



*Fergus Falls Area*

# Dollars<sup>®</sup> for Scholars

September  
2002

## Board of Trustees

Fergus Falls Area  
Dollars for Scholars  
June 1, 2002 through  
May 31, 2003

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Vice President  
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Scholarship Chair

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## NEW HERITAGE LEVEL SCHOLARSHIP



*Eleanor Keane Johnson, March 1957*

*Photo courtesy of  
Otter Tail County Historical Society*

A new Heritage Level scholarship recognizing long-time community member Eleanor Keane Johnson was awarded this year for the first time.

Leah Johnson, a swimmer and 2002 graduate of Fergus Falls High School, was the first recipient of the award established by Eleanor Keane Johnson – known to most people by her nickname, “Babe” – prior to her death in January at age 101. The scholarship reflects Babe Johnson’s dedication to both her community and to health and

fitness. It will be awarded annually to a FFHS graduate who has a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and has been a member of the swim team for at least three years.

Born in 1901, Johnson experienced the tremendous changes that took place in Fergus Falls and in the world during the span of the 20th century. She saw the nation through two world wars and the Great Depression. She witnessed the sensation created by the arrival of the first horseless carriages in Minnesota, as well as the first moon landing.

She voted in the first election after women won the right to vote, and she never missed the chance to exercise that right. She maintained a keen interest in world and community affairs.

Johnson enjoyed an active life in the community throughout her 101 years. Her memoirs fondly recall summers at the lake and a childhood full of imaginative outdoor play. She attributed her good health to her active lifestyle, walking at least a mile each day and swimming as often as she could, even as she approached the century mark. In the Fergus Falls community, she is remembered for her kindness, generosity and sense of humor.

Johnson endowed the scholarship with guidance from Larry Dorn of Dorn and Company, Inc., who is a Fergus Falls High School alumnus and longtime supporter of Dollars for Scholars.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2001-2002



Dean Hjelle

This year marks the TENTH year that Fergus Falls Area **Dollars for Scholars** has been able to award scholarships. The Board of Trustees joins me in thanking our donors for their contributions.

As a community, we can be proud of the fact that over the years we have assisted 224 young people with the cost of higher education by awarding more than \$148,172 in **Dollars for Scholars** scholarships.

Our endowment fund was enhanced this year by the addition of several new 544 Club members and a \$10,000 donation from Eleanor Keane Johnson, who established a Heritage Level scholarship. Fergus Falls Noon Rotary Club, Otter Risers Kiwanis Club, Noon Kiwanis Club, Lutheran Brotherhood Branch 8387, Fergus Falls Education Association and Fergus Falls Senior High School students donated money for special fund-raising projects. The endowment fund continues to grow toward our goal of \$544,000. Once the goal is reached, we will be able to provide scholarships in excess of \$27,000 each year.

Kevin Alm will be the next president of the Fergus Falls Area **Dollars for Scholars**. He has an energetic, capable Board of Trustees which will be working hard to build the endowment fund so scholarships can be awarded in amounts that are genuinely helpful in meeting the ever-increasing costs of education beyond high school. The Board of Trustees has set some aggressive goals for the next year. Look for a Fergus Falls **Dollars for Scholars** website. Look for beautiful new plaques listing all of the donors to the endowment fund. (The plaques will be displayed both at Fergus Falls High School and Hillcrest.) Watch for several activities that will be fun as well as fundraisers for the endowment fund.

It is an honor to live in a community that helps provide the encouragement our youth need to succeed in school and in life. The Fergus Falls Area **Dollars for Scholars** program gives each of us an opportunity to participate at our own comfort level – whether it be \$10 or \$10,000. Please consider one of the options listed on Page 7. Each dollar contributed will continue to grow and support our community's graduating seniors.

~Dean Hjelle, President  
2001-2002

# TEN YEARS AND GOING STRONG! 1992-2002

Ten years ago, Fergus Falls Area **Dollars for Scholars** awarded four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from Fergus Falls High School and one \$500 scholarship to a Hillcrest Lutheran Academy graduate. Since 1992, our local chapter has presented scholarships every year. Counting the scholarships awarded in 2002, 224 scholarships have been awarded for a total of \$148,172. That means that at least 224 students from our community have gone off to pursue their educational goals with some financial support from their hometown. The Board of Trustees is proud of this and hopes the award program will continue to grow.

