

Newsletter

Fall 2006

www.avonedfoundation.org

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Fun Fundraising...

Avon Chapter UNICO National Incorporated 22nd Annual Golf Tournament, July 26, 2006 co-sponsored with AEF



Representatives of AEF and UNICO (l to r) Sue Bertolini, Joe Pavano, Frank Brighenti, Nat Messina, Joanne Beers, Bob Galiette, Ginny McGee and Herb Pandiscio at Tunxis Plantation before the start.

MISSION

The Avon Education Foundation supports educational programs for all the citizens of the Town of Avon and provides a way to help improve the quality of public education above and beyond conventional academic funding from the Town and other public sources. The Foundation funds and promotes innovative and educational endeavors aimed at improving learning, achievement and skill development; encouraging creativity, and excellence in teaching; and expanding community involvement from individuals, businesses and civic organizations.

A Message from Sue Bertolini, AEF Founder & Chair

This year has been another great year for the Avon Education Foundation, based on the continued support of neighbors and friends, area businesses, civic leaders, faculty and staff of Avon Public Schools. Since we began, over 250 residents have joined us by demonstrating their shared commitment to promoting and enhancing educational excellence and innovation in Avon.

With your support, we achieved two milestones in 2006:

- ★ We funded our first, multi-disciplinary project, **"Research in Real Time,"** in partnership with the Avon Middle School (AMS) Parent Teacher Organization. This project is designed to provide AMS students the opportunity to achieve a stronger understanding of physical and theoretical concepts, from both their math and science studies, by using an interactive mobile research lab.

The lab will be available to over 590 AMS students and teachers to augment their learning. Technology Education classes will be able to use the lab when working on rocketry and propulsion units. Science classes will be able to collect data real-time for future classroom use. In addition, Learning Arts classes will be able to use the lab outside the classroom to inspire their creative writing, and Instrumental Music classes will be able to compose and record music without leaving their instruments behind to get access to computers.

Jody Goeler, Assistant Superintendent, Avon Public Schools, and former principal of AMS said, "Research in Real Time" is truly a valuable technological resource for the entire school community. The teachers at Avon Middle School greatly appreciate the support of the Avon Education Foundation as it validates teachers' efforts to develop and strengthen their students' ability to solve complex problems in all areas of the curriculum."

- ★ Your generous support helped underwrite the first **Town-wide Choral Festival** held at The Bushnell. This magical evening, in which over 500 Avon students were led by the Avon Public Schools Music Department, was an opportunity to showcase our children's unique vocal talents. We also saw their unbridled excitement and sheer delight with singing in Connecticut's premier performing arts center.

To date, we've funded 26 educational grants, awarding \$44,000 to initiatives that encourage appreciation of the arts, science and other public education endeavors that benefit the community. But our job is just beginning.

For those of you who have the opportunity to contribute to an annual workplace Employee Giving Campaign or United Way Community Campaign, please consider designating the AEF as the recipient of your donation. These contributions help meet pressing community needs and improve the quality of life where we live and work. In addition to your gift, please consider becoming an AEF volunteer.

Please join us. Together we can promote and enhance excellence in education in Avon, taking it to new heights. Share your ideas with me at info@avonedfoundation.org.

DIRECTORS

Sue Bertolini, Chair; **Joanne Beers**, Vice Chair; **Darlene Salonia**, Treasurer; **Ginny McGee**, Secretary; **Gina Broadbent**; **Nat Messina**; **Herb Pandiscio**; **Mardelle Pena**; **Magda Stayton**
Ex-Officio: **Jon Elliott**, President, Avon Education Association; **Richard Kisiel**, Superintendent, Avon Public Schools; **Peggy Roell**, Chair, Board of Education



Sue Bertolini, Chair, (left) awarding the 2006 Avon United Way Mini Grant to the Avon Free Public Library with Beth Ferrari and Raymond Juras from the United Way and Mary DeLuca and Virginia Vocelli from the library.

Want to apply for a grant?

