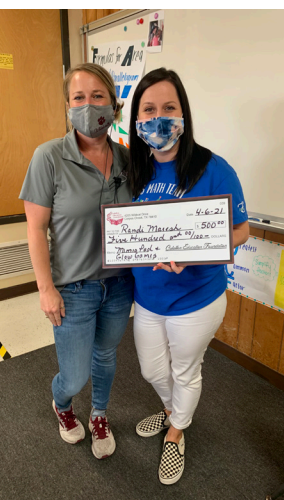


# Calallen Education Foundation NEWSLETTER



## CHANGES, CHALLENGES, & TRIUMPHS!

This is how we would describe this school year and all that virtual learning, social distancing and a global pandemic brought to our society. But, the Calallen Education Foundation did not let any of that stand in the way of delivering innovation!

Normally we would have held a State of the District. Not this year! Normally, we would have held a Casino Night. Not this year!

When you cannot do normal, you have to do different. During the 2020-2021 school year we awarded our first ever district grant. We held a 10 Years of Giving Virtual Event in the Calallen TV studio and we celebrated the opening of a brand new school with a community luncheon and tour!

One thing that did not change - The Calallen Education Foundation delivered grants to teachers at Calallen ISD. Both, our Mini-Grant Program and our Standard Grant Program, provided funding for projects and initiatives that teachers wanted for their students.

This spring, when we delivered our standard grants, we made history! Keep reading to learn all about the amazing year we have had supporting innovative education at Calallen!

## DEAR CALALLEN COMMUNITY,

As we close on this school year we can reflect on the many accomplishments, achievements, and accolades our school districts received. This is a byproduct of hard work from our teachers and students who overcame various obstacles as a result of the pandemic. We are pleased that the Calallen Education Foundation was able to award the school district with various grants to innovative teachers that would streamline the transition to our "new normal" to the best of their abilities.

This year the Calallen Education Foundation celebrated its 10 years of giving. In accordance with that major milestone, the foundation reached a major threshold of \$500,000 in total grants awarded to Calallen ISD teachers. What an achievement, not only to the foundation but to the community that gives generously to help the teachers and students of CISD.

Fundraising is the roots to our success, without the support of our donor partners, we could not provide these grants for innovation to occur in our classrooms.

Please take time to review our newsletter and see the great work of the Calallen Education Foundation. We continue to work diligently to find new ways through our fundraising efforts to grow our program. We would love for our Calallen community to get involved. Join us in our dedication to help improve our schools one innovative grant at a time!

Sincerely,

Christina Jenkins  
 CEF Board President



# MAKING AN IMPACT ON VIRTUAL LEARNING!

In August we asked the school district what we could do to help during this COVID crisis when so many kids were learning from home. It became clear, very quickly, that we needed to provide an experience for our virtual learners that would engage them like a student sitting in the classroom.

A Special Technology Grant was provided to the district to purchase 16 Aver TR 310 Distance Learning Cameras. They were provided to the Distance Learning Coaches at each campus to be used to make the most impact at each campus.

These amazing cameras are placed in the classroom and use artificial intelligence to automatically detect and follow an instructor's movement. As the teacher moves around the classroom, the camera moves with them. The students at home looking at their computer, see that image on their computer screen, making them feel like they are in the classroom.

Christine Price, 7th Grade Mathematics Teacher and Distance Learning Coach at Calallen Middle School had this to say, "These cameras are amazing and in conjunction with the box lights are making a huge impact on the video and lesson quality. I have started using mine to make videos and it is a tremendous difference. The cameras are also a great asset for our virtual students to follow along with live lessons."

The Calallen Education Foundation is thrilled to be able to provide such a valuable tool and look forward to seeing them used long into the future for our home bound and virtual learners.



# 16

Aver TR 310 Distance Learning Cameras Donated



## HISTORY IS MADE!

The Calallen Education Foundation was founded in October of 2008. In December of 2011, the very first Grant Patrol was held and since that time, the Calallen Education Foundation has been raising money every year to award to deserving innovative educators within the school district.

