



Spring 2010

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[www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org)

# en Newsletter



*Supporting  
Jeffco Public Schools  
in preparing  
all students  
for a  
successful future!*

The Jefferson Foundation  
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Lakewood, CO 80215  
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[www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org)

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## Good News Breakfast to honor TJF's Salazar Literacy Initiative

**The good news** doesn't always make headlines, so a group of community leaders in Jefferson County founded the Good News Breakfast 19 years ago to draw attention to positive things happening in our community.

In 2010, one of those positive things is The Jefferson Foundation's Salazar Literacy Initiative, a fund of the Foundation that supports literacy and related programs in Jefferson County Public Schools.

"Our Good News Breakfast theme this year is 'Literacy—Creating Lifelong Learners,'" said Tori Merritts, a member of The Jefferson Foundation's Board of

Directors and a member of the Good News Coalition.

Funded by the Salazar Family Foundation and managed by The Jefferson Foundation, the Salazar Literacy Initiative will provide another \$100,000 over the next two years to programs that reduce literacy achievement gaps in Jeffco Public Schools. The Salazar Family Foundation is a private foundation established to support the work of The Jefferson Foundation, the DPS Foundation and Escuela de Guadalupe.

"This program of The Jefferson Foundation has provided nearly \$1 million in funding for literacy programs over the years," Merritts

said. "The grants made through the Salazar Literacy Initiative have reached literally every school in Jefferson County."

The Good News Breakfast will be held from 6:59 to 8:29 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds (15200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Golden). Tickets are \$13 per person and include breakfast catered by Jeffco's own WarrenTech *Expectations* restaurant.

To learn more, please visit [www.goodnewsjeffco.com](http://www.goodnewsjeffco.com). At the website, you can view information about past honorees, print invitations and RSVP for this year's breakfast.

## Month-long Serving Kids clothing drive is a success

In February and March, more than 60 volunteers lent their time to The Jefferson Foundation's Serving Kids clothing drive, hosted by Southwest Plaza and the *Columbine Courier*. The drive netted nearly 500 pounds of new and near-new clothes and shoes for Jeffco kids.

"Response to the drive was tremendous," said Katie Tiernan, Executive Director of the Foundation. "We had people cleaning out their kids' closets and bringing in bags of clean clothing, mailing checks to buy shoes, and even buying new clothes at Southwest Plaza for children they will never meet."

Serving Kids, a program of The Jefferson Foundation in partnership with the Jefferson County Administrators Association (JCAA) and the various employee associations in Jeffco Public Schools, was founded to provide new and near-new clothing and shoes for students in need. The program is entirely school-based, eliminating travel obstacles for low-income families and ensuring the privacy of kids receiving donated clothing.

This year, about 1,400 kids will receive clothing and shoes through the program. Serving Kids is run entirely by volunteers, many of them retired Jeffco employees.



From left: Volunteers Michelle Stansbury and Carol O'Brien accept donations from Annika and Nathaniel Newman

Donations for Serving Kids can be dropped off at The Jefferson Foundation (809 Quail St., Bldg. #1, Lakewood) Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Make checks payable to The Jefferson Foundation.

To volunteer with Serving Kids or to find out more about accessing the program for Jeffco students, please call JCAA at 303.982.2225 or visit [www.jcaajeffco.org/servingkids](http://www.jcaajeffco.org/servingkids).

THE JEFFERSON FOUNDATION  
  
**Love our schools**  
 JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Upcoming Love Our Schools Luncheon seeks to raise more than \$20,000 for TJF's work

**It's a model** pioneered by "church ladies" in the South, but it truly is the latest trend in nonprofit fundraising. Invite neighbors to lunch, tell them about your passion, and let them make a donation to support it. Dollar for dollar, it's an incredibly cost-effective fundraising technique.

The Jefferson Foundation's First Annual **Love Our Schools Luncheon** will host about 300 people from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 29 at the Denver West Sheraton.

