



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:00 A.M. MONDAY, MAY 8:**

**HERB KOHL CELEBRATES TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK WITH  
\$500,000 MATCHING GRANT TO INCREASE WISCONSIN CLASSROOM  
SUPPORT VIA DONORSCHOOSE.ORG**

**Donation from Herb Kohl Philanthropies to match all classroom projects in Wisconsin**

**MILWAUKEE- May 8, 2017** – Today, to celebrate the hard work and important contributions of teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, Herb Kohl announced additional support for Wisconsin teachers who post their classroom projects on the education crowdfunding site DonorsChoose.org. Herb Kohl Philanthropies will provide \$500,000 in support for Wisconsin classrooms in the form of a dollar-for-dollar match toward Wisconsin’s classroom requests. These resources are being donated to thank teachers for making a positive impact on the lives of Wisconsin youth.

With a matching grant, Herb Kohl Philanthropies hopes to leverage the generosity of individual donors, turning their \$500,000 commitment into \$1M worth of direct classroom supplies and educational materials. “As the school year winds down, we hope this offer to match donations will kick-start teachers’ plans for next school year and inspire more individuals to support the people doing the one job that makes all other jobs possible – our teachers,” said Herb Kohl.

“Teachers are invited to post projects, and people across the state are invited to show appreciation to our Wisconsin teachers, classrooms and students,” said Kohl, adding, “Together, let’s double the volume of projects that will benefit education in Wisconsin.”

On DonorsChoose.org, teachers post projects requesting materials and experiences they need for their classrooms, and donors in Wisconsin and across the country support the projects that inspire them. Starting this week, all Wisconsin projects live on DonorsChoose.org as well as new ones posted after today will be funded dollar-for-dollar until the \$1M goal is reached.

“The teaching profession requires a constant drive to explore and find creative ways to reach students,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Many Wisconsin teachers submit project requests through DonorsChoose in hopes of being able to give their kids a new and exciting learning opportunity. I want to thank Herb Kohl for his generous support of those projects and for his continued commitment to the students and teachers of Wisconsin.”

“I applaud Herb Kohl’s unwavering and continued commitment to ensuring a quality educational experience for all our children in Wisconsin,” said Dr. Darienne Driver, superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools. “His generosity will not only provide needed assistance to our schools but also inspire others to step forward to support our students and staff.”

In September, 2016, Herb Kohl surprised classrooms all across Wisconsin on the first day of school by announcing he had funded every classroom project that was live on the DonorsChoose.org site. More than 400 schools received funding for over 1,000 projects that reached 65,000 students.

“We so appreciate Herb Kohl’s support for Wisconsin teachers,” said Charles Best, founder of DonorsChoose.org. “This week, we celebrate and honor our nation’s educators, and this matching grant will help more teachers get resources they need to be successful in the classroom.”

Herb Kohl Philanthropies has long supported Wisconsin’s teachers and their schools along with high school students through a Scholarship and Fellowship award program. He also sponsors the state’s Teacher of the Year program and has added a new category of recognition to principals for outstanding school leadership. In addition to recognizing excellence in education for students, teachers, schools and principals, Herb Kohl Philanthropies supports many educational programs and initiatives such as those that support literacy, pathways to college and experiential learning.

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**About DonorsChoose.org**

Founded in 2000 by a Bronx history teacher, DonorsChoose.org has raised more than \$537 million for America's classrooms. Teachers come to DonorsChoose.org to request the materials and experiences they need most for their classrooms, and donors give to the projects that inspire them. More than 2.6 million people and partners have funded 900,000 projects on the site, reaching nearly 22 million students and making DonorsChoose.org the leading platform for supporting U.S. public schools. DonorsChoose.org is the only crowdfunding platform that vets each request, delivers materials directly to schools, and captures the impact of every funded project with photos, thank yous, and a cost report showing how each dollar was spent.

National Teacher Appreciation Week, **May 8-12, 2017**.

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