciation week.

Proud Alumnus Bill Havekost said, "Rue Elementary was an incredible foundation of academic, social and mental health support for me. All of the teachers were excellent, but Mrs. Fulkerson in the 5th grade 1968-69, was a game-changer. She taught me how to excel in school. Thank you to all teachers."

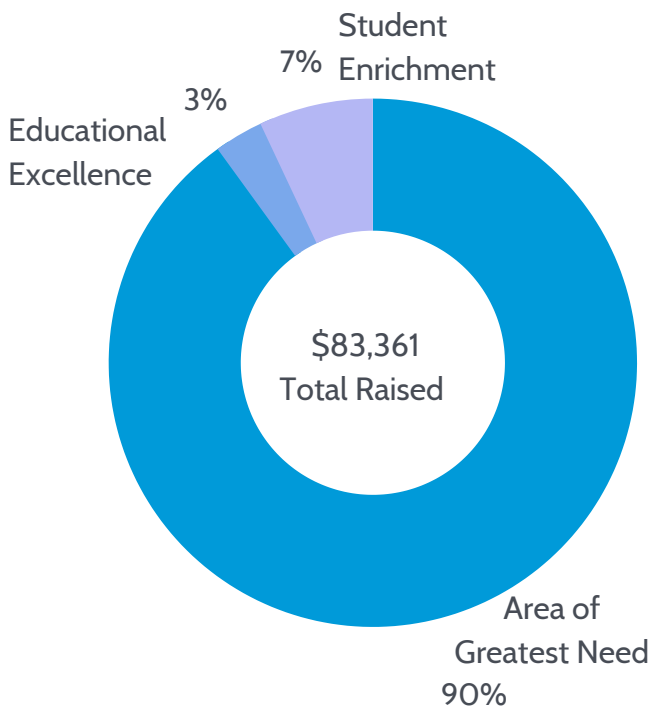
Our Alumni are some of our biggest supporters and advocates. Thank you to everyone who helped fill the need.

# \$3,915

Donated by Alumni and Friends when the annual Blast from the Past event was canceled.

# AREAS OF IMPACT

The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation operates three funds, offering donors multiple ways to make an impact: The *Area of Greatest Need* fund provides flexibility to respond to the most critical needs of the Foundation and support unfunded district programs. The *Educational Excellence* fund supports innovative programs that improve teaching and learning, ensure early academic success, and prepare graduates to succeed in college and careers. The *Student Enrichment* fund supports programs that enhance the classroom learning experience by supporting children in need of assistance and providing access to clubs, activities, arts, and cultural programming.

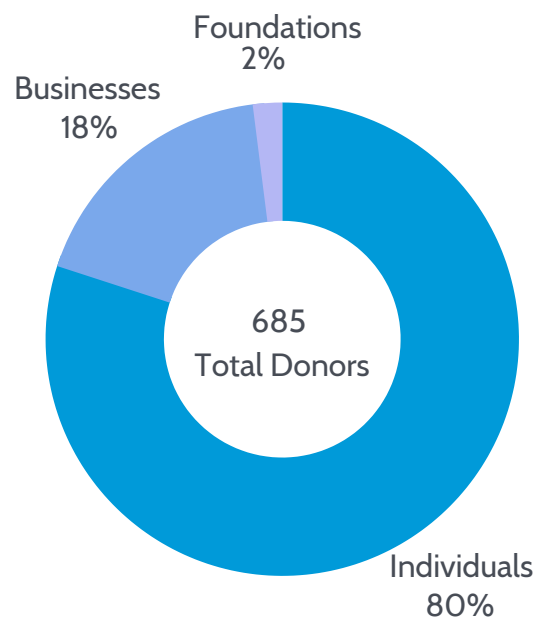


## Student Enrichment

*We are so thankful for the Student Enrichment Fund as it allowed us to make the necessary purchase to support a student and family in need. Both the family and the school are extremely grateful at the response and immediacy of the support for such a challenging situation. Thank you, from all of us at Roosevelt! Brett Abbotts, Principal at Rue Elementary*

