

Newsletter

Avon Education Foundation



Fall 2007

www.avonedfoundation.org

In This Issue

- A Message from the Chair
- 2007 Grant Awards
- Thanks to Our Donors and Volunteers
- C.H.E.E.R. Honorees

Catching Fireflies



April 3, 2007—Avon band students perform with the Dallas Brass

“In her classroom our speculations ranged the world. She aroused us to book waving discussions.

Every morning we came to her carrying new truths, new facts, new ideas cupped and sheltered in our hands like captured fireflies.”

—from *Like Captured Fireflies*
by John Steinbeck

MISSION

The Avon Education Foundation supports educational programs for all residents of the Town of Avon to improve the quality of public education beyond conventional academic funding from the Town and other public sources.

The Foundation funds 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 Joanne Beers, Chair

In preparing to write this for the first time, I asked Avon's educators what they think the Avon Education Foundation means to our town. Larry Sparks, now Assistant Principal at Roaring Brook School, sent me the Steinbeck passage in the side bar, left, and went on to say:

Education is all about the delight in sharing a new discovery. The AEF grants have a cascading effect. They provide teachers with the excitement of opportunities to make new discoveries about how to teach—to be creative, to show a new hunger and a new attitude—and then share this excitement with their students. The students leaving their session with the Dallas Brass were not cupping fireflies in their hands but were brimming with new ideas, new facts and great inspiration from the wonderful music made and the masterful teaching that had taken place.

The unique opportunity for Avon's band students to learn from and perform with the Dallas Brass (pictured, left) is just one highlight of another wonderful year for the Foundation. The support of our friends and neighbors, business and civic leaders and the faculty and staff of Avon Public Schools made it possible for us to foster excitement and innovation, as described so well by Mr. Sparks, in education in Avon:

- ★ Grant awards totaling \$26,700 were made for seven new projects covering a broad range of disciplines for our students and residents. See the article inside on page 2.
- ★ Doreen Cohn, district Technology Integration Coordinator, received our first ever AEF Service Award for the time and talent she donated to us since our founding in 2003. The Farmington Savings Bank, a long time friend to the AEF, sponsored this award.
- ★ Last year's "Research in Real Time" grant delivered tangible benefits to 8th graders during their science field trip to the Farmington River in May. The Avon Middle School PTO matched the AEF grant award to purchase the scientific probeware used by the students on this exploration and testing outing.
- ★ At the Dallas Brass concert in April, we kicked off our "Pavers for Posterity" fundraiser to make Avon High School the center for the arts in our community. Donations will continue the AEF's patronage of high quality programs and performances in music, art, literature and culture and create an endowment to sustain the AEF's endeavors for the long term. See page 2 for more information.

Join me in thanking Sue Bertolini for getting the AEF started. Her passion for promoting excellence in public education is exceptional. She and her family came to town as corporate transfers but not as transients. She had seen the great things an education foundation can do, and finding Avon did not have one she set about creating the AEF. She has stepped down as the AEF's chair to make time to take her enthusiasm and commitment to the next level as a member of the board of the Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations (CTCEF). And she'll fit in time for rowing and teaching skiing, too! Thank you, Sue.

Please help us make a positive impact on our community and our kids. For those of you who donate through an annual workplace Employee Giving Campaign or United Way Community Campaign, please consider designating the AEF to receive your gift. In addition to giving, consider becoming an AEF volunteer. Together we can champion innovation and excellence in education in Avon.

Share your ideas with me at info@avonedfoundation.org. And thank you for your support!

AEF NIGHT AT BARNES & NOBLE

Friday, March 7, 2008

Join us for an evening of activities and a weekend of shopping at Barnes & Noble at The Shoppes at Farmington Valley, Canton.

AVON HIGH SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Saturday, April 12th 2008

Join us for an evening of celebration at the Avon Old Farms Hotel to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Avon High School and its latest renovation. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a sit down dinner, dancing to music by "The Lounge Lizards" and silent and live auctions focusing on education related services. Proceeds will benefit the AEF and the Avon High School PTO.

SAVE THE DATES

SAVE THE DATES



ABOVE: Doreen Cohn (right), district Technology Integration Coordinator and the first recipient of the *AEF Service Award* sponsored by the *Farmington Savings Bank*, getting a congratulatory hug from Dr. Barbara Hartigan, Assistant Principal, Avon Middle School.



