

# What's the Buzz?

## March Newsletter

549 Family Foundation  
200 5<sup>th</sup> St. SE  
Perham, MN 56573

### *Upcoming Honey Bee Gala – An Investment in Youth*

*Plans are quickly coming together for this back by popular demand event which will be held on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 at Mulligan's Pub & Eatery. Social hour, the silent auction bidding and great entertainment will all begin the excitement at 5:30pm. The fabulous chef will have our buffet prepared to serve at 6:30 and the program including speakers, awards and exciting live auction with returning auctioneer extraordinaire, Tim Erp will begin at 7pm.*

*The guest speakers are Kris Rone, Class of 1984, from Manhattan Beach, CA, past Executive VP of Business Operations for the LA Dodgers; and Talitha Sannes-Venhuizen, Class of 1992, a doctor of medicine at Park Rapids, MN.*

*There will be displays from several of the classes and organizations receiving grants from 549 Family this past year and also artwork and industrial program projects from both Prairie Wind Middle School and Perham High School. The PWMS National History Day Regional Contest Exhibits and several PHS trophies will be there to see, too.*

*Tickets will be available for sale beginning March 10<sup>th</sup> at the offices at PWMS or PHS, or by calling 347-0549. Tickets run \$35.00 for non-549 Family members and \$25.00 for current 549 Family members. 100% of the funds raised from this event will go to benefit the students of the Perham-Dent school district. Kids are our greatest natural resource! Their future and ours depends on our investment – an investment in youth!*

*Come join the celebration of all things going right in the Perham-Dent schools!*



**The PHS Mass Communications class, under the direction of instructor Sandra Wieser-Matthews, recently visited the award winning broadcast journalism program of East View High School in Minneapolis to observe electronic journalism and watch media productions. They also visited commercial radio and television stations and met with several professional journalists.**

**These students sent this picture along with a very kind thank you to the supporters of the 549 Family Foundation for making this opportunity available to them.**

## Meet 549 Family Board Member, Jo Strege

Jo grew up pure farm girl outside Hillsboro, ND. She graduated from there in 1978, then attended Moorhead State University. She worked as a sales rep of farm equipment, was a full-line insurance and securities agent for ND & MN for several years, and then did daycare when she and her husband, Mark, began their family. Music is Jo's passion. She enjoys singing, plays several instruments and does some songwriting. She's had the privilege of performing for a variety of events around the F-M area with many groups, large & small, including the F-M Sweet Adelines and her quartet called "Signature", which she misses deeply. The Streges relocated to their Little McDonald Lake home in 1996. She now runs a home business, Shop Central selling homemade woodcrafts, and home & garden décor.



Since coming to Perham, Jo has devoted most of her time to raising their daughters, Angela, now a senior and Jennifer, a freshman. Jo helped out at HOTL as a volunteer and substitute para before working as Volunteer Network Coordinator from 2001 to spring 2005. Funds for the VN program ran dry in June, 2004. Seeing that and other programs disappearing or struggling with insufficient funding is what got Jo fired up to take on coordinating the 549 Family Foundation in Feb., 2004.

So, why 549 Family? "First, I'm a parent. I want my kids to graduate with a solid education with all their options open to pursue any future they choose. If I can make a difference for my kids by being part of an organization that provides support for quality programs and activities that help give our kids every advantage at graduation time, I'm there!"

"Second, some people think taxes cover the education bill. Of the total tax bill we all pay for education, only a small portion actually returns to support Perham-Dent schools. 100% of donations to 549 Family benefit our school & kids right here in our backyard! Building strong schools in our district benefits everyone! Whether you're a parent, a teacher, a retiree, an alumnus, a business or the dog catcher; if you live here, you have enough reason to support 549 Family."

***It all began with a phone call from a local investment broker. "We have a client who is setting up their estate and they're interested in providing 549 Family Foundation with a substantial gift." After meeting with the client and presenting the background and vision of the foundation, they decide it's exactly the kind of organization they want to support.***

***It's happening, as more and more people begin to see the vision and dedication of the 549 Family Foundation, they are seeing a credible, solid way to give something of high value to the youth of our school district and also the community.***

***See your accountant or attorney for information on making a lasting contribution to 549 Family with an endowment, gift annuity, charitable trust or living trust. There may be substantial tax advantages to using some of these "giving" vehicles.***

[www.549family.com](http://www.549family.com)

218-347-0549

Board Members:

Brian Mort, President  
Dean Bahls, Treasurer  
Jo Strege, Coordinator

David Arvig

Bob Wilkowski

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Tom Spencer

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