

LEAF Night of the Stars

As part of LEAF's efforts to save Junior High activities, the "Night of the Stars" was initiated in April, 2002. This fundraising effort was initially held at the St. Cloud Civic Center. "Night of the Stars" promotes the work of LEAF and the impact of endowment-funded grant cycles for District 742 activities. For the first three years, the Civic Center venue for this event showcased athletic clinics and music activities. Alumni pro athletes Jim Eisenreich, Jim Fahnhorst and Keith Fahnhorst have made appearances and outstanding music alumni have graced the concert stage. In 2004, Christopher Weldon, concert pianist and '92 Apollo graduate, provided clinics for Tech and Apollo students weekdays and then performed on the "Night of the Stars" stage. Tech's own Krista Weis, class of '82, an accomplished music educator and conductor, returned to rehearse and then conduct a combined Apollo and Tech Orchestra. And '72 Tec grad and acclaimed motivational speaker, Mark Scharenbroich, was a masterful emcee for 2004's star attractions.

In 2005, a change of venue moved the "Night of the Stars" to the Paramount Theater and introduced a new format. The 2005 stars were District 742 students, faculty and staff, and the format was a variety show appealing to all ages. The "Night of the Stars" Silent Auction, a hallmark of this event since its inception, was housed in the Paramount lobby. In 2006, the Night of the Stars was expanded to two shows, a matinee and a 7:30 evening show and in 2009 it moved to Friday and Saturday evening performances. In 2012, the event was expanded to three shows with the addition of a Saturday matinee. With the hard work of the "Night of the Stars" event committee, this annual event has become a highlight in the school year and a great opportunity, not just to raise funds for the LEAF Endowment, but for students and staff to be "stars for the night" at the LEAF Night of the Stars!

The Night of the Stars, held each February or March, continues to be a major fundraising event for LEAF, with proceeds divided between the school activities programs that sell tickets and the LEAF Endowment. The event has grown to where it is generating over \$20,000 in revenue annually. In 2010 the silent auction moved to an on-line auction only. See Night of the Stars at www.leaf742.org for pictures and more information.

Major sponsors have included:

Viking Coca Cola, Lamar Advertising, Don Farleo Advertising, Plaza Park Bank, Northern Star Therapy, Gray Plant Mooty, Northern PCS/Sprint PCS, McKay's Family, Bremer Bank, CMAB, CMFC, SCEA, Holiday Inn & Suites, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Eich Motor, Trobec Bus Service, Kendeco Tool Crib, Marco Business Products, St. Cloud Morning Optimist Club, St. Cloud Education Association, St Cloud Administrative Association, Ken and Tammy Spanior, St Cloud Surgical Center, St Cloud Orthopedics, Johnson, Carriar, Kruchten, Anderson and Associates, *St. Cloud Times*, Scheel's Sports, and Schluchter Investment Strategies

NOTS Event Goals

- 1 Sell out the Paramount Theatre – twice!
- 2 Raise at least \$20,000 for the Leaf Endowment
- 3 Give at least \$5,000 directly to activities programs through ticket sales
- 4 Increase awareness of LEAF and its Mission
- 5 Increase awareness of the importance of student activities.