

# EDISON ALUMNI NEWS



STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

FALL 2010

## THE LEGACY FUND

### A Way to Pay Back by Thinking Forward

We all remember the great times we shared in northeast and the wonderful experiences we had going to Edison. The community pride and connectivity we had with each other could never be matched by any other city school. We knew we were part of something special. The Edison Community and Sports Foundation would like to continue that northeast pride by establishing a "Legacy Fund."

The proceeds raised for the Legacy Fund would be used to finance scholarships for Edison students who are from northeast and graduate from Edison High School. There is a new resurgence and energy around the northeast area to build Edison into the community school it once was. With

your help we can do just that. It would be our dream to see every student graduating from Edison has an opportunity attend a post secondary institution.

While gifts to the annual fund, charitable gambling receipts and special event proceeds will always be the mainstay of the funds the Foundation provides each year for scholarship grants and improvements at Edison, the Board is aware of the escalating costs of post-secondary education our students must face.

The Board began to formulate the Legacy Fund in October. A gift to this fund will provide an income stream for scholarships and improvements for years to come. A Legacy gift given to the Foundation is invested, and only the income generated by the fund is used. Such a gift can represent a lasting tribute to a spouse or another loved one, or maybe a coach or a teacher.

Please begin considering what kind of Legacy Gift you may want to arrange in 2011. We are most familiar with wills and bequests, but CD's, unused retirement funds, real estate, appreciated securities and life income gifts that make payments to you for life: the charitable gift annuity, annuity trust, unitrust and more, are all worth considering.

All these gift types are available now through the Foundation's Legacy Fund. Watch for more information on the benefit of each gift type. !

A contribution could go such a long way to a brighter future for our next generation of Tommies.

### Save the Dates

January 15, 2011 Nominations due for the ECSF Hall of Fame.

February 1, 2011 Nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award

May Dinner Fundraiser:  
Monday, May 2, 2011 Jax Cafe

Golf Tournament:  
Monday, July 25th, 2011

Please be sure to check out our website at [www.edisonsportsfoundation.org](http://www.edisonsportsfoundation.org) for further information regarding these events.

### EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION Mission Statement

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation was established to further the efforts and achievements of student athletes at Edison High School. To further the aims and objectives of the foundation.

The Board may seek to provide opportunities for the Northeast community to become involved in the Edison High School programs through cooperative activities with the Foundation.

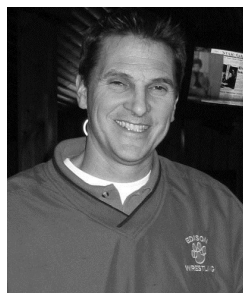
The primary goals and mission of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation are:  
To strengthen and expand our scholarship and scholastic efforts.

To consider proposals which enrich the athletic experience for Edison community students.  
To support other educational and school related activities in the Edison community as the Board deems appropriate and financially feasible.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL IACARELLA



President,  
Michael Iacarella

*In Memory of*

*Dr. Dawn Acko-Loerch class of '69 attended Carleton College, and then to the U of M where she graduated as one of the first female Dentist.*

*Paul Bath '63*

*Michael Bien*

*Evelyn Bill*

*Catherine Phillips Anderson '43*

*Patricia Calquire*

*Paul Christensen-Teacher*

*William Butch Chiodo*

*Robert Germundson '76*

*Margaret "Peg" Gunderson*

*George Gosslin*

*Francis Kiedrowski '41*

*Cornelius Kist '45*

*Darwin "Boots" Kromy '53*

*Bob Laing '57*

*Brian Kim Nebelung*

*Don Ortler*

*Eleanor Gisvold Rebholz '37*

*Sam Sivanich '80*

*Wanda Chase Stanley*

*Karen Donicht Super '71*

Greetings Fellow Tommies,  
The fall season is upon us and winter is around the corner and Thomas Edison High School is off to a great start for its 88<sup>th</sup> year of serving the northeast side of Minneapolis. With this year there is a renewed presence of energy that only 300 new freshmen can bring into a building. A large part of this incoming class is from the northeast neighborhood. We all know what great school spirit we had when we went to Edison because we were from the community and we had ties to everyone from all over northeast. It was like living in a small town. We were proud of where we were from and wanted to continue to support the area even though our paths might take us outside of the northeast area to live. I was always told if you leave an area, leave it in a better position than when you first came. How many of us can say that we gave back more than we took?

