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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Photos Attached

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\$301,600 Raised for Great Ideas at HEF's Royal Bash

Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) Royal Bash 2020, held Saturday, February 22, at the Marriott Minnetonka Southwest, boasted a packed ballroom of more than 400 patrons of Hopkins Public Schools. The event, the single largest annual source of funding for the nonprofit, raised \$301,600 to directly benefit Hopkins Public Schools' students through grants and district-wide endeavors. ***Pathways to a Healthy Future***, HEF's ambitious partnership with the District for 2020-2022, is fully funded for the coming school year. It significantly enhances wholistic support to students and provides access to multiple exciting pathways to learning. ***Pathways to a Healthy Future*** expands on recent HEF-funded projects such as the three Student Wellness Centers at Hopkins High School, North and West Junior Highs. The four components of ***Pathways*** address student learning from multiple directions.

- 1) **Project Based Learning (PBL)** at each elementary school includes **WeShare Solar Suitcases** at Meadowbrook, **Midwest Wildlife Floating Islands** at Glen Lake, **Kitchen a la Cart** at Alice Smith, **Cultural Celebrations** at Eisenhower/XinXing Academy, **Courtyard Redesign** at Tanglen, and **Greenhouse Design/Build** at Gatewood.
- 2) **Calming Corners** in all K-6 classrooms will be a designated cordoned-off space containing HEF-funded tools for self-regulation, reducing disruptions in learning for all.
- 3) **Food Shelf and 'Second Breakfast' Carts** at Hopkins High School ensure all students have access to adequate nutrition and are fortified to focus on learning.
- 4) **Care for the Caregivers** will bring in three renowned professionals to address staff well-being at the school year's kick-off meeting in late August.

Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, Hopkins Schools Superintendent, drew a standing ovation for her remarks about Hopkins' current trajectory from 'Great to World Class'. Other Royal Bash highlights included a rousing student performance from Hopkins High School's LMPM Drum Line (Lean Mean Performance Machine Pep Band). The band led patrons into the dining room and punctuated HEF's 25th Birthday Cake Auction with exciting drum rolls.

Renowned auctioneer Karen Sorbo sold 10 unique and exciting Live Auction items including Premier Seating at Hopkins High School Graduation Ceremony, a Canoe and paddles built by Alice Smith Elementary School students (through a previous HEF grant with Urban Boatbuilders), and 3 trips to Tuscany, Italy. The Silent Auction, packed with a wide range of fun items and local services, included 'Great Gatherings': unique events hosted from March to October by HEF patrons.

A complete list of Royal Bash Sponsors, as well as more information about the Foundation, is located on HEF's website: HopkinsEducationFoundation.org.

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About the Hopkins Education Foundation

Hopkins Education Foundation (HEF) has awarded more than \$2.9 Million, through 465+ grants, to enhance education in the Hopkins Public Schools. The nonprofit Foundation, independent from the school district, is dedicated to providing resources that 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 – as well as 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 comprises six elementary schools, a magnet Chinese immersion school (XinXing Academy), a new magnet Spanish immersion school, two junior highs and one high school.