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GIFTS IN HONOR / MEMORY OF

In honor of Kenneth Sargent
In honor of Frederick R. Wachtel
In honor of Thomas & Mildred McNeill
In honor of Chris & Jan Goodrich
In honor of the Blatz girls
In honor of Paul & Eleanor Botenhouse
In honor of the Eisenbaum children
In honor of Jane Silberman
In honor of Pine Grove School
In honor of the AHS Guidance Dept.
In memory of Sandra Rice
In memory of Robert Sparks

Contributions as of 5/27/05. Every effort has been made to ensure completeness and accuracy in this Honor Roll. If you discover an error or omission, please contact the AEF to report the correction.

We are also grateful to the following volunteers who devoted their counsel, creativity, wisdom, and boundless energy to the AEF: Janet Anderson, George Caspar, Kelley Lanahan, Kelly Foley, Pat Stern, Maria Zachary, Karen Harper, Mary Oliver, Herb Pandiscio, Leigh Ann Bacevich, Jane Jung, Cheryl McGuff, Martin LoMonaco, Natalie Pollock, Ellen Seifts and Liz Whitney!

Avon Education Foundation
P.O. Box 548
Avon, CT 06001

"Enhancing Tomorrow's Education Today"

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Newsletter

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- Fundraisers and Event Planners
- Scrapbooker / Archivist
- Web Master; Blogger

Write info@avonedfoundation.org
and tell us your special talent



Nancy Usich, second grade teacher at RBS, was awarded the Avon Junior Women's Club mini grant, for a program designed to explore the history and culture of the Underground Railroad through music, art and literature. Pictured: Nancy Usich, her 2nd grade class, Colleen Casey-Nelson, and representatives from the Avon Junior Women's Club, Amy Roth & Cathy Holloman.

Online Resources

www.avonedfoundation.org
www.ctcef.org
www.avon.k12.ct.us

A Vision for Educational Excellence

Since our founding last year, nearly 250 forward-thinking families and businesses have contributed to the Avon Education Foundation (AEF). Our shared goal: to support Avon schools and promote an innovative and engaged learning community.

Together, we challenged Avon educators to stretch, make a difference and enhance educational excellence in all our schools. They rose to this challenge, far exceeding our expectations. Their energy and enthusiasm demonstrates their willingness to go beyond the expected, to really make a difference for our children and our community.

There's been no shortage of ideas and over the last year, we've accomplished more than we ever dreamed possible. Community support has helped realize truly inspirational efforts. Now we can clearly see the potential to accomplish even more. AEF, therefore, serves as the catalyst for inspirational thinking and community achievement. However, we need your help: to reflect upon and identify skills needed to cultivate our town's current and future residents. Together, we can help our students and community be better prepared for an increasingly global world, while developing future leaders for Avon.

Town budgets may come and go, yet our teachers, staff, students and community resources remain ours to treasure. AEF plans to challenge, inspire and encourage pursuit of the extraordinary, re-igniting passion for education, to benefit the whole community. Please join us. Share your ideas by writing me at suebertolini@avonedfoundation.org. Thank you! – Sue Bertolini, Chair

"The Foundation will provide so many wonderful opportunities for the teachers and students of Avon. Thank you for helping everyone remember why teaching is so special and important!"

– Lori Maniatis, C.H.E.E.R. Awardee, 2nd Grade Teacher, Pine Grove School

What is An Education Foundation?

An education foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of volunteers committed to improving education at the local level. Their boards comprise community leaders and educators who serve as links between all non-profits, addressing education issues, raising awareness and resources for enhancement. They provide funds and support for programs to supplement current ones offered by local schools, libraries, recreation departments and other civic organizations. They mobilize citizens' financial and human resources to enrich the scope and quality of a community's educational system.

How to Support the AEF

1. Gifts of Cash

Please consider a tax deductible donation, by returning the enclosed envelope.

2. C.H.E.E.R. Program

Honor a special "friend of education" affiliated with the Avon Public Schools or with any other learning organization in our community.

