

Hillcrest HS / District 228 recognizes the Winged Foot Foundation with the November 2015 Volunteer Excellence Award

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL – DISTRICT 228



Mitch & Karen Johnston accept the award at the Dist. 228 Board of Education Meeting, November 17th

Mr. Mitch Johnston, founder of The Winged Foot Foundation is being honored with the Volunteer Excellence Award for November 2015. The Winged Foot Foundation is a 501 c3 charity organization that assists student athletes in need of athletic equipment. The organization is also known for promoting higher education and athletic events. The foundation's goal is to assist student athletes in the Chicago area by offering athletic equipment and academic programs to help strengthen the educational and sports activities in their communities. The foundation has been in operation since 2004. In the Winged Foot Foundation logo, the winged foot represents the sport of track & field, the triangle represents pillars of strength: Faith, Family and Friends. They are currently assisting the boys and girls track and/or cross country teams for fifty high schools, seventeen junior high schools and three clubs. Hillcrest is fortunate to be one of those high schools.

Mitch Johnston has been sponsoring the boys and girls Hillcrest Cross Country and Track and Field programs for several years. Mr. Johnston stated, "We believe the lessons learned in the classroom and in athletic competition are beneficial to the development of young people. Knowing that shoes and equipment can be so expensive, it's great for us to be able to help out". The foundation receives some of its items from retailers such as Road Runner Sports, DNA Athletics, Geneva Outfitters, Naperville Running Company, Runners Edge as well as directly from shoe manufacturers like Saucony and Brooks.

When asked how the foundation's contributions have impacted the girls cross country and track program at Hillcrest, Coach Braden stated, "Our student athletes have been fortunate. With the support of training shoes, competitive spikes, athletic gear and clothing, the Hillcrest Cross Country team has flourished". Mr. Johnston was recently honored at the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association 34th Annual Hall of Fame banquet, where he received the Recognition Award for service to Chicagoland's high school track and cross country programs. The Winged Foot Foundation is based in Naperville, however, their generosity reaches across Illinois and Indiana. We are thankful to be recipients of their generous program.