**Dollars for Scholars** exists today because of Dr. Irving Fradkin, an ophthalmologist from the small town of Fall River, Massachusetts. Dr. Fradkin's family were Russian immigrants, and he realized how much they sacrificed to allow him medical training. When he discovered that most of his young patients were not planning on going to college because they could not afford tuition, he decided to create a scholarship fund for his town. He canvassed the town, asking that each family donate at least \$1 toward a scholarship fund. The first **Dollars for Scholars** awards were granted in Fall River, in 1958.

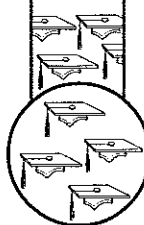
Minnesota **Dollars for Scholars** was established in International Falls in 1962. Today, 114 Minnesota **Dollars for Scholars** chapters serve 234 communities statewide. The organization has headquarters in Minneapolis and is part of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America.

Fergus Falls Area **Dollars for Scholars** was established in 1991 with donations of around \$60,000. Today the fund includes assets of more than \$310,000. The Board of Trustees plans to increase this fund to \$544,000. At that level, the fund would sustain scholarships in perpetuity and would assist the young people of our area with their education. Imagine what could happen if every family in Fergus Falls donated at least \$1 to our scholarship program!

20  
\$544,000

2002  
\$310,000

1992  
\$60,000



## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Fergus Falls Area is a community that believes in investing in the education of young people. We are fortunate to live where citizens understand that education must be a top priority for this country and that our young people need help affording education beyond high school. The generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations has helped **Dollars for Scholars** grow. We are grateful to our donors, who are listed below.

**HERITAGE DONORS** are businesses, individuals or organizations who have contributed at least \$10,000 to **Dollars for Scholars**. Heritage Scholarship donors are:

Joanne & Gordon Bakken  
Robert Block  
Community First National Bank  
Dorn and Company Inc.  
Eagles Aerie No. 2339  
ITT Corporation  
Eleanor Keane Johnson  
Lake Region Healthcare Corporation  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Lloyd & Beverly Gerhardson Paulson  
Theodore (Elmer) Paulson  
Thomas Sample Estate  
Service Food  
Veden Charitable Trust  
VFW Post 612

**SCHOLAR DONORS** are businesses, individuals or organizations who have contributed at least \$5,000 to **Dollars for Scholars**. Many of these individuals have sponsored Scholar level scholarships.

Area Artists (area artists fund the Art Scholarship)  
Dell Charitable Trust  
Eugene Eckhoff Memorial  
Gordon Gerhardson Memorial (Donated by Beverly Gerhardson Paulson)  
Ottetail Coaches  
Wedum Foundation

**SPONSORS** are donors who have pledged or have contributed at least \$1,000. Our present Sponsors are:

Blanche & Vern Arneson  
Lois & Steve Atchison  
Hazel & Andrew Anderson  
Jean Dahling  
Dr. Larry & Nancy Eisinger  
Steve Emerson  
Fergus Falls Newspapers Inc.  
Fergus Falls Noon Rotary Club  
Interstate Inc.  
Lutheran Brotherhood Fergus Falls Branch 8387  
Larry L. Ortloff and Associates  
Otter Risers Kiwanis Inc.  
Dr. Jack & Sandy Pearson  
Evangeline Quam  
Stock Farms  
Thom Consultants  
Rogness Trucking Inc.  
Underdal Family Trust

**544 CLUB MEMBERS** have given or are in the process of paying pledges totaling \$544 each.

Mark & Christine Ahlsten  
Samuel & Virginia S. Adams  
Glenn Anderson  
Dr. Richard & Alberta Baker  
Lillian Bechtel  
Dr. Richard & Mary Beck  
Robert & V. J. Block  
Marian Bluhm  
Steve & Linda Brue  
Ralph & Eula Brynson  
Century 21 Vista Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. William Colbeck  
Keith & Kimberly Dickelman

