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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## EAGLE NEWS January 2024



Central drama students placed 1st in the Improv Acting Challenge and 3rd Place in the Tech Challenge at the 2024 Nebraska State Thespian Festival.



**Dear Supporter,**  
Happy New Year!

The Central High School Foundation hopes your 2024 is off to a great start!

We are officially immersed in event-planning mode and are looking forward to Give-Education Day on March 6th and Rock the Nest "Trivia Night" on Sunday, April 5th! Please mark your calendars to participate in these great events to benefit Central High School. We would love to

see all our Eagles there!

We are pleased to announce that the Class of 1961 is the winner of the 2023 First Class Challenge! Thank you for all that you do to help aid Central High School and future generations of Eagles. There are numerous class reunions planned for 2024, and invitations for those reunions will be sent out in the coming months. If you have a reunion this year, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your physical invitation will be mailed to the correct address. This is especially important for recent graduates; we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

We are also looking for donations of silent auction items for our 2024 Rock the Nest Trivia Night! If you have an item, service, or gift card that you would like to donate to the Central High School Virtual Rock the Nest Silent Auction, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Erika Buffington at

[events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or (402) 556-1996 if you are interested in donating an item or have any questions.

Lastly, although both teams came up short in their championship games, congratulations to the student athletes and coaches of the boys and girls basketball teams for making it to the Metro Holiday Tournament finals. The boys (12-3) and girls (13-4) teams are both off to great starts this season.

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 165 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*Michele Roberts*

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

### Thank a Teacher with a Valentine



Central would not be what it is without our teachers, so let's show them some love for Valentine's Day!

For \$5, we will send a CHS teacher or staff member a valentine with your personalized message! If you want to send a valentine to a specific staff member, past or present, we will deliver it to them. You may also write a general valentine without a personalized message for any staff member as well. Your well wishes spread love on Wednesday, February 14th!

[Send a Valentine](#)

### JROTC Cadets Receive New Equipment



With funds from the Central High Foundation, Central's JROTC cadets were outfitted with new marksmanship air rifles and color guard equipment. This equipment plus hours of practice lead to the cadets earning first place in the OPS Rifle League this year, where two cadets were awarded first and second place in marksmanship in the district and took second place in the OPS Biathlon.

Along with the marksmanship awards, the CHS JROTC cadets impact countless alumni and community members during all the events they participate in throughout the year such as graduation exercises, the CHS Foundation's Passing Periods luncheons, home football and basketball games, among many others. Major Ryan Cripps (Ret), one of the JROTC instructors, continues to be impressed by the dedication the cadets show to the program and to the ideals JROTC embodies.

**"We are a great representation of Central. With funds from the CHS Foundation, we can continue to make JROTC a stand-out program where everyone can excel with hard work and dedication."**

*- MAJ Ryan Cripps (Ret)*

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our students at Central High School, including those involved in the Eagle Battalion. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation "C" today!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

[Art for Change Project on World Kindness Day](#)





The Central Art Department spearheaded an "Art for Change" project for World Kindness Day. Students and teachers created encouraging cards which were sent to community organizers in Ukraine. The cards found their way to hospitals, military troops, and to a children's hospital. The cards spread encouragement and cheer to those impacted by the war.

In 2024, let's follow in the path of our students and spread good will to those in our communities, whether they are near and far! Happy New Year!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

And the Winner is...



2023 was another fantastic year for reunions, and the classes of 1958, 1961, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1993, and 2013 really impressed us with their dedication and motivation to aid Central High School with their donations to the First Class Challenge.

The results are in, and we are pleased to announce the winner of the First Class Challenge for 2023 is the Class of 1961. The Class of 1961 raised the most money and had the most individual donors. Congratulations!

Thanks to the sustained gifts and donation from our Central family, the exceptional educational experience offered at Central continues to endure. Generation "C" continues the work of these amazing classes.

[Join Generation "C" Today!](#)

## Accepting Donations for Silent Auction



If you have an item, service, or gift card that you would like to donate to the Central High School Virtual Rock the Nest Silent Auction, we would love to hear from you! As always, proceeds from this event will support the needs of Central's students and staff through scholarships, classroom grants, capital projects, and much more. Through your support, the Central High School Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future. After you donate, you will receive a gift-in-kind letter for tax deduction purposes based on the retail value of your item or service. Furthermore, you will be recognized on the Silent Auction publicity materials. For your convenience, click below for our Gift Information Form to submit with your donation. Please [contact Erika Buffington](#) at (402) 556-1996 if you are interested in donating an item or have any questions! Your generosity is appreciated by the entire Central High School community!

[Donation Request Form](#)

## Alumni Spotlight: Jordan Flowers, CHS 2017

2017 alumnus Jordan Flowers credits his North Omaha roots for becoming the man he is today. Taking what he learned at Central and his undergraduate studies, he founded the [M.E.N. \(Modeling Empowered Narratives\) podcast](#). On the podcast, Jordan and his co-hosts talk about mental health and how men can be better communicators and leaders.

