The Making of the Great Humanitarian Capital Campaign

Campaign organizers and friends of the Hoover Presidential Foundation gathered for the Celebration Banquet: Charting the Course at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Iowa City on Oct. 23 to kick off the Foundation’s capital campaign for the largest exhibit ever to be held at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. The exhibit is called The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and World War I.

The fundraising campaign will raise private donations for the construction of five key elements of the exhibit. The total cost is estimated at $600,000. The exhibit will fill all usable space inside the museum and include outdoor elements as well. It is scheduled to open in April, 2015.

“Our expectation is this exhibit will attract over 100,000 visitors to the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, and subsequently, the town of West Branch,” said Jerry Fleagle, executive director of the Foundation. “It should be quite a boom for tourism to the area.” Jerry has been working with local businesses in West Branch along with the Main Street West Branch organization to prepare the town for an increase that could nearly double typical annual attendance figures.

The exhibit will focus on Hoover’s lifetime 100 years ago, at the onset of World War I, and how he gave up his private life and began ‘the slippery road of public life’ according to his own quote.  
— Continued on page 8

Ceremony Marks 50 Year Commemoration

Saturday, Oct. 25 marked 50 years since Herbert Hoover’s state funeral in West Branch.

The event was commemorated at the same time, with a similar service, and with a similarly beautiful fall day.

50 years ago, area farmers picked far into the night to clear the fields for parking. The service at the gravesite, conducted by Hoover’s longtime friend and Iowa native Dr. D. Elton Trueblood, was simple, honoring Hoover’s Quaker faith. The number of people at the site was estimated at 75,000 to 80,000, a
— Continued on page 8

Celebration Banquet

What do you call an annual dinner without using the worn-out term, ‘annual dinner?’ It should also be a name that can be used year after year, so that people become familiar with the function. We landed on ‘Celebration Banquet,’ with a qualifier to address the theme, which will change annually. On Oct. 23, about 200 people enjoyed the Hoover Presidential Foundation’s Celebration Banquet: Charting the Course!

The nautical-themed event featured a stage which resembled a boat dock, complete with pier posts and fish nets, portholes on the walls, and serving staff all wearing sailor hats. The mood was set for the Foundation to present our course for the future.

The Metro Mix Chorus started the evening with two patriotic selections, followed by Foundation board president Charlie Becker, who gave the official welcome. Library director Tom Schwartz provided an invocation once used by Dr. Trueblood, the Quaker minister who performed Hoover’s eulogy, and we ate. We ate well!


— Continued on page 5

The Hoovers were in town!

Find out what they saw and did. See page 9.

In this issue

- Capital Campaign: 1 & 3
- Meet the Foundation Staff: 4
- Celebration Banquet: 1 & 5
- Hunger Project: 5
- 50 Year Commemoration: 1 & 8
- Hoover’s Hometown Days: 6 & 7
- Message from the President: 2
- On the Road with the Hoovers: 9
- Meet the Trustees: 2
- Uncommon Students: 10
- And the Winner Is: 4
- Iowa State Fair: 11
- Executive Director’s Message: 4
- Fund Drive: 10 & 12

Winter 2014 • Volume 8 No. 3
I’m also thankful for an outstanding annual dinner, the Celebration Banquet: Charting the Course! held last month in Iowa City. The spotlight on the Foundation shone brightly on an interesting program featuring three descendants of U.S. Presidents, John Taft, Clinton Truman Daniel, and our own Margaret Hoover held the audience captive with their stories of family history, character and integrity.

As a foundation, we’re delighted to see so many Hoover family members participate in programs! As the Hoover's returned to Iowa, they were eager to help the Foundation. Leslie Hoover-Lauble made presentations at schools in Waterloo and Iowa City, plus assisted with the Uncommon Student Awards and was interviewed on KXIC Radio. Margaret Hoover was interviewed in Des Moines on WHO Radio and on WMT Radio in Cedar Rapids. She, Alexander and Andrew also presented at Hoover Elementary in Iowa City. And Allan Hoover assisted at the Uncommon Student Awards as well. But they didn’t stop there.

The morning of Oct. 25, Leslie’s family, Andrew and Jeannie, and Alexander’s family all volunteered at the Hoover Hunger Project, where they helped packed $4,000 meals for needy families. Following that, they attended the 50 year commemoration service at the gravesite.

Ken Quinn, from the World Food Prize Foundation, provided an exceptional talk on Hoover’s life, to the day and hour... 50 years later. Ken’s remarks were some of the most heartwarming and beautiful remarks I have ever heard, delivered to perfection. You’ll find more news about all of these programs in the newsletter.