The Edison Community & Sports foundation wants to continue this renewed spirit of revitalization of the northeast area to a united community again with our commitment to building a "Legacy Fund". We want to try to give every stu-

dent who is graduating from Edison and is from northeast, a chance for a scholarship to continue their post secondary education. With the support of all the great alumni that we have, we can impact the lives of so many of our students for a long time. These students will then continue on the path to help keep making northeast the wonderful area that it is and will ensure that generations to come will be able to enjoy one of the most unique urban areas there is in the country.

The scholarships that the Foundation already has given out have impacted so many students already from the last three decades. Past ECSF scholarship winners, Bob Murtaugh (04) and John Kelley (01), both now sit on the foundation board. Bob works at Medtronic in finance and John is in the accounting field. Both appreciated the support the scholarship the foundation gave to them and wanted to give back to their school in more than just monetary ways. The Vang brothers, Sou (99) and Vue (97), both work in the IT department at Wells Fargo. Both of them received scholarships from the foundation and became the first people in their family to graduate from college. Without our help they were not sure if they could have made it through the expensive process of going to school. The two Vang brothers

helped us with our initial phases of our web site. There is also Nikki Fehn (98), another winner who offered her assistance to the board; she works in the finance field and now lives in Chisago Lakes. She is a former Miss Northeast and you can still see her at the beginning of the Central Ave. Parade, waving and cheering everyone on. There is also Barb Sporlein (84) who served on the board, she went to UW Madison. She now works for the City of Minneapolis in the planning department. She assisted on the board and was instrumental in reenergizing our May dinner into a more successful fundraising event with helping solicit and run the silent auction.

The reason why I am mentioning these former students is because giving back to their school and community was important to them. There is a connection that was fostered when you show people that you care about them. They, in turn want to help others. Northeast people have always been the most giving people whom I have ever met. I believe a big part of that is because we went to Edison, a school where we all appreciated what we had and accepted each other for what we were. We all had a common thread that we could count on each other to get us through good times and bad times. Please think about keeping that Edison and Northeast feeling alive by contributing to your Edison Community and Sports Foundation Legacy Fund.



## GOLF TOURNEY JULY 25, 2011

It's never too early to start planning for the Edison Community & Sports Foundations Golf Tournament. That's what we are doing now. It will take place on Monday, July 25th. We are always seeking help with hole sponsorship, small gifts for our

golfers, and new ideas.

We are proud of this tournament as it almost always sells out, brings alumni back together, not to mention it provides some generous scholarship funds back to the NE kids attending Edison High School.

## JACKSON SQUARE & EDISON HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS

Jackson Square Park and the grounds of the Edison High School campus have seen a flurry of activity this summer and fall as a number of projects come to fruition. The first to reach completion has been the Musical Instrument installation in the park, thanks to the generosity of the Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club.

Seven outdoor musical instruments from the Freenotes Company were installed in the park at the end of September. These unique, colorful pieces, with exotic names such as "Glass Imbarina" and "Sunset on the Yantzee", offer students and community members the opportunity to engage directly with musical sound.

While youth and adults are creating music, the University of Minnesota will undertake a study of the impact of the instruments on the school and larger community. Edison students, under the direction of music specialist Beth Hulteng, will assist with the study by remotely monitoring the use of the instruments. This exciting enhancement to the community offered a unique collaborative opportunity for the Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club, the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, the City of Minneapolis, Ward One Council Member Kevin Reich and the new Edison band program, directed by Beth Hulteng. The impetus and successful completion of the installation owes much to the efforts of Doug Schmitt of Schmitt Music, Rotarian and ECSF board member

John Vandermyde, and Dr. Scott Lipscomb of the University of Minnesota School of Music.

