

**Foundation's first auction raises \$12,900**

By Chris Mertes, *Managing Editor*

Launching its first annual benefit auction, the Sun Prairie Education Foundation (SPEF) raised \$12,900 during the inaugural event at the home of Tim and Beth Mielcarek in the town of Bristol on Sept. 29.

Presided over by master of ceremonies Dan Presser, the invitation-only event invited attendees to bid on large ceramic piggy banks decorated by local, regional and national celebrities, including:

- Green Bay Packers right tackle Mark Tauscher;
- Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour 2003 champion Hillary Lunke;
- Sun Prairie High School Baseball Coach Rob Hamilton, whose pig contained photos of the 2005 Division 1 Champion Sun Prairie Cardinals Baseball Team members;
- Beth Mielcarek, co-owner of Beans 'n Cream Coffee House in Sun Prairie;
- Holly Cremer Berkenstadt of the Wisconsin Cheeseman;
- Sun Prairie Area School District Administrator Tim Culver;
- Sun Prairie Assistant City Administrator Margaret Powers;
- Sun Prairie Mayor Joe Chase;
- Sun Prairie High School Jazz Band Director and teacher Steve Sveum;
- General Casualty Insurance Company President-CEO John Pollock; and
- American Family Insurance Company President-CEO Dave Anderson.

The auction itself raised \$8,800, but with some prizes contained inside the piggy banks being donated back to the foundation, as well as additional contributions from event attendees, the grand total reached \$12,900.

General Casualty Insurance Companies donated the use of event organizer Nicole Ziegler as well as the cost of food catered by Copper Gable and liquid refreshments for the evening.

Sun Prairie Area School District administration and staff served beverages, while members of the Sun Prairie High School Academic Decathlon Team served the food.

SPEF President Glenn Fenske also showed each piggy bank to prospective bidders while each piggy bank was being auctioned off by master of ceremonies Presser.

More about SPEF

The 501(c)(3) corporation will also accept gifts from charitable foundations, estates and groups or individuals with specific purposes, according to SPEF President Glenn Fenske.

The SPEF president announced two initial gifts to the foundation from the Mielcarek Family Foundation, as well



*Sun Prairie Education Foundation board member Nancy Everson examined the piggy banks up for auction during the Sept. 28 first annual auction to benefit the SPEF. Local, regional and national celebrities -- including Green Bay Packers tackle Mark Tauscher (right photo, working in his bank in his kitchen) created the works of art as a symbol of investing in education. The banks each contained prizes, ranging in value from cashier's checks to Green Bay Packers tickets (in Tauscher's piggy bank) which some winning bidders donated back to the foundation.*

as a gift from former Sun Microsystems Chief Financial Officer Michael Lehman.

Gifts to the Sun Prairie Education Foundation may be donated to a General Purpose Fund to be designated for general educational enhancement opportunities by the Grant Committee of the SPEF.

Board members include a wide range of community interests from the legal and accounting professions to the insurance, financial, real estate, construction and communication industries.

Current board members include former 46th Assembly Rep. and Sun Prairie attorney Tom Hebl, former Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce president Kevin Noskowiak and Randy Handel of McGann Construction.

Teachers and students are eligible for the grants by completing an application process outlining the purpose of the grant including the number of students involved.

Application forms will be available through the SPEF and the Sun Prairie Area School District office.

Special Purpose Funds will also be available and administered by the board for designated special purposes.

"One Special Purpose Fund we're excited about is the creation of the George Conom Excellence in Education Fund," Fenske said in an earlier press release announcing the launch of the foundation.

The special purpose fund, named for the longtime Sun Prairie High School economics teacher, George Conom, will provide resources to support extraordinary educational opportunities while enhancing the Sun Prairie educational experience students receive.

Examples of projects that may be financed through the Conom fund are:

- Outstanding annual speaker on a topic of relevance in the district;
- Creative learning experiences outside the classroom, such as field trips or study opportunities;
- Financial literacy workshops for all students; or
- Grants requested by teachers in the district.

For more information about the foundation, contact SPEF President Glenn Fenske at 513-6811.

To make a tax-deductible contribution for the George Conom, Excellence in Education Fund, or the SPEF's General Purpose Fund, mail it to the Sun Prairie Education Foundation, Inc., Post Office Box 836, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.