I hope you have also seen the Hoover Presidential Foundation grow by leaps and bounds in 2014. You and your friends will want to be a part of the excitement in 2015 as the largest temporary exhibit comes to the Library, the National Historic Site and the Foundation.

— Charlie Becker, president, Hoover Presidential Foundation
The Making of the Great Humanitarian Campaign

Continued from page 1 —

"There will be a lot to see and do at this exhibit," said Charlie Becker, president of the Foundation board of trustees. "It contains a significant portion of Hoover’s life – a story that most people never heard about in school."

"Through donations from members of our board and friends of the Foundation who wished to contribute from the start, we’re pleased to announce that we’ve already raised 51 percent of our goal," said James Stein, who co-chairs the campaign with Hoover’s great-granddaughter, Margaret Hoover. "We still have a long road ahead and hope that others will want to participate in this outstanding educational opportunity to tell the Hoover story."

"Our mission is to support the legacy of Iowa’s only President and to educate Iowans about this great man.”

— Robert D. Ray, Former Governor State of Iowa and Honorary Co-Chair, The Making of the Great Humanitarian Campaign

In addition to co-chairs Stein and Hoover, there are three honorary chairs including Sally Mason, president of the University of Iowa, Gov. Robert Ray and Andrew Hoover. Others working on the effort include Dave Dierks, Bill Rywater, Ken Pawl, Waldo Geiger, Matthew Howard, Robert Langholz, Hag Mardikian, Jerry Meis, Sally Novetzke, Fred Schulte and Bob Swain.

“A gift to this campaign really is an investment in the future of West Branch," said Margaret Hoover, campaign co-chair. "The resulting exhibit will increase tourism, raise the level of awareness of the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, and set the stage for continued improvement in the future.”

“The cost of the exhibit is above and beyond our normal operating expenses," Jerry said. "The only way we can accomplish this goal is with the help of our members and friends of the Foundation." ★

Please send me more information about this exciting campaign!

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Send your request to:
Hoover Presidential Foundation
PO Box 696
West Branch, IA 52358

Or call 319-643-5327 or email info@HooverPF.org to expedite your request.

Now is the Time!

The centennial anniversary of World War I is the perfect time to reintroduce Herbert Hoover to the general public, using immersive techniques that recreate historic spaces and allow the public to touch and experience what it was like to need and benefit from Hoover’s efforts.

More than an archive, more than a museum and historic site, the Hoover campus is a living classroom of democracy. Through innovative outreach, hands-on history labs, world-class exhibitions and public forums, we can contribute to a better tomorrow by helping adults and students alike better understand our republic, the American presidency and each person’s power to make a difference.

Now is the time for you to help us share Herbert Hoover’s story, today and for generations to come.

There are several ways to support Hoover’s Mission and help tell his story:

• Gifts may be made in cash or securities

• Gifts can include bequests, real estate, life insurance and personal property

• Marching gifts through your employer or spouse’s employer can double, even triple your gift.

• Pledges are encouraged and may be extended over a period of up to two years.

• Your gift may be made in honor of or in memory of someone. A card recognizing your gift will be mailed to the person you are honoring or the family you are memorializing.

• Your gift to the Hoover Presidential Foundation is tax deductible, as allowed by the current law.

There are 3 ways to make your gift:

• By mail to the Hoover Presidential Foundation, PO Box 696, West Branch, IA 52358

• By phone to 319-643-5327

• Online at HooverCookie.com. Click the DONATE button.

Herbert Hoover’s story is a compelling but little-known tale of a Great Humanitarian. With your help, we can tell the Herbert Hoover story to a new generation. Will you commit to helping us with a contribution today? ★

Your ads make this newsletter possible!

This is a large horizontal ad.

It measures 6.25" by 3.25”

Call 319-643-5327 to reserve your space in the next issue.
Executive Director’s Message

Jerry Fleagle, IOM, CAE

On April 18, 2015, The Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, in conjunction with the National Park Service’s Hoover National Historic Site and the Hoover Presidential Foundation will open the largest special exhibit ever in West Branch!

The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and World War I. It seems far off now, but we are deep in preparation for it. Based on projections from the Over There exhibit of 1989, which highlighted the 75th anniversary of World War I, we expect over 100,000 visitors to the upcoming exhibit during its six month run. Compared to the average annual attendance of the Library-Museum of 45,000 to 50,000 people, it looks to be a busy time around the Hoover Campus next summer! Think of it this way: we will have an estimated four times the number of normal visitors during the six month exhibit!

It’s pretty exciting - but scary, too. Will we be ready? Can we handle the crowds? Can we give a great visitor experience, so they will tell others, and attract even more visitors? I think the answer is yes, but the bottom line is this:

We need your help!

