



For immediate release

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Spring Branch Education Foundation Presents Check to SBISD Board of Trustees

The Spring Branch Education Foundation (SBEF) made its annual gift to the Spring Branch Independent School District Board of Trustees at the Board's September meeting. Warren Matthews, chair, SBEF Board of Directors, and Cece Thompson, executive director of SBEF, announced the Foundation's contributions to the district for the 2008-09 fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009, amounted to \$583,618. The gift represents an increase of more than \$160,000 over the 2007-08 fiscal year.

David Converse, president, SBISD Board of Trustees, and Duncan Klussmann, Ed.D, superintendent of schools, accepted the presentation check on behalf of the district's trustees.

The money was used during the 2008-09 school year to fulfill the Foundation's mission to provide financial resources to enhance the quality of education for all Spring Branch ISD students.

"We consider it our responsibility to help young people grow into well-rounded adults who will improve our community and our world," Matthews said.

"During the past year, we funded peer-based reading programs in elementary schools that helped young children improve reading skills and older children develop leadership skills. We supported the district's Character Without Question program that recognizes students who demonstrated honesty, integrity, responsibility, respect, kindness, and good citizenship. We paid for a wide variety of field trips, and much, much more."

Grants from the Foundation fund student and staff scholarships, mentoring programs, J. Landon Short mini-grants for classroom projects, Arts Partners programs, the Altheretta Yeargin Art Museum and designated campus projects, to name a few.

The SBEF board includes 46 members. "We are business leaders, community leaders, volunteers, parents, board trustees, and administrators,"

Matthews said. "We get it. We understand the vital role public education plays in the overall success of our communities and in defining who we are. We understand that students of today represent the workforce, the leaders, and the educators of tomorrow. And we're doing something about it."

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides a vehicle for community members to make tax-deductible gifts to SBISD. In addition to sponsoring an annual Employee Campaign which funds scholarships for children of SBISD employees who graduate from SBISD schools, it hosts three signature fundraising events: Fall Golf Classic, Running for the Arts, and Crystal Awards for Outstanding Teachers (in partnership with the Houston Chronicle).

Since 1993, the Foundation has raised more than \$6.5 million and received the Houston Business Promise Award from the Greater Houston Partnership. SBEF has created the Fund for the Future Endowment, a permanent endowment that will provide a perpetual source of income.

The Board's recently published 2008-09 Annual Report, *FUNdraising for the Future*, provides a full accounting of its financial management. It can be accessed at www.springbranchisd.com/sbef.

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