

Blazer Foundation director hopes kids profit from her toil

She seeks to fill gaps in education funding

Stephanie Weaver [+ MORE](#)
Reading Eagle

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As soon as Stephanie Conlon heard the Daniel Boone School District's reorganized Blazer Foundation was looking for an executive director, she knew the job was for her.

The Blazer Foundation is a community effort to raise money for educational programs that the school district budget might no longer cover.

"This was the answer to the accumulation of all the experiences that I've had and my passion for the community and education," said Conlon of Amity Township. "It's the perfect job for how I want to make a difference."

Conlon, 45, was hired by the foundation board on April 1. The school board initiated the project last summer.

Joel Miranto, foundation president, said Conlon's track record, both in the corporate world and the Boone community, fit the job well. She currently runs the Community Buzz website, keeping Douglassville residents informed of happenings in the area.

"We were looking for someone from the community who understood the community and understood the special needs we have financially," Miranto said.

He said Conlon will receive a modest salary, which will eventually be covered by the events she organizes. For now, the school board agreed in March to lend the foundation up to \$25,000 for the part-time position.

Conlon, who has children ages 11, 9, 7 and 6, also is a founding member of the MOMS Club of Douglassville West, past president of a local home and school organization and a member of Boone's Parent Teacher Committee.

Conlon is eager to get started and expects that her workweek will often stretch past the 25-hour mark.

"Our number one goal is to raise money as quickly as we can to help bridge the gap with the education and the enrichment of students," she said. "We're not there to make the budget, but are there for the kids. Our number one priority is them."

Conlon hopes the foundation will bring the community together, rallying around something that allows people to see the direct results of their work and donations.

The foundation's first event will be a private meet-and-greet with local business leaders at Keystone Villa in Douglassville on May 30.

Conlon hopes to introduce the business community to the new foundation and inform residents about the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program.

The program allows businesses that operate or do business in Pennsylvania to reallocate funds paid for certain state taxes as donations for educational programs and then receive tax credit. The Blazer Foundation is seeking approval for its program.



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Stephanie Conlon, new director of the Blazer Foundation, hopes to help raise funds for educational programs the Daniel Boone School District can't cover.

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The foundation also is planning to hold a kickoff event during homecoming weekend in the fall.

The biggest need is getting enough people to make these things happen, Conlon said.

Volunteers are needed for the foundation board and its various committees. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.blazerfoundation.org.

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