

**CONCORDIA**  
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA  
FOUNDATION

**GIVE  
GRACEFULLY  
& GRATEFULLY**

*It's all His!*

*We are stewards!*

*Serve those with need!*

*Give gracefully  
and gratefully!*

**Foundation Board**

Mr. A. William "Bill" Kernen-Chair

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Mr. Lee Handke

Mrs. Gail Hawkins

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Mrs. Gaye Lynn Schaffart

**Ex Officio Members:**

Mr. Rob Cooksey

Mr. Steve Gedwillo

Mr. Aaron Sailer

I RECENTLY REVIEWED THE JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION WHITE PAPER *THE SCIENCE OF GENEROSITY*. I WAS STRUCK AT HOW DIFFERENT OUR CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOURCE OF GENEROSITY IS WHEN COMPARED TO THE SECULAR WORLD.

The expression of Biblical generosity I have retained over many years dates back to the pews of St. John Lutheran Church in Seward, Nebraska. It was there we sang hymn 441, "We Give Thee But Thine Own." Based on Matthew 25:34-40 and Proverbs 3:9.

*We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be,  
For all we have is thine alone, A trust O Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus, As stewards true receive,  
And gladly as thou blessed us, To thee our first-fruits give.*

*To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and fatherless is angels' work below.*

*And we believe thy word, Tho dim our faith may be,  
Whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, We do it unto thee.*

I am thankful for the Christian stewardship of our volunteers, alumni and donors! I thank God for sharing the gift of eternal life through his son, Jesus Christ, and for entrusting to each of us the opportunity to give back in return for all that we have been given. Thank you for your generosity through the years!



*Blessings!*

*Rob Cooksey*  
**Rob Cooksey**  
President

Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Foundation

# Why I Give

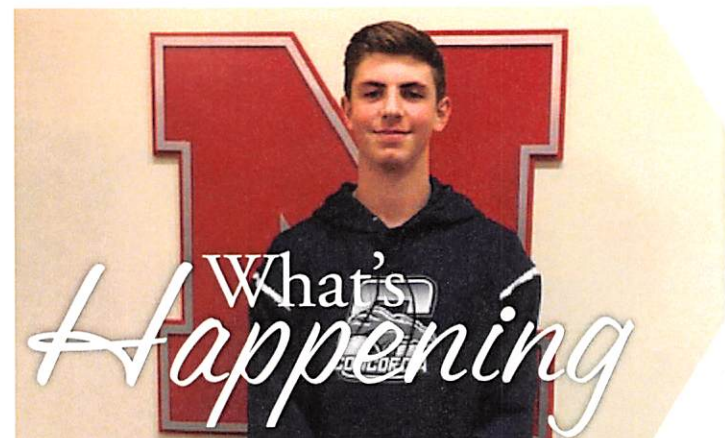
## MRS. JEAN

**WILSHUSEN** and her family have been a part of Concordia for over 17 years. During that time Jean has given of both her time and treasures. Jean and her husband, Doug, have had one daughter and a total of five grandchildren attend Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha.



In the early years of Concordia High School, Jean volunteered in the Concordia Store selling snacks, school supplies and uniform shirts. She did this before she went to her full-time job as the Office Manager for their family-run business. Currently, you can find Jean volunteering each Friday serving lunch at Concordia to both Jr. and Sr. High students. Jean is now retired but enjoys staying active and shares that volunteering in this way brings her joy, "Volunteering gives me a purpose and it keeps me young."

Other benefits to volunteering are the relationships you build with the other volunteers. Jean says that her "team" has developed a good routine and she enjoys seeing those same folks each week. Jean encourages others to volunteer and bless the school in this way. She explained that it's not hard work but is a real need that is easy to fill. For those who are reluctant to volunteer, Jean shared these final thoughts, "whatever gift you have, use it to the benefit of others."



