



# The Putnam Pioneer

BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE • FALL 2019

## Mission Focus: For Penny, For the Future



Over 40 years ago when **Penny Poe** (pictured left) started **CareShare**, she didn't expect that it would grow into the vital program it is today.

Last year alone you helped over 1,200 children get Christmas gifts and over 500 children get new coats or shoes, thanks to **Penny's Closet**, an offshoot of CareShare. We helped over 200 more children than the previous year!

While we are so happy to have an efficient system that helps find those in need, we are mindful of the

increasing cost associated with this program run nearly exclusively by volunteers (all either retired teachers or spouses of retired teachers, alumni, and parents from Putnam City, by the way.)

We want CareShare Christmas and Penny's Closet to be around as long as we have the need, which is why we are starting an endowment for the program. This means we will be leading a campaign to raise funds that will provide a steady stream of income solely for CareShare/Penny's

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## Golf Scramble Supports Early Birds

Our tournament at The Greens Country Club was held on Monday, Sept. 16.

It was a beautiful day with lunch from **Health Nut Cafe** sponsored by **Lawrence Fuggett** and dinner donated by **Pub W on Memorial**.

Golfers received a great gift bag provided by **Sodexo**, and had local beer donated by **Roughtail Brewing** available for refreshment.

Teams of players from some of Putnam City's top vendors and supporters played for titles and prizes.

This event will net over \$20,000 for Early Birds, a free school readiness program for Putnam City families with children aged zero to five.



*Congratulations to Clearwater Enterprises on winning first place!*

### Thank You Tournament Sponsors

#### Birdie Sponsors

American Fidelity • Cox Homelife Care  
FieldTurf USA • First United Bank  
Sodexo • Stephen L. Smith Corp.

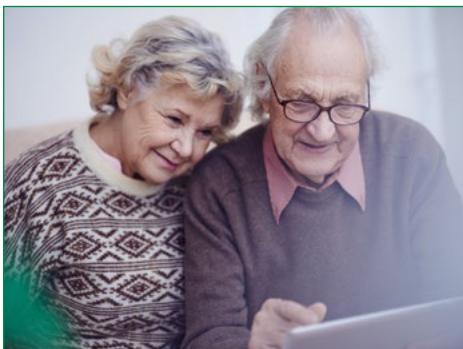
#### Team Sponsors

Clearwater Enterprises • Cox Business  
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#### Hole Sponsors

Boynton Williams & Assoc.  
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Eide Bailly • High Yield Consulting  
Jostens / Matt Stanley • LWPB Architecture  
Profile by Sanford • Rivendell Resources  
Steve & Linda Slawson

## Rollover for a Good Cause and Save Your Family Money



One way to support the CareShare/Penny's Closet Endowment (or another program of your choice) is through an **IRA Rollover**.

You might even be able to help yourself or your parents reduce their taxable income.

Read this FAQ for more help, and call us if you have questions.

### **What is an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift?**

This is an opportunity for a donor with an IRA who is over 70½ years

old to make a transfer directly from their IRA to the Putnam City Schools Foundation that meets the Required Minimum Deduction rules of the IRA.

#### **How does this work?**

If you are over 70½ years of age, federal law requires that you take the Required Minimum Distribution. If you do not make a charitable gift with this money, it will count as income on your taxes.

#### **How can I avoid paying taxes on this money?**

You may make a Qualified Charitable Deduction directly to a charity to avoid being taxed on that minimum distribution. While this gift does not qualify as a charitable income tax deduction, it does lower your adjusted gross income for the year by not including that IRA income in your taxes.

#### **Does a gift from my IRA to the**

#### **Putnam City Schools Foundation count as a Qualified Charitable Distribution?**

Yes it does! We are a 501(c)3 public charity.

#### **When do I need to start the process?**

In order for this gift to qualify for your Required Minimum Distribution, you must make the gift before December 31st. Keep in mind it might take a few weeks to finalize the process, so starting the conversation now is crucial.

#### **This sounds interesting. What is my next step?**

Please contact your IRA's custodian. They will make the transfer directly to the Putnam City Schools Foundation.

If you are designating your gift for anything particular, please let us know so we will put the gift in the appropriate place when it is received.

