



*The Relentless Pursuit of Quality Education for Colorado's Children Since 1997*

### **Who We Are**

Founded in 1997 by Pat Hamill, Chairman & CEO Oakwood Homes and Marshall Kaplan, University of Colorado at Denver

Organization Structure: 501 c (3) Non-Profit

Since its inception, the Foundation, in partnership with Oakwood Homes, has invested over \$3.0 million dollars directly into the Green Valley Ranch, Montbello, and the broader Front Range toward educational programs and reform initiatives, teacher/staff development, student recognition, new school development, and the creation of collaborative public/private partnerships to improve school performance and expand opportunities for students to pursue their dreams. Desired outcomes include stronger relationships among parents and schools, and communities that are stronger and safer

### **Vision**

Sponsor educational research and applications that become the nation's leading model for sustainable high student achievement and school/community revitalization.

### **Mission**

Be a catalyst for the development and utilization of cutting edge educational initiatives that result in school and community revitalization.

### **Primary Program Efforts**

- **Early Childhood Education** – support the development of quality early childhood educational programs that prepare children (birth to five) with the critical capacities/skills to learn.
- **K-12 Education** – partner with school districts, parents, community leaders and area businesses in the development of innovative learning environments that recognize children acquire knowledge in different ways.
- **P-20 System** – sponsor and support efforts to fully align K-12 and Higher Education efforts that begin to create a more market-centered, consumer-focused, and performance-driven education delivery system that prepares students for the rigors of the new century

- **Community Involvement** – establish community involvement among educators, parents, students, and civic leaders that promote schools as a centerpiece of community development and revitalization.

## **Major Accomplishments**

### **Green Valley Ranch ECE – 12<sup>th</sup> grade campus**

The DPS bond for a \$453.7 million passed in November 2008. This included nearly \$70 million specifically earmarked toward the improvement of schools located in the Green Valley Ranch, Montbello, and Parkfield neighborhoods. \$48 million of which would go toward new construction of an ECE - 12th grade shared campus on the lot formerly reserved for GVR High School (on the corner of GVR Blvd. and Tower Rd.) The school will open in fall 2010 and the Foundation will play a role in working with Denver Public Schools to plan the educational program and facilities of the campus.

### **Far Northeast Zone of Innovation**

Since 2005, the Foundation has sponsored the start-up and creation of an 18 school Far Northeast Denver planning network among each of the region's principals. In 2006, the group was formally named, the "Principals Leadership Council" and has focused much of its attention on solving regional issues, leveraging resources, expanded professional development for teachers, and establishing a common vision and mission across the network to better serve students. The PLC is made up of elementary, middle, and high school principals, from both charter and traditional public schools. If the PLC schools were a district, they would be the 8th largest district in Colorado, with over 12,000 students.

For more information go to [www.plczone.net](http://www.plczone.net)

### **Early Childhood Education**

The "school ready" effort focuses on providing and preparing children from birth to age five for kindergarten through proven, research-based early childhood programs. The Foundation organizes services across all 18 schools and works closely with the Denver Preschool Program, DPS, and private providers to expand the number of available preschool and Kindergarten slots. In addition, we provide parent workshops covering topics such as infant and toddler development and early literacy to help parents become their child's first teacher. By providing quality early childhood education and parent support, every child will enter Kindergarten ready to learn.

### **College and Career Readiness**

The "college and career ready" effort focuses on outlining for parents and students beginning in fifth grade, the critical steps they will need to make in order to prepare themselves for advanced learning beyond high school. Our Life-Long Success Coordinator will work across all 18 schools to organize programs, events, and services for grades 5-12 to prepare students for a range of

advanced learning options including two to four year colleges, technical certificates, apprenticeship programs, and the workforce. In addition, we provide parent financial planning workshops, career and internship fairs, college exploration events, and resume and interview skill workshops. Our hope is to move the dream of college from a possibility to a reality.

### **E-470 Education Master Plan**

In August 2006, the Foundation issued the E-470 Education Master Plan Report to provide a series recommendations to address the significant residential growth expected in the City of Aurora and Aurora Public Schools over the next 25 years. The project included over 100 citizens representing 65 different stakeholder groups, across committees.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School Revitalization Project**

In 2004, the Foundation helped lead an effort, in partnership with parents, community leaders, students, and DPS representatives in the development of a comprehensive revitalization plan to fundamentally transform the low performing middle school into a 6-12 grade early college high school that will begin adding high school students beginning in 2006. As part of the transformation the school has been renamed, Martin Luther King Jr. Early College High School.

### **Omar D. Blair Charter School and the Shared Use Facility Complex**

The Omar D. Blair Charter School, which opened in August 2004 as part of a master planned *Shared Use Facility Complex*, serves 800 students in grades K-8 and is managed by the award winning Edison Schools, Inc. The Foundation, which was one of six key partners in a board-based public/private partnership, helped facilitate the community process and development of the school's charter board. The school facility enjoys the advantage of being connected to a City and County recreation center, outdoor amphitheater, and regional park. In April 2005, the Shared Use Facility Complex was a 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner of a Denver Regional Council of Governments Innovation award.

### **MLK Middle School and Montbello High School High Tech Academy**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century High Tech Academy was a partnership between Denver Public Schools and the Foundation, the private sector, institutions of higher education and the community. This "school within a school" launched in 1997 is a college prep program that enhances student achievement through the use of technology, seeking to empower students' understanding of technology trends. Teachers integrate technology to support and enrich the school curriculum in an interdisciplinary, project-oriented learning environment.