# Erica Henderson; Faith Secure, World Ready, Kingdom Leader

"Lions and tigers and bears oh my!" could be Erica Henderson's ("14) theme these days as she works in South Africa and lives on a wild game farm. Erica attended Iowa State after graduating from Concordia with a plan to study Biology. In the end, however; she finished with a degree in Global Resource Systems. This degree has allowed her to explore her passion for science and engage in work that makes a true difference in both international development and conservation. After graduation, Erica interned with Compassion International for five months in the Dominican Republic and Colorado. She currently works for the non-profit, Blessman International, as an Agricultural Specialist. In this role, she instructs local teachers and school staff in basic agricultural and nutrition principles. Once this current role ends, Erica plans to apply to graduate school and work on a Masters in Global Health.

Erica is thankful that she came to Concordia back in 2008

as an 8th grader, "Concordia was a real steward of my growth and gave me a foundation of faith." She enjoyed being able to discuss both academic and faith issues in her classes. She also treasures the friendships she made during high school and is still close to several of her fellow Concordia alums.

Erica wanted to be sure and give a "shout out" to Mr. Ellis as he played a huge role in creating her passion for biology and showed her how to pair both a work and faith life. She shared that after her first year of college she came back to CHS and spent time with Mr. Ellis asking him a ton of questions. After that discussion, she realized she didn't need to have all of the answers and was able to move forward more confidently.

*We are cheering you on Erica!! Continue your life-changing work and keep growing in your faith and knowledge, as well.*

## Helping Families When They Need it Most

In order to offer the Concordia experience to more families and students from the Omaha metro community, Concordia provides needs-based financial assistance. More than 25% of enrolling families apply and qualify for financial scholarship. For the 2019-2020 school year, the total financial support for Concordia K-12 students is \$729,750. One family that has been blessed by the gift of financial scholarship is the Stevens family. Since April 2018, Christy Stevens, an Omaha Police Sergeant, has had numerous life threatening health issues that have kept her from being able to work. Through it all, she fought to survive for her children and says that "God touched me and let me know I was going to be okay". Christy's children Jaylee (10), Anthony (7), Dante (6), and Ile (5) have all benefited from the small class sizes at Concordia Academy and the family atmosphere. Through all of Christy's health crises, school has been a constant support network for them. At Concordia, they are receiving the gospel message of hope, love and the possibility of miracles every single day!

Four Concordia students were among the top 60 math students in the state of Nebraska. 1,400 competed at the UNL Math Day on Nov. 14th. Senior, Jared Eastman, was recognized as one of the top 40 Mathematicians in the state!

Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School students were blessed to witness the baptism of sisters, Sofia and Ella Hess during a recent chapel service.

## It Is Finished THE WORK AT THE CROSS IS FINISHED, YET ITS BEAUTY REMAINS.

A beautiful piece of Art was installed at the Fort Street campus near the circle doors. This commissioned piece was donated to Concordia by Nancy Griffith. She also donated funds that, in partnership with a Mundt Foundation grant, enabled Concordia to add the new Jr. High wing which includes seven classrooms! We thank the artist, Rachel Ziegler, for her amazing creation, concept artist William Wolfram and the many volunteer hands, especially, Jon Wilshusen and Pre-Wel Manufacturing Corp.

# Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Foundation

In 2000, Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha (CLSO), formerly Wider Omaha Lutheran Schools Association (WOLSA), was blessed with a gift of 40 acres of land and a training facility for horses on the northwest corner of 156<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets. Soon after, a campaign was mounted to help convert the gift into a junior/senior high school campus. Some donors asked that their gift go to an endowment with earnings supporting student scholarships. To meet this desire, a task team was formed to recommend the best way to be good stewards of the donor gifts. It was recommended that WOLSA form a separate foundation to oversee the stewardship of the endowment's assets at the direction of the School Board of Directors. The WOLSA School Board of directors approved the recommendation by 2001. The name of the school and foundation was officially changed to Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha and Foundation (CLSO).

The purpose of the CLSO Foundation is to support Concordia Schools of Omaha. This is done by investing and managing donated dollars to fund student scholarships, general school sustainability and capital expenditures. The current priority of the Foundation is to increase its general endowment to support scholarships and mission advancement.