## From the Blog: Virtual Reality

*Did you know that the Putnam City Schools Foundation has a blog? It comes out each Thursday on our website [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG) and includes news about Putnam City, musings on Jennifer's time as a student and teacher in the district, and thoughts on the state of education in Oklahoma. The blog below is from Aug. 1, 2019. Please take time to read and comment on them each week!*

School has changed a lot since my husband and I were growing up. One of us grumbles about it, and the other listens patiently. "We didn't have alternative seating when I was at Hilldale. Why do all these kids need their own iPads?" et cetera, et cetera.

But the truth is, you wouldn't want your doctor using medicine and techniques from twenty years ago, right? We've learned a lot about cancer and HIV in the past few decades, and the brain is no different. Understanding how the brain works informs pedagogy and curriculum in public education, so we should all embrace the changes in



how teachers teach because they are responding to how students learn.

Virtual education is no exception, and I am so proud to say that once again Putnam City was on the forefront of this movement, providing online learning to students nearly a decade ago. Virtual education is a way for

students who cannot do their best in a traditional school to still get a quality Putnam City education. Mind you, for most every child, being in a classroom having instruction from a certified teacher surrounded by peers is still the best way to learn, but our district is mindful of those few children who, because of health issues or their unique circumstances, need to have a virtual opportunity.

In reading up on how Putnam City conducts its virtual program, I was truly impressed. As a parent, you will know the expectations for your child, and easily be able to check their progress. The students still learn from certified

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## Putnam PETS Winner Crowned!



For all you cat, iguana, horse and chicken people, we changed it up this year to allow your beloved pets to enter the contest. But dog is still man's best friend, so the winner of the 2019 Putnam Pets Photo contest is Max, owned by Jordann Hardin! Thanks to all who entered and special thanks to Affectionate Grooming for donating a fantastic basket of goodies for Max.

## From the Blog

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teachers, and have opportunities to ask questions in real time. According to the website (<https://www.putnamcityschools.org/departments/information-technology/virtualeducation>), teachers:

- Engage and instruct students in a real-time, virtual classroom.
- Develop individualized lesson plans for each student.
- Track student progress and adjust lesson plans based on individual needs.
- Provide individual support via email, phone, LiveLesson® technology, and in person where practical.

Our teachers become part of your student's education — instructing, encouraging, and supporting.

One of the best parts? It's already paid for through your tax dollars! You don't have to go searching for a respected education institution to provide the content your child needs. You have Oklahoma's oldest school district here to provide you with the latest in student technology.

Another great part is that, since the child is a Putnam City student, she can participate in Putnam City's extra-curricular activities, like high school football and music!

Why have you not heard of this? Well, that's a longer story for another blog, but suffice it to say, our district isn't permitted to pay for advertising and toot its own horn. We like to do that for them. So, check it out! See if this is what's best for your child. We are happy to have you in Putnam City.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS SEMESTER'S MAJOR DONORS

*Ad Astra Foundation  
American Fidelity Corporation  
Clearwater Enterprises  
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Cox Homelife Care  
FieldTurf USA  
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Sodexo  
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## Our Friends are the Best!



One of our newest members at Convocation.

I get to brag about it all the time: our teachers are the most generous in the state! They give of themselves beyond expectation. Their support of **Friends of the Foundation** is without peer in Oklahoma, and we want to honor that in a lot of fun ways this year.

We'll start with our annual enrollment contest. **If you join Friends by Sept. 30, you'll be entered into a contest to win a \$50 Amazon gift card AND a \$50 Visa gift card!**

For every \$5 additional you give or upgrade, you'll be entered again. [Download the enrollment form to sign up today!](#)

We intend to install Friends Ambassadors in each school to help our staff stay on top of what's happening in the Foundation, and we want to have fun drawings throughout the year!

Your gifts stay within Putnam City Schools, helping us to provide more YES! Grants, more eyeglasses, and more scholarships. Thank you!

### Welcome to our newest friends!

Megan Abrams  
Nancy Anderson  
Brian Ayres  
Aaron Baker  
Cherokee Baxter  
Rebecca Benton  
Stephanie Boykin  
John Bratt  
Chelsea Brown  
Doug Brown  
Reymus Broyles  
Kylie Buckles  
Trey Cabler  
Maggie Calanni  
Nasthelli Castillo Hernandez  
Regan Crowl  
Collin Crull

Madison Cude  
Kandi Davidson-Ecker  
Tiffany Davis  
Grace Ellis  
Racquel Farquharson Irwin  
Ambra Gales  
Marc Ganz  
Brittney Gonzalez  
Shawn Green  
Amy Griffin  
Jordan Harding  
Christopher Hartman  
Lori Hasty  
Denise Hensley  
Malisa Hepner  
Lauren Hewitt  
Desire Hill

