

Amherst Education Foundation, Inc.

Investing Today In Our Children's Future



Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Annual Report

**VOLUNTEER
CONNECT
DONATE**



Wooden blocks and other equipment purchased with a 2015-16 AEF Excellence Grant for the new district preschool playground at Crocker Farm Elementary School

INSPIRE!

Dear Friends of AEF,

We have so many exciting things to report from the past year!

In October, we held our 21st annual Trivia Bee at the Amherst Regional Middle School. Trivia Bee host State Representative Ellen Story and Triviamaster Joe Lastowski once again challenged the competitors and spectators with three rounds of head-scratching trivia questions. Costumes were worn, rivalries were rekindled, and a new champion was crowned: the team sponsored by Amherst Dental Group. Besides being a mainstay of Amherst community events, the Trivia Bee is an important fundraiser for AEF, this year bringing in over \$7,000 to enhance our grantmaking ability.

With a successful Trivia Bee behind us, we turned our attention to the process of allocating money to our schools. The Allocations Committee solicited applications from all corners of the ARPS district. Their efforts were rewarded with 14 outstanding applications, the most we've ever received in a single grant cycle! Choosing among these was a difficult task, but it was truly inspiring to read about the great things happening in our school district. We are pleased to announce that 2016 AEF Excellent grant recipients span a broad array of curriculum areas and grade levels in the ARPS district. Awardees are: Champion Course for Elementary Math Coaches, The Culture Bearers Project, ARHS Digital Music Lab, 21st Century Biology: Building Biotechnology into the ARHS Curriculum, and Access to Technology for Students with Special Needs. More information about these grants is available on our web site, www.amhersteducationfoundation.org. These grants will positively impact the education of students throughout the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District. We are so proud to be supporting our teachers and staff in their efforts to provide a first-rate educational experience for our children.

AEF participated in two major online fundraising events this year: Giving Tuesday and Valley Gives. Giving Tuesday is a national day of charitable giving. It was created five years ago as a socially responsible alternative to Black Friday and

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2016 EXCELLENCE GRANTS

This year there were fourteen applications, totaling \$133,000 in requests, AEF awarded five grantees a total of \$35,400!

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Champion Course for Elementary Math Coaches (\$5000):

Applicant: Fort River Math Coach Amy Chang.

This grant funds math coaches to attend math intervention courses targeting underperforming students of color and lower socioeconomic students in grades 3-6 at the three Amherst elementary schools.

The Culture Bearers Project (\$5400):

Applicant: Fort River Music Teacher Anne White

This grant creates cultural enrichment programs at all four elementary schools by bringing in visiting artists to involve students in performing and learning.

ARHS Digital Music Lab (\$10,000):

Applicant: ARHS Performing Arts Director John Bechtold

This grant pays for hardware and software for two new classes for students to compose, analyze and perform music. The new classes provide access to music to students who are not in other music programs and enables students using similar technology at ARMS to continue their music education.

21st Century Biology (\$10,000):

Applicant: ARHS Biology Teacher Michael Cardozo

Building Biotechnology into the ARHS Curriculum: This grant pays for the purchase of electrophoresis equipment and pipettes, enabling the innovative inclusion of gas electrophoresis technology into all eleven high school biology classes.

Access to Technology for Students with Special Needs (\$5000):

Applicant: Rebecca Herskovitz

This grant enables the purchase of fifteen laptops and external mice to benefit 100 Special Education Students at ARHS.

Like what we do? Join us in supporting excellence in education!

- Come to an event.
- Make a donation.
- Connect us with your friends and colleagues.
- Like us on Facebook.
- Volunteer your time.

ARMS music teacher David Ranen says that thanks to a 2014-15 grant from AEF "every student in ARMS is involved in music in some way."

"Having not had iPads before," he goes on to say, "we're just exploring the possibilities and scraping the surface of what is going to become a really great program."



iPads purchased with AEF grant funds are providing ARMS students with opportunities in music composition and theory.

