

## FOX CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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It is with great pride and gratitude that we recognize our former PTO and Promise Council President, Dawn Hall, for her lasting impact on Fox Creek. Dawn passed away in a tragic car accident in January of 2024. This summer, we were honored to complete our new outdoor classroom, dedicated in her memory.

Dawn's journey with Fox Creek began when her oldest son entered kindergarten. Over the course of 12 years, she devoted herself tirelessly to our school community. Her leadership, generosity, and dedication strengthened Fox Creek, making it a more connected and welcoming place for students, families, and staff alike. Dawn had an extraordinary gift for recognizing the needs of others—whether delivering food and supplies to families, mentoring students, or using her crafting talents to brighten our school. She never hesitated to step forward and serve.

This project has been years in the making and required countless hours of effort on the part of our staff. We relied heavily on donations and community grants to fully fund this project. We are especially grateful for the support of State Farm, which helped us secure our classroom tables from Murphysboro, Tennessee, and Laborers' Union 362 (LiUNA 362).

Several community organizations also played an instrumental role in bringing this project to life. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided funding for more than 30 trees, enhancing both the beauty and sustainability of the space. Support from Cornbelt Electric allowed us to purchase additional outdoor seating for students and staff. Their generosity and commitment to education have made this project possible.

This project would not have been possible without the expertise and assistance of Tom Rockwell and Heather Wilcox from Unit 5. Thank you to them, Mollie Marvel, Meghan Hillebrandt, and Shannon Hedman, who contributed their time, expertise, and energy to this project.

Already, the outdoor classroom is enriching the lives of our students. It provides powerful opportunities for hands-on learning, while also supporting students' social and emotional well-being. Most importantly, it stands as a lasting tribute to Dawn's passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Fox Creek community.

This space will inspire and benefit generations of students, ensuring that Dawn's legacy continues to live on in the heart of Fox Creek.