With generous event underwriting by FirstBank, the Foundation will spend nearly nothing on the event. Similarly sized luncheon's have netted more than \$20,000 for other Jeffco youth-serving organizations.

"The success of an event like this rests on the commitment of 'Table Captains,'" said Greg Drake, the Chairman of the Foundation's Fund Development Committee. "People who believe in our work fill a table of ten by inviting friends, family and colleagues to the event. We show them why our programs are valuable, and by dessert, people are voluntarily making donations."

"The best part is that Table Captains don't have to ask for money—they just invite their friends to have lunch."

The Foundation still has three tables open. To volunteer as a Table Captain, please contact the Foundation's Executive Assistant, Cyndee Manauh, at 303.982.2210.

## Did you know?

Researchers at Ohio State University found in 2006 that up to 7% of home value is directly tied to the quality of nearby public schools. The connection held firm across all price ranges—low- to high-income neighborhoods were all affected by changes in school performance.

## Check out these scholarships, grants and fundraisers for your program or school!

**The Jefferson Foundation** researches opportunities to help schools and community organizations do more. The following resources are separate of The Jefferson Foundation and are not endorsed by The Jefferson Foundation. *Contact the funders or companies directly to learn more. Have an opportunity you want to publicize to our schools and community partners? Email the details, including a website address for more information, to The Jefferson Foundation eNewsletter at [newsletter@jeffersonfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@jeffersonfoundation.org)*

### Scholarships managed by The Jefferson Foundation

Review and apply for post-secondary scholarships for Jeffco graduates. Deadlines vary; ask your school counseling department.

Learn more at: [www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org)

### CollegelInColorado Scholarship Database

Search for scholarships posted on a massive statewide database and use online tools to plan for college. *Deadlines vary.*

Learn more at [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org)

### Credit Union of Denver Scholarship

\$2,000 scholarships for education after high school. Applicants must be current members of the credit union; students of Jeffco schools are eligible to join the credit union. *Deadline: April 30.*

Learn more at: [www.cudenver.com](http://www.cudenver.com)

### Do Something and HP Increase Your Green Grants

Grants of up to \$5,000, plus donated HP notebook computers, for K-12 schools that plan to reduce waste, save energy and use technology to "go green." *Deadline: April 22, 2010*

Learn more at: [www.dosomething.org/increase\\_your\\_green](http://www.dosomething.org/increase_your_green)

### Jefferson Foundation General Program Grants

Grants of \$2,000 to \$7,000 for programs that will seek to reduce achievement gaps or increase graduation rates in the 2010-2011 school year. Public Jeffco schools or community-based nonprofits are eligible to apply. *Deadline: April 30, 2010*

Learn more at: [www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org)

### Gloria Barron Prize

Recognizing youth ages 8 to 18 for the positive differences they make in their communities. *Deadline: April 30*

Learn more at: [www.barronprize.org](http://www.barronprize.org)

### Target Stores Grants to Support Arts and Literacy

Grants of up to \$2,000 for K-12 schools and other nonprofit organizations that foster a love of reading and art and create pathways for literacy and art experiences. *Deadline: April 30, 2010*

Learn more at: [www.dosomething.org/increase\\_your\\_green](http://www.dosomething.org/increase_your_green)

### ING Unsung Heroes Program Grants

Grants for K-12 educators to fund innovative classroom projects. *Deadline: April 30, 2010*

Learn more at: [www.ing-usa.com/us](http://www.ing-usa.com/us)

### MetLife-NASSP Breakthrough Schools Grants

Grants of up to \$5,000 from MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals to recognize middle and high schools succeeding with free and reduced lunch student populations of more than 40%. *Deadline: May 15, 2010*

Learn more at: [www.principals.org/breakthrough](http://www.principals.org/breakthrough)

### Learning Points Rewards (LPR)

A program of for-profit CreditBack, Inc., Learning Points Rewards offers merchant cards that earn cash back for schools when used online and at retailers nationwide.

