



PO Box 81
Chatham, NJ 07928
(973) 701-8731
cef@chatham-nj.org

Chatham Education Foundation Awards \$15,000 In Grants to Chatham Teachers

(Chatham, NJ) - November 12, 2007 -- The Chatham Education Foundation today awarded 16 grants totaling \$15,000 to faculty in the School District of the Chathams. Combined, the Chatham Education Foundation has awarded 220 grants totaling nearly \$300,000 in its ten-year history, furthering its mission to enhance the educational opportunities for educators, faculty and students in Chatham schools.

The grants were presented at the 7th annual *Taste of Chatham* held at the Brooklake Country Club. The delectable event featured more than 20 area restaurants that offered specially prepared samplings to more than 350 local Chatham residents in attendance. The *Taste of Chatham* culminated with a presentation made by Carlene Pruitt, president of the Chatham Education Foundation, who announced the recipients of the 2007/2008 faculty grant awards. "We are always impressed by the number of creative and impressive grant proposals we receive each year," said Pruitt. "Chatham educators put a lot of thought into their applications, and we are thrilled to be able to make many of these projects a reality. Donors to the Chatham Education Foundation should feel proud that their gifts will reap rewards for Chatham students for years to come."

Last year, the *Taste of Chatham* raised more than \$35,000 to fund special projects throughout Chatham schools. The Chatham Education Foundation is a non-profit organization that began in 1997 by a volunteer group of concerned parents and community members who wanted to enhance the excellence of public education in Chatham through private funding. From the sciences to the arts, math to music, peer support to cultural diversity, the Chatham Education Foundation has provided funding for countless educational endeavors that add value to our children's educational experience. This is due to the incredible generosity of a community that cares deeply about its schools. For further information about the Chatham Education Foundation, please call (973) 701-8731 or go to www.chatham-nj.org/cef.

- more -



Chatham High School

Elizabeth Millman – “Stock Market Experience” (partial funding): A ten week national stock market project where the students will learn about investing in the stock market, keep a stock portfolio and gain an understanding of the economy.

Jason Mariano – “Design & Technology of Portfolios Come Alive With Color”: Students in the Design and Technology Department will design and produce their drawings via a large 11 x 17 printer for inclusion in their portfolios.

Chatham Middle School

Deborah Evans - “Rainforest Researchers”: This computer-based program enhances the 7th grade science curriculum by giving students the opportunity to investigate the real-world problems in a threatened biome.

Megan Anderson – “New Jersey Writers Project” (partial funding): This project will bring a professional poet into the classroom to help students and teachers discover the joys of reading, writing, performing, and analyzing poetry. It includes a four day residency training by a poet who will take teachers as well as students through the poetry writing process with hands on activities and first hand experiences.

Lafayette School

Rosemary Cooke – “Hands on History”: This project is designed to provide fifth grade students with a cross-curriculum experience combining Arts and Crafts with a Social Studies unit on Native American Cultures. The students will use clay to create facsimiles of objects used by Native American.

Vicky McCullough, Jennifer Bane, Erin Killea – “The Play’s the Thing”: This is a program that includes traditional, contemporary, and language play scripts, for reading aloud and performing. It provides differentiated instruction opportunities for students to participate in Reader’s Theater, develop fluency, listening skills, dramatic components, and learn about character development.

Joanne Borsinger – “Lafayette’s Roving Reporters”: Cooperative teams of student reporters will obtain and report information from within Lafayette School and the local community. Teams will utilize tape recorders, listening, oral, and written skills including the author’s purpose to persuade, inform, and entertain readers while leveraging writing across the curriculum. Published pieces will be typed and posted on an intranet site accessible by all Lafayette students.

Ann Worden – “The Greenhouse Effect”: This project involves restoring the Lafayette Greenhouse into a workable, viable greenhouse to enhance science programs and the environmental club.

Southern Boulevard School

Alison McKenna, Jennifer Broyer – “Who Wants to be the Next Rock Star”: All second grade students will work on activities and experiments that explore rocks, which is one of the units in the revised science curriculum.

Erin Tromonda – “Discovering Light and Sound”: This project is designed to provide multiple opportunities for all second grade students to study light and sound energy using concrete, hands on materials.

Washington Avenue School

Joel Kuhn, Sarah Guitierrez, Michelle Monahan, Jennifer Taylor, and Sandy Kelly – “WAS Eyewitness News Streams Videos”: This pilot program will provide training for teachers to utilize the Pinnacle Studio 11 software available through the newly installed district-owned fiber wide-area network. The program will enable students and to produce television programs for video streaming into classrooms.

Mary Donnelly – “SMART Board Goes to the Movies”: This project will provide for DVDs that will allow all the K-3 health educators to utilize the SMART boards to present their curriculum in an interesting, dynamic, and interactive way.

Milton Avenue School

Laura Firouz, Dawn Kurlak – “Fast Plants”: All 2nd grade students will grow, study, observe, measure, identify and record the life cycle of their own plants during a 40-day period.

Kathryn Leonard – “Fluency Library”: Quick Read Fluency Library is designed to support basic skills students in developing three critical reading skills: fluency, comprehension and background knowledge.

Diane Shulman, Judy Casey – “Learning About Morals Through Aesop’s Fables”: This is a component of the Pearson Reading program that deals with the study of fables. Use of this program not only exposes the students to a new genre at this level, but also will promote comprehension, build vocabulary, enhance fluency, and encourage independent reading.

Cindy Weiner, Jennifer Manger – “Second Step Program”: Second Step is a violence prevention program that proactively teaches critical social-emotional skills to all children. This is for all three elementary schools and the Prep Program in the District.

#