## Educational Excellence

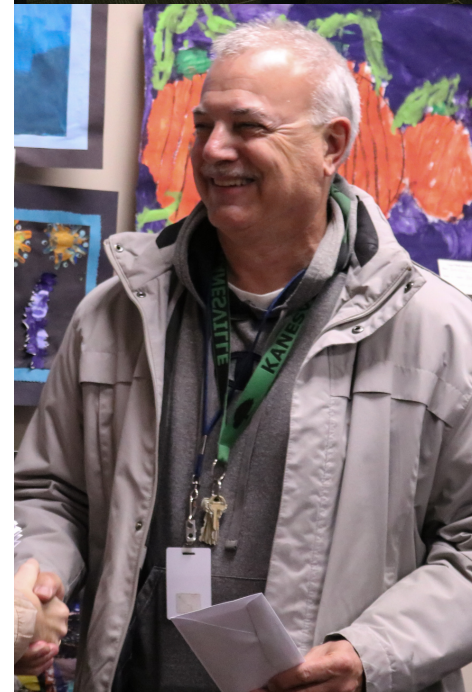
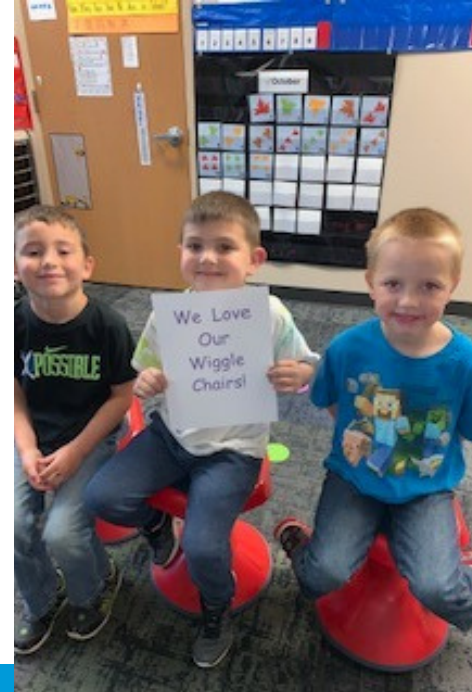
*The last two years of Early College Academy (ECA) gave me a head start on my college experience. I developed leadership skills, explored my political organizing interests, and ultimately learned I wanted to be a storyteller. I'd like to recognize the donors for their continued support of the ECA program. With their help I and other ECA students have expanded our horizons to pre-professional and academic pursuits. Thank you.*  
Cynthia Salinas-Cappellano, ECA Student



# CLASSROOM GRANTS

The Foundation awarded Classroom Grants to 34 teachers, totaling over \$23,000. Classroom Grants are designed to promote innovation in the classroom, and support teachers with creative ideas that improve teaching and learning. Thank you to our partners at the Lozier Foundation for their commitment to supporting the Classroom Grants program.

*“With our classroom grant we were able to create a recording studio at Carter Lake Elementary. The grant included funding for an iPad, microphones and a ring light. These resources make it possible for students to utilize the green screen to create photos and videos that can be shared with authentic audiences. Students have used this technology to transport themselves to places like an African savanna, the Eiffel Tower and a winter wonderland! This type of experience is empowering, memorable, purposeful and would not be possible without your support. We thank you for this opportunity!” Erin Smith Schoening, PYP Coordinator, Carter Lake & College View Elementary*



## Classroom Grants, now.

We recognize that our schools need our help more than ever as they navigate the uncharted territory of learning during a pandemic. In an effort to respond quickly to the needs of teachers, the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation is doubling its Classroom Grants budget to \$50,000 during the 2020-2021 school year, and granting awards on a rolling basis. To learn more about supporting teachers through Classroom Grants visit [cbsf.org](http://cbsf.org).