Learn more at [www.learningpointsrewards.com](http://www.learningpointsrewards.com)

## Foundation honors exceptional Jeffco students with expanded Hero award

**With selection criteria** based on overcoming extraordinary personal obstacles to success, as well as service to one's community and high academic achievement, The Jefferson Foundation's My Student, My Hero award is unlike many student recognition programs.

The honor, given annually to a handful of Jeffco seniors from more than 9,000 across all the district's high school programs, is meant to shine light on the unsung heroes in our classrooms.

In 2010, with the support of the award's presenting partners Southwest Plaza and the *Columbine Courier*, the My Student, My Hero

award was expanded beyond South and Mountain Jeffco schools to open nominations in all of Jeffco's secondary programs.

Students were recognized at an event at the Southwest Plaza Community Stage on Saturday, March 6. Although no scholarship money is associated with the recognition, students did receive a thank you bag filled with gifts from BeauJo's Colorado Pizza and Dick's Sporting Goods at Southwest Plaza. Lunch was provided by Chik-fil-A.

Students also received a personal portrait session by Jackie Green of Jacqueline's Photography of Littleton; portraits hung on

Southwest Plaza's Wall of Heroes throughout the month of March.

Heroism is a tricky thing to define, but each of 2010's eight honorees exemplify it in different ways. One honoree makes it a point to invite new or unpopular students to sit with him at lunch, while another has a near 4.0 despite losing her entire family, moving to the U.S. and not learning English until she was teenager.

"It was an honor to meet this year's winners. These young men and women are truly the best of Jeffco," said Foundation Director of Marketing Anton Delgado. "Their everyday heroism is nothing short of inspirational."



From left: 2010 My Student, My Hero award winners Vanessa Madrigal, Alameda; Sonja Ramirez, Brady Exploration School; Connor Davis, D'Evelyn; David Perez, Dakota Ridge; Anya Kaufman, Evergreen; Kim Spahr, Green Mountain; Jane Kuhlwillm, Pomona; Courtney Pacheco, WarrenTech.

### New Arvada High School Bulldog Commons project underway with help from TJF

**Don't tell students** and alumni of Arvada High School that construction projects aren't possible during a recession.

With the help of an entire community, Leadership Arvada and AHS students are pounding the pavement to raise money for a building renovation project that will give the 100-year-old school a new student commons area. Only one month into their \$10,000-\$50,000 capital campaign, the school's student government and alumni association have raised nearly \$3,000 from businesses and individuals and secured an in-kind contribution worth \$10,000.

The school has a cafeteria and gym, but no commons area where students can meet between classes or after school.

"We want to create a place to call home within the school," said Beverly Craddock, a community relations specialist for Jeffco Public Schools and a member of Leadership Arvada.

The Jefferson Foundation typically does not provide funding for capital projects, but through an agreement with officers of Leadership Arvada and the Arvada Alumni Association, the Foundation will house the project's capital funds. Donors to the project get to take a tax deduction through the Foundation, and the school can focus on education and year-end events instead of on fund accounting.

To learn more about how your school can partner with The Jefferson Foundation to take advantage of its tax status, contact Executive Director Katie Tiernan at 303.982.2261.

## Staff, families line up for discounted tickets to Pepsi Center's Avs, Nuggets

*Jeffco Community Night with the Denver Nuggets coming April 12!*

**Taking a family** of four to a Colorado Avalanche hockey or Denver Nuggets basketball game can be expensive. With tickets in Denver's Pepsi Center lower levels starting at \$60, most Jeffco families simply can't afford to see their favorite sports stars live.

Unless, of course, they buy their tickets through special Jeffco Community Night promotions.

The March 6 Avalanche hockey game against the St. Louis Blues was offered to Jeffco teachers and families for just \$22 per seat. A portion of each ticket sale was donated back to The Jefferson Foundation by Kroenke Sports Enterprises.

"We sold more than 3,000 tickets, so the donation back to us was pretty substantial," said Foundation Financial Assistant Sarah Baker.

Fans at the Jeffco Community Night with the Colorado Avalanche saw a win, with seven Avs goals and a hat trick by right wing Chris Stewart.