On Monday, March 29, 2021, history was made when the Calallen Education Foundation Grant Patrol, supported by some of the Calallen Band, delivered four grants for a total of \$20,742.80 to teachers at the Calallen Middle School and Magee Intermediate. These grants increased the total amount of grants awarded by CEF to over half a million dollars, fulfilling 202 grant applications since 2011.

Executive Director, Robin Ritchey-Roy said, "This year we celebrate 10 Years of Giving and hitting this milestone is a true testament to all the donors and volunteers that make the Calallen Education Foundation mission possible! We are blessed with a community that values innovative education and supports our teachers and ultimately our students."



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!





2021 marks the tenth year the Calallen Education Foundation has been awarding grants to the educators at Calallen. This logo will be used throughout 2021 to celebrate 10 Years of Giving!

# 10 YEARS OF GIVING VIRTUAL EVENT

On Thursday, February 25 the Calallen Education Foundation 10 Years of Giving Virtual Event was held. This was a celebration of 10 Years of Giving and served as fundraising event with sponsorships, call in pledges, and an Online Auction. The Calallen TV productions students produced our live show from the Calallen TV Studios. Jeff Dubrof, KRISTV, was our Anchor and live commentary was provided by CEF Board Members. We also featured pre-recorded Grant Winner stories, Annual Investor commercials and musical entertainment from Calallen Alum and Grammy Winner, Nathan Carlisle; Calallen Alum and Latin Grammy Nominee and Producer, El Dusty; and Calallen current State Level Choir Student, Zariel Rivas. Viewers were able to text to win prizes as well. Overall, we had a great time and were able to raise over \$25,000!

Special thanks to our 10 Years of Giving Virtual Event Sponsors:

## \$500 LEVEL

- Port of Corpus Christi
- Kenedy Memorial Foundation
- Cherylyn and Don Boyd
- Communities In Schools of the Coastal Bend
- Paul and Bonnie Peeler
- Triton Aviation Data Corp.
- TAM Services
- State Farm - Emily Longueira

## \$250 LEVEL

- Michael and Roseanne Meyer
- Atlas Tubular LLC
- Diamond B Tractors & Equipment
- Quality Aggregates
- Kelton Truck Parts
- Roy's Performance Motors
- South Texas Balfour, LLC





# 10 YEARS OF GIVING WEST INTERMEDIATE GRAND OPENING LUNCHEON

As you drive along FM 624 you may have noticed a new building situated between Hazel Bazemore Road and the Calallen Football Stadium. This beautiful new facility is Calallen West Intermediate School, future home of 4th and 5th grade students. On Thursday, April 29 the Calallen Education Foundation hosted a 10 Years of Giving & West Intermediate Grand Opening Luncheon. In partnership with Calallen ISD, we were able to provide a wonderful gathering place to lunch, fellowship and learn about the history of Calallen in a presentation by Dr. Almendarez, Calallen ISD Superintendent, called "Then and Now". After the presentation, the guests were able to take guided tours of the new campus.



To allow for social distancing the program was delivered twice. Annual Investors and Elected Officials gathered at 11:00 am and all others gathered at 12:30 pm. Both sessions went very smoothly thanks to the help of the Calallen Interact Club serving the food and the 4th and 5th grade Student Council assisting the guests and resetting the dining room for the second group.

The luncheon was a great success and our community was thrilled to see the new school before it was populated with students.



## BRICK LEGACY AT WEST INTERMEDIATE

Last year the education foundation sold customized bricks and tiles for the new West Intermediate Campus. Brick and Tile owners were invited to the Grand Opening Luncheon to see their customized tiles or bricks first hand during the tour. The tile wall has been completed, but the brick sidewalk around the flag pole is still under construction.

If you would like to purchase a customized brick to be installed around the flag pole, contact any CEF Board Member or order online at <https://www.calalleneducationfoundation.org/bricklegacy> before June 1 and it will be installed this summer.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!