# STARS SCHOLARSHIP

An Iowa West Foundation Initiative

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STARS Scholarship is funded by the Iowa West Foundation and supports Pottawattamie County parents on their path to a job that pays a livable wage. STARS provides financial assistance, career planning, and other supports. This year, the program served 49 scholars and awarded over \$109,000 in assistance.

15

Students graduated with either an Associates Degree, Bachelors Degree, or certificate.

\$109K

Awarded to 49 scholars for expenses including tuition, books, and childcare.

200+

One-on-one meetings to address scholar needs such as childcare, food insecurity, mental health, and employment.



## Alumni Spotlight

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Molly Richardson, 2017-20

Molly Richardson is married with four children. Upon application to STARS in 2017, Molly was a childcare provider with a local childcare center in Council Bluffs, IA. When her youngest child entered elementary school she became motivated to further her education and better support her family.

*“Having STARS assistance with living expenses, licensure fees and other expenses during my student teaching practicum made it possible for me to complete my degree, and I will be forever indebted to the program.- Molly Richardson, STARS Graduate”*

In 2020, Molly completed a bachelor's of arts in Education from Buena Vista University. Molly's biggest challenge was being able to work while completing her practicum in spring 2020. Molly is currently a kindergarten teacher in the Council Bluffs Community School District and her household income has increased over 50%. Molly is one example of how the STARS program impacts our community and strengthens our workforce.



# 822

Families served in  
2019-2020

# 400

Families received  
tuition assistance

# KIDS & COMPANY

Kids & Company provides caring childcare for children in elementary school, supporting working families by offering before and after school care, as well as full day services during out of school days. The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation is proud to offer affordable childcare, tuition assistance, and quality programming that support learning in a safe environment



*We need a program that supports our children's learning, keeps them active, and keeps them safe while the parents are still working- that's what Kids and Company provides. - Lynn Lyons, Parent of a child attending Kids and Co*

Site	Former Rating	Current Rating
Bloomer	2	4
College View	2	4
Crescent	2	4
Edison	3	3*
Franklin	2	4
Hoover	2	4
Lewis & Clark	3	3*
Longfellow	2	4
Roosevelt	2	4
Rue	2	4

\*Re-assessment due 2021

Kids & Company participates in the Iowa Department of Human Services Quality Rating System (QRS). QRS is a five-level rating system, with five being the highest rating. The rating is based on key quality indicators in five areas:

- Professional Development
- Health and Safety
- Environment
- Family and Community Partnership
- Leadership and Administration

This year, Kids & Company improved QRS rating at 8 of 10 sites! The rating increases demonstrate a commitment to training, high quality programming, and implementing best practices in childcare.



# ALUMNI & FRIENDS NETWORK

Alumni & Friends connects alumni, families, and neighbors through reunions and activities, and serves as an information exchange on current happenings and exciting news in our schools.



## 300+

The annual Alumni & Friends tailgate was a huge success. Over 300 people attended the celebration, and the committee created a fun event for all ages. The event included free food, carnival games, face painting, yard games, and free raffle prizes. Thank you to the school district for supplying free passes to the game, and to the Southwest Iowa Association of Realtors (pictured below) for sponsoring the food.

## \$12,841

Our alumni contributed in big ways this year. In total 125 alumni donated over \$12,000 in support of scholarships, special projects, and programs that support the children, families, and staff of the district.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT CAMPAIGN

## Community Impact Award

The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation was proud to present Brandy Wallar with the first-ever Community Impact Award.

Brandy faced a lot of ups and downs in her life. The child of a single mother whose focus was meeting basic needs, Brandy did not have much growing up – but she did have the support of her community.

“I am very thankful for the Council Bluffs Community School District,” Wallar said, noting opportunities she had to be involved in community service. “What the Council Bluffs School District did for me was feed my potential.”



Wallar lives her life with purpose. As the Program Director for New Visions Homeless Shelter, Brandi helps people unlock their potential and see joy and hope regardless of their past trauma or mistakes. She's worked in the nonprofit sector for 19 years, spending the last 15 years helping those people experiencing homelessness and hunger in the greater metropolitan area.