RIGHT: 8th grade scientists at the Farmington River doing "Research in Real Time."

BELOW: "Fitness for the Future"—The Duffy Family and Joanne Beers present the grant award to Tim Feshler and Holly Rzonca (holding the check).



AVON EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$26,700 IN GRANTS

During the 2006-2007 school year, the AEF proudly distributed \$26,700 in grant funding to support an impressive array of educational and innovative activities benefiting the entire community.

On a community level:

- ★ The *Leo & Jean Duffy Memorial Grant* will benefit students in all Avon schools by applying technology to Physical Education. "Fitness for the Future" will let students track their fitness levels and progress and enable educators to evolve the curriculum to meet the needs of students.
- ★ The Dallas Brass, a brass quintet plus percussion, provided three events in one for band students through the generosity of the *2007 Avon Chapter of UNICO Mini Grant* as well as Avon Friends of Band, Choir and Orchestra and the schools' PTOs. In April, they held a workshop, a rehearsal with selected students and an evening performance open to the entire community.
- ★ Still under development with broad community group collaboration is the *Pine Grove Community Nature Trail* to be located on 2 acres adjacent to Pine Grove School. The mission of this project is to provide a fun and educational outdoor classroom where the community can explore, learn and develop a relationship with each other and nature.

Avon High School received three grants this year:

- ★ The *2007 Citibank Grant* is providing funds for workshops and seminars to help students develop their leadership skills. At the June conference, breakout sessions were run by leaders from Citibank, University of Connecticut, Greater Hartford Arts Council, Avon Middle School and Maier Advertising.
- ★ A Mini Grant to the biology and special education departments is enabling them to integrate their students for learning, including the development of vocational skills, by funding a plant mobile—a greenhouse on wheels. Operating costs will be funded by sales of student grown plants and herbs.
- ★ LEGO®s will be used by 10th grade biology students following in the steps of Nobel Prize winners Watson and Crick. Students will build models of DNA, and LEGO® genes will be used to build fish and demonstrate how genes affect the characteristics of offspring.

The *2007 Farmington Savings Bank Mini Grant* was awarded to Thompson Brook School. "WAVN TBS Podcasting" will pilot the use of personal audio technology in Language Arts and Social Studies. Sixth grade students will create podcasts that can be published to the internet for use by others.

IT'S EASY

to support the 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. If you don't 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 AEF.

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

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

AVON EDUCATORS

do you have an idea for a grant?

If you are an employee of the town, the public schools or the library, you're eligible to apply for a grant. See our *Grant Resource Manual* at www.avonedfoundation.org.

Key Dates:

- ★ **Monday, November 26**—Letter of Intent to apply for a Program Grant.
- ★ **Monday December 10**—Grant Committee tells you whether to proceed with a full Program Grant application.
- ★ **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**—Full applications for Program Grants and Mini Grants are due.
- ★ Awards announced by **Friday, March 7, 2008**.

Questions: Please contact Micky Dorsky—mzickefoose@comcast.net or (860) 675-4795.

Create opportunities for inspired educators and students through your ongoing interest, involvement and investment!

Commission a Personalized Engraved Brick!

Residents and businesses are invited to commission permanent records of remembrance—"Pavers for Posterity"—honoring families, students, graduates and businesses. The pavers will be installed in the new walkway at the student drop off entrance to the expanded Avon High School. A tax-deductible donation of \$100 commissions a 4X8 inch engraved brick, and a tax-deductible donation of \$225 commissions an 8X8 inch engraved brick. Donations support education in the arts. Pavers commissioned by December 31, 2007 will be installed in the spring of 2008 as the expansion reaches completion.

If you buy a brick as a gift for graduation, holiday or memorable occasion, the AEF will supply a certificate for you to present to the recipient. Download the order form from our website, www.avonedfoundation.org



AEF THANKS OUR DONORS!