If you were ever thinking about volunteering and getting involved, we have multiple opportunities available. Do you enjoy people, but aren’t necessarily a history buff? We have a place for you! Like to volunteer and work behind the scenes? We have a place for you!

Or, love telling the “Hoover story”? We have a place for you, too! Look for an announcement from us by year end for details on how you can volunteer - we make it fun, meaningful and worthwhile - and we need you!

We also need your help - financially! The Making of the Great Humanitarian (MOGH) campaign is now in full swing. Co-chairs Jim Stein and Margaret Hoover announced at the Celebration Banquet we have cash and pledges totaling $307,800, and are over halfway to our $600,000 campaign total. But we need your help! No gift is too big, and no gift is too small! As Herbert Hoover emphasized during World War I, he was raising money for the Commission for the Relief of Belgium, give what you can, when you can.

The MOGH project is without question one of the best opportunities to tell the story of how Herbert Hoover got into public service, saved millions from starvation and went on to become 31st President of the United States. The message is transformational - particularly for young people. Can you help us financially so we can tell the story? You can donate one of three ways: On the web, at www.HooverCookie.com, by mailing a contribution to one address, or by calling us at 319-643-5327.

Herbert Hoover often said that if you had a real need, instead of government providing relief, you could go to Main Street and they will give you everything you need. The Hoover Presidential Foundation members are our “Main Street.” Please help us tell this story to a generation who never heard the whole story in school!

Employee Spotlight

Delene McConnaha, Membership and Academic Programs Mgr.

Delene McConnaha has been with the Foundation four and a half years. She is the Membership and Academic Programs Manager. Delene has been a resident of Muscatine, Iowa for 17 years. Originally from Nebraska, she is often the victim of good-natured ribbing from Hawkeye fans on staff. (Mostly Jerry.)

Delene has been married 17 years to Brice, a purchaser of parts for pumps, primarily... there's a story there — you'll have to ask Delene next time you see her. They have a blended family of five children and 10 grandchildren.

I asked her what the best part of her job was. "My first thought when asked this question was working with the wonderful Foundation staff. What a team we have! We work hard and we laugh often and everyone pulls together to make sure each is successful at what they do. It's pretty amazing to look back to see what this small staff has accomplished over the past year," she said. "But I also have the opportunity to manage the Uncommon Student Award program. The USA Trustee Committee is so easy and enjoyable to work with. And, of course, the incredible students who go through this program. I'm blown away every year.

Delene enjoys watching the transition of the nervous, apprehensive uncommon students who enter the program in June and then transform into successful and confident young adults by the time their projects are completed in October. "I don't remember what I was doing my junior year in high school, but it certainly wasn't anything like this," she said.

She enjoys getting to know the Foundation members, too. "We are doing more and more things with our members all the time: picnics and trips — we're planning opportunities to get together more often. I wish we could reach out more to our members who live at a distance. I want them to know that even though they are not close to West Branch, they are appreciated and we’re trying to find ways to reach out to them."

For fun, Delene stays involved in community theatre, church activities and music. "Several nights a week I'm in music and/or theatre rehearsals or meetings. Currently I'm preparing to sing for a fundraiser, preparing to sing a concert, producing a theatre production, and playing chimes with our church group," she said. "And needless to say, I love spending time with children and grandchildren when I can!"

Relaxing at home is always nice too, according to Delene. When she can find the time.

And the Winner is . . .

Throughout the summer, whenever we had a public event, we'd provide a drawing for a book in the Herbert Hoover biography series. We’re pleased to announce that Jason Rubin of Odwein, Iowa is the most recent winner of this drawing! Jason won The Life of Herbert Hoover – Keeper of the Torch, 1933 to 1964, by Gary Dean Best. The book is the sixth of a six volume set and covers Hoover’s final years.

Congratulations, Jason!
Continued from page 1 —

You can find more information about the awards and the recipients at our website under the GRANTS & AWARDS tab.

Margaret Hoover and Jim Stein followed with the announcement of the Making of the Great Humanitarian fundraising campaign. This was the first public invitation for donations. Behind the scenes, trustees and friends of the Foundation have already raised over $300,000—and we’re slightly more than half way to our goal of $600,000! Please consider a donation to this campaign—you can read more about it in this newsletter or visit HooverCookie.com.

Our keynote speaker was John Taft, CEO of RBC Wealth Management U.S., author, and great-grandson of William H. Taft, 27th President of the United States. John spoke about the importance of character and integrity to his family. At the conclusion of his speech, he was joined on stage by Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States, Margaret Hoover, great-granddaughter of Herbert Hoover, and moderator Laurie Berggren, who led the group in lively discussion about their presidential heritage.

