



Friends of Bidwell

2376 NORTH AVENUE • CHICO, CALIFORNIA • 95926 • 530-343-4902
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Be sure to visit
our website
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bidwelljrhighfoundation.com

Donors Set New Record for 2015

Our fabulous donors, the Friends of Bidwell, provided the BJHS Foundation with record donations of over \$5,100 during the 2015 Annie B's Fund Drive last August and September. This money will be used to fund our annual classroom grant program for 2016 and to supplement the *John Schulz Memorial Endowment Fund*.

Since 2005, donor funds have had an extremely positive impact on Bidwell students. Over \$38,000 has gone to providing supplies, materials and equipment to classrooms. The donations also support various educational programs and the JSM Endowment. Each year, a portion of these funds has been used to purchase backpacks and basic school supplies for students who cannot afford them.

Our FOB Donors are a varied group of solid citizens: former Bidwell students, former Bidwell teachers and staff members, current teachers and staff members, Bidwell parents, and other concerned citizens like you. We look forward to a productive 2016, busy with providing classroom grants and another successful fund drive in the Fall.



Ribbon cutting ceremonies in front of Bidwell's newly remodeled offices.

YOUR DONOR MONEY AT WORK!

- Backpacks, basic school supplies, calculators
- Classroom books, library books
- Science lab equipment and repairs
- Physical education equipment
- History DVDs
- Computer hardware and software
- Home Economics supplies and equipment
- Art Department classroom projects



Music is Here To Stay

One of the Foundation's major projects has been to support the re-establishment of the Bidwell Pioneer Band. This band has been noted for its excellent music and enthusiastic performances during the second half of the 20th century. Unfortunately, the 21st century saw a decline in the size of the Band and the quality of the music. The problems stemmed directly from the cancellation of the CUSD Elementary instrumental music programs. As a result, the number of incoming seventh grade instrumentalists dwindled each year until there were none. The decline culminated in the eventual elimination of the Pioneer band.



Bidwell without a band was not acceptable to staff members and to the BJHSF Board of Directors. The Board teamed with the Bidwell staff to establish an after-school beginning band program. That program developed enough instrumentalists to enable the return of a period of Band in the regular school day during the following year. The new band director, Ryan Heimlich, enthusiastically accepted the challenge. The Board also provided cash grants to purchase new and used instruments and to repair some of the old instruments on hand. A huge boost in the form of a \$10,000 grant from the Chico Discovery Shoppe resulted in a well-equipped band.

All the hard work of the kids, Ryan Heimlich, staff members and the Foundation has resulted in the strong band we see and hear in 2016. The Pioneer Band has 38 students who have given several performances during the 2015-16 school year. They have played for several school rallies, Treat Street (with the Marsh Band) in downtown Chico and the Bidwell Winter Concert in December. Future performances this year will include the Chico State Music Festival, the Bidwell Spring Concert, and a trip and performance in San Francisco. ***The Pioneer Band is back to stay.***

John Schulz Memorial Endowment

The *John Schulz Memorial Endowment* was established with a \$2,000 grant by the BJHS Foundation Board in 2007. The Endowment is maintained by the North Valley Community Foundation and has grown over the years from donations provided by our donors, the Friends of Bidwell. This year, the FOB donations directed to the Endowment exceeded \$1,800.

The purpose of the Endowment is to establish a permanent source of funding for Bidwell Junior High School. Our long term plan is to grow the Fund to a level which will allow interest income to be used each year without diminishing the principal amount. The value varies at times according to the levels of national financial markets and presently is in the mid-\$20,000 range. With your generous help, we will continue our efforts to add to the Fund in 2016.