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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Record Breaking Royal Bash!!

‘A Royal Night to Shine’ for Hopkins Public School Students

Hopkins Education Foundation’s (HEF) Royal Bash 2019 offered a stellar example of the community’s support for Hopkins Public Schools students, breaking records on all fronts. A jaw-dropping \$310,000 was raised over the course of the evening, with \$108,000 specifically dedicated to *Student Wellness= Student Success*, the Foundation’s wide-reaching health and wellness initiative. It was a sold-out event, with 450 guests in attendance, including parents, community members, Hopkins District Leadership and staff. *Student Wellness* began with an outpouring of support at Royal Bash 2018; this record level of funding will allow for a major expansion of those efforts.

The annual fundraiser was held February 23rd at the Marriott Minnetonka Southwest, beginning with student performances from *Geoff* and *Midori*, the celebrated *a cappella* choirs of Hopkins High School. In addition to dining and dancing, renowned auctioneer Karen Sorbo found eager buyers for a set of top-of-the-line Hearing Aids donated by Starkey Technologies, a Chicago Cubs Rooftop Experience, a 4th of July lake cabin, and an extravagant Wayzata Staycation, among other exciting Live Auction treats. The Silent Auction, packed with a wide range of items and local services including a timely Toro snowblower, kept guests engaged via mobile bidding. Attendees filled sign-up sheets for Great Gatherings, events hosted throughout the year by fellow HEF patrons. These include ‘Sips & Succulents’ sponsored by Tonkadale - Your Greenhouse Home, a Gourmet Tapas Night, Oktoberfest, and several more.

The Royal Bash is the single largest source of funding for the nonprofit Foundation, which directly benefits Hopkins Public Schools’ students through grants and district-wide endeavors. *Student Wellness=Student Success* is an umbrella of cutting-edge programs that reach beyond academics to address students’ emotional, social, and physical wellbeing, and features Student Wellness Centers at Hopkins High School,

North and West Junior Highs. This new funding will allow for an expansion to all three Wellness Centers, as well as significant endeavors at all six elementary schools.

For more information about Student Wellness=Student Success, visit <http://hopkinseducationfoundation.org/student-wellness-student-success-2018-special-appeal/>

For a complete list of Royal Bash sponsors, visit <http://hopkinseducationfoundation.org/royal-bash-2019-sponsors/>

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About the Hopkins Education Foundation

Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) has awarded more than \$2.7 Million, through 435+ grants, to enhance education in the Hopkins Public Schools. The non-profit Foundation, independent from Hopkins Public Schools, is dedicated to providing resources to engage, innovate and energize students, staff and curriculum. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The Foundation is supported entirely through community contributions, including:

- parents and other community members
- corporate contributions
- fundraising events and projects
- gifts of stock, cash and securities
- a beneficiary of wills and estates

Each year, grant applications from teachers, staff - and even student clubs - are rigorously reviewed by HEF's Board. Funds are allocated to individual schools, to pilot projects, and to broad initiatives incorporated across all schools.

About Hopkins Public Schools

Hopkins Public Schools is an award-winning school district with a K-12 population of about 6,800 students, serving the city of Hopkins, most of Minnetonka, about half of Golden Valley, and portions of Eden Prairie, Edina, Plymouth, and St. Louis Park. It has six elementary schools, one magnet Chinese immersion school (XinXing Academy), two junior highs and one high school.