Your gifts directly support Avon schools and education programs in our community. For details about making a donation, or for information on gift planning options such as endowments, gifts of appreciated securities, or workplace giving, call Magda Stayton at 673-4322.

Wish List for Avon Public Schools & Community Organizations*

- Digital Video Camera; Portable Computers; Book Sets (5-25) for guided reading - Roaring Brook School
- Automatic External Defibrillator; CT History & Culture Resources - Pine Grove School
- Keyboards; Music Recording & Processing Software - Thompson Brook School
- LCD Projectors; Wireless Access for the Media Center - Avon Middle School
- New Library Table & Chairs; Wireless Microphones - Avon High School
- Media Center/Resources - Town Library

* Please note: this is a partial list only. Please check our website www.avonedfoundation.org for a more complete list. Contact Sue Bertolini at 679-9236 or your school principal if you would like more information.

Education foundations are a growing national trend that began in the 1980's. At that time, economic issues reduced town revenues, forcing communities to seek new alternatives. This caused citizens and educators to start a process which revolutionized the way communities participate in public education. The first education foundations formed not only augmenting traditional curricula, but cultivating broad-based educational programs for all. Once the first education foundations started, their success and numbers quickly spread. California has an estimated five hundred education foundations; Connecticut has sixty-one, with more being established each year. Across the country, they have been "win-win" scenarios in their communities.

As their numbers and impact have grown, state-wide organizations have formed to help with the start up and management of local education foundations. The Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations (CTCEF) has been a great resource to the AEF board of directors, in modeling their organization. As Marge Hiller, director of the Bridgeport Public Education Fund, stated: "Education foundations build consensus and encourage dialogue for improving public education and is the greatest source for bringing together the public for improving education."

While the missions may be similar, each foundation's goals are unique to its community. Some are focused on not only improving the schools, but on creating an environment in which inventive, multi-generational educational programs involve all members of the community. The Wilton Education Foundation sponsors Connecticut's annual Career Day, and is manned by professionals from across the Wilton community. The Cheshire Education Foundation funded a nature center near a town pond. The opportunities provided for students and life-long learners are great, and limited only by the imagination and assets of a community.

For more on education foundations, go to www.ctcef.org, or www.avonedfoundation.org. Find out how you can make a difference for education in Avon today!

AEF's First Anniversary Enriches Community

The Avon Education Foundation, a tax-exempt non-profit, was formed one year ago to enhance educational programs for all Avon residents. Gifts to the AEF from local businesses and benefactors are directly enriching our schools and promoting an innovative and engaged learning community.

"The C.H.E.E.R. award is the most thoughtful gift I have ever received in my eight years with Avon High. The best token of appreciation I could have received was just to simply be recognized and acknowledged for what I do."
- Pam Shand, Secretary, Guidance Office, Avon High School

After successfully completing its inaugural fundraising campaign, AEF launched the **C.H.E.E.R.** program to "Celebrate and Honor Exceptional EducatoRs." Sixty-four Avon teachers, school staff, and other friends of education have been honored by Avon families and students with C.H.E.E.R. certificates. Proceeds raised through the C.H.E.E.R. program are being used to support Avon students and educators.

AEF C.H.E.E.R. Honorees

Janet Anderson
Nancy Berger
Caillleen Bernardi
Mr. Bob
Judy Borus
Mark Burgess
Natalie Carlone
Betsy Cartona
Traci Cavanaugh
Rosanne Civittolo
Mrs. Cole
Mr. Conway
Ginny Conn
John Czepiel
Al Dadario
Barbara Daly-Byrnes
Martin deLivron
Stephanie Eason
Don Fantozzi
Elaine Fote
Michael Gudaitis
Dr. Hartigan
Janet Herlihy
Lori Henderson
Adrienne Hockman
Mrs. Howard
Gretchen Huber
Joan Jacobs
Tom Kawiecki
Christine Kopyt
Rene Kuhrt
Jeanine LaBrosse
Gerald LaChance
Kelley Lanahan
Ann Marie Lee
Michele Lemis
Kerry Lurate
Mrs. Lynne
Lori Maniatis
Sue McCabe
Ann McCarthy
Coach John McLaughlin
Jesus Meneses
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Annie O'Brien
Jane Ellen Peregrin
Mrs. Pilar
Sally Pirla
Elisabeth Repp
Pamela Shand
Carolyn Shea
Jill Sheely
Jason Shiers
John Snyder
Larry Sparks
Mrs. Stiebel
Karen Sullivan-Shephard
Nancy Usich
Nancy Wall
Diane Warnke
Mr. Wilson
Susan Winterson
Betsy Zalaski