Across the park from the Musical Instruments, the Innovation Backstop continues to rise. Sculptor James Brenner has spent this summer and fall fabricating the Backstop in the former auto shop at Edison. This activity is part of a creative re-use of space in Edison, with artists-in-residence taking advantage of under-utilized facilities. Simultaneously he has been designing a sculptural sign for the school itself. This striking piece will be located at the northeast corner of the school grounds and its curved design will echo the shape of the Backstop it faces. The structure will be fabricated out of Corten steel and sculpted glass, surrounding a

dynamic signboard. Made possible by contributions from ECSF, Edison High School and Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association, the new sign will dramatically enhance Edison's visibility in the community.



*This article courtesy CM Kevin Reich's office associate, Lisa Brock.*

## EDISON ALUMNI BAND GOING TO NEW ORLEANS

It's official, the Edison Alumni Marching Band is actually going down to the "Big Easy" and playing for the crowds and representing Edison High School and northeast Minneapolis at this year's Mardi Gras celebrations this coming March. After a year of fundraising, playing at reunions and marching at various parades around the metro area, the band has finally made the commitment to play in three parades in New Orleans. The alumni band has been together for 33 years and this will be the first time the group performs outside the borders of the state of Minnesota.

The trip culminated from a chance of discovery by a music coach in the New Orleans area who saw the band in a national marching band magazine. The alumni band's signature song, "Basin Street Blues", is about the city of New Orleans and since they've been

playing that song since 1977, it is only fitting that they play it in the city that it honors.

The band will be playing in three parades: Tucks on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Napoleon on March 5<sup>th</sup> and Proteus on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Each parade is run by its own "Krewe" and is a minimum of 4.5 miles in length. The alumni band was requested to do the "Fat Tuesday" parade, "Rex", but alumni band members were not sure if they would be able to handle any more marching.

The longest parade the band has ever played in up to this date has been Stillwater which is 2.2 miles in length. So there is some practicing and conditioning that is going to be needed to make it through the three days of parades that are on the schedule.

The alumni band is also learning two new songs just for the Mardi Gras festivities: "Second Line" and "Carnival Time". These are traditional New Orleans blues songs and the arrangements were scripted just for the instrumentation of the alumni band. Up till now, the band has only performed music that they played in high school so they're treading on new ground.

The alumni band will be adding a Minnesota touch to the uniforms while participating in the parades: Vikings helmets. The band was thinking of some way to give their parade outfits more of a Mardi Gras flair. Murphy-Goode Winery from Sonoma, CA (which is run by a Minnesotan), had some Viking helmets made for last season and donated them to the band.

People in the parades will instantly know what state we are from and that we're a fun group of performers. The way the Vikings are playing this year we won't have to worry about angry Saints fans!

The Edison alumni band would like to thank all the wonderful people who have helped them with their contributions and support, both recently and over the years. This trip would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of those groups and individuals. The Edison Alumni Band is truly proud of the chance you have given us to perform and represent Edison and northeast Minneapolis on this world wide stage.

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!

## PRESENT DAY EDISON

BY THOMAS EDISON HIGH PRINCIPAL CARLA STEINBACH

Greetings Edison Alumni!

I hope this finds you having enjoyed our unseasonably warm fall. We have had a wonderful start to the school year, & want to take this time to share all the great things happening at Edison. First of all, we are pleased to announce that our enrollment exceeded our projection by 150 students with our freshman class at nearly 300 students. We were very fortunate to have added more sections of science, math, & English, as well as elective classes, to accommodate student needs.

As you may already know, in July, Edison was awarded grant money to support the efforts of becoming a Turnaround School. We were very fortunate to hire a new special education teacher, two new math & reading teachers & a literacy coach to ensure that all of our students are supported and prepared for success beyond high school. The extended school day is also new this year. The school day starts at 7:56 a.m. - ends at 3:00 p.m.

Edison's IB Diploma Programme has had an excellent beginning. There are 98 students taking one or more IB classes. We have 13 full diploma candidates. That means that these 13 students are taking the required 6 IB classes and will add a 7th "Theory of Knowledge" class during semester II.

