

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Spring 2024

BOOK MARKS

We're closing in on our 26th Annual Cocktail Party and Auction set for Saturday, July 13, 2024 at the home of Chantal and Richard Berman.

While the location for our major fund-raising event remains the same for the second decade, so much more has changed and improved for the South Country Education Foundation. Things look bright and we're ready to shine!

In the early years, our annual event raised \$15,000 to \$20,000 from 100 to 200 supporters. But each year we earned more and attendance grew. The 2023 event attracted close to 400 supporters and we grossed over \$100,000. Several years ago, we received a \$50,000 bequest from a Brookhaven resident. This year, the Knapp-Swezey Foundation, Inc. bestowed a legacy grant of \$100,000 that we will spend carefully and judiciously.

We stay in touch with our supporters through bi-annual newsletters that remind our supporters of the work we do. Our newsletters also reap financial donations. Like I said, the South Country Education Foundation is Ready to Shine!

Teachers in the district also envision bright future. They continue to submit imaginative, worthwhile grant applications that improve the day in local classrooms. We funded dozens of field trips, including one to the Federal Reserve, many to the Yaphank Farm, a STEM family night which is included in this newsletter. We have a BHS student attending a three week medical research program at Stony Brook and two teachers attending a conference in their field. Please take a look at the grants listed on these pages and be inspired by what you have helped make possible.

In 2023/2024 school year, we have awarded more than \$90,000 in two grants cycles and hope to do more next year.

Please join us July 13th, 5:00 to 7:30 PM. Let your light shine!

Sincerely,
Robin Young Roe
President



PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY AND AUCTION

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024
5:00 – 7:30 PM

\$100 (\$125 at the door)

At the home of Chantal and Richard Berman
40 Academy Lane, Bellport, NY
Tickets available at scefonline.org

WANT TO DONATE?

We hope supporters will consider the SCEF as they plan their annual gifts.

Donations may be sent to
SCEF, PO Box 512
Bellport, NY 11713

Donations may also be processed
at our website

SCEFONLINE.ORG

2024 WINTER GRANT CYCLE AWARDS

We are awarding over \$30,000 in grants in this winter.
More than \$90,000 in grants this year and Shining Bright!

1. INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Chris Varley • Bellport High School • \$2,935.16

Students will be introduced to the field of Industrial Design as a visual art career and as a field of Art. Industrial Designers are visual artists that create plans/protocols for manufactured goods. Students will use processes used by industrial designers including the use of large format 3D printers to facilitate the creation of such goods. Funding for the Makerbot 3D printer and filament will help facilitate lesson plans and follow through on the creation of a finished product for students.

2. WRITE AND WIPE MOBILE STANDING DESKS

Theresa Tietjen • Bellport Middle School • \$1,367.96

Funding will be used for the purchase of 3 Flex-Space Write and Wipe Mobile Standing Desks to support students in Math class.

3. OCEANOGRAPHY: EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND US

Melissa Fels, Alissa Connell

Verne W. Critz Elementary School • \$2,052.00

Students will have the opportunity to explore the waters around us with a marine biologist on the Great South Bay. The field trip will give students an innovative learning experience to help enhance classroom instruction while providing hands-on, interactive enrichment activities. The field trip aligns to the curriculum on the living environment. Students/teachers and chaperones will leave from Captree boat basin.

4. SOUTH COUNTRY SUMMER READING AND MATH PROGRAM K-5 SPARKING JOY FOR SUMMER LEARNING

Victoria Williams • \$1,253.00

Summer school principals for all three elementary schools

Funds are requested to support the summer reading and math program with props and games with weekly themes. Week 1: Stories Around the World: Multicultural Trip Around the world through story. Week 2: Let's Learn and Glow: Space Adventures and Neon Exploration. Week 3: Fun and Games: Carnival. The program is Title 1 funded and is intended to help those below grade level during the summer months. The SCEF funds will be to purchase props and games to make the learning fun and encourage attendance and participation.

5. OAXACA RED TRUNK PROJECT

Jessica Weinberg • Brookhaven Elementary School • \$2,600.00

The Oaxaca Red Trunk Project takes students on an immersive field trip where they can learn about the people, traditions, and culture of Mexico. The artifacts inside the trunk are accompanied by interactive and digital learning tools that provide bicultural and bilingual experiences for all learners. There will be ethnography essays about the artifacts, videos in English and Spanish, examples of folk arts and crafts, toys, games, dolls, musical instruments, herbs and spices, cooking tools, typical grocery items, currency, flag, and some traditional clothing. The three trunks that we are funding will be shared by eight classrooms in the third grade. Red stands for Respect Every Difference. Trunks are available for other countries in the world.

6. WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Sally Wellinger

Center For Environmental Education and Discovery - Art & Nature Group Inc. (CEED) • \$2,700.00

Ranger Eric Powers will provide six Wildlife Diversity programs for the 5th grade in Frank P. Long Intermediate School for their enrichment of their science unit on Ecosystems. They will meet ambassadors from around the world and discover. Some of their amazing ways have found their niche in their ecosystem. He will also provide an alive Animal Adaptation Assembly for the third grade at Kreamer Street Elementary School. Both programs are requested by the schools.

7. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB A.R.T.S. PROGRAM (ACHIEVING RESILIENCY THROUGH SONG & DANCE)

Sherika Adams

Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area • \$400.00

Funding request is for their ARTS Program in which they would receive lessons for club members ages 5-12 for 2 hours per week at a rate of \$20 per hour for 10 weeks.

8. FLEXIBLE SEATING FOR FOCUSED STUDENTS TO INCREASE ENGAGEMENT

Melissa Fels • VWC Elementary School • \$453.04

This grant request is for flexible seating options for 3rd graders. The objective is to increase student focus and engagement, collaboration and communication, when given the choice of flexible seating options, as opposed to sitting in hard chairs at desks for the duration of the school day.

9. FLEXING WITH PHONICS

Shawana Vega • Bellport Middle School • \$563.87

A portion of the grant includes an itemized budget for a variety of reading and phonics materials.

10. FIELD TRIP TO THE SUFFOLK COUNTY FARM

Dawn Sackman • VWC Elementary School • \$1,340.00

This grant will fund the transportation and admission for the two programs for forty kindergarten students at Verne W. Critz Elementary School to attend the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank. The students will be able to feed the animals and learn about the animals, insects, and how a working farm operates. The programs that the children will attend are called Animal Experiences and From Egg to Chick.

11. BOOK NOOK

Lauren Kleban • Bellport Middle School • \$683.57

This grant will fund the purchase of various books to be put on display in a "Book Nook" in a 6th grade history classroom. The purpose is to correlate these books with various units being studied throughout the year, such as Women's History Month and Black History Month. Books will be accessible to all students in the classroom.

12. PORTABLE CHORAL RECORDING STUDIO

Kyle Sherlock • \$2,939.96

This grant request is for portable recording studio equipment to help with choral groups at Bellport Middle School such as the South Country Singers (an a cappella group that is one of only three such Middle School groups in the United States chosen to compete in the International Championship of high school groups), middle school choir and the music department. It will enable them to share their music with the community, as well as help choral members better understand their vocal parts for performances. The portable studio will foster creativity and collaboration within their group, as well as provide a dynamic platform for the on-the-go performances and community engagement.

13. THE CARE CLOSET

Jenna Restivo and Ann Haddad

District wide managed by Bellport High School • \$1,350.00

The care Closet operated out of Bellport High School had existed since April 2022, utilizing a one time donation of funds that is now depleted. Families complete Google forms and select personal care items that they need, such as shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent, etc... Students in the 12:1:2 and 12:1:4 classes regularly incorporate the employment skills of reading a supply list and fulfilling orders requested. The requested amount of this grant represents a monthly purchase allotment of new supplies @ 150.00 per month for 11 school months from April 2024-May 2025 (including July, August and September).

14. HOORAY FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR!

Deirdre Wittman Kreamer Street • \$387.85

Students will earn prizes for good behavior as part of a positive behavior reinforcement program. Specific behaviors such as kindness, respect, friendship and participation in class activities will earn rewards. Points. The prizes include sunglasses, slap bracelets and glitter balls.

15. COOK AROUND THE WORLD

Camille Masem • Bellport High School • \$3,000.00

Twenty-three high school students will participate in a three-day culinary competition at the Disney Epcot Center in Florida. The grant will defray some of the air fare to attend the event. They will compete against teams from around the country in the preparation of meals that reflect foods of a particular region in the world. The competition is scheduled for April 26-29.

16. SUFFOLK COUNTY FARM

Jacqueline Ward • Verne W. Critz • \$1,754.00

Three Kindergarten classes will learn about a working farm, farm animals, insects and more when they visit the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank. The grant pays for two buses and a van.