Mark Your Calendars

Prize Patrols - Week of June 6th
CTCEF Conference - October 18th

In December 2004, the AEF awarded \$7000 in mini-grants to seven Avon public school initiatives, across a variety of disciplines and grade levels. Grants were awarded to: Barbara Daly-Byrnes and Jody Kryzanski of Pine Grove School; Kerry Lurate, Nancy Usich and Paul Johnson of Roaring Brook School; Patrick Mulligan and Christopher Jones of Avon Middle School and Julia Cowans-Wilhelm, Avon High School. The grants support expansion of the kindergarten reading program at Pine Grove; enriching the phonics program, purchasing multicultural music instruments and enabling instruction about the Underground Railroad through music, art and literature at Roaring Brook School; video editing technology and raising salmon for release into the Farmington River at AMS; and the introduction of a technologically advanced interactive SMART board at AHS for improved instruction.

"The \$1000. given to Patrick Mulligan for video editing equipment and technology was just the spark we needed to develop our television studio. At our last PTO meeting, our executive board showed great interest in this initiative and is giving serious consideration to providing the funds necessary to get our studio up and running. Your organization's support was essential in helping energize this outstanding initiative, and our entire community will benefit."

- Jody Goeler, Principal, Avon Middle School



AMS students will raise and release salmon into local waterways, thanks to a grant underwritten by the Farmington Savings Bank. Teacher Christopher Jones developed the program for the eighth-grade ecology study unit on our fragile environment. Top Row: Marco Famiglietti, AMS Vice Principal, Robin Stoll, AEF Grant Chair, Sue Bertolini, AEF Chair, Dr. Kisiel, Superintendent of Avon Schools, Sara Ray, AEF Vice-Chair; Bottom Row: Jody Goeler, AMS Principal, Chris Jones, Joie Lemeris & Robin DiNicola, Assistant Treasurers, Farmington Savings Bank.

The AEF will award its second round of mini-grants the week of June 6th for programs conducted during the 2005-2006 school year.

AEF does not replace items in the town budget. It does, however, provide funds for initiatives promoting the highest levels of teaching and learning. Our near-term goal is to support significant, educational projects in Avon for all residents. To this end, we plan a series of focus groups among residents, parents, retirees, business leaders and faculty to explore their ideas on what education in Avon could be over the next 3-5 years. With this direct input, AEF will identify projects which it can achieve with community support. Over the long-term, AEF plans to fund an endowment, to support education in Avon in perpetuity. To get involved, go to www.avonedfoundation.org.

Thanks to these generous individuals whose time & talent helped get AEF started: Natale A. Messina & Hugh P. McGee, Jr., Partners, Patricia E. Rodgers, Corporate Paralegal, Murtha Cullina LLP of Hartford, CT; Nicholas S. Scata CPA partner, Saslow, Lufkin & Buggy LLP; Carmen Brickner, President, Clear Consulting; William McGee, Partner, McGee Partners, LLC

Board of Directors: Officers: Susan Bertolini, Chair; Sara Ray, Vice Chair; Nancy Meunch, Treasurer; Sharon Ricci, Secretary; Tom Boone, Tom Carey, Ginny McGee, Natale Messina, Mardelle Peña, Debbie Routt, Magda Stayton, Robin Venditti Stoll; Ex Officio: John Czepiel, President, Avon Education Assn.; Richard Kisiel, Superintendent of APS; Peggy Roell, Chair, BOE.