Middle Years Programme (MYP: 9th & 10th Grades) Edison is now an authorized IB MYP "Candidate" school. Our MYP Application A was accepted last spring so we have begun using the MYP methodology in our English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies classes. All of these teachers will have received formal MYP training by the end of October. In addition to these four disciplines, MYP requires classes in Physical Education, Technology, World Language and Art for both years of MYP. Edison will submit our MYP Application B next October, after which the IB Americas'

office will schedule a formal site visit as the final step in full authorization.

Ninth grade Gilder Lehrman students went on a canoe field trip down the mighty Mississippi river on September 22nd. This was an all day event in which students experienced going through a lock system & learned about the river, environment along the river and its importance to the origination of the twin cities. This is one of the many opportunities our students will experience through our Gilder Lehrman program. This program gives students the opportunity to participate in higher level, thematic based classes. In these classes students are able to explore & create in a way not found in the typical classroom.

Morris Park Players Community Theater has moved to Edison High School. They are one of the longest operating community theaters & are known for their musicals. Stacey Kilton (teacher at Thomas Edison High School), Taji Robinson, 12th grade & Skye Horton 9th grade, (students at Edison High School) have been cast in Annie. Stacey will play in the role of Sophie. Taji and Skye are part of the adult chorus. Tickets are now on sale. Go to [www.morrisparkplayers.org](http://www.morrisparkplayers.org) for show times & tickets.

James Brenner, Director of Chicago Sculpture Works, has moved his studio to Thomas Edison High School. Students will have the opportunity to work with him on creating pieces of art. He has designed & is currently constructing a backstop for our home softball field at Jackson Square Park. He is also in the process of designing our electronic sign to be located on the corner of 22nd Ave/ Jackson St. Visit his website at [www.jamesbrenner.com](http://www.jamesbrenner.com) to see the future plans for Jackson Square Park.

Students from our Service Club & National Honor Society volunteered at Feed My Starving Children. During the hour & a half we were there the students packaged over 7200 dried meals for refugee camps.

Five of our Thomas Edison JA Company students (Mohamed Ahmed, Badru Wako, Josh Mattson, Gaby Cabrera, & Briseida Gomez) took fourth place this summer in the Junior Achievement National Competition of the Year that was held in Mpls. The JA Company program consists of teens taking a business idea from start to finish with the help of local business mentors by developing, marketing & selling a product. The students selected an international cookbook & partnered with Best Buy Corporation. They beat out 20 other teams from Canada & the United States that went through district & state competitions to get to Nationals. The students competed in three areas: (1) Presentation of Company – a four minute PowerPoint presentation to the judges; (2) Booth Interviews by judges; (3) Group Interviews with judges on what they learned, and what would they do differently. The Edison Tommie Company (ETC) was also acknowledged as having the BEST booth out of 24 booths that were on Nicollet Mall. Students dressed in their native clothes, displayed flags from some of the 30 different countries that are represented at Thomas Edison. Special thanks to Peter Xiong, who hand drew & colored a 10' x 3' banner for the booth & designed the cover of the cookbook. Abdirahman Haji, another ETC student, was a huge help in the set-up of the booth, selling cookbooks & networking at the 60th Celebration for Junior Achievement. To date, these students have sold approximately 500 cookbooks.

The students were interviewed by Kare-11, anchor women Kim Insley & were featured on her morning show on August 4. They were also featured in the Star/Tribune & Northeast newspaper. The students are helping Best Buy & Junior Achievement recruit other teams for this year, along with our team – to build the program citywide.

