

After a fire destroyed the apartment building that was home to several students of Central Park Elementary the **NSEA Children's Fund** came to the aid of the children.

They donated \$900 to help the families. Each child received a \$75.00 gift card to Target.

Teachers often dip into their own pockets to buy items for needy children whose families can't afford to do so. Because it is impossible for teachers to help all students in need, the Children's Fund was established by the NSEA. Supported through donations from individuals and corporations, the Children's Fund provides money to Association members who would otherwise pay for a student's much-needed pair of glasses, mittens, or a coat and hat themselves.

Any NSEA member can apply for funds to provide for a needy student. Assistance will be immediate and confidential. No delays. No red tape. Usually a toll-free phone call to NSEA is all that's required (800) 742-0047.

Whenever possible, the member involved buys the needed item -- whether it's mittens, shoes or a coat -- and delivers it to the student personally.

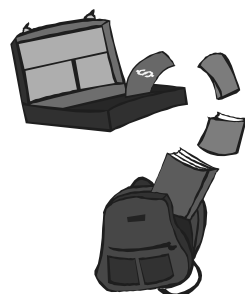
If a child needs medical care, eyeglasses or dental work, NSEA will help arrange an appointment and pay the bill.

Those interested in making a donation to or requesting funds from the Children's Fund should contact NSEA via its toll-free phone number (1-800-742-0047).

10,000 Reasons to become an active member...

By Doreen Jankovich

For many members, life seems to come with many activities to choose from after school. Some have pets that need attention, some have way too many papers to correct, some have after school jobs or college classes to take. I know it seems like a lot to ask for one more activity to put on your plate, but I'd like to give you up to 10,000 reasons why you should be active in your professional organization.



A few days ago, I found out one of my presidential duties is to participate with the OEA Foundation Review Board and confirm or acknowledge the level of active association participation for each student's parent whose child is applying for a scholarship. To even be considered for a scholarship the student's parent must have been an OEA member for at least three years. Outside of the applicant's grades and activities, the parent's OEA activities become the critical variable when it comes to the scholarship amounts given. The OEA Foundation gives scholarships that range from \$750 to \$10,000. Once Scholarships have been all designated, we will post in the Tip Off.

Congratulations!

Deb Paris was elected as the Senior High Representative to the OEA Board of Directors at the AR Meeting on April 14th.

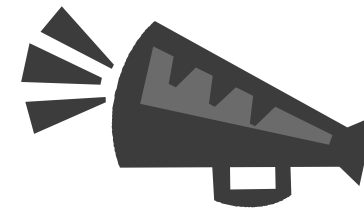
Deb is a Librarian from Benson High School.

She replaces Susan Kalina in her position as Senior High Rep.

Sue was elected to serve as the Vice-President of Advocacy at the March 10th AR meeting.

OEA Call To Action...

At the meeting on April 14th, Doreen Jankovich asked members to support the Associations ongoing projects. "I'd like to take a moment and appreciate all the energy that is out there and ask that it be channeled into projects that propel the OEA into future collaborative adventures." We have many opportunities for everyone to participate in. We need participants for the Cinco de Mayo parade -- which is May 2nd.



Rosita Force will secure a spot for us by arriving at our assigned block at 7:00AM. Volunteers need to meet up with Rosita by no later than 8:30AM. The parade starts at 10:00AM.

In addition we need volunteers to serve on action oriented strategic/focus groups that will develop ideas for 2009-2010 goals. Some of the targeted goals from the focus groups will be incorporated into various committee work. Training for Future Committee Chairs will be held earlier, and those C hairs will need interested volunteers to serve on ongoing committee work activities.

The OEA website contains links to serve on the various committees and future focus groups.

My First Thirty Days with the OEA Staff

by Doreen Jankovich

"How is it going?" So many friends and members have asked me this question, I thought I'd respond to you all at once. I am taking it one day at a time. I would like to tell you about what I have observed at the OEA office with regard to our staff since my arrival as President on February 25th. The office staff has been dedicated beyond measure in keeping this Association going forward. I have personally witnessed Brian working until 10:35 p.m. to get the *Tip-Off* printed and then delivered materials to TAC at 6:30 a.m. the next day. I have witnessed Mary working long hours and weekends to keep us on track. I have absolutely no worries about Laurel's Night because Lorrie has researched and provided a site, delicious menu, and classy-looking invitations all within, or under, budget. I have seen Marj not only doing her job, but pitching in where needed upon every request, and even without being requested. I have seen Sue step up and work many evening hours to finish publications under the most stressful deadlines ever and assist in any way she was asked to. I asked Tim one day, do you ever take lunch? He replied, no not usually, this is our busy time. Dennis has answered as many questions as I can humanly muster. I have seen each staff member cover for each other seamlessly as needed. As members you seldom get to see the people working behind the scenes for you, I can honestly say I am proud to know the OEA staff and can assure you they keep me on top of my responsi-

bilities.

The OEA Staff are dedicated to members first and foremost, which is why I want to ask a personal favor from each and every one of you. It would be greatly appreciated if you would send your warmest thoughts and prayers to both Brian Eilderts (our printer) and Mary Freel (our accounting staff associate). Brian had a complicated 8-hour surgical procedure, Friday April 17th and will need a long recuperation. In Mary's case, she will be having major surgery the 27th of April and will also be gone for a period of time. Brian and Mary have taken the time to train individuals to keep up their great service to the organization. I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to all of our staff -- Brian, Mary, Lorrie, Marj, Sue, Tim and Dennis for all they do daily.

For those who wish to send get well cards, please send them to:

**Omaha Education Association
C/O Brian Eilderts or Mary Freel
4202 South 57th Street
Omaha, NE 68117**

We will make sure the cards get to each staff member.