PLATINUM HEROES (\$1,000+)

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Avon Junior Women's Club
Avon United Fund
Sue and Mark Bertolini
Gayle and Phil Bieluch
CITIGROUP
Fred and Holly Cohen
Robert L. Duffy
Farmington Savings Bank
Foundation, Inc.
Carol and Mark Garber
Laura and Steven Holtzman
Beth and Michael Hudson
ING, Inc.
Ginny and Bill McGee
Elizabeth and Nat Messina
Patricia and Stephen Randall
David Rosato
UNICO Avon Chapter
United Way of the Capital Area
United Way of Waterbury

GOLD HEROES (\$500-\$999)

Beth Bye
Pamela Caparel
Earl Cree and Joanne Beers
Nancy and John Dillaway
Linda and Timothy Dos Santos
The Flatbread Company
Paul and Mary Fox
Barry and Rona Gelber
Don and Abby Kannenberg
Lounge Lizards
Mark and Mary Alice Rubino
James Starr
Robin and Brain Stoll

SILVER HEROES (\$250-\$499)

Abbott Laboratories
Avon Police Association
Tom and Sara Brackett
Colleen and Terry Donahue
The Dorsky Family
David and Susan Downey
Phil and Beth Ferrari
Kelly and Michael Foley

Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.
Tina Marshall & Mark Parent
Susan and Frank Norman
Gehan and Giuseppe Paiella
Joseph and Ann Pavano
Reflexite Corporation
Mike and Mary Jane Rubino
Paul and Bonnie Santarsiero
Lisa and Robert Scalise
William W. Shea II
Sunlight Construction Inc.
Marty and Dorine Toyen
Steven and Jennifer Wolfberg

BRONZE HEROES (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous
Janet and Keith Anderson
Sandy and Juan Andrade
Susan and Raymond Arroyo
Avon High School PTO
Avon Middle School PTO
Bank of America
Jeffrey Becker
The Bekanich Family
The Benedict Family
Leslie and Kevin Blank
The Blawie Family
Michael and Laura Blessing
Gina and Jeff Broadbent
Cathy and Steve Burdick
Catherine & David Cavanaugh
The Cheron Family
The Colby Family
The Coleman Family
Dolores and John Cooleen
Sal and MaryEllen Correnti
DataSet Business Graphics
The Dee Family
Del Gallo Insurance & Investments LLC
The Dibacco Family
Helen Diecidue
The Ducate Family
Michael and Amy Eagen
Leeanne Engels
Jeffrey and Susan Factor
David and Charlene Fischler

Cliff and Stacey Freling
The Galazan Family
The Gender Family
The Goldman Family
The Gonsalves Family
Kim and Phil Goodrich
The Gorham Family
Elizabeth and Kris Gorski
Thomas Greenebaum and Lisa Levin
Thomas A. Gugliotti
Heidi and John Hagan
Janell Henke
Kevin and Louisa Hogan
Wendy and Stephen Howard
The Hunnicutt Family
Thirza Hyatt
Lindsay Irvine-Miller
James and Ann Jacobs
Mari and Barry Jacobson
Gerhard Jung
Judy and Richard Kaiser
Karanian & Catalano, Attorneys at Law
The Karn Family
Kasden Fuel Company
Barb and Ken Kasner
Barbara and Jeffrey Koenig
The Kravet Family
Kelly and Dennis Lanahan
The Lee Family
Joel and Alisa Lehman
Michele and Rene Lerer
The Lyons Family
Laverne and Richard Mahoney
Holly and James Mathews
Thomas McNeill
Patricia Meffen
The Metersky Family
The Morgan Family
The Mulholland Family
Trish and Tom Murphy
Mark and Marylyn Nolan
The Pollock Family
Debbie and Will Routt
Fran Rowlenson
The Scatchell Family

Matt and Robin Schaefer
The Seardon Family
Lisa and Nicholas Seminary
Holly and Brian Smith
The Spivak Family
The Starr Family
Mrs. Tafi's 5th Grade Class
United Way of West Central Connecticut
Village Garage & Tire Center
The Volinski Family
Megan and Bob Waskowitz
The Weiler Family
Beth and Steve Wilson
Robert and Brigitte Worgaftik & Family
The Zaccio Family
The Zionts Family
Katherine Zirolli
Kelly and Jeffrey Zuzolo

FRIENDS

Anonymous
Anonymous
Richard Aiello
The Alessio Family
The Anderson Family
Mrs. Balavender's Class 06/07
Mary and Jay Barry
The Bauer Family
Brian and Ann Beloin
Gregory Berg and Nina Binin
The Bernarduci Family
Judy and Eric Bloom
Diane Boyce
Robin Bozek
Phil and Anne Bradford
Janice and Leo Brennan
Georgine and Robert Burke
David and Judith Cali
Frank Casner
Mrs. Cavanaugh's AM Class
Mrs. Cavanaugh's PM Class
The Cizek Family
The Cote Family
Angie Crawford
Cugino's Restaurant