Wayne Dirkman, Quality Circuits  
John & Kim Erickson  
Fergus Falls Wrestling Club  
Gay & Carol Folden  
Dr. Roger & Charlotte Frerichs  
Terry & Jane Graumann  
Great Plains Natural Gas Co.  
Frances Haller  
Mark & Catherine Helland  
Dr. Jerry & Donna Hendel  
Tim & Desta Hunt  
David & Darlene Johnson  
Gordon & Cynthia Johnson  
Lana & Timothy Johnson  
Tom & Cyndi Johnson  
John & Janet Kilde  
Cris Kling  
Donald Knudsen  
Dr. Robert & Karen Kreiser  
Lee & Margaret Krogh  
David & Connie Lehrke  
Dr. Allen & Sandra Magnuson  
Gene & Helen Manning  
Jerry & Carol Martens  
Dr. James & Dr. Linda Matter  
Verlin & Betty Menze  
Dr. Bruce & Sherry Money  
Richard & Garnet Muehlhausen  
Nelson Ford  
Dr. David & Ann Nelson  
Paul & Catherine Neuman  
James & Marlys Nitchals  
David & Cora Sue Nycklemoe  
P. Wayne & Connie Pastir  
Dr. Paul & Beverly Richter  
Richard & Denise Risbrudt  
Jorolf & Alice Ronnevik  
Dr. Brian & Pam Schmidt  
David & Shawn Schneeberger  
Security State Bank  
Thos. H. Smith, O.D.  
B.K. Soby  
David & Janice Spies

Ben Underwood  
Roland & Betty Viger  
Loren & Rita Woolson  
Linda Wolfe

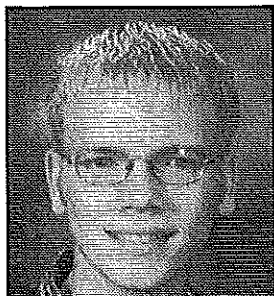
**OTHER CONTRIBUTORS** Many area businesses have generously contributed to **Dollars for Scholars** but do not fit into the above categories. We appreciate contributions received from:

Frontier Equipment Inc.  
Thomas Kao Chinese Restaurant  
Otter Tail Telcom  
Victor Lundeen Company

### UMBRELLA SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Some organizations and businesses choose to sponsor scholarships under the umbrella of **Dollars for Scholars**. Recipients are chosen using **Dollars for Scholars** selection criteria but the scholarships are funded directly by the sponsors.

Bremer Bank (four scholarships)  
Fergus Falls Fish and Game Foundation (one scholarship)



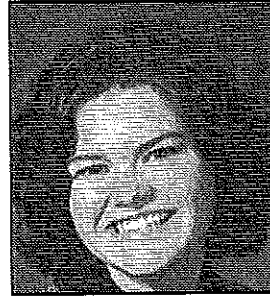
**Brian Aasgaard**  
Hillcrest Lutheran  
Academy  
ITT Corporation  
Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth



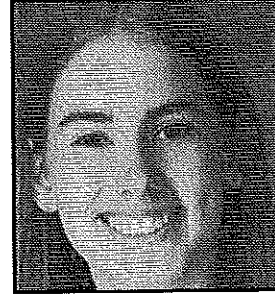
**Joseph Devorak IV**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Wedum Memorial  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



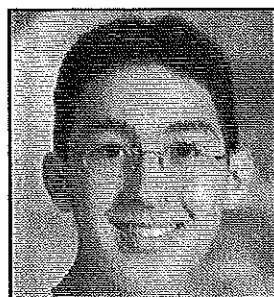
**Katie Dolan**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Bremer Bank  
Northwestern College,  
St. Paul



**Jamie Evavold**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Otter Tail Power  
Concordia College,  
Moorhead



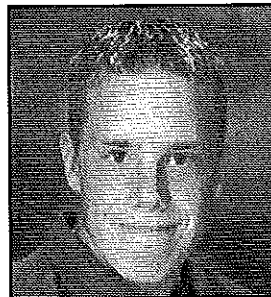
**Krystal Finseth**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Dr. Frank Veden  
Dordt College,  
Sioux Center, IA



**Geoffrey Fischer**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Eugene Boe Memorial  
Univ. of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis

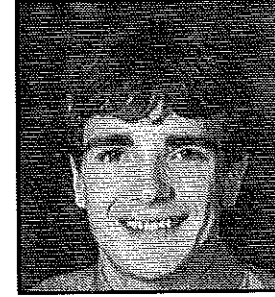


**Cassandra Fogale**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Fergus Falls High School  
Student/Faculty  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls

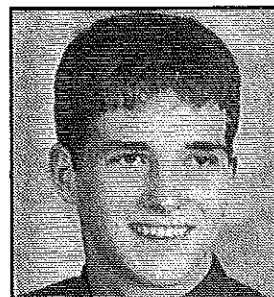


**Michael Hanan**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Fergus Falls Game and  
Fish Foundation  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls

“  
*Thank-  
you for  
your  
belief in  
me and  
my  
future.*  
~Michael Hanan  
May 15, 2002  
”



**Lucas Hansen**  
Hillcrest Lutheran  
Academy  
Dorn and Company, Inc.  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



**Nicholas Hansen**  
Hillcrest Lutheran  
Academy  
Service Food  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



**Rebecca Heikes**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Beverly Gerhardson  
Paulson  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



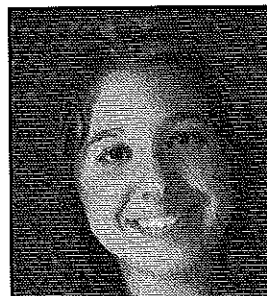
**Rebekah Henrickson**  
Hillcrest Lutheran  
Academy  
Art Scholarship  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



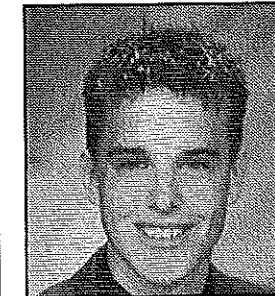
**Amanda Houdek**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Otertail Coaches  
Concordia College,  
Moorhead

“  
*I really appreciate the  
help you are giving me.  
It is an honor to be awarded  
this scholarship.*  
”

~Lucas Hansen  
May 22, 2002



**Jill Jennen**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Robert Block  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



**Jesse Johnson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
Eagles  
Concordia College,  
Moorhead

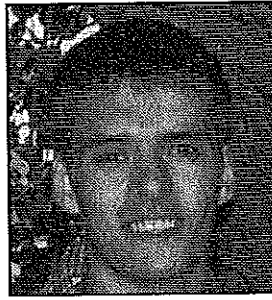




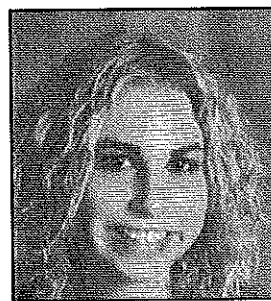
**Leah Johnson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Eleanor Keane Johnson*  
College of St. Scholastica,  
Duluth



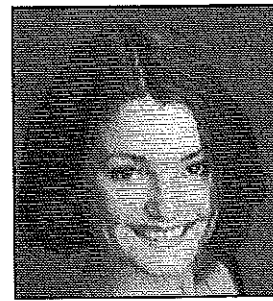
**Anne Kalar**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Veterans of Foreign Wars*  
Concordia College,  
Moorhead



**Nathan Klein**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Veterans of Foreign Wars*  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



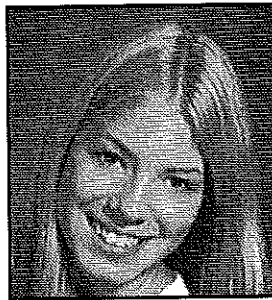
**Lesley Kress**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Bremer Bank*  
Northwest Technical  
College, Moorhead



**Katherine Miltich**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Eugene Eckhoff Memorial*  
University of Wisconsin-  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI



**Darcy Olson**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Community First National  
Bank*  
Kansas State Univ.,  
Manhattan, KS



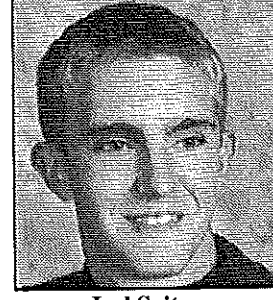
**Liv Ronnevik**  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy  
*Theodore Paulson  
Memorial*  
Northwestern College,  
St. Paul