Five of our Junior Achievement Co. program students (Mohamed Ahmed, Abdirahman Haji, Badru Wako, Briseida Gomez, Gaby Cabrera), principal Carla Steinbach, & program manager Shirley Poelstra were invited to attend the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Dinner on Sept. 23 at the Mpls, Depot. Badru Wako & Briseida Gomez assisted the Master of Ceremonies in introducing the outstanding business owners that were being honored & inducted into the Hall of Fame. Students & staff stopped to pose with Andy Chow, Senior Director of Sales, Corporate Best Buy and Business Partner of Thomas Edison's JA company program. Started in 2005, the JAUM Business Hall of Fame was established to honor leaders from the Minnesota business community with the intention of using their stories as a tool to inspire and prepare local students to succeed in the global economy. Laureates are those who are elected & honored. These are individuals whose commitment to innovative business & community mindedness has had a powerful impact in the Upper Midwest. They demonstrate integrity, respect & excellence, & serve as role models for the students JAUM serves.

Go Tommies!

## EDISON HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation was founded 26 years ago with one of its purposes to identify and honor outstanding student-athletes. To do so the Edison Hall of Fame was established and an annual induction ceremony has been held and open to all alumni and friends of Edison. Each of the inductees

is recognized with a plaque which is mounted on the Hall of Fame wall in the Edison Community Gym.

The HOF selection committee is attempting to improve the selection process for candidates into the HOF. To get the widest and most complete information about potential candidate we are asking for

your help. Please help by identifying your top three female athletes, and your top three male athletes from your class. Submit your selections by emailing them to us at EdisonCSF@aol.com by January 15th, 2011. Your participation will help the ECSF Board to better identify and select the most worthy candidates

for inclusion into the Edison Hall Of Fame. Those chosen will be honored at a banquet in May 2011.



Recently E.C.S.F. collaborated with PEN to raise funds to Showcase our NE Schools.

A fundraiser was held on October 20th, at Sen Yai Sen Lek, (a wonderfully supportive NE Business!).

We'd like to thank everyone who attended, made a donation, passed on the flyer to friends.

Great things happen at schools where the community gets behind and supports them!



## 27TH ANNUAL MAY DINNER & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us again this Spring on Monday, May 2nd 2011 for our Annual May Dinner Scholarship Fundraiser. Ticket includes an exquisite steak dinner for two, prepared by the talented Chefs at Jax Café and A chance in the raffle drawing. Silent Auction.

We also feature a nice Silent Auction with items from many local businesses and alumni.

For the past 27 years Thomas Edison High School alumni, friends, teachers & students have been coming together to reminisce with fellow alumni,

and teachers while raising scholarship funds for the hardworking Edison seniors.

To donate an item for the Silent Auction, to Volunteer, or to purchase Tickets (tickets will be available starting in February), Please call Chairperson Dick Anderson at 612-788-9771

## OKTOBERFEST/HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

The third annual Edison Homecoming/Oktoberfest event was held on Friday, September 24th, and all though the Tommies did not pull off a victory against Redwood Valley High, a great time was had by all. It seems nothing can dampen the true Tommie Spirit!

Alumni, teachers, and friends of Edison, danced the night away to the great sounds of Dan Kuch, King Custom & the Cruisers, PopBang!, and of course our beloved Edison Alumni Band marching through the big tent playing Blue &

Gold with everyone on their feet singing and cheering!

We want to thank all of our sponsors who gave so generously and to our volunteers who devoted many hours in an effort to make this event a success for everyone involved.

Each year the Edison Community & Sports Foundation hosts this event in an effort to bring alumni and the community together to celebrate the great things happening at Thomas Edison High School.

Funds raised by ECSF will help to send the Edison Alumni Band to New Orleans for their big Mardi Gras debut, it also provided headsets for the Edison Football Team Coaches, and also helped to provide a new LED sign on the Edison High School grounds. Last years events helped provide a new sound system in the Edison Community Gym.

Tommies old, and new making a difference and keeping the Tommie Spirit alive! We thank you!

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATION

The Foundation's goal is to honor graduates of Edison High School that have achieved considerable success in their field, contributed significantly to Edison or the community or otherwise achieved recognition.