Mark Culligan
Lil and Rick Diachenko
Leo and Ann Distefano
Jaye and John Donaldson
Sandra Duffy
The Duggal Family
Pat and Bob Elsey
The Evans Family
General Reinsurance
Winnie and Jerry Glassman
Ellen and Ralph Gobell
Jacquie and Jack Godsell
The Gomez Family
The Gondek Family
The Gordon Family
The Grindrod Family
Stephanie & Brian Hanuschak
The Harmon Family
Rebecca Harris-Pierce
Mary and Charles Harvell
Rus and Jocelyn Hauswirth
Sue and Gary Henneberry
Karen and Charles Herbert
Richard Hines
The Holloman Family
Wesley and Anne Horbatuck
The Horrigan Family
Philip E. Hoskins
iSOLD IT!
Michael and Linda Jainchill
J. Grace Johnson
The Keller Family
Brian Kelly
The Kennedy Family
Alan and Karen Kick
The Knopf Family
Wanda and Raymond Kopp
Greg Lawless
Margery and Peter Lawrence
Caroline Lester
Jodi and Kenny Levine
Shangjing Li and Bingmei Wang
Tatiana Louri
Ms. Lurate's 2007/07 Class
Thomas Mack and Valarie Ferro
Marilyn's Pies
Peggy Massoumi

Juliana and Chris McCormick
Barbara and Richard Mergens
The Molson Family
Chris and Pam Moore
The Neagle Family
Mr. Netkovich's 6th Grade Class
Jodi and Anthony Oh
Susan and Erik Ollestad
Len and Robin Oremland
Barbara and David Panico
Lorraine and Mark Parsons
The Pedra Family
Peter and Tricia Ponzianni
The Pugsley Family
Shanthi and Keshav Rao
The Raskin Family
Tom Reardon
Mrs. Reese's Class 2006/07
Mrs. Riley's Class 2006/07
Bill and Peggy Roell
Partica and Anthony Roselli
Emily and Stuart Rosen
The Ryan Family
Holly and David Rzonca
Emily and Robert Sanford
Mary and Collin Sanford
Marianne and Robert Sawicki
Peter and Marcy Schulman
The Seaman Family
The Singer Family
Linda Spehr
Jeffrey Stein
Mary and Paul Suter
Amy and David Swords
Nan Tarrt and Tom Morganti
Nancy Usich
Anne Valerio
Donna Wallburg
Bill and Melinda Ward
David Whitney
The Wilcox Family
Danielle and Joel Wilken
Cynthia and Michael Wise
Mrs. Zaccchio's PM Class 06/07
Mrs. Zaccchio's AM Class 06/07

Donors from February 2006 through August 2007 are listed, above, including donors contributing to "Pavers for Posterity."

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.

★ AEF Thanks Our Volunteers ★

"The wise person will tithe of one's time as well as of one's income"

Gayle Bieluch our photographer; Lauren Bertolini for designing our new informational brochure and for the poster advertising "Susan B. Anthony: The Invincible!"; Dana Culligan, of Creative Memories, for our beautiful scrapbook; Doreen Cohn for teaching us how to maintain our website; Murtha Cullina, LLP of Hartford, CT; Randy Leaning for help with our "Pavers for Posterity" flyer; our 2006/07 school liaisons Eileen Carroll, Margot Ross Harmon and Thirza Hyatt; our 2007/08 school liaisons Sandy Andrade, Linda Becker, Micky Dorsky, Thirza Hyatt and Chrissy Polans; Abby Kannenberg and Julie Sonlin are helping with the 50th Anniversary Gala; our 2007 grant readers Micky Dorsky, Mary Jo Dunn, Melissa Gagne and Mary Oliver; Tina Marshall and Mary Oliver for help with the 2007 grant prize patrol; Andrew Burdick, Daniel McGee and Garrison Nord, high school Honor Society students who have helped with a variety of projects; Micky Dorsky and Rose Mermelstein for helping with the UNICO Golf Tournament; our teacher board liaison Rosanne Civittolo; Dr. Richard Kiesel for the use of his conference room for our meetings; Avon Free Public Library for use of their space; Bill McGee of McGee Partners LLC; and our past board members: Janet Anderson, Tom Boone, Tom Carey, Eileen Carroll, John Czpiel, Martin LoMonaco, Cheryl McGuff, Nat Messina, Nancy Muench, Sara Ray, Sharon Ricci, Debra Routt, Magda Stayton and Robin Venditti Stoll.