Teachers, administrators and school professionals in the Avon Public Schools and other educational providers from municipal departments are eligible to apply. The Grant Process has been updated and put on our website, www.avonedfoundation.org.

To inspire you, the new **Grant Resource Manual** includes a full list of past grants sorted by age group and subject area with brief descriptions of each project.

Key Dates:

- ★ **Monday, November 27**—Letter of Intent to apply for a Program Grant.
- ★ **Monday December 11**—Grant Committee tells you whether to proceed with a full Program Grant application.
- ★ **Tuesday, January 16, 2007**—Full applications for Program Grants and Mini Grants are due.
- ★ The Awards will be announced by **Friday, March 9, 2007**.

Questions: Please contact Joanne Beers, jebavonct@comcast.net, or (860) 673-2495.

Help make this "mission possible" through your ongoing interest, involvement and investment!

AVON EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$29,000 IN GRANTS

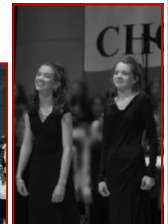
During the 2005-2006 school year, the Avon Education Foundation (AEF) was proud to distribute \$29,000 in grant funding. Both Program Grants (\$1,500 - \$10,000) and Mini Grants (up to \$1,500) helped to support an impressive array of educational and innovative activities benefiting the entire community.

On a community level:

- An AEF Program Grant helped sponsor the **Avon Public School Choral Musical Festival** at The Bushnell in March 2006. More than 500 students, in grades 4 through 12, made music and memories, for themselves and the audience of parents, relatives, neighbors and friends, by singing together on The Bushnell stage.
- The **Avon Free Public Library** received two Mini Grants.
 - In October 2006, young readers can look forward to a presentation by children's author David Costello who will explain the book writing and illustration process thanks to the **2006 Avon United Way Mini Grant**.
 - The library will sponsor a performance by actress Sally Matson in "Susan B. Anthony: The Invincible!" during Women's History Month in March 2007.
- The fully accessible **Playground for All Kids**, planned for the Buckingham neighborhood of Avon, will include Braille and sign language educational panels as a result of an AEF Mini Grant.
- Young thespians in the **Avon Summer Theater** were aided in their efforts to humanize inanimate objects in the Summer 2006 production of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast." The AEF assisted, with a Mini Grant, in the rental of unique costuming for characters such as the candlestick and teapot.

On an individual school level:

- **Avon Middle School** was the recipient of a Program Grant. This grant, along with funds from the school's Parent Teacher Organization, will establish a mobile research laboratory using laptop computers, scientific probeware and graphing calculators to enhance math and science learning and analysis.
- **Thompson Brook School** was awarded a Program Grant and Mini Grant.
 - The Program Grant allows the school to complete its Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) Lab which was piloted with a **2005 Avon United Fund Mini Grant**.
 - In June 2006, Thompson Brook hosted Nutmeg winning author and journalist Kate Klise's reading and writing program with the support of the **2006 Farmington Savings Bank Mini Grant**.



PICTURES FROM THE BUSHNELL

Left: PGS and RBS Combined 4th Grade Chorus
Right: Kelly Brennan and Madeline Smith perform a duet with AMS's *Arioso Choir*

IT'S EASY TO SUPPORT AEF'S IMPORTANT WORK THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

Avon Education Foundation is registered with local United Way campaigns and with most local corporate and state employee campaigns.

Avon Education Foundation
info@avonedfoundation.org
 P.O. Box 548
 Avon, CT 06001-0548
 EIN 20-0944178

If you do not see the Avon Education Foundation listed in your company campaigns, write us in or ask your employer if you may designate your support to the Avon Education Foundation.

Every contribution will be used to promote educational programs in your hometown - for Avon school children and residents of all ages.



AEF THANKS OUR DONORS!



PLATINUM HEROES (\$1,000+)

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Eric and Terri Elliott
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As of 9/1/2006. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness in these Honor Rolls. If you discover an error or omission, please report the correction to the AEF.