Jacqueline Hottel  
Sheradee Hurst  
Michael Johnson  
Crystal Juarez  
Jayme Knox  
Allyson Kubat  
Joshua Lewis  
Carolyn Lowe  
Courtney Lowry  
Darry Marshall  
Andrea Miller Lister  
Gregory Mills  
Charity Morrison  
Anisia Neal  
Hugo Ortiz  
Anessa Parker  
Jennifer Phillips

Adrienne Pitcock  
Erin Razook  
Denise Reece  
Sabra Rodgers  
Lizbet Salazar  
Kristyl Scott Grizzle  
Emily Smith  
Jaclyn Spomer  
Kathryn Starling  
Letha Stein  
Haley Stochs  
Nour Sweiss  
Allee Tatum  
Brenda Terrazas  
Catherine Vaughn  
Katrina Vida  
Matt Wallen

## Alumni Spotlight: Eric A. Rollerson



**Eric A. Rollerson** (pictured right) graduated from Putnam City North in 2015. In addition to being a Panther, he recently earned a B.A. in Human Relations and Non-Profit Organizational Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

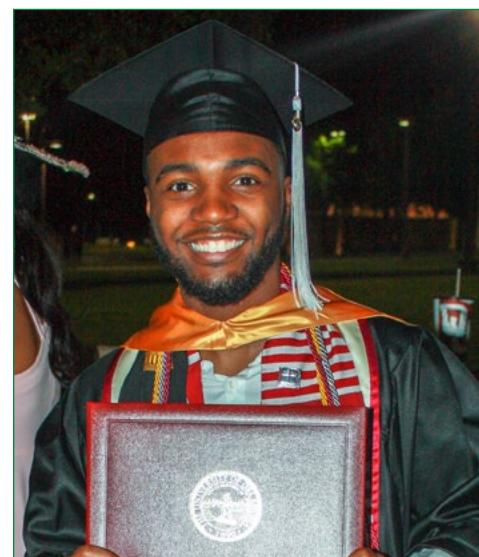
Eric has served in positions as an OU Community Advisor and Youth Development Intern for the Boys and

Girls Club. He's also written a book called *Right Pieces, Wrong Puzzle: The Synergy of Passion & Purpose*.

During his time in Putnam City and OU, Eric was mentored by numerous individuals who made an impact on his journey. He is truly grateful for these people and wishes to pay it forward by sharing his own experiences with those he has the opportunity to mentor.

While a full-time student, he volunteered for the George McLaurin/Sylvia A. Lewis Leadership Conferences.

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## Athletics Hall of Fame

The inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame provided so many memorable moments, it is hard to keep this short.

Meeting three men from the same graduating class who went on to play their sports professionally and excel was quite a treat!

There were great stories, inspirational videos, and beautiful table decorations thanks to **Tina Losawyer** and **Pat Floan**.

The PC Foundation was happy to play a part in hosting the event along with the **PC Athletics Council Booster Club**.

Congratulations to each of the inductees on their accomplishments. Thank you for making Putnam City proud!

To make a nomination for the Athletic Hall of Fame visit <https://www.putnamcityschools.org/departments/athletics>.



Putnam City inductees, from left: Steve Largent, Alvan Adams, and Bob Shirley.



Putnam City West inductees, from left: Jan Ross, Michael Cutter, and Brian Tallet.



Putnam City North inductees, from left: Mike Maddox and Cory Baze. Sam Bradford was also inducted.



David Diefenderfer (left), pictured with Putnam City Athletic Director Dr. Dick Balenseifen, was one of three coaches inducted. A.D. Burtschi and Mike Little were inducted posthumously.



### Endowment

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Closet.

Thanks to the **Kirkpatrick Family Foundation**, every three dollars we raise will be matched by one from them! So if you have \$300, it would be like giving \$400 because of the match!

Penny Poe said she wanted children to be able to "hold onto their hopes at Christmastime." With this endowment, you can help her wish come true. Give today, in honor of Penny or another special person in your life: <https://www.occf.org/pcsf>.

## Alumni Spotlight

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Additionally, he has worked with the Oklahoma City Police Department's F.A.C.T. (Family Awareness Community Teamwork) Program Unit in mentoring for the Man Up and We Rise Annual Conference for high school students.

