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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Partnership 4 Kids Volunteers Pay Off 2016 Unpaid Lunch Balances For An Entire School

(Omaha-NE) December 22, 2016—Earlier this afternoon Partnership 4 Kids (P4K) youth mentoring program was notified by corporate volunteer partner, Bank of the West that the bank's group of P4K volunteer mentors would be donating enough money to pay off the remaining 2016 overdue student lunch balances at Fontenelle Elementary, the Omaha Public school where they volunteer for the P4K program.

The group of five Bank of the West employees who serve as "Goal Buddy" mentors through Partnership 4 Kids mentoring program collected more than \$1,500 with a common goal of paying off the overdue lunch balances to support the families of the students they serve at Fontenelle Elementary School.

"I am so blessed to work with the Bank of the West employees, who all have such big hearts and a strong desire to do for others," said Partnership 4 Kids Program Coordinator, Kris Morgan. "What a great start to 2017 this will be for all the kids and their families."

Bank of the West has supported Partnership 4 Kids through its corporate philanthropy and volunteerism for over 10 years. Among its many regional volunteer activities, five bank employees take the extra step to serve as student supporters called Goal Buddies. Currently there are more than 275 P4K Goal Buddy volunteers serving a valuable mentoring role by providing students with the consistent presence of an additional caring adult who is invested in seeing them achieve their goals and improve performance in reading, math, and life skills. Through these monthly visits, Goal Buddies broaden students' support system of adults who believe in them and their abilities to excel and fulfill their potential to graduate from high school and pursue some type of post-secondary education.

Every child comes to Partnership 4 Kids with a story of survival, endurance, and a desire to "do better". P4K's mission is to mentor these children for college today, and careers tomorrow. Through a rigorous curriculum and over 400 devoted volunteers providing academic and social mentoring, P4K helps each child believe in themselves and in a future rooted in education and opportunity. Together we will build a better community by inspiring hope, engaging minds, and preparing our children for college and careers.

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