17. MATH IN COLOR

Leck Nhotsoubanh • Bellport Middle School • \$549.61

The applicant hopes to increase student enthusiasm and skill in math through visual activities. She writes that she has cut out colored pumpkins, as an example, and written math equations on the pumpkins. The purchase of the Circuit Maker 3 will make her efforts more efficient and she will explore other ways to add color to her classroom assignments.

18. TRIP TO SEE THEATER PRODUCTION AT THEATRE THREE

Mandy Mazziotti • Verne W. Critz Elementary • \$1,200.00

Trip to Theatre Three in Port Jefferson to see one of three performances that are available. Students will be asked to reflect on their favorite part of the field trip and write and illustrate that reflection. This grant covers the remaining transportation cost that is not covered by the school.

19. LONG ISLAND AQUATIC LIFE AND WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Jill DeRosa

Verne W. Critz Elementary • \$1692.00 / \$1434.00

Trip for Verne W Critz 2nd graders to visit the Long Island Aquarium for 48 and 36 students respectively (two separate grant applications). Includes cost of transportation.

20. FLEXIBLE, SOCIAL SEATING TO ENGAGE ALL LEARNERS

Victoria Suarez and Lauren Masem

Brookhaven Elementary • \$932.87

Requesting grant to purchase additional flexible seating options for classroom. Integrated and co-taught classroom. Helps keep students alert and focused as well as promote problem solving in the school community. Consists of 10 chairs, 4 stools, and 4 specialized seats.

21. TRANSPORTING FIRST GRADERS TO EXPERIMENT WITH ICE CREAM SCIENCE

Natalie Baeza • Brookhaven Elementary School • \$2500.00

Trip for first graders to Long Island Science Center to participate in an Ice Cream Science lab. Teaches kids science and exposes them to various technologies and equipment while also showing them how to make ice cream. This will cover the transportation for two trips (5/6/2024 and 5/10/2024).

22. OCEANOGRAPHY EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND US

Jennifer Klouse and Erika Watson

Verne W. Critz Elementary • \$2052.00

45 students (3rd grade) plus transportation cost to go on a boat-based field trip to learn about marine biology and oceanographic studies, as well as tide studies. Conforms with multiple State science standards in terms of analysis, living environment, problem solving, etc.

23. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT - RON CLARK ACADEMY

Lisa Dooley, Brianne Torre, English Language Arts teachers and Restorative Practice coaches

Bellport Middle School • \$2,180.00 for each teacher

This grant will cover conference/study fees, materials and travel to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia for two days of interactive, immersive learning experiences where they will observe classes and participate in dynamic workshops that will teach them how to ignite a passion for learning, ensure a climate and culture where all students and staff thrive and more.

24. STUDENT STUDY GRANT-SCIENCE AND RESEARCH AWARENESS SERIES (SARAS) AT STONY BROOK MEDICAL CENTER DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

Catherine Masem • Bellport Middle School • \$1,000.00

This grant will cover attendance at the SARAS 2024-20th Annual Event where the student will participate in workshops, lectures, discussions and expert's views on topics in biomedical sciences. They will attend lab safety sessions leading to Certification to work in a research lab and cover a multitude of fields in science and medicine for the three-week event in July.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 DONORS

If you don't see your name here, we apologize. Please send info to robinyoungroe@aol.com

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SOUTH COUNTRY SINGERS COMPETE



Bellport Middle School's South Country Singers, an a cappella ensemble led by teacher Kyle Sherlock, one of only 3 such middle school groups in the United States chosen to compete at the International Championship of high school groups. SCEF Grant: Portable Choral Recording Studio.

STEM PROGRAM FUN

Frank P. Long Intermediate School parents and students experienced hands-on activities and learned about STEM concepts during an evening program at the Family Engagement Center. The activities included 3D printing, robotics, extended reality, drones and more.



Pictured, left to right, are: Getty Melendez (Parent Liaison), Sherika Adams (Co-Organizer of the Family Engagement Center), James Fuoco, Nathan Nuttall, Christopher Nuttall, Julianna LaGrega, Ava Fuoco, Cristina Sullivan (Co-Organizer of the Family Engagement Center)



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EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 512
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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.

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APPEAL NEWSLETTER

Samantha Fassman, Robin Young Roe & Diane Zanazzi, *Editors*

Searles Graphics, *Production and Printer*
Title and text design by Barbara D. Knowles

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

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