Hockey fans from Jeffco wore their hearts on their sleeves at the recent Jeffco Community Night with the Colorado Avalanche.

The playoff-bound Denver Nuggets will host a Jeffco Community Night during their last home game of the season and Fan Appreciation Night on April 12 against the Memphis Grizzlies. Tickets are \$20 for upper level (normally \$27) or \$55 for lower level seats (normally \$78). A portion of ticket sales benefit the Foundation.

*Jeffco Community Night with the Denver Nuggets tickets available at [www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org).*



## Upcoming Jefferson Foundation Events: Hope to see you there!

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**A Jeffco Community Night with  
the Denver Nuggets**

Discounted tickets online at  
[www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org)  
Get your tickets today—this event  
will sell out!  
Denver Nuggets  
vs. Memphis Grizzlies  
Pepsi Center  
**Monday, April 12, 7 p.m.**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**Middle School Art Show Artists  
Celebration**

Featuring Jeffco's most talented  
middle school student artists!  
Lakewood Cultural Center  
**Thursday, April 22, 5 p.m.**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**Jeffco Public Schools Employee  
Values Awards**

By invitation only  
Arvada Center for the Arts &  
Humanities  
**Wednesday, April 28, 3:30 p.m.**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**"Love Our Schools!" Luncheon**

Fundraiser highlighting programs  
supported by the Foundation  
To RSVP, call 303.982.2210  
Sheraton Denver West Hotel  
**Thursday, April 29, 11:30 a.m.**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**High School Art Show Awards  
Ceremony**

The biggest annual gallery event at  
the Arvada Center!  
Arvada Center for the Arts  
& Humanities  
**Monday, May 10, 6 p.m.**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**A Jeffco Community Night with  
the Colorado Rockies**

Discounted tickets coming soon at  
[www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org)  
Colorado Rockies  
vs. Washington Nationals  
Coors Field  
**Friday, May 14, 7 p.m.**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**Lights On After School Year-End  
Celebration!**

Come meet the kids and see the  
programs that make our Lights On  
After School partnership so  
successful!  
Jefferson High School  
**Wednesday, May 5, 6 p.m.**

### **Coming soon!**

*The Jefferson Foundation presents*  
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Crystal Ball**  
Arvada Center  
for the Arts & Humanities  
**Saturday, November 6, 5:30 p.m.**

*Stay tuned for more events happening  
in the coming year!*

*Want to sponsor an event?  
Want to volunteer to help us  
with our programs?*

**Give us a call!**  
**303-982-2210**

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The Jefferson Foundation said "Thanks A Latté!" to Green Mountain High School in February with a \$2,000 grant supported by Village Roaster Coffee, Tea and Spice shops in Lakewood. Green Mountain staff signed up in record numbers to donate to the Foundation through payroll giving—18 employees at the school committed to making monthly contributions to the Foundation's work in 2010! Village Roaster presented the school with the unrestricted grant, along with Village Roaster coffee for everyone, at the school's February in-service day. Pictured from left: *TJF Executive Director Katie Tieman; Village Roaster Co-Owner Kathleen Curtis, GMHS Special Education Teacher Mike Watt; GMHS Principal Barb Goings.*

### **About The Jefferson Foundation . . .**

Incorporated in 1983, The Jefferson Foundation is the oldest continuous 501c3 nonprofit K-12 education foundation in Colorado. As an independent nonprofit organization, it raises funds, develops strategic partnerships and supports important programs and projects that enhance public education in Jefferson County. With more than 86,000 students and 12,500 employees, Jeffco Public Schools is the largest school district in the state.

The Jefferson Foundation strives to be the gold standard in educational foundations in Colorado. Its mission, to support Jeffco Public Schools in preparing all students for a successful future, is affirmed in 2009-2010 with a focus on closing achievement gaps and further increasing graduation rates.

For more information on The Jefferson Foundation, please visit [www.jeffersonfoundation.org](http://www.jeffersonfoundation.org).