**Sarah Ronnevik**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Joanne & Gordon Bakken*  
Concordia College,  
Moorhead



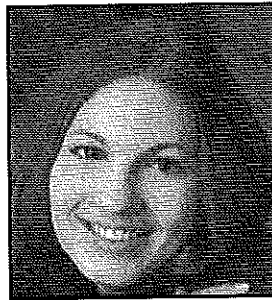
**Jonathan Spies**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Fergus Falls High School*  
Student/Faculty  
St. John's Univ.,  
Collegeville



**Joel Suiter**  
Hillcrest Lutheran  
Academy  
*Bremer Bank*  
Northwestern College,  
Saint Paul



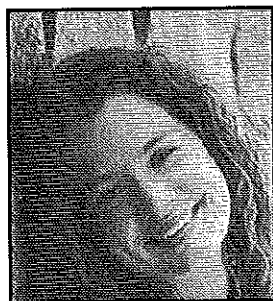
**Jacqueline Sutor**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Sample Memorial*  
Univ. of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis



**Kayley Uvaas**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Lake Region Healthcare  
Corporation*  
Univ. of North Dakota,  
Grand Forks, ND



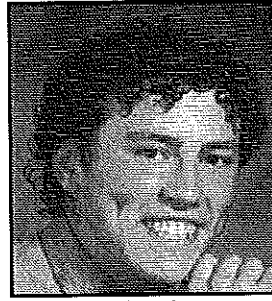
**Andrew Wahl**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Fergus Falls High School*  
Student/Faculty  
North Dakota State Univ.,  
Fargo, ND



**Elizabeth Welle**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Bremer Bank*  
Univ. of Wisconsin-Eau  
Claire, Eau Claire, WI



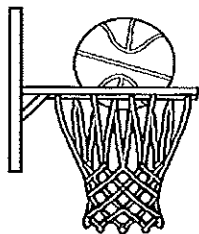
**Cynthia Wingert**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Gordon Gerhardson  
Memorial*  
Fergus Falls Community  
College, Fergus Falls



**Dustin Wynn**  
Fergus Falls High School  
*Fergus Falls High School*  
Student/Faculty  
Univ. of North Dakota,  
Grand Forks, ND

“  
*I appreciate this  
honor and am very  
grateful for the  
scholarship award.  
The money will be  
very helpful in  
financing my  
college education.*  
~Joel Suiter  
June 2, 2002  
”

## STUDENTS & TEACHERS SPONSOR SCHOLARSHIPS



The Fourth Annual Faculty-Student basketball game was held on April 5, 2002. The Fergus Falls Education Association organized teams of both men and women teachers who challenged teams of students. Proceeds from the evening were matched by funds from Lutheran





Brotherhood. Besides being a fun evening for students and faculty, the project funded four scholarships for Fergus Falls High School graduates.

## KEEP A MEMORY ALIVE!

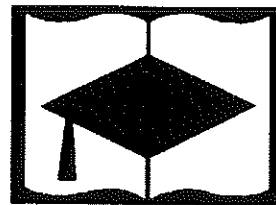
Have you ever wondered how you could honor the memory of a loved one? Have you ever wanted to appropriately thank an influential or important person in your life? Consider a memorial scholarship! What better way to keep the memory of a loved one alive than by establishing a scholarship that will be given annually and named for the person you wish to honor? A donation of \$5,000 or more will allow a scholarship to be named.

Donors may establish guidelines for the scholarship they sponsor as well as criteria for the recipients.

