

**AVON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
LAUNCHES FOUNDING PARTNERS'
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN.**

This month, the new Avon Education Foundation (AEF) has launched its first fundraising campaign aimed at local individuals and businesses. All donors who give this year will become Founding Partners of the Foundation. Donors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized through the naming of a mini-grant (i.e. The Smith Family Mini-Grant). The Avon Junior Women's Club and the Farmington Savings Bank have already become founding partners of the AEF. Both organizations will be recognized through named mini-grants when the AEF awards its first mini-grants to local educators in December.

Magda Stayton, a development professional whose children attend Avon schools, recently joined the board and is helping the foundation with its fund raising efforts. "There is a wonderful leveraging impact when donors contribute to the Avon Education Foundation," says Stayton. "The grants we make today have the potential to be the seed for important initiatives and programmatic innovations throughout the Avon Public Schools in areas such as technology, science education, and other student enrichment programs," she continued.

Stayton and her colleague, Grants Chairperson Robin Stoll exemplify the excitement that is felt about the foundation and its work. "Educators and administrators throughout the district are inspired by the possibilities the Avon

Education Foundation brings to town. Many have expressed their gratitude and enthusiasm for the foundation and the future of generating innovative programs which were once only thought to be dreams," said Stoll. She continued, "The overwhelming support of everyone involved has only spurred our desire to work faster and harder to realize their dreams sooner." The Foundation will be awarding \$6,000 in mini-grants at the end of the year, and subsequent rounds of grants are scheduled to be awarded at the end of the school year.

The Avon Education Foundation was created this year to support Avon schools and to promote an innovative and engaged learning community. The Foundation is built on the premise that Avon already has quality schools due to the involvement of local citizens, and that our schools can only maintain their high standards through broad-based community support and investment.

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 **Celebrate and Honor Exceptional EducatoRs**," explained Stayton. "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 the education foundation." A gift of C.H.E.E.R. is a great way to honor a special teacher during the holiday season and anytime,

It is truly apparent that the Avon Education Foundation's donors and volunteers reflect Avon's spirit of cooperation, generosity, and shared responsibility for the public education of Avon's children.

This spirit of cooperation is evident in the more than 2,000 communities nationwide that have established education foundations since 1978. There are currently 55 education foundations in Connecticut. From Maine to California, where the first education foundations were established, these non-profit 501(c)3, tax-exempt corporations have raised hundreds of millions of tax-deductible dollars to enrich curricula, improve teacher education and inspire collaborative community-school projects.

The Foundation invites the community to join them in making a generous contribution to help Avon students! To support the AEF, participate in the “Founder’s Campaign”, to volunteer, or for more information about the AEF and any of its programs, you can visit the Avon Education Foundation's web site at www.avonedfoundation.org or call Sue Bertolini, Chair. at 679-9236.