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## Students' fundraiser gets Bohemian boost

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Poudre School District students' effort to raise \$20,000 for charity by Friday just got a boost.

The Bohemian Foundation announced Tuesday that it will match all of the funds raised by each of the five high schools during a two-week volunteer drive and invest it back into the schools.

The volunteer drive, which began Feb. 21 and runs until Friday, started with two Poudre High School students who wanted to do something big for their community. Now, Fort Collins, Rocky, Poudre, Fossil Ridge and Polaris Expeditionary high schools are all volunteering to raise money for the United Way of Larimer County.

"We learned of the project upon its launch and thought it was a great effort to engage a large number of students to give back to the community," said Becky Cramer, grants manager for the Bohemian Foundation. "The initiative is infectious and something we want to acknowledge and support."

If Rocky students, for example, raise \$5,000, the Bohemian Foundation will give \$5,000 to be used for educational purposes at Rocky. All high schools will receive the amount they raised.

"We are not placing stipulations on how the funds should be spent but rather our desire is that the students have a voice in determining how the funds are used to better their school," Cramer said.

Lydia O'Reilly, 17, a junior, and Paul Kauzmann, 18, a senior - both youth board members for the United Way - started the project with the idea that high school students could volunteer in their community in exchange for pledges. The two set a goal of \$20,000.

Working with the United Way, Kauzmann and O'Reilly found people to create committees at each school to get as many students involved as possible to raise awareness of community needs and establish a positive image for today's youths.

Kauzmann said the project reached new heights with hundreds of passionate students, staff and acknowledgements from the community. Though pledge forms aren't due until after Friday, Kauzmann said he has a good feeling about the campaign.

"With all the great things that have happened since then, I really think kids are motivated as ever," Kauzmann said. "I see no reason why we won't meet and greatly exceed the goal."

Employees at the United Way of Larimer County said they have been impressed with the success of and the passion for this student-run project.

"I am just so unbelievably proud of these kids; there are no words that adequately explain how much they've done, the impact they've had," said Amanda Giacalone, leadership giving director. "I have been working with the kids, supporting them throughout this, and I can't think of a better reward for the students and staff representatives than what the Bohemian Foundation is doing."

Kauzmann also encouraged the community to donate if possible during the last days of the drive.

"This is a great opportunity to support the academic institutions they love and the community at the same time," he said. "It's a great time to jump on board."

## Additional Facts

### **Want to help?**

Donate funds by Friday at [www.psdvolunteerdrive.com](http://www.psdvolunteerdrive.com)