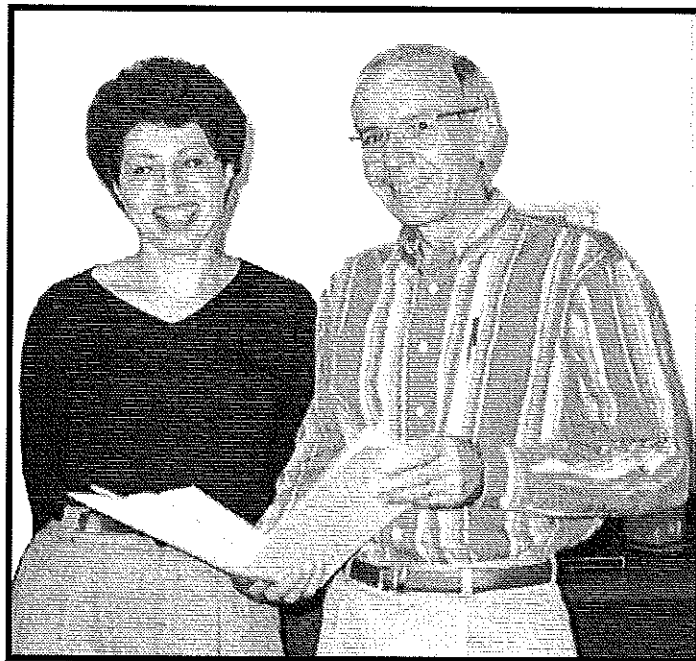
There are a number of tax-deductible giving options that allow opportunities to direct the use of gifts:

-  **Donate marketable stocks or securities**
-  **Donate real estate or personal property.**
-  **Donate proceeds from life insurance.**
-  **Name Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars in your will.**

Named scholarships will enable memorialized individuals to live on through the young people who will receive financial support to continue their education. If you would like to discuss the possibilities, please call 218-998-0544 and ask that a Dollars for Scholars board member contact you.



## VOLUNTEERS!



Outgoing president, Dean Hjelle turns project file over to Kathy Uvaas.

*The Board of Trustees meets  
once a month on  
the third Tuesday at 7 a.m.  
We are always looking  
for volunteers.*

Yes, I would like to  
support the *Fergus Falls Area*  
**Dollars® for Scholars**



My gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed,  
or I would like to make the following pledge:



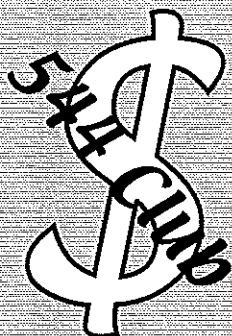
- ☐ **544 Club:** \$544 or.....\$144 now & \$100 a year for 4 years
- ☐ **Sponsor:** \$1,000 or.....\$200 now & \$200 a year for 4 years
- ☐ **Leader:** \$2,500 or.....\$500 now & \$500 a year for 4 years
- ☐ **Scholar:** \$5,000 or....\$1,000 now & \$1,000 a year for 4 years
- ☐ **Heritage:** \$10,000 or....\$.....given as determined by donor

Please make check payable to:  
**Fergus Falls Area Dollars for Scholars**  
send to:  
**4B East Drive, Fergus Falls, MN 56537**



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Join Our 544 Club***



Our **544 Club** is the backbone of our foundation. We need more members! This plan allows a donation of \$544 to be paid over a five-year period. Donors' names will be added to the display plaques at FFHS and Hillcrest. Join the **544 Club** members listed in this newsletter and invest in our future – our children.

## CLASS OF 1992: FIRST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS – WHERE THEY ARE NOW

We thought you might enjoy an update on the students who were awarded the very first **Dollars for Scholars** scholarships 10 years ago. They are successful young adults leading interesting lives, some right here in Fergus Falls.

**Matthew McDonald, FFHS**, graduated from Carlton College in 1996 with a BA in music. He then attended University of Minnesota and received two masters degrees, one in music theory and one in piano performance. Matt presently is at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, working on his Ph.D. in music theory.

**Jera Nelson, FFHS**, graduated from Wake Forest University in 1996 with a BA in psychology. She received her MA degree from Southern Methodist University in 1998 and will soon complete her Ph.D. in psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. She intends to practice as a clinical psychologist.

**Jacqueline Thoma, FFHS**, graduated from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota, in 1996 with a BS degree in nursing. She presently works in the intensive care unit at Lake Region Hospital in Fergus Falls as a registered nurse.

**Bradley Tollerson, FFHS**, graduated in 1996 from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota with a BS in electrical engineering. He is presently working at Otter Tail Power Company in Fergus Falls as a registered professional electrical engineer. He is working on his MVBA at NDSU.

We were unable to locate Hillerest graduate Gretchen Weishaupt in time for this newsletter but look forward to her update for a future edition.