

Avon Education Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October, 2004

AVON EDUCATION FOUNDATION OFF TO AN EXCITING START READY TO AWARD MINI-GRANTS AND INTRODUCE C.H.E.E.R. PROGRAM

Teachers and school administrators are excited as the newly formed Avon Education Foundation prepares to receive proposals for its first ever round of mini-grants.

The Avon Education Foundation was incorporated in March, and already members of its board of directors have been meeting with the faculty and staff in each of Avon's five schools to discuss this important new resource designed to enhance the education in town. Department heads in town government are participating and contributing program ideas as well.

"We are very excited about the ability to offer six mini-grants so soon after our incorporation," said Robin Venditti Stoll, AEF Board member in charge of grants. "We are currently in the application and submission process and expect to receive about two dozen completed applications from educators in Avon," she said excitedly. Mini grants will provide educators with the ability to augment their current curriculum with innovative programs which add depth and breath. They serve an important role for enhancing classroom instruction. This first round of mini-grants will be awarded by the end of the year and will be used during the second half of the 2004-2005 school year.

However, the Foundation's goals do not end there. The AEF aims to offer Program grants and Directed grants of larger amounts for projects that are global in scope and benefit a broad range of students, multiple schools and disciplines, grade levels and the Avon community. These larger grants will support educational endeavors aimed at encouraging creativity, expanding community involvement, and improving learning, achievement and skill development.

While Avon educators are busy with their mini-grant applications, the AEF Board is working hard to let the community know about the new Foundation's potential to improve education and to inspire local residents, businesses and parents to invest in the successful future of Avon's students and schools.

The Foundation is raising funds through major gifts and will launch its first fundraising campaign aimed at community residents and businesses within the coming weeks. Another special way that will be used to raise money throughout the year is the **C.H.E.E.R.** program. "C.H.E.E.R. stands for **C**elebrate and **H**onor **E**xceptional **E**ducato**R**s," explained Magda Stayton, the Foundation's fundraising chair. "It is a giving program that enables students and families to honor teachers, school staff and other educators who are making a difference in their lives, while supporting our schools." A gift of C.H.E.E.R. is a great way to honor a special teacher during the holiday season and anytime. C.H.E.E.R. forms are available at all of the Avon Public Schools, at the Avon Public Library, Town Hall and can also be printed off the AEF's new website.

To support the AEF, participate in the C.H.E.E.R. program, to volunteer, or for more information about any of the Foundation's programs you can visit the

Avon Education Foundation's web site at www.avonedfoundation.org or call Sue Bertolini, Chair, at 679-9236.