Now I could go on and on about the Celebration Banquet, but I won’t for two reasons: 1) There just isn’t enough space even in this newsletter to do it justice—it was quite a grand event! 2) You should have been there! John Taft relates stories of his family history with a focus on character and integrity. We hope you can join us next year and experience it for yourself!

Hoover Hunger Project feeds 84,000

Saturday, Oct. 25 was dubbed Celebration Weekend, and what better way to celebrate than by packing meals for needy families at the Hoover Hunger Project. The project evolved into a joint effort by the West Branch Lions Club and the Hoover Presidential Foundation. The original goal was to raise $5,000 and package 25,000 meals to split among families in Iowa and in Africa. “Then we raised the stakes and set out to raise $25,000 and produce 100,000 meals,” said Mike Quinlan, Lions Club president. In the end, the organizations raised over $22,000 and packaged 84,000 meals, with the help of over 250 volunteers, including several members of the Hoover family. “I’m so excited to see everyone who showed up,” said Leslie Hoover Lauble, great granddaughter of President Hoover. “The Boy Scouts are here, church groups, Foundation trustees... look at all these people! Herbert would be ecstatic – people working together to feed those in need.” Leslie and her husband Todd were joined by their three children, Hagen DeLos, Steve and Jennifer Marsh, and grandson Jackson Mosebach. Other Hoovers included Andrew and Jeanie Hoover, and their son Alexander, his wife Margaret and their two children, Sophie and McKenna. Leon Sporrer from Outreach, Inc. was the event coordinator who kept the volunteers busy and each workstation running smoothly. “We have 12 stations running, 10 people on each line, with support bringing in supplies and packing skids with finished boxes,” said Sporrer. “The support is overwhelming,” added the 9-year veteran of the program.

In one year, Outreach has produced 262 million meals, shipped 121,296 boxes of food to 17 countries. All 84,000 meals packed this day were completed in under four hours and was split amongst local food pantries in the area with a large portion heading to Eastern Africa.
August 1 and 2 provided excellent weather once again for family fun in West Branch. There was so much going on, it’s hard to pick a place to start! So let’s check them off alphabetically.

**Bill Riley Talent Search**

The Bill Riley Talent Search provided over two hours of great entertainment and featured acts from young and old alike. Singing, dancing, drama... more singing and dancing... and most at a very high level! Performers competed at one of two age levels, Sprouts, up to age 12, and Seniors, ages 13 to 21. A panel of judges rated each act and winners were guaranteed a spot in the finals in Des Moines, held during the Iowa State Fair.

12-year-old Zach Hein of Walcott, Iowa, won the Sprouts division with some excellent violin playing. During his performance, he showed the audience the difference between playing a violin and a fiddle. There was quite a difference, and he was great at both.

Arianna Curtis, 19, from Muscatine won the Senior division with a vocal solo “Two Black Cadillacs.”

**Celebration of Life Ceremony**

The Celebration of Life ceremony began with introductions from Jerry Fleagle, executive director of the Hoover Presidential Foundation, and speeches from Tom Schwartz, director of the Presidential Library-Museum and Pete Swisher, superintendent of the National Historic Site. The featured keynote speaker was Allan Hoover III, great-grandson of Herbert Hoover, who related personal stories about growing up as a Hoover descendant. Following Allan’s speech, members of the board of trustees served birthday cake to the crowd in honor of Herbert Hoover’s upcoming 140th birthday.

Hoover Ball National Championships

The 27th Annual National Hoover-Ball Championships were a success as teams battled it out on Saturday, August 2nd in West Branch.

The traditional traveling trophy found a new home in the men’s division with the Marshmallow Pterodactyls. The Marshmallow Pterodactyls competed against The Original Hoover Huckers in the championship game. The Pterodactyls played hard in their last games, one lasting over an hour, to reach their place at the top. The team consisted of three members: Clay Cook, Cole Cook and Sam Perkins.

The four-pound women’s tournament didn’t stray far from the usual as last year’s winners claimed the trophy for the fourth year in a row. The team consisted of four members: Kelley Trimble, Kelli Vaughan, Paige Donohoe and McKenna Sexton. The team played against Haley’s Heavers in the championship game.

Winners were given the honor of the traveling trophy.
The American Road 7 Winter 2014 • Volume 8 No. 3

individual trophies and a $100 cash prize. All who participated in the tournament were given a 2014 National Hoover-Ball Championship Tournament t-shirt.

