



**FOUNDATION
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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News Release

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Historic gift made to Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools

LINCOLN, Neb. – Lincolnites Ed and Mary Copple donated \$1 million to the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools to support a Student Athlete Development Center at Seacrest Field. The gift is the largest donation in the history of the Foundation, surpassing a previous contribution from Tom and Nancy Osborne to the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

The Student Athlete Development Center will be a multi-functional facility serving student athletes, city and statewide, and for coaches training and clinics. The facility will provide a place for physical and mental development for youth from across the state. The building will supplement the existing locker rooms at Seacrest Field which have been in use for over 40 years and will continue to be used. The center will be available for use by other community organization. The construction is set to be completed in fall 2008.

“Mary and I support the Foundation because we believe it serves as a conduit between the Lincoln school district and various segments of the community,” said Ed Copple. “We all agree that the future of our great country lies in the hands of its young people. Therefore, it’s in everyone’s interest to provide the best programs and facilities to help these young people grow.”

The historic donation is the lead gift in the launch of a major gift campaign at the Foundation entitled “Great Schools...*Forever!*” With this gift, the Foundation has cash and pledge commitments of \$5.6 million towards a three-year, \$10 million campaign. The purpose of the campaign, headed by co-chairs Bob and Marilyn Harris, is to provide students and teachers with opportunities that would otherwise be beyond their reach. Campaign goals support the Foundation’s mission to enhance reading, math and science skills in K-12; to expand opportunities for low-income Lincoln students and families; to provide resources to schools and teachers who have more needs with less funding; and to sustain the work of the Foundation which undergirds all programming.

“Investing in schools means investing in our community’s future,” said LPS Superintendent E. Susan Gourley. “We are grateful to Ed and Mary Copple for this generous gift to Lincoln Public Schools and for their support in building opportunities for youth.”

Ed Copple is president of Copple Insurance Agency, Inc. He served on the LPS Board of Education for nine years and held positions including vice president and president.

Mary Copple worked for LPS for six years as a teacher at Prescott Elementary School and Holmes Elementary School.

“We hope that the Copple’s gift will set a precedent for other community members to get involved with their local schools,” said Foundation President Barbara Bartle. “It’s important to build opportunities for our youth who are potentially the next great doctors, scientists and community leaders.”

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools was established in 1989 to provide opportunities for students and teachers that go beyond what tax dollars support. The mission of the Foundation recognizes outstanding educators and provides enrichment programming, scholarships and emergency funds that create a wealth of experiences for students.

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