Brandy exemplifies the primary purpose of the award, to recognize individuals for their impact on our community through passion, dedication, and leadership.

\$18,744

## Community Impact Campaign

Thank you to our community donors for their support during the 2019 Community Impact Campaign. Because of so many of you, we surpassed our \$10,000 goal. The support allows the Foundation to respond to the most critical needs of the District.



“I'd like to thank the donors, because with them my life has changed. -Ashley Hipnar, Early College Academy Student. With you, we can achieve more.”

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to generations of generous donors, the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation administers more than \$45,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors each year.



## Scholarship Recipients

Taylan Keefer	Jared Kaufman
Clare Plummer	Logan Kline
Julia Plummer	Julia Wagoner
Evelyn Zuniga Solorio	Anna Boes
Arlette Milstead	Hannah Gibson
Deniela Avalos	Sarah King
Cynthia Salinas Capellano	Alexis Pomernackas
Allison Schubert	Jesus Vega-Lemus
Natalie Clark	Rachel Ward
Ashley Hipnar	Taylor Wilson
Mia Kawamitsu	Moriah Heilesen
Kerigan Keefer	Jacob Braddy
Brooklyn Wagoner	Brooke Wohlers
Elaina Bohnet	Steven Hornberg
Katlin Ceder	Riley Pope
Sydney McCorkle	Dakota Holderness
Rachel Smith	Kimberly Meyer
Benjamin Fichter	

T.J. Class of 1955  
Robert & Karen Capel Memorial Scholarship  
Stuart and Martha E Currie Scholarship Fund  
Jean Eakin Scholarship  
Mina R. Harsch Scholarship  
Jacob R. Hemmingsen Memorial Scholarship  
Donna L. Halda Scholarship  
Ruth Rysta Gunn Elementary Scholarship  
Grant Hamilton Memorial Scholarship  
Thomas Jefferson Class of 1977 Scholarship  
Terry "Randy" Zahn Memorial Scholarship  
Abraham Lincoln Combined Classes of 1929 and 1979  
Robert & Karen Capel Memorial Scholarship  
Stuart and Martha E Currie Scholarship Fund  
ALHS National Honor Society Hall of Fame Scholarship  
Thomas C. Hickey and Getrude H. Hickey Charitable Trust  
Seth T. Hills Memorial Scholarship  
John R. and Bianca M. McComb Memorial Scholarship  
Michael Miller Scholarship  
Henry K. and Laura May Peterson Memorial Scholarship  
Richard & Joyce Schoeppner Memorial Scholarship  
Harold W. and Bernice B. Smith Memorial Scholarship  
Arlene Denton Chapp Scholarship  
Torrance A. Supernois Memorial Scholarship  
Scheibler Memorial Scholarship  
Jacob R. Hemmingsen Memorial Scholarship  
ALHS Class of 1958 Scholarship  
Pearl Sivey Scholarship  
Masako-From ALHS Math Scholarship:  
Merrill Tronson Scholarship:  
Carol Murray Memorial Scholarship  
A. Rosemary Waldmann Scholarship:  
Grant Hamilton Memorial Scholarship  
Richard Hendrix Scholarship  
Richard & Phyllis Hendrix Scholarship  
Kathy Lee Spirit Scholarship  
Lawrence Adkins Educational Grant  
Sheri Kay Suden Memorial Scholarship  
Craig Whitney Memorial Scholarship



# SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

## Mia Kawamitsu, Iowa State University

Craig Whitney Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000

Awarded to students planning to major or pursue a career in government, political science, or public service.



*This scholarship eased not only my worries, but my parents' worries, too. It will certainly help fund my undergraduate studies*

## Clare Plummer, Buena Vista University

Thomas C. Hickey and Getrude H. Hickey Charitable Trust, \$5,000

Awarded to students pursuing career in journalism or communication.



*Because of this scholarship I am able to continue my love for journalism!!*

## Sarah King, University of Iowa

ALHS National Honor Society Hall of Fame Scholarship, \$6,000

Awarded to members of the National Honor Society who plan to attend a 4-year college or University.