Nominations made be based on, but not limited to, the following:

- Success in business or entrepreneurship - Professional awards or recognition in their field.
- Consistent contributions or involvement with Edison.
- Recognized community involvement, either as a volunteer or elected official
- Recognized act of heroism.
- Success in the entertainment industry or in the arts
- Military honors

The committee will notify the new Distinguished Alumni and invite them to the annual Recognition Day program held at Edison High School each May, where they will be presented with a plaque. If the Distinguished Alumni is deceased or unable to attend, the nominator will be contacted and asked to select a recipient. A duplicate plaque will be permanently displayed at Edison High School.

Nominations can be sent to:

Edison High School  
 Attn. Distinguished Alumni Committee  
 700 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NE  
 Minneapolis, MN 55418

Please email your class reunion announcement to [EdisonCSF@aol.com](mailto:EdisonCSF@aol.com)

*Please help us get in contact with classes from the 80's until present. Class lists are no longer public information and we'd like to keep these Alumni informed of what's going on at Edison too. If you know of someone who may be able to help us get in contact with these classes please pass on our contact information or have them contact us.*

***SPECIAL THANKS TO*** OUR LOCAL CHARITABLE GAMBLING SITES  
 THE FUNDS RAISED GO TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS,  
 OUR THOMAS EDISON COMMUNITY, AND THIS NEWSLETTER  
 PLEASE TELL THEM YOU ARE AN EDISON ALUM AND APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT!



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\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 Gold Level

\_\_\_ \$ 500.00 Blue Level

\_\_\_ \$ 250.00 Tommie Level

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in Memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

in Honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program

Contributions made to the Edison Community Sports Foundation help

Support this newsletter and provide scholarships for Edison students

who have shown excellence in academics, athletics and the arts.

All contributions are fully deductible

**CONTRIBUTORS....CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!**

**BLUE LEVEL**

Mary Wirth

**FRIEND OF EDISON**

John Bloomquist

Fayette Grover '44 in Honor of Jeanne (Axelson) Woodberry

Marlene Nelson Larson '55

Florence Waldera Manley '38 in Memory of Myrtle Hafefce

James T. Manthis '60

June Savstrom Stout '42

Gerald Scavo '70

Marie Uchanski Tromiczak '43 in Honor of Peter (Jerry) Uchanski

G & K Vegas, Inc.

**50.00 LEVEL**

Robert M. Duncan '35 in Memory of Bill Dunn '36 and in

Honor of John Kappa '35

Nancy Zaworski '75

**25.00 LEVEL**

Rita Andrescik '55 in Memory of Bill Calguire

David Bakun '77

Heidi & John Burmis '63 in Memory of Joseph Godava &

Barbara (Godava) Stone

Mary Dymanyk '46

Rickey Ferrara '69 in Memory of James S. Ferrara (Sr.) '40

James Fitzgerald '49 in Memory of Elmer Sodergren/Music Teacher-

James E. Horn

Roy Jernall

Frank Kokon '43 in Memory of Victor Kocon

Ronald Miskowic '55

Joan Palmquist in Honor of Bill Pielow

Helen Pietrowski '44

Roger Peterson '73

Anthony Savage '77

David & Jeanne (Ochu) Walthour '64

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**Edison Community & Sports Foundation**  
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Minneapolis, MN 55418

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE?



Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please send it to us and we'll include it. Interesting historical photos, class reunion announcements, or anything to do with Edison school will be considered. Also the ECSF would like to offer classes the opportunity to utilize our mailing services and non profit mailing permit. Please contact us for more information. Send your information to:  
Mike Iacarella, c/o Edison High School  
700 22nd Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
EdisonCSF@aol.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is made up of 30 Board Directors who volunteer their time and efforts to support Edison High School students and organizations with scholarships and other charitable commitments. It started as a way to honor former teacher/coach and great athlete — Pete Guzy. And has become a lasting tribute to his spirit and Edison's alumni's dedication to the school and Northeast Minneapolis.

You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, May Dinner, or Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament, the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a contribution directly to the scholarship fund, or Legacy Program.

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION

The Board of Directors meet at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Northeast Park, Minneapolis. Changes will be posted on our website [www.EdisonSportsFoundation.com](http://www.EdisonSportsFoundation.com)

700 22nd Avenue Northeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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