Mayor’s Parade
An open class parade is held each year to kick-off the day’s events. This year over 100 entries, including floats, a marching band, veterans groups, antique cars and tractors, and of course, politicians, walked the route. All entries are judged as they pass the announcer’s review booth, and scored for prizes. This year, the Hoover Presidential Foundation won 1st place with their WWI 1/8 scale replica Belgian Relief ship, built as part of the upcoming Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit launching in 2015.

Member Picnic
The member picnic followed the Celebration of Life ceremony on the hill at the Yellow House. A record 170+ members and invited guests were in attendance as Dave Zollo and the Body Electric played on stage across the trace. The picnic is a free event for members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation and just one of the ways we can say ‘thank you’ for supporting the Foundation.

President George W. Bush Visit
A special appearance by George W. Bush provided the evening entertainment. Well, not the real George Bush, but acclaimed impersonator Brent Mendenhall, known for his uncanny representation of the President. Our own Ryan Johnson and archivist Matt Schaefer took on simulated Secret Service duty for the presumptive president.

Fergalicious 5K Run
I know, The Fergalicious 5K was not a Foundation event, not is it in alphabetical order. But it is worth mentioning in this Hoover’s Hometown Days report for this single, very important fact. Our own Alexander Hoover participated in the race, and won his division! Now that’s what I call Hoover family participation! ★

Who doesn’t love a parade?
We’d like to thank the many volunteers who helped us with the Univ. of Iowa homecoming parade! They baked, packed and delivered 7,000 Hoover cookies into the hands of eager parade-goers Friday, Oct. 10. Our volunteers included Hoover Foundation members, trustees and friends from the community. View more pictures on Facebook! ★

Our baking and packaging volunteers included:
Linda Fleagle  Rosie Maske
Colleen Hoffman  Tracy Reiners
Dorothy Holmes  Tina Saboatin
Darlene Kabela  Pat Wildenber
Audrey Kofoed

Our parade volunteers included:
Gene Anderson  Merlin Hulse
Joy Anderson  Hannah Maske
Jane Bourgeois  Kristin Sherry
Linda Fleagle
Christine Ashley and the students of Scattergood School, West Branch

A. Capt. Dan (Yeager) is at the helm while summer intern Kristin Sherry returns to shout the news about Herbert Hoover to the crowds.
B. Students from Scattergood School in West Branch help deliver 7,000 Hoover cookies along the route.
C. Trustee Gene Anderson walks the 1/4 mile route with cookies for the kids.
Ceremony Marks 50 Year Commemoration

Continued from page 1 —

figure the Cedar County Sheriff based on the number of cars parked in the area. The funeral was planned with military precision, every movement done in funeral cadence, but the customary military salutes were omitted to preserve the Quaker tradition.

In planning the 50 year commemoration, we tried to incorporate many of the elements utilized half a century ago. Members of the Iowa American Legion honor guard presented the colors followed by the playing of The Star Spangled Banner by the Eastern Iowa Brass Band. Opening remarks were presented by Jerry Fleagle, executive director of the Foundation. Pete Swisher, superintendent of the Hoover National Historic Site, spoke about Hoover's love of West Branch and why the site was chosen for his final resting place.

The next speaker was Patrick Van Nevel, honorary consul of the Kingdom of Belgium, serving Iowa and Western Illinois. "I wish you continued success in your mission to keep alive the tremendous legacy of Herbert Hoover," he said. "The Belgians are natural allies in this endeavor. We will always remember Herbert Hoover as a great humanitarian, who rendered exceptional services to our country."

Major General Tim Orr spoke next as a representative of the Federal Government. "For five decades, the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum has taught visitors about the fascinating story of our 31st President and his lifelong commitment to service," Orr said. "Like many in Iowa, and far beyond our state, I have a profound, personal appreciation of President Hoover's selfless service to mankind."

The keynote speaker was Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation and former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia. He presented a powerful and moving speech, "Herbert Hoover's burial in West Branch marked the end of a family odyssey that had begun on his mother Hulda Minthorn's side with Quakers who arrived in New England in 1630," said Quinn. "...his father's ancestor Andrew Hoover arrived in America in 1738 and eventually settled in North Carolina along the Uwharrie River where Herbert Hoover's great grandfather Jesse was born in 1799."

"Hoover's passing began a process of reconsidering his role as President during the Great Depression, and giving emphasis instead to his array of humanitarian accomplishments for which he was five times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He was praised not only for addressing hunger following both world wars, but also in so effectively coordinating relief efforts for more than 600,000 people following the historic flooding of New Orleans in 1927 and for leading two commissions on the re-organization of the executive branch of the federal government. Quinn also recognized Hoover for approving the Star Spangled Banner as the National Anthem; and his support for expanded funding of scientific research by the U.S. government. "We owe to research the fabulous improvement in the health of the nation (and) the greatest industrial productivity known to man..." Quinn said; as well as for his well-known love of fishing. "Even the trout will miss him," one admirer wrote.