I'd like to help support AEF, too!

My check made payable to Avon Education Foundation is enclosed.
 I am a graduate of Avon High School, Class of _____
 \$5,000 to name a Program Grant \$1,500 to name a Mini Grant
 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

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

You may also donate online at www.avonedfoundation.org

Name _____

Address _____

We're looking for AHS Graduates

Let us know if you are a graduate of Avon High School or know the address of someone who is, please let us know.

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

Name _____

Class of: _____ Maiden Name: _____

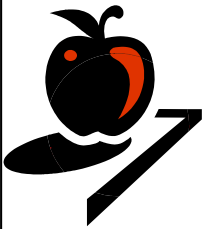
Address _____

**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.Rs! to a teacher or staff member.

**C.H.E.E.R! Honorees
2006-2007**

"Thanks for all you do!"

"You're the best!"

"You are an inspiration."

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Stu Abrams | Michelle Gladue | Robert Lovendale | Andrew Riddle Anne |
| Robyn Addis | Caryl Goldberg | Kerry Lurate | Marie Riley |
| Judy Allyn | Jennifer Grady | Cathy Marzano | Claudine Rose |
| Gail Balavender | Jennifer Gregg | John Mason | Penny Royer |
| June Barta | Nicole Gresh | Laura McDonnell | Barbara Ruocco |
| Joan Bigelow | Christopher Grgach | Noreen McGowan | John Salerni |
| Jan Brennan | Jenna Grodzicki | Cynthia McPeak | Laurie Salva |
| Karen Brewer | Dollie Gullely | Lynn Melman | Carl Sauerbrunn |
| Lauren Brian | Kathleen Hickey | Nancy Melhot | Janet Schwartz |
| Christopher Bunel | Peter Higgins | Matt Mooney | Carolyn Shea |
| Mark Burgess | Gretchen Huber | Kim Moretti | Kelli Shea |
| Natalie Carlone | Michael Infantino | Martha Morse | Pat Smith |
| Traci Cavanaugh | Joan Israelson | Patrick Mulligan | Megan Spencer |
| Joan Claffin | Charbra Justin | James Murray | Nathaniel Strick |
| Jason Cleveland | Margaret Kaseta | Marlaina Napoli | Steven Swensen |
| Chrissy Colbert | Thomas Kawiecki | Mike Netkovich | Patricia Sylvan |
| Andrew Cole | Michelle Kelley | NOVA Team | Donna Taft |
| John Czepiel | Christine Kopyt | Jill Ouellette | Scott Tinker |
| Carolyn Daniels | Rene Kuhrt | Alexis Pariano | Heather Toyen |
| Susan DeGallo | Jeanine LaBrosse | Marlene Patterson | Diane Warnke |
| Senor Denato | Kelley Lanahan | Lou Pellegrino | Nicole Weisbaum |
| Katie DeRose | Linda LaReau | Tom Porter | Patrick Welkley |
| Lillian Diachenko | Ed Leahy | James Post | Deborah Zacchio |
| Andrew Dorr | LEAP Program | Elaine Primeau | Betsy Zalaski |
| Donald Fantozzi | MaryBeth LeFevre | Jim Quigley | Lorraine Zero |
| Ardith Franklin | Diane Leiberfarb | Vida Razazi | |
| Jim Fuller | Michele Lemis | Mary Ellen Reece | |

Avon Education Foundation is a member of the Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations (CTCEF) www.ctcef.org

DIRECTORS: Joanne Beers, Chair; Beth Hudson, Vice Chair; Brenda Cronin, Secretary; Darlene Salonia, Treasurer; Sue Bertolini; Ginny McGee; Herb Pandiscio; Mardelle Pena
Ex-Officio: Josephine Cannella, President, Avon Education Association; Richard Kiesel, Superintendent, Avon Public Schools; Peggy Roell, Chair, Board of Education



Avon Education Foundation

P.O. Box 548
 Avon, CT 06001-0548

U.S. Postage
 Non-Profit Org.
 PAID
 Avon, CT 06001
 Permit No. 328

"Education is in the hands of the community."

ECRWSS

To: Postal Patron
 Avon, CT 06001