



POWER & GRANT LANDSCAPING

A rendering shows how a peace garden would look at Downers Grove North High School.

Downers Grove schools fundraise for peace gardens

**BY ANNEMARIE
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Chicago Tribune

Downers Grove Community School District 99 wants to create permanent memorials for those students who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. It wants to honor 70 former students who died in war or while serving in the military, and is looking for community donations to help.

The district is planning two events to raise funds to pay for installing peace gardens at its two high schools, Downers Grove North and Downers Grove South. The gardens would pay homage to the 70 former students who lost their lives since 1928 while serving in the military. The gardens would also educate all students about the importance of working toward lasting peace, school officials said.

"When we walk through the hallways of our schools today, we see countless recognitions honoring student accomplishments in academics, athletics and activities — but none for our fallen heroes," said Christopher Esposito, social studies department chairman at South High who is helping spearhead the gardens. "We feel compelled to create something profound and permanent."

Both schools are planning to install a Memorial Peace Garden, which will be built in outside spaces adjacent to each school. Each garden

will include extensive stonework and granite stones bearing the names of all those who lost their lives. They also will feature copper lighting, iron benches and permanent sculptures inscribed with the phrase: "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

A landscaping company has donated \$50,000 to cover the cost of the designs. But the district hopes the community will provide additional support.

"We now need to raise \$50,000 to cover the remaining costs, and are confident that everyone in our community will support this noble and important project," said Jenne Dehmlow, social services department chairwoman at Downers Grove North.

Stella & Dot merchandise will be sold at the two events. The first was 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Main Entrance Lobby of Downers Grove North High School, 4436 Main St. The second will be from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 15 in Alumni Room D-180 at Downers Grove South, 1136 Norfolk Ave.

Donations are also accepted by check. Checks should be made payable to D99 Memorial Peace Gardens, and drop them off at the front office at either school, or mail it to the D99 District Office at: D99 Memorial Peace Gardens, c/o Administrative Service Center, 6301 Springside Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60516.