The closing speaker was Quaker minister Ruthie Tippin, formerly of West Branch, who read the original eulogy written 50 years ago by Rev. D. Elton Trueblood, a close friend of Herbert Hoover. Three wreaths were then laid at the gravesite. Major General Orr placed one on behalf of the White House and United States of America, Patrick Van Nevel on behalf of the country of Belgium, and Andrew Hoover with Leslie Hoover-Lauble, representing members of the Hoover family. The sound of Taps echoed over the hillside from a lone trumpet to conclude the event.

We invite you to visit our website to view copies of some of the speeches and a video of the event. You'll find links to these and other materials at www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org, under the NEWS & EVENTS tab, 50 Year State Funeral Commemoration. Be sure to check the links to our Facebook photo album and the Media Files button. ★
Many members of the Hoover family came back to West Branch for Celebration Weekend, so we put them to work promoting events and telling the Hoover story every chance we had. And they all participated graciously and garnered a huge amount of great press for the Hoover Campus.

Margaret started it off with radio interviews in Des Moines on Oct. 15 at WHO Radio and again on the 16th on WMT Radio in Cedar Rapids. She was in town for the World Food Prize conference and also helped with some fundraising as well.

Leslie Hoover-Lauble and Allan Hoover III were here on Oct. 18 for the Uncommon Student Awards. Together, they helped distribute $30,000 in awards to the students and got to spend some time with the student’s families.

Leslie and husband Todd, were able to stay in town the whole week leading up to the gravesite ceremony, so we put them to work as well. On Monday, Oct. 20, we left bright and early for Waterloo, Iowa and Herbert Hoover Middle School, where Leslie spoke about her family heritage and answered questions from the students. There were four sessions in all, each with 30 to 50 students in the crowd. One group of 5th graders came over from Lou Henry Hoover Elementary to learn about their school’s namesake too. Following the sessions, a select group of student leaders had lunch with Leslie and an opportunity for one-on-one discussion. The event was covered by local TV and newspapers.

Following that, we drove to a pedestrian mall in Waterloo to visit the restored gardens where a statue of Lou Henry Hoover had been placed. While there, Leslie had the pleasure of meeting sculptor John Jago. His bronze sculpture of the former First Lady, Lou Henry Hoover, is located in the Lou Henry Hoover Sculpture Garden, the original site of the Henry family home in Waterloo, Iowa. She also met Kent Shankle and Mary Potter, two of the people who spearheaded the restoration project.

On the morning of the 23rd, Leslie headed to KXIC Radio in Iowa City for an interview on the Jay Capron show. The Celebration Banquet began at 5:30 that evening, where all the Hoovers were in attendance, hobknobbing with about 200 members, trustees and friends of the Foundation.

The Hoovers found their way to Hoover Elementary School in Iowa City Friday morning, and at the center of an all-school assembly where the entire student body sang a welcome song to Alexander, Leslie, Margaret, and Andrew. You can view a video of that effort on our Facebook and YouTube pages! During the assembly, principal Dennis Harnack read a decree from Iowa City mayor Matthew Hayes, declaring Friday, Oct. 24, 2014, to be Herbert Hoover Day! After the assembly, Leslie went to read to Kindergarten and 1st graders. Margaret left to speak to 2nd and 3rd graders, and Alexander and Andrew answered a bevy of questions from 4th and 5th graders. The school presented each descendant with an official school T-shirt which marked the 60th anniversary of Herbert’s dedication of that school.

On Saturday, Oct. 25th, the Hoovers could all be found at West Branch High School, preparing meals in true Hoover fashion for needy families. Andrew and Jeanie, Alexander and his wife Margaret plus their children, and Leslie and Todd, with their three children and grandson helped package 84,000 meals to be split among local families with a portion being sent to Eastern Africa. Celebration Weekend concluded with the 50 year commemoration ceremony at the gravesite.

On Sunday, the Hoovers left for home, probably exhausted from a long week of public appearances, eager to get back into their daily routines. But we suspect they’re already looking forward to their next visit to West Branch and we can’t wait to see them again! *
Uncommon Students Awarded over $30,000

On Saturday, Oct. 18, there was excitement in the air at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum as three Herbert Hoover Uncommon Students were awarded $5,000 Scholarships.

“All 15 of our Uncommon Students are certainly deserving of the $5,000 award but only three scholarships can be awarded,” said Delene McConaha, academic programs manager at the Hoover Presidential Foundation. The selection committee members were Senator Robert Dvorsky, Coralville; Patricia Hand, Iowa City; Helen Howe, Muscatine; Taylor Stout, Washington; and Cynthia Fobian-William, Des Moines.

