

ZEF eNewsletter January 2023



With Sincere Appreciation

As we look back on 2022, we would like to thank you for your support. Your annual generosity enabled us to grant more than \$146,000 for unique learning opportunities for students, growth and renewal for educators, and funding for transformational and innovative ideas across the district.

One surprise donation in December represents so much of what we love about ZEF's mission in our community. As part of its holiday celebration, VS Engineering gave each department money for a nonprofit of their choice. Zionsville resident and former ZCS parent Evan Williams directed the Technology department's portion to ZEF. That, in and of itself, was a wonderful surprise. However, when talking with Mr. Williams and VS Engineering CEO & President Sanjay Patel, we realized that the connections went far beyond a simple donation.

Mr. Patel is a Zionsville resident, ZCS parent, and his wife Cathy teaches in the district. Mr. Williams chose ZEF because of a past ZEF grant experience. His son, E.J., created a self-balancing Segway in Matt Mulholland's AP Physics class at ZCHS - a life changing experience made possible by a ZEF grant! E.J. went on to earn a degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University and continues his work in the field today.

ZEF donors have many reasons for giving and we are grateful for each and every one. Whether you give for your kids, their teachers, past experiences, or the exciting possibilities of future life-changing grants, we truly appreciate your support!



Sanjay Patel (CEO & President) and Evan Williams (IT) with VS Engineering present a donation to ZEF Executive Director Lyle Browne and ZEF Board Vice President Kim Lewis.

Read on to learn about:

- Honoring retiring ZCS Superintendent
 - ZEF Grants in Action
 - Upcoming Grant Opportunities
 - DonorsChoose Matching Funds
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In Honor of Dr. Scott Robison



Donations to the Zionsville Education Foundation (ZEF) in honor of Dr. Scott Robison's lifelong commitment to students and his retirement from the Zionsville Community Schools will support ZEF Student Enrichment Grants. When Dr. Robison says our district's goal is "student growth" he means it for every student. Several years ago, he championed the establishment of ZEF Student Enrichment Grants. Similar to many ZEF grants, these funds provide unique learning opportunities to foster student growth. These grants are a unique and fitting way to honor a talented educator and leader.

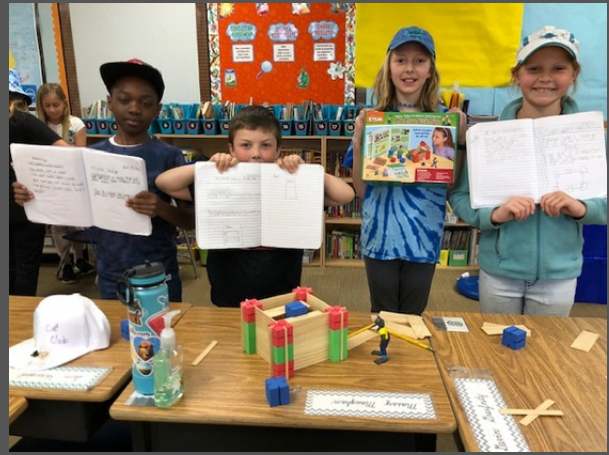
Donations can be made by check to: ZEF, 900 Mulberry St, Zionsville, IN 46077 or electronically [here](#).

Please note that your donation is in honor of Dr. Robison in the memo line of the check or when prompted on the donation form.

Questions about the fund or the Zionsville Education Foundation can be directed to ZEF at 317.733.4805 or zef@zcs.k12.in.us.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

**ZEF Grants in Action:
Fairy Tales and Folk Tales -
Creating Alternate Endings**



Problem solving, collaboration, creativity, engineering, literacy, and so much more come together in this grant! *Fairy Tales and Folk Tales - Creating Alternate Endings* is a 2022 ZEF Fall Classroom Grant awarded to Karen Stillions and Kaleigh Kanipe. It gives Pleasant View Elementary 3rd graders the chance to engineer happier endings to popular fairy tales and folk tales.

The ZEF Classroom Grant provided STEM kits to help students design alternate endings. For example, students can design a house for the *Three Little Pigs* that cannot be blown down.

As third grade teacher and ZEF Grant recipient Karen Stillions said, "The students were thrilled for these additional experiences to branch out into the science and creativity of using the fairy tale STEM kits to find other solutions to what were well known stories but they along with partners or small groups were able to come up with fun and different solutions to how those characters could solve the problems they encountered in the stories."

ZEF Grants not only inspire students, they give teachers a way to bring new excitement into the classroom. "As a teacher it is always a pleasure to be able to extend the learning and see the joy on my students' faces as they celebrate and go beyond what is normally the day-to-day activities in class," said Mrs. Stillions.

ZEF Classroom and Imagine Grants Applications Due February 28th

We are excited for the upcoming ZEF grants cycle! Whether it is a creative idea for a classroom or an opportunity for professional growth and renewal for educators, ZEF grants provide funding to make it a reality! **Applications for both Classroom and Imagine Professional Development Grants are due on Tuesday,**

February 28 at 4:00pm.

ZEF Classroom Grants provide funding for innovative and creative projects in the classroom, across a grade level, in subject areas, in a school, or among schools. These grants are open to all ZCS teachers, administrators, and staff. ZEF Classroom Grant guidelines and application information can be found [here](#).

ZEF Imagine Professional Development Grants provide educators (with three or more years of full-time education experience) with growth and renewal opportunities. Imagine Grant guidelines and application information can be found [here](#).

Do you have questions about ZEF Grants? Call Lyle Browne at x11500 or 317.733.4805 to learn more. Visit our website [here](#) to see past grants.



DONORS CHOOSE



Did you know that ZEF offers matching funds for ZCS teachers' DonorsChoose projects? Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Boone County (CFBC), teachers can apply for up to \$250 of matching funds for their project. Learn more by clicking [here](#)!



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