As an involved student athlete at Central, Jordan starred on athletic teams (football, basketball, and track) while also excelling academically (National Honor Society and O-Club). Jordan is currently working on his Clinical Psychological Science Master's Program at the University of Maryland and works at the Charles Drew Health Center in Omaha full time as well.



Jordan has several Central connections, including his father Leodis ('87), mother Maria ('87), and sister Jasmyn ('09). Way to go, Jordan!

[Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight](#)

## Alumni Association Update



The Central High School Alumni Association is dedicated to connecting the school's thousands of alums as well as supporting current Central students. They are gearing up for several exciting events in 2024 and hope you can join them.

Mark your calendar for Saturday morning March 23 as they host **"Sunrise in the Stacks."** They will share coffee and donuts and watch the sunrise over downtown from the new library in the arts addition on the east side of the school. Staff who witness this celestial event every day rave about the view. The event also helps benefit needy CHS students.

On Saturday April 27, they will sponsor an alumni outing prior to the **105th Road Show**. It's an opportunity to share dinner in the courtyard with other alums before we take in the amazing and diverse talents of CHS students. Prepare to be impressed! All proceeds benefit the music and drama departments.

Then on Memorial Day weekend in May, they will **rededicate the Vietnam War Memorial** on the west side of Central. The monument first put in place nearly three decades ago was recently restored. Central ROTC and others will join to recognize the sacrifice these Eagles made. Look for more details on all these events in the coming months. And if you're interested in getting involved, consider attending the monthly meeting of the Alumni Association. The next is set for Monday Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at Central.

Questions? Contact Alumni Association President Henry Cordes, CHS '81, at [cordes@owh.com](mailto:cordes@owh.com).

[Learn More About This Event](#)

[Join the 1859 Society Today](#)



Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents, and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or [michele@chsfomaha.org](mailto:michele@chsfomaha.org).

[Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

[Upcoming Class Reunion Schedule](#)





**The Class of 2012 at their class reunion in 2022!**

## **Upcoming Reunion Schedule**

### **Class of 1959**

April 26-27, 2024

[Terry Foster](#) 402-871-7275

[Dave Krecek](#) 402-677-3607

[Larry Gilinsky](#) 402-598-7006

[Join the 1959 Facebook Group](#)

### **Class of 1964**

September 20-21, 2024

[Contact Jeannene Rice Mason](#) or [Jeannette Rice Johnson](#)

### **Class of 1970**

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

### **Class of 1974**

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact information for each day:

[Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#) 402-677-1227 Friday and Monday activities

[Cindy Goff](#) 402-510-6537 Saturday activities

[Sara Achelpohl](#) 402-707-9190 Sunday activities

[Kevin Buckner](#) 240-432-7268

### **Class of 1984**

Date TBD

Contact [Todd Smith](#) or [Betty Brown](#)

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date, please [contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.



## 2023-24 Generation "C" Chair - Leslie Gotch



The Central High School Foundation is proud to announce Leslie Gotch, CHS 1964 as the 2023-2024 Generation "C" Chair.

With 27 years of consecutive giving, Leslie Gotch has never wavered in his support

of Central High School.

Born in San Diego to two WWII Navy veterans, Leslie, the eldest of five children and his family moved to Omaha in 1952. He attended Pickard, Belle Ryan, and Jackson Elementary Schools. "I could not wait to get to Central High School in 1960. My grandmother had just retired as the pastry cook in the cafeteria, so when I went through the lines, the ladies would sometimes put a brownie or piece of cake on my tray and not charge me the 7 cents!"

Leslie has fond memories of his time at CHS. "I loved being a student at Central - the opportunity to be able to study several courses with different teachers was exciting. My teachers taught me to be a critical thinker which was integral in my future career as a computer security engineer."

His talents were in high demand by not only the private sector, but also the U.S. military. "My company produced a specialty product that would scan every email and file passing through the network. This product was incorporated into the military's new messaging systems used on bases from Qatar to Pearl Harbor. Eventually my customers included NATO, The Department of State, and other intelligence agencies."

While at Central, Leslie participated in activities outside the classroom. "I was very involved in the JROTC program. I was on the crack squad rifle drill team for two years and the Hussars my senior year. The Hussars were a precision drill team that performed at the Aksarben coronations."

Now enjoying his retirement, Leslie continues to value the importance of education and giving back to his community - core values he learned, in part, during his time at Central High School - he volunteers at the information desk at a local library and went back to school to study five international languages.

[Join Generation "C"](#)

[Support CHSF While You Shop](#)



The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation.

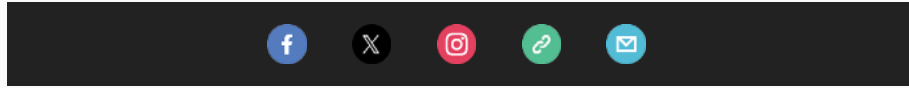
It's easy to do! Just go to the link [tagg.today](#), snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

### Stay Connected With Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X](#)? Follow and like us across social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news.

### Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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