

# Sanger school foundation kicks off with first gift

By Matthew Haag  
Staff Writer

A newly created public school foundation in Sanger has gotten a head start on raising money, thanks to a hefty donation from a local electric company.

The Sanger school district's foundation, which is so new that it's yet to be named, received a \$20,000 donation from CoServ Electric, which supplies electricity to the district.

Denton lawyer Jeff Springer, whose two children attend Sanger schools, decided he wanted to help create a foundation for the school district to help fund programs because of state funding issues.

"What we want to do is fund programs in the district," Springer said. "We have to find new ways to serve their students."

Public school foundations are tax-exempt, charitable organizations separate from the school districts they support.

The Sanger school board unanimously passed a resolution on May 10 creating a public school foundation for the district. The foundation will help raise funds to support school programs and student scholarships, Springer said.

The idea behind the foundation is the ability to fund projects that would otherwise be unavailable without additional funding, Springer said. He said he doesn't know of specific projects as of yet that will receive funds, but judging by the use of funds by other public education foundations, he said the money would go to off-



Jeff Springer has helped start a public education foundation for the Sanger school district. The foundation got its first donation from CoServ Electric.

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campus programs.

"I know there are some off-campus projects that some of the school districts are able to do that can't be done currently the way the schools are funded," he said.

The foundation received its first donation on May 9 from CoServ. The money would "provide stipends to help teachers purchase daily supplies needed in their classrooms," a CoServ press release said.

The foundation will start taking grant applications from teachers beginning in the fall.

CoServ made the gift after learning of Springer's interest in forming a foundation through the local Sanger newspaper.

"I know CoServ intends to be very generous to school districts this year," Springer said. The company has planned this year to donate a total of \$195,000 to 12 area schools.

The foundation, which will select a steering committee in the next few weeks, should be running by this summer, Springer

said. The steering committee will consist of five to seven people, and several more will be added later to form the foundation board.

Springer, Sanger Superintendent Jack Biggerstaff and a consultant aiding in the formation of the foundation have made tentative plans to hold a gala dinner next year for charter members of the foundation.

"I think it will take us that long to plan for it," Springer said.

Biggerstaff said he expects some corporate and business donations in the future but thinks the bulk of the donations will come from Sanger graduates.

"I suspect a number of alumni of the school district will be interested in contributing to the foundation," he said.

Public school foundations are not new to North Texas. The Denton Public School Foundation, created in 1995, has given thousands of dollars to the Denton district. Last fall, the foundation gave \$50,000 in

teaching grants, and this spring, it awarded \$28,000 in scholarships.

Vicki Sargent, executive director of the Denton Public School Foundation, said she couldn't imagine the district without the foundation. Every year, more teachers and students are inquiring about applications for grants and scholarships, she said.

"We really believe we have made a difference for a lot of people," Sargent said.

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