Lucia Ruppert attends Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. She was awarded one of the $5,000 scholarships. Her project was entitled, “Cultural Humanitarian, All 15 of our Students are Certainly Deserving.”

“My project aims to establish a common ground between the diverse population of Columbus Junction and surrounding areas by publishing a multicultural, trilingual newspaper as well as hosting cultural activities,” said Ms. Ruppert. “With articles in English, Spanish, and Hakka Chine, The Bridge has created a ‘bridge’ that encourages communication between our neighbors.”

The third scholarship recipient is Lexington Kennard, who attends Ankeny High School. Her project was entitled, “Teens Against Human Trafficking.”

“When I discovered that human trafficking was taking place right in my hometown area, I knew I needed to do something about it,” she said. Lexington developed a curriculum and handbook for Teens Against Human Trafficking (TAHT). TAHT teams will raise awareness in their communities about human trafficking issues through events and peer prevention education. The curriculum and handbook have all of the necessary resources and information needed to set up a successful TAHT team, thus contributing to the abolishment of modern day slavery.

Jena Van Marel, Sheldon High School, was awarded the Mariah Becker Volunteer Leadership Award for her project, “Glimpse of Change.”

The award is in memory of Mariah Becker, a member of the Hoover Uncommon Student Class of 2000. Mariah was a student at the University of Iowa in 2002 when she lost a long and courageous battle with cancer.

The Mariah Becker Award goes to the student whose project embodies or promotes the spirit of volunteerism and leadership and lends itself to continuation after the student graduates from high school. The award carries with it a $250 stipend to be given directly to the organization carrying out the project.

Jena described her project as a transformative mission for numerous individuals in Kenya. Jena stated, “Lenses changed my view of the world and I want to do the same for others.” She collected, cleaned, organized, and tested prescriptions for over 1,000 pairs of glasses to be distributed in Kenya. “Receiving a pair of glasses will be a life changing event for these people,” she said. Jena has been invited to join Dr. Ralph De Haan’s team to distribute the glasses to Kenya in December.

Other Uncommon Students receiving $1,000 awards are: Emma Baker, West Liberty High School; Ashly Brown, Louisa-Muscatine High School; Carolyn Graham, Grinnell Newburg Community High School; Caleb Hoffman, Muscatine High School; Miranda Liebsack, North High School; Sioux City; Ankur Parupally, Linn-Mar High School; Marion; Paige Plate, Nevada High School; Shalini Raichur, Muscatine High School; Ryley Riex, Jinxton-Shillburg; Megan Slattery, Calamus-Wheatland Secondary; and Elliot Suiter, Johnston High School.

As you may already know, the Hoover Presidential Foundation is a non-profit, 501 c-3 organization. We don't manufacture anything and we don't sell anything for profit. In some ways, we're like the government — we only operate from funds given to us. We are unlike the government in one important way — we operate within our budget and stretch those funds to maximize their value!

We have budget buckets for everything. Uncommon Student Award scholarships, Hoover’s Hometown Days, special exhibits like the upcoming Making of the Great Humanitarian, and general operational funds. The annual fund helps pay for the salaries of the staff, keep the lights on and the water running, support a wide variety of programs, maintenance on the Yellow House and basic office equipment to get the job done. These funds are ‘unrestricted,’ meaning we can use them in the area of greatest need. In the last 12 months, annual operational funds were used to:

- Increase communications to keep Foundation members and the public better informed
- Host another successful Hoover's Hometown Days celebration, including the Hoover-Ball National Championships, Celebration of Life and Member Picnic
- Promote the Library-Museum at the Iowa State Fair for 13 days with a preview of the Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit, and deliver over 22,000 Hoover Cookies with our message
- Staff the Uncommon Student Awards program - don't forget there's a two-day seminar for students in June
- Provide Uncommon Public Service Awards to two deserving Iowa state legislators, which honors them for outstanding public service and provides us with an opportunity to lobby our cause
- Support the Institute for Civic Engagement, a partnership with the University of Iowa designed to train Iowa teachers in the high school classroom how to engage students for civic betterment
- Support research travel grants and school bus grants
- Provide numerous speaker programs at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
- Participate in special exhibits like The Hidden Works of Ding Darling exhibit, America's First Lady, and a Shakespeare Christmas
- Host a Celebration Banquet program featuring Presidential descendants John Taft, Margaret Hoover and Clifton Truman Daniel

These programs are all funded by the Hoover Presidential Foundation and cannot be accomplished without your support! There is something here for everyone to participate in and enjoy. Can you imagine the Library-Museum and National Historic Site without these events? The Foundation uses each one to expose Hoover’s ideals and legacy to more and more people — to spread the word — Continued on page 12
If you haven’t yet heard about, or viewed our Facebook pages, or seen the media coverage, or experienced the Belgian Relief ship yet, well, you just haven’t been trying. On Aug. 6, Jerry, Delene, Ryan, Brad, and intern Kristin left for Des Moines and the Iowa State Fair. They would meet up with Capt. Dan Yeager and his crew for an exhausting, yet worthwhile, adventure.

