

**“When and How did the Vision Foundation start?”**

**Elizabeth Whorley, Xi State President in 1981, was known as an outstanding principal/director of the MTSU demonstration school. Her reputation and warm personality were widely recognized. Harold Bradley, a wealthy Texan originally from Tennessee, sent many materials and needed supplies to Liz’s school after which Liz led the school in writing thank you notes and organizing a school day to honor and show appreciation to Mr. Bradley for his generosity. Later getting acquainted and following a suitable courtship, Liz Whorley became Mrs. Liz Whorley Bradley.**

**A few years later, Liz came to a Xi State Convention, and at a general meeting gave appreciation remarks of how much DKG had meant to her and the members. As a token of appreciation, she presented a check for \$5000.00 and spoke of the benefit that members received by attending conferences, workshops, and subject matter institutes. She hoped that these activities would help members become better teachers.**

**In 2000, Xi State President Doris Ann Hendrix at the President’s Breakfast suggested that in addition to the Liz W. Bradley Professional Growth Award, a project grant be developed. There was some discussion and opposition to this idea. The International Guest and Parliamentarian, Ardith Inman, spoke up in support of the idea. She spoke of a significant endowment in her state given by a state treasurer in her will to support such project grants and workshops.**

**Miss Hendrix appointed Marilyn Ivey, Alpha Tau Chapter, to investigate the possibility of a foundation for Xi State. In 2002, the Xi State Executive Board approved the Rules and Bylaws to develop a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) non-profit foundation. Linda McCrary and Attorneys Ann Yarbrow McCain and Ginger Buchanan worked to achieve the legal requirements of establishing the Vision Foundation.**

**The first recipient of the Liz W. Bradley Professional Growth Award in 2004 was Robbie Trent, Alpha Gamma Chapter, to attend a Developmental Education National Kindergarten Conference to learn how to use manipulatives to teach kindergarten students math. She was willing to attend the conference and share what she learned with the other four kindergarten teachers at her school.**

**Miss Hendrix, a member of the Vision Foundation committee, spoke up and asked what kinds of manipulatives were they currently using. Robbie said, “Well, we don’t have any.” Hendrix moved that the first Project Grant be Awarded to Robbie Grant to purchase Math Manipulatives.**

**Now, in 2021, after 17 years the Vision Foundation continues to support the Liz W. Bradley Professional Growth Grants and Project Grants with the funds provided by generous members who understand the needs and visions of educators for better materials and better prepared teachers. Those who contribute \$1000.00 are Visionaries awarded special gold pins in appreciation of their gifts. Platinum Visionaries who contribute \$5000.00 or more are also recognized as such. At this time a special symbol for Platinum Visionaries is being considered.**