

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



From the Helm

Wow! My first year as president of South Country Education Foundation could not have been more rewarding. Your support and the support of the community has exceeded prior years. We thank everyone for our great success and thank you in advance for your continued support as we embark on what we hope to be another groundbreaking year.

SCEF funded more than \$40,000 worth of grants to teachers, students and community groups in the 2014 school year. All grade levels benefited from these grants. Our annual auction raised over \$45,000 and attendance was our highest ever. We thank those who attended the cocktail party and who share in our vision and goal which allows us to positively impact the SCCSD.

The co-operation between SCEF and the South Country School District is important to our success. Your contributions fuel our accomplishments and the strong alignment with the school district helps us have a positive impact on students, teachers and our schools. Superintendent Joseph Giani has worked closely with our organization and said, "The SCEF partnership with our schools and programs here in South Country continue to support meaningful opportunities for our students in all schools."

"Thank you" letters from grant winners are always wonderful to receive. As you are a partner in each of our grants, please share in our pride of the work we have accomplished together. A shining example is the grant that allowed all third grade students in the district to experience "From Page-to-Stage Mooseltoe." SCEF and the Gateway together made this classroom and theater program happen.

Please see both the following article which highlights the grant and the expressive thank you from one of our third graders—two of the dozens of accolades bestowed on the Foundation in recent months. We share them with you because you earned it along with us.

Most of our grant funds are raised at the annual summer cocktail party and auction. We hope, however, that as our work goes on throughout the year, donors will think of us year round as we strive to keep a steady flow of educational opportunities present in classrooms in the district.

Please visit www.scefonline.org, for a full list of programs we have funded. We wish you a joyous Holiday Season and do hope you include SCEF in your year-end givings. —FRANK LENTO

SCEF and the Bellport Gateway Theatre Enable Page-to-Stage Grant

This grant was designed to help students achieve goals outlined in the NYS Common Core Learning Standards by actively watching, participating in, and discussing a live, professional-quality theatrical production.

It revolved around the Gateway

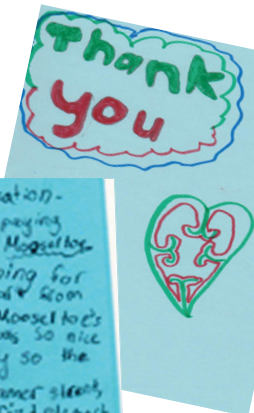
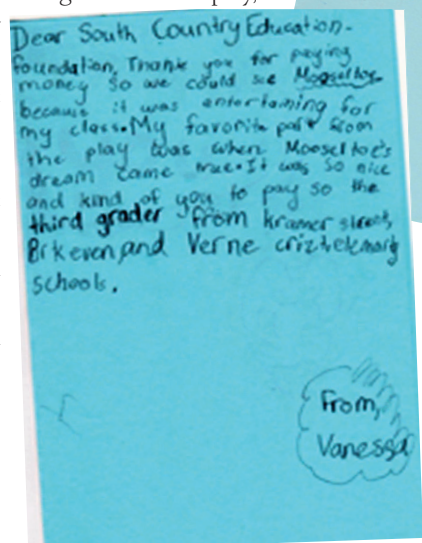


production of Mooseltoe and aligned the learnings in the show with the teachings in school. Pre show, at show and post show learning activities took place to support this grant.

All third graders in the district benefited from this rewarding experience. The third grade class summarized this in a wonderful note:

"Thank you for inviting us to the play, Mooseltoe! The play and the book you so generously gave us were both amazing.

The show was SNOWTASTIC! We thought the message was inspiring! We will always remember to follow our dreams and believe in ourselves. We loved all of the creative characters, the singing and the music."



SCEF Annual Auction Raises Over \$45,000



Our 16th Annual Auction and Cocktail Party was held again at the beautiful bayside home of Chantal and Richard Berman. This event is made possible

through the generosity of the Berman family and our event sponsors Knapp/Swezey Foundation and David Flamenbaum of South Shore Liquors. We would also like to thank all of the local merchants and individuals who volunteered their time and services in supplying hors d'oeuvres, auction items and much, much more.

What We Do SCEF is an independent, not-for-profit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District by:

- Giving education grants (upwards of \$40,000 for the 2014 grant cycle)
- Supporting our cultural and educational committees: Becker/Gambles Music Fund, Martin Luther King Foundation and Students 4 Art
- Partnering with the Boys and Girls Club and Knapp/Swezey Foundation for the 5th grade YMCA Swim Program
- Offering professional development grants



What We Support SCEF is both proud and honored to support the South Country Central School District's multi-year Literacy Improvement through Technology Initiative. This initiative is designed to prepare students for participation in a knowledge-based society by successfully meeting the increased reading, writing, and critical thinking demands required in this 21st Century. At the core of this initiative are three vital building blocks: specialized teacher training, personalized instruction through adaptive software, and a comprehensive research-based reading program designed to maximize student development.

SCEF, with our community's support and funding, provided a grant to enable the purchase of "COWS" or com-

puters on wheels. The COWs provide the capability of this program to be portable from classroom to classroom and from school to school to optimize this initiative's reach



to as many students as possible. The following quote from Dr. Joseph Giani, Superintendent of Schools, sums up the impact we have made:

"We are both excited and grateful for SCEF's generous donation and

support of our Literacy Improvement through Technology Initiative. Their donation supported the purchase of Computers on Wheels (COWS) allowing us to deliver research based reading intervention programs to more students than our current technology could support."

Karen Rowley, a member of the SCEF Community Advisory Council and the Becker/Gambles Music Fund passed away in April, 2013. Karen asked that donations be sent to the SCEF music fund. Over the past year, dozens of donations were received benefitting our summer music lessons, master classes and more.

In November 2014 Steve Rowley, Karen's son, made a donation to the Becker/Gambles Music Fund of \$10,000 in honor of his mother, following her wishes.

Karen's legacy lives on as we use her very generous donation to continue to enrich the music education of the grateful students of the South Country School District.



PHOTO: JESSICA MILLER

2015 SCEF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We thank the community for its generous support of previous SCEF events and hope you will take notice below so as not to miss :

OPERA AND MORE, An afternoon recital on Saturday, May 16th, 5 pm at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, Brookhaven

17TH ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY AND AUCTION on Saturday, July 11th from 5 pm to 7:30 pm in Bellport

GRANT RECEPTION on Thursday, June 11th from 3:30-5:00pm

Please check our website, www.scefonline.org, for up-to-date information

The SCEF community of donors and contributors continues to excel our expectations and we thank you each for your support of the students in the South Country District. Over \$45,000 was raised in the 2014 school year and these donations were utilized to fund extremely worthwhile grants to enhance the student learnings and experience in all of the South Country schools. Please take a moment to be proud of your contribution which continues to fuel our positive reach and impact in our community. We offer thanks to each of you and hope your generosity will continue to support the SCEF in the year to come.

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The foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to improving opportunities for all students in the South Country school district. Its mission is to promote educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that fall outside of the District budget.

HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

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2014 Appeal Issue

**WE CANNOT REACH OUR GOALS
WITHOUT YOUR HELP**



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