

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Foundation	2
2011 Scholarships Awarded	2
Students Take Center Stage	3
Distinguished Alumni Inducted	3
The Labyrinth: Path to Peace	4
Students Give Back to the Community	4
You Are a Piece of the Puzzle	5
Award Presented to VEF	5
Yearbooks for Sale	6
VISD Employees Give to VEF	6
Hall of Honor Tribute	6
Thank You to Our Donors	7
VISD Education Foundation	8

News from the VISD Education Foundation

Private Investment Makes Positive Difference

Victoria Public School hallways are filled with bright, talented, and shiny faces—many of which have a thirst for learning, are making the most of the school year, and some that are just counting the days to graduation!

It's because of all those faces and the educators who instruct, teach and serve them that the Victoria ISD Education Foundation exists. With nearly 14,000 students and an array of evolving daily needs, we provide assistance to enrich teaching, inspire learning and enhance opportunities for our public school children.

One of the ways we do so is through the Grants for Great

Ideas Program. GGI Grants help VISD educators make a positive difference in their classrooms and schools.

Individual teachers may receive up to \$1,000 and grade level teachers, campuses or departments may receive up to \$2,500 in grant funding from the Foundation. Since 2009 nearly \$70,000 has been awarded to 47 projects impacting 14,595 students!

GGI Grant Awards are made possible through the generosity of community donors that kindly make private investment in public education. These investments are targeted to improve and enhance student learning and achievement.

GGI Grants provide value-added opportunities that otherwise would not be possible through school-based funding. These grants go above and beyond to make a big difference in the learning process for our kids!



Shields Magnet School teachers receive a \$1,499 Grants for Great Ideas Award for their innovative project entitled "Traveling Art Exhibit." The grant was presented at the 2011 VISD Convocation and given in honor of VEF donor, The Junior League of Victoria!

M-V-P Award Promotes Character in Athletes

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Sanjeev Bhatia and Mrs. Jo Beth Bhatia from Crossroads Health Center, a \$1,000 cash prize is up for grabs for Victoria East High School or Victoria West High School!

The award was conceptualized as a way to challenge athletes and promote friendly cross-town rivalry following the two high schools' annual gridiron match-up. The East Titan or West Warrior football player that demonstrates M-V-P (magnanimity, valiance, and perseverance) on and off the field secures the honor and cash prize for his school.

"My wife, who is a graduate of Victoria High School, grew up in the days of the long standing rivalry between Stroman High School and VHS," said Dr. Bhatia.

"We wanted to encourage that same kind of spirit in a way that emphasizes good sportsmanship and character."

An award committee selects an honoree whose performance is not based on valuable athletic abilities, but rather on valuable character traits:

- Magnanimity—a noble spirit, integrity, goodwill;
- Valiance—bravery, valor, courage; and
- Perseverance—zeal, fervor, determination.

Carlos Vega, a senior at Victoria East High School, was selected as the first recipient following the Titans vs. Warriors game this past November. A traveling trophy, which inscribes Vega's as well as future recipients' names, will be

displayed at the M-V-P's school for the year.

The trophy will be relinquished at the next season's rival game and another \$1,000 cash prize awarded. The winning school may use the funds in a positive way to benefit its students.

Special thanks to Crossroads Health Center!



Carlos Vega receives a \$1,000 cash prize for Victoria East High School for being named the 2011 M-V-P Challenge Award recipient. Standing with Vega are representatives from Crossroads Health Center and Victoria ISD.