Serving as an OU Resident Advisor enabled him to help incoming freshmen navigate their way through college.

Eric says that "all of these activities have shown me how important it is to not withhold information and experiences but to instead share your story."

When asked if he would do

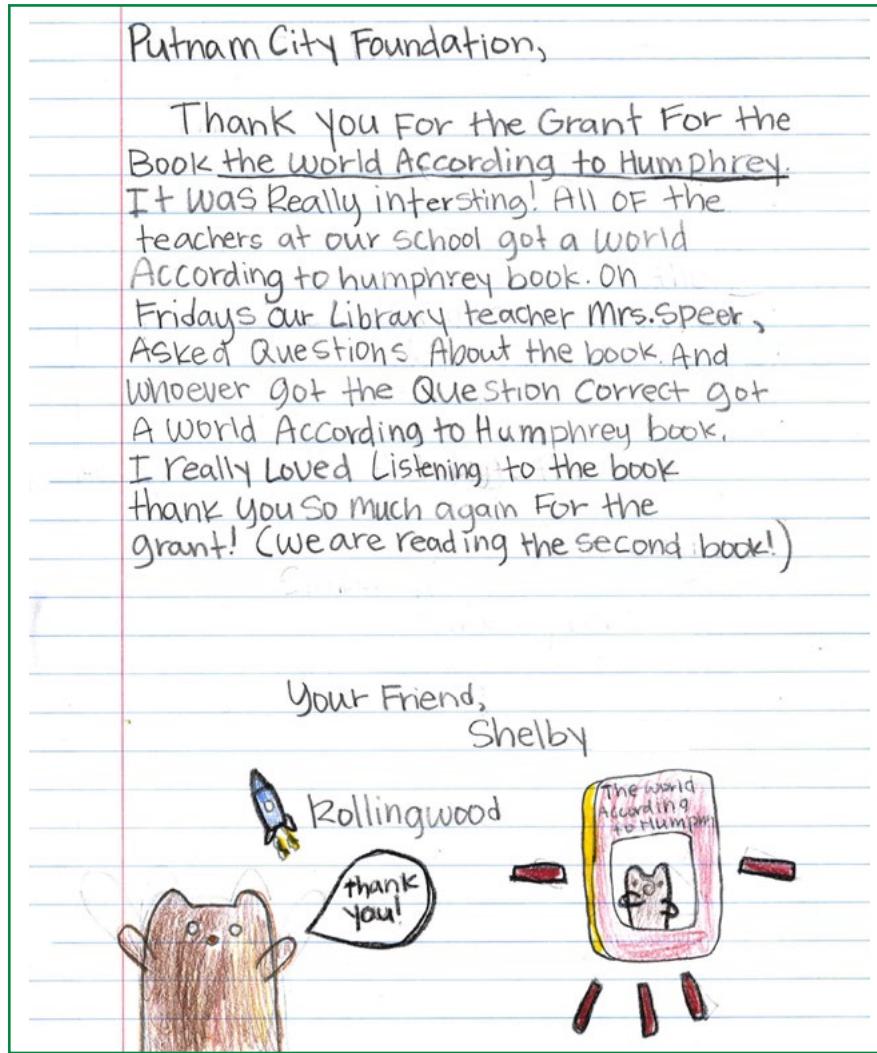


anything differently if he could go back in time, Eric shared that "while I often think about what if I would have done this or changed that, I would not change a single thing. Even though it is cliché, everything happens for a reason and the good and the bad have all helped me become who I am today."

Eric's last piece of advice is to simply "follow your passion." For this mindset, Eric gives credit to his grandparents, who have always been his biggest supporters. They pushed him into education and instilled in him a foundation of faith, self-awareness, and courage. He plans to keep using these going forward.

## Thanks to YOU

Library Media Specialist **Larissa Speer** and Reading Specialist **Laura Martin** created a One School, One Book initiative at **Rollingwood Elementary** last school year. Thanks to YOUR contributions, the Foundation was able to support this effort with a **YES! Grant!** Check out this special video they made for YOU: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOmqdE-HUow>.



## About Us

Our mission is to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools. We serve the students, teachers, and staff of Oklahoma's fifth-largest school district, through support, recognition, and advocacy, and have for over 30 years.

More than 19,500 children and their families benefit from the work we do every day. The support we provide doesn't just impact our schools. It enables our students to dream big and continue building the strong community we share.

## Contact Us

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[www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org)

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