

**From:** Superintendent  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** EPS.MailList  
**Subject:** Gratitude in action

Dear colleague,

Throughout our schools and community we see thanksgiving and gratitude in action – the spirit of active gratitude that was the heart of my message before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our students are collecting food and funds to help others – from massive holiday food drives and food bank support to penny drives to help victims of Sandy. Staff members too are actively giving thanks and helping others – adopting families and causes and making the lives of some a bit brighter this season.

**Last week the Everett Public Schools Foundation announced funding of 44 different classroom projects across the district. This year's Foundation grants total \$32,000 and will touch the learning of more than 11,000 of our students. Every one of our 26 schools received a Foundation grant – all of this made possible because many people acted to donate to the Foundation.**

**This week – on Friday the 14th – the Foundation winds up its work coordinating the district's annual United Way fund drive. Our goal this year is to increase the number of district donors and the way we are supporting United Way's efforts to help our families. As of last Friday, we were about \$7,000 short of our donation goal and 50 people shy of the target number of donors.**

**If you have not yet turned in your United Way pledge form, I encourage you to do so by this Friday. Slip it into the intradistrict mail in care of the Foundation at Hawthorne Elementary. If you have misplaced your pledge form, you can get also [donate online](#).** (Be sure to mention that you work for Everett Public Schools so your generosity counts toward meeting district goals.)

The district's partnership with United Way is wide and deep, and our philosophies and core values are similar.

- United Way's Mission is to lead *positive change that transforms our community and improves people's lives in Snohomish County.*
- United Way's Vision: *Everyone deserves the opportunity for a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and a healthy community. That's why United Way's work is focused on the building blocks for a good life:*
  - Successful kids
  - Financially stable families
  - Healthy communities

The network of support that exists in our schools' communities is unlike most in the state and nation. The combination of extraordinarily professional and dedicated staff and organizations

that support our work are among the reasons our students are learning to lead and shape the future.

Thank you for all of the ways that you give and for your dedication to our world's most important work.

Warm regards,  
Gary