★ NAMED MINI GRANTS ★

Fall 2004

Avon Junior Women's Club
The Farmington Savings Bank
The Giles Family
The Lublin Family
The Silverman Family in
memory of Kenneth Sargent

Spring 2005

Avon Junior Women's Club
Avon United Fund (2)
The DosSantos Family (2)
The Routt Family
The Shopis Family
Lounge Lizards

Spring 2006

Avon United Way
The Farmington Savings Bank

I'd like to help support AEF, too!

___ My check made payable to Avon Education Foundation is enclosed.

Mail to: P.O. Box 548, Avon, CT 06001

\$5,000 to name a Program Grant \$1,500 to name a Mini Grant
 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$_____

You may also donate online at www.avonedfoundation.org

Name _____

Address _____

★ AEF Thanks Our Volunteers ★

We couldn't do all we do without the time and talent
generously donated by:

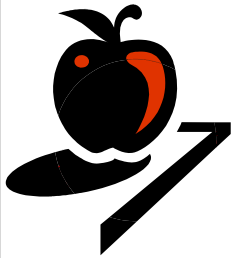
Bob Dully who designed our new logo; **Gail Bieluch** our photographer; **Kelly Foley** our C.H.E.E.R! Award Program coordinator last year; **Doreen Cohn** for her ongoing support of the website and **Ben Zweig** for his assistance with the current design; **Lauren Ahern**, **Michelle Beloin**, **Kathy Hartman**, **Kelley Lanahan**, **Diana Moody**, **Katie Savarese** and **Laura Spears** for helping with the UNICO Golf Tournament; our 2006 grant readers **Trish Murphy**, **Mary Oliver** and **Denyse Reinhart**; our school liaisons **Eileen Carroll**, **Margo Ross-Harmon**, **Thirza Hyatt** and **Payal Mody**; **Dana Culligan** who created our beautiful scrapbook; our teacher board liaisons **Kathy Marzano** and **Rosanne Civittolo** (incoming); **Jon Elliott**, Avon Education Association; **Dr. Richard Kisiel**, Avon Public Schools; **Peggy Roell**, Board of Education; **Nicholas Scata CPA** of **Saslow, Lufkin & Buggy LLP**; **West Avon Congregational Church** for use of their space; **Murtha Cullina, LLP of Hartford, CT**; **Bill McGee** of **McGee Partners LLC**; **Ann Beloin**, **Jan Brennan**, **Carmen Brickner**, **Mary Burke**, **George Caspar**, **Joan Gaidimas**, **Jacquie Godsell**, **Craig Rienman**, **Ellen Seifts**, **Patricia Stern**, **Jay Telenda**, **Liz Whitney** and **Maria Zachery**; and our past board members **Janet Anderson**, **Tom Boone**, **Tom Carey**, **John Czpiel**, **Martin LoMonaco**, **Cheryl McGuff**, **Nancy Muench**, **Sara Ray**, **Sharon Ricci**, **Debra Routt** and **Robin Venditti Stoll**.

**Back-to-School is a great time to
C.H.E.E.R! for Great Educators**

Would you like to tell those great educators just how great they are? The AEF C.H.E.E.R! program is just the ticket.

Visit our website, www.avonedfoundation.org, to download the C.H.E.E.R! donation form or pick one up at any Avon Public School. Fill out the form, add your note, include a minimum \$10 contribution per request, and mail it back to us. AEF will deliver a letter and a C.H.E.E.R! Certificate to the honored educator sharing your appreciation. We'll also notify the campus principal or supervisor.

All C.H.E.E.R! contributors will be acknowledged as a Friend of the Foundation. C.H.E.E.R! recipients are listed on the AEF website, in each school and in AEF newsletters and publications.



Your tax deductible funds will go towards grants for exciting and innovative projects benefiting children at all public schools and our community as a whole.

The AEF runs the **Celebrate and Honor Exceptional EducatoRs!** Campaign throughout the year. Remember, it's always a good time to send C.H.E.E.R!'s to a teacher or staff member.

C.H.E.E.R! Honorees

"Thanks for all you do!"

"You're the best!"

"I'm so glad you are there for my child each day!"

"You are an inspiration."

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
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Avon Education Foundation

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