*Thank you for your investment in my future, Some day I hope I will be able to help and support others, just like you have supported me.*

3rd Degree Screening, Inc.  
Aaron Rindone  
Abby Cornelison  
Abby Parris  
Abby Robinson  
Adrienne McCormick  
Alan K. Boucher  
Alan Robert Fisher  
Alex Cline  
Alexandrea Schlotman  
Alicia Knau  
Alison Kennedy  
Allen Becker  
Allycia Campbell  
Amanda Clanton  
Amanda Cool  
Amanda Jens  
Amanda Swolley  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
Amber Sward  
American National Bank  
Amy Coon  
Amy Glime  
Amy N. Stuart  
Amy Peterson  
Amy Rallis  
Amy Scherb  
Andrea Lynn Galloway  
Andrea Smith  
Angela Koenig  
Angela Simons  
Angie Hempel  
Ann M. Goldapp  
Anne McKeown  
April Balm  
Arian Haddix  
Arnold I. Davidson  
Arthur Young  
Ashley Gardner  
Ashley Kruse  
Ashley Welch  
Availa Bank  
Availa Foundation  
Bailey McQueen  
Bank of America  
Barb Crawford  
Barbara Coats  
Barbara Robertson  
Barry Cleaveland  
Becky Liston  
Beth Hartog  
Bethany DeCarolis  
Bethany Joy Hayes  
Bethany Palsler  
Betty Neufeld  
Bev Fanelli  
Bev Johnson  
Bev Rockwell  
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Beverly Dross  
Beverly York  
Bianca Lopez  
Bill Havekost  
Black Hills Energy  
Blake Johnson  
Bonita J. Moore  
Bradley Shain  
Brandon Fisher  
Brandon Ramsey  
Brandy M. Pierson

Brandy Soto  
Brandy Wallar  
Brenda Ann Capel  
Brenda Copeland  
Brenda Peatrowsky  
Brent Craig  
Brett Abbotts  
Brian Hunter  
Brian Kaminski  
Brian Muhm  
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Bridgette Watson  
Britney Beatty  
Brittany Hettrick  
Brittany Kraft  
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Danielle Schmitt  
Danna Kehm  
Darcie Michelle Smith  
Darlene Schwarzkopf  
David E. Coziahr  
David Hazlewood  
David Kaeding  
David Price  
David W Fringer  
Dawn Bauer  
Dawn Bonsall  
Dawn Brincks  
Dawn Cox  
Dawn Von Mende  
DB Construction  
Dean Wilson  
Deb Florke  
Deb Goodman  
Deb Young  
Debbie Fischer  
Debbie Michael  
Debi Pierson  
Deborah Gleich-Bope  
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Holly Sharp  
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Katie Twit  
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Kelli Salin  
Kellie Cerny  
Kellie Hinsley  
Kelly Dix  
Kelly Fischer  
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Kelly Gillespie  
Kelly Keller  
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Kelsey Winchell  
Kendra E. Nelson  
Kenneth K. Shoemaker  
Keri Zimmer

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous individual, corporate, and foundation donors. Your support builds upon our momentum to support the Children, Families, and Staff of the Council Bluff Community School District. Thank you for joining us to make a difference together.



*The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation positively impacts every level of our organization. I give because the Foundation demonstrates their commitment to improving the community by investing in the future, our classrooms and our students.- Cyle Forney, Vce Principal, Abraham Lincoln High School*

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 Kevin Maxcy  
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 Kim G Elder  
 Kim Heffelfinger  
 Kim Kazmierczak  
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 Mia Lastrup  
 Michael Childers  
 Michael Hughes  
 Michael Naughton  
 Michael Reuland  
 Michael Sciortino  
 Michael Starner  
 Michael Wolf  
 Michaela Hill  
 Michele Keefer  
 Michele Martin  
 Michele Mass  
 Michelle C Adams  
 Michelle K. Tuttle  
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 Mid Day Optimist Club  
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 Midstates Bank, N.A.  
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