

Grant Awards Spring 2006

Foundation Awards \$31,650 in grants

The South Country Education Foundation awarded \$31,650 in grant money for projects in district schools and for organizations serving residents of the East Patchogue, Brookhaven and Bellport communities. The grant awards include money for reading and math programs, homework assistance programs, woodworking, photography and even boat building projects. "We're excited by the many interesting projects we have been able to help this year. We feel we're playing a critical role in keeping life in this district stimulating and challenging," said Gene Westoff, Foundation president.

The funded projects are:

Reading Olympics

Grant amount: \$1,500

This is a Parents as Reading Partners program at Verne W. Critz. Students will read with their parents 20 minutes a day. Activities include a library kick-off, on-going incentives and a closing ceremony. The highlight of the closing ceremony is a stunt performed by the building principal if the school meets its quota. SDM Committee: Parents – Debbie Uhrie and Nicole May with school librarian – Lynn Cullen

Team Up with a Good Book

Grant amount: \$1,550

This program is similar to Reading Olympics but will be held at the Creamer Street Elementary School. It is being organized by the PTA and concludes with a Family Fun Night. Carolyn MacLellan, PTA President

Cultural Beautification Project

Grant amount: \$650

Senior students at Bellport High School will re-create specific works of the masters in spaces around the high school. Grant money pays for materials. Juliette Marotta

Family Support Center

Grant amount: \$2600

The center is hosting a series of academic workshops open to all residents of the district. Carol Herrmann

Power Hour at the Boys and Girls Club

Grant amount: \$2,500

The foundation will fund a homework assistance program designed to increase the academic proficiency for participants between the ages of six and 18. This program is held Monday to Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. Power Hour was begun in 2003 with support from the foundation. John Norris, President

Scrim Curtain at BHS:

Grant amount: \$1,315

The education foundation will purchase a scrim curtain for Bellport High School to be used in future theater productions. The curtain will be used to create unique theatrical effects and enhance the school theatrical program. Suzette Fandale

Readers Earn Authors Day

Grant amount: \$2,500

Award-winning author will visit the Frank P. Long Intermediate School and interact with students there. The goal of the program is to inspire students to enjoy good literature and gain insight into writing for a specific audience. Frances Cornacchiulo and Aimee Altman

Woodworkers Club:

Grant amount: \$1,000

This club serves approximately 135 students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School who have crafted birdhouse and sitting benches while learning the practical application of measurements as well as other math skills. Peter Cisek

Garden Club

Grant amount: \$1,500

Twenty students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School participate in this club. They meet before the start of the school day and are responsible for beautifying the school's courtyard. This year the club hopes to add new gardens on the west side of the building. Peter Cisek

"Put Yourself in My Shoes"

Grant amount: \$2,000

This project is a three-part assembly program taught by a character education specialist who teaches self-respect, respect for others and conflict resolution. The program will be brought to students in grades four through eight. Trudi Milian

Dance, Dance Revolution

Grant amount: \$2,999.62

This grant will enhance the level of physical fitness in an upbeat, social environment through the purchase of a lighted dancing apparatus. Trudi Milian

Saturday Learning Academy

Grant amount: \$3,000

This program will address the needs of 24 struggling Middle School student. The program will use the concepts presented in the book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens." Gabrielle Coyne, Crista Hasler, and Tim Maher

The Yale Whiffenpoofs

Grant amount: \$2,000

The all-male Yale choir will perform for all students in grades K to 3. The group will entertain and educate students about the elements of music. Michele Stiriz

Pan Caribbean Music Fest

Grant amount: \$2,000

The foundation will help fund a trip for the Boys and Girls Club Steel Drum Band. The band will travel to Virginia Beach, Va., to participate in a special music festival. John Norris, President

Chorus Cares

Grant amount: \$800

Students in the Third Grade Chorus at Brookhaven Elementary School will share their talents with residents of the Bellhaven Nursing Home. The grant money is used to hire buses to transport students to the facility. Stephani Callender and Henry Finnegan

Maritime Center

Grant amount: \$2,000

Parent/child teams demonstrating a financial need will receive funding through this grant to purchase kits used in the construction of a wood kayak. Application of math skills as well as basic hand and power tool use are benefits of this program. Ralph Maust

Feel Good Fund

Grant amount: \$300

Seed money will be provided for this project. The fund is used to supply school clothing and hygiene items to needy students at the Bellport Middle School. Ken Rizzo, Sallie Bennett, Kyle Bollar and Carol Mitchell

Landscape Photography

Grant amount: \$1,750

Bellport High School photography students will work with alumnus who will demonstrate landscape photography techniques using digital cameras and unique Photoshop techniques. Suzette Fandale