The CLSO Foundation partners with the School Board of Directors to assist with advancement efforts and manage assets so its use is consistent with Concordia's mission, vision and strategic plan. The spending policy is between 4% and 5% per year of the market value of the endowment assets.

*A. William "Bill" Kernen . Chairman, CLSO Foundation*

*As of June 30, 2019, the Foundation endowment assets totaled*  
**\$2,400,000.**

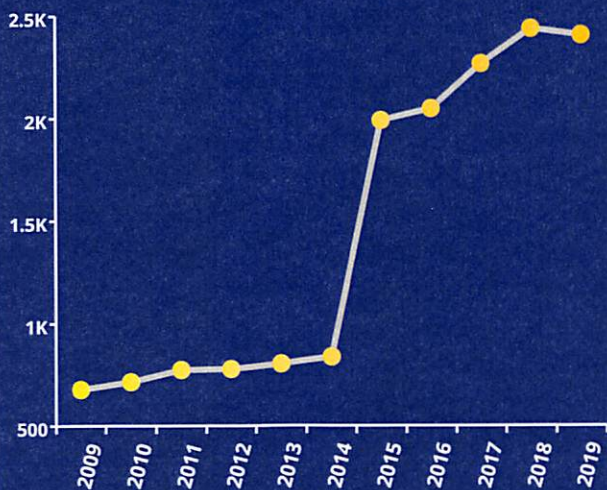
*Over the last three fiscal years, the following distributions have been made to fund student scholarships.*

**2017 : \$55,000**

**2018 : \$70,000**

**2019 : \$155,000**

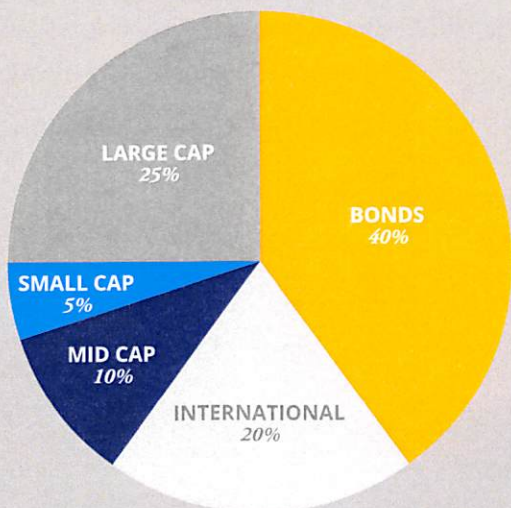
## Ten Year Value of Foundation Portfolio



Portfolio Value (\$ Thousands) / Fiscal Year End

## Total Market Value as of June 2019: **\$2.4M**

The endowment is invested with the goal of minimizing the level of risk needed to generate returns that will support the ongoing needs of the school. Assets are invested across all major publicly traded securities to diversify the endowment's sources of risk and return.



**CONCORDIAOMAHA.ORG**

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CONCORDIA  
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA  
FOUNDATION **WINTER 2020**

***fine arts***

**THE MONTH OF  
DECEMBER WAS FULL  
OF JOY AND SUCCESS IN  
THE AREA OF FINE ARTS.  
CONCORDIA PARENTS  
AND SUPPORTERS WERE  
BLESSED TO ATTEND  
THREE DIFFERENT NIGHTS  
OF CHRISTMAS CONCERTS  
BETWEEN OUR TWO  
CAMPUSES.**



In addition, our One Act team brought home the State Championship for the first time in school history. Concordia is also proud to say that the best high school jazz trumpet player (Charlie Campbell-class of 2021) in the state of Nebraska, as recognized by state level competitions, attends our school. As donors and supporters of Concordia there is an opportunity for you to enrich our Fine Arts by taking advantage of a matching gifts program, during Spring 2020, with the Rupert Dunklau Foundation. These gifts will help meet the needs of unbudgeted items for our Fine Arts program, which includes a new wireless microphone system. If you would like more information, please contact Steve Gedwillo in the Advancement office by calling 402-445-4000.