

Lutheran School Families Grateful to ILSTO



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Iowa Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer.

“My wife Trudy and I are very grateful for the support our family receives through Iowa STO program for financial assistance to those families who have a need. Without the financial assistance we received through the STO program and through the Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School financial assistance fund, I’m not sure our daughter Jordon would be able to attend IGLLS and receive a solid Christian education. We are so thankful for the support many families across Iowa provide through their generous contributions. I’m confident they know their dollars are making a difference. Our daughter loves everything about her school—from the plays and musical to the educational components and to learning in a Christ-centered environment.



St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Dodge.

“As a product of St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Fort Dodge, I am a very strong believer and supporter of Lutheran education. I attended St. Paul’s from kindergarten through 8th grade. The education I received at St. Paul’s laid a strong, solid foundation to my education career and was a critical component in my success through high school and college.” The testimony of Scott Hallgren, a Spencer, Iowa parent, speaks for hundreds of families across Iowa.

Responding to an Iowa legislative initiative which provides tax-credit support for private schools, the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization was formed in 2006. Grants were first given to eligible families for the 2008-2009 school year when \$150,000 assistance was provided. Because of increased awareness, generous donors, and ultimately God’s blessings over \$307,000 assistance was provided for the 2009-2010 school

year. Over 500 students will be blessed with this special tuition assistance.

Leonard Langner, a Spencer investment representative and an ILSTO donor, shares the perspective of a contributor. “It’s really a no-brainer. I know of no other program where you can make such a significant difference in the life of a young person for little or no cost due to tax benefits. This is a ‘win-win’ for both Lutheran elementary students and for Iowa tax payers. It’s an incredible opportunity



Dewey Torkelson

for both the people that want to choose private education and for the donors. While the American economy has been lagging, supporting STOs is one way to make private education more affordable for families.”

Donors receive an Iowa Tuition Tax Credit for 65% from their Iowa income tax. The contribution may also be deducted as a charitable gift from the Federal income tax. An added bonus for some this year is that of tax credits available for Iowa non-public schools from C-Corporations. Local Lutheran school principals and Iowa District West ILSTO program manager, Dewey Torkelson, are available to share additional information (Torkelson@iglls.org or 712-260-2991). God-willing \$400,000 will be contributed by December 31, 2009.

Volunteer ILSTO treasurer Scott Lindholm of Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport celebrates that 25% of the tuition charged in Iowa LCMS schools is being provided by the ILSTO. He also notes, “Our schools are indeed living the Parable of the Sower where the seed is falling on rich soil. One-third of the affirmations of faith and adult baptisms in our church are tied to a child at the school.” Lutheran schools are sharing the Good News of Jesus with children and families. Representing Iowa District West on the state-wide ILSTO are Dewey Torkelson, program manager; Jeff Fick, Principal of Trinity, Boone; Don Schultz, layman from Faith, Sioux City; Carole White, LCEF vice-president; and Executive Assistant Rev. Bob Riggert.

Donor forms and other information is available at the Website: www.iowalutheransto.org. Friends and family are invited to participate. A donor does not need to be a member of a school hosting congregation or of a Lutheran church. “Train a child in the way he should go.” Proverbs 22:6