The Belgian Relief ship had made its public debut just 4 days earlier at the Hometown Days parade in West Branch. At the state fair, it would travel a loop around the fairgrounds twice daily, inviting fairgoers to follow it back to the Belgian School House exhibit for a free Hoover Cookie on a stick.

Remember this line from the movie Field of Dreams? “If you build it, they will come.” Well, we did, and they did. During the week, sullied by only two rainy days, staff and volunteers at the exhibit handed out over 22,000 cookies on a stick, baked fresh daily in a portable kitchen behind our tent. Why the stick? Only the best food at the fair comes on a stick, so in true fair fashion, we put our cookie on a stick.

With each cookie, fairgoers received the Hoover cookie story, as told by the creative team working the booth. We told the story thousands of times, each time getting better and better, while maintaining historical accuracy as best as possible. We also distributed thousands of Hoover cookie story sheets. On the back of each was a buy one get one free admission offer to the Library-Museum. Before our week was over at the fair, coupons had already begun showing up in West Branch.

Intern Kristin Sherry was amazing on the PA system as our carnival Barker, bringing people into the booth to learn about Herbert Hoover and the Library-Museum, so we had her do that job – a lot! Then, with bullhorn in hand, we put her on the ship as it toured the fairgrounds, plowing through throngs of people oblivious to the giant float coming down the road behind them. Once spotted, they’d quickly grab their cameras and start snapping photos.

Many people thanked us for exhibiting. They hadn’t realized what they were missing in West Branch, or the missing details of Hoover’s life never taught in school. The cost to exhibit at the fair was minimal, but it took it’s toll on the staff. We were fortunate to have an excellent group of volunteers come by to help work the booth and support the effort. We could not have done it without them, and will need even more next year. Let us know if you’d like to volunteer for events like this. With the success we had at the Iowa State Fair, we’ll probably be going back again soon! ★
Annual Fund Drive  

Continued from page 10 —

that each person is ‘uncommon’ and can make a difference in the world around them.

Would you take an ‘uncommon’ step with a donation to our annual operations fund?

Your tax deductible contribution makes a statement. Say ‘YES! I want more people to know the true story of Herbert Hoover’s uncommon life. I support the work of the Foundation and want them to continue to reach out with this message; and I understand the importance of these programs!’

When you support the Foundation, you support Iowa’s youth — the uncommon students who are making a difference in their community, and the world, by collecting eyeglasses for people in Africa, distributing used musical instruments to school music programs, making blankets for newborns and children struggling in Haiti, bringing fresh water to small villages in India, and producing multi-lingual newspapers in Iowa. You help keep state legislators focused on serving their constituents. And you teach our state’s youth that anyone can raise up and make a difference. Will you rise with us?

Making a donation to the annual operations fund is easy. Contributions can be mailed to us at P.O. Box 696, West Branch, IA, 52358; you can donate online at HooverPresidentialFoundation.org. Look for the ‘Donate to the Foundation’ banner in the top right corner. Or, you can simply call us at 319-643-5327.

We can make all kinds of plans, but we can’t make them happen without your help. We’ve made great strides this year and we need you to help keep the momentum going!*

YES! I want to help keep things moving forward!

Name: ____________________________  My check is enclosed for $_________ __________

Address: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________  Phone: ____________________________

Please clip and mail to: Hoover Presidential Foundation, PO Box 696, West Branch, IA 52358

Our Mission:

The Foundation will foster the collection, interpretation and preservation of historical resources relating to the life, ideas, values and times of Herbert Hoover, thirty-first President of the United States; we will promote public education about and appreciation for Herbert Hoover, support the Hoover Presidential Foundation and the National Historic Site at West Branch, Iowa, effectively garner and prudently manage Foundation resources, and serve Foundation members.

Hoover Presidential Foundation
PO Box 696
West Branch, IA 52358
Phone: 319-643-5327
www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org
info@HooverPF.org

Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information call 319-643-5301 or visit www.HooverArchives.gov

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information call 319-643-2541 or visit www.nps.gov/heho