FISCAL YEAR 2016

A look at AEF's fundraising (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

INCOME

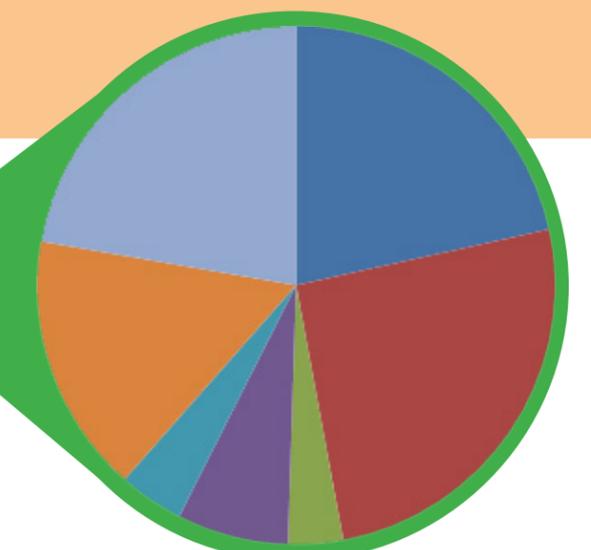
Gifts from Individuals	\$26,935.00
Business Event Sponsorships	\$17,157.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 751.00
In Kind Services	\$ 500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$50,194.00

EXPENSES

Events	\$ 3,109.00
Appeals (postage, copying, etc.)	\$ 2,467.00
Office (rent, internet, PO box, etc.)	\$ 1,021.00
Administrative Assistant	\$ 1,554.00
Insurance	\$ 1,638.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,541.00

GRANTS

2013 Grants Paid	\$31,000.00
Grants Pledged in 2014	\$35,400.00



A closer look at our income

- Fall Appeal: \$9,605
- Giving Tuesday and Valley Gives: \$11,391
- Unsolicited Gifts: \$1,524
- Spring Appeal: \$3,105
- Stars in our Schools: \$1,810
- Trivia Bee: \$7,219
- Ellen Story Celebration: \$9,938

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

We had **250 donors** for the year

of those, **20 were new donors!**

The **average donation was \$104** (that's up from last year).

We had **29 donations over \$200!**

21! That's how many years AEF has hosted the Trivia Bee.

Last year there were **30 teams** participating:

Number of years Ellen Story has MC'ed the event: **ALL 21 of them!**

We hosted **1 wonderful new event** this year (AEF Celebrates Ellen Story)

150 people attended the dinner and celebration.

AEF volunteers delivered **55 Stars in Our Schools cards** from the community in honor of AEF teachers and staff.

6 email newsletters sent to keep our donors updated on grants and activities.

We've got **632 Facebook friends** and **?? Twitter followers** who all receive regular updates about AEF events and news.

(Have YOU liked us yet?)

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Cyber Monday. Valley Gives is a regional day of giving organized by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. AEF made a particularly strong showing in Valley Gives, finishing 8th out of 190 organizations in the "small nonprofit" category in numbers of unique donors! Thanks to all of you who included AEF in your charitable giving in either or both of these events! Every penny raised goes to fund programs in our schools, so everyone was a winner with our strong showing.

The announcement by AEF co-founder, State Representative Ellen Story, that she would retire in the fall of 2016 gave us the perfect excuse to celebrate her 24 years of public service! In May we hosted a sold-out gala event at the UMass Marriott Center, which included comments from Senate President Stan Rosenberg, an Ellen-themed trivia bee, live music from the ARHS Jazz Combo, and a commendation from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren! It was a memorable evening, and thanks to Ellen's generosity, UMass's support, and other sponsors from within the community, a successful fundraiser for AEF.

The end of the year came with some exciting news: Amherst Education Foundation was selected to receive the "A+ Award" for Community Service! Several members of the board were honored to represent AEF at the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce awards dinner on October 6.

Finally, we'd like to conclude with some words of thanks. AEF is grateful to Amy Brodigan, Diana Spurgin, Linda Terry, and Erika Zekos, who stepped down from AEF's Board of Directors after a combined 22 years of service. Thanks to our fantastic community of educators, who challenge and nurture our children, and whose work is so central to our mission. And finally thanks to all of you, our donors, without whom none of this would be possible. Your generosity and support of public education is an inspiration!

For the students,

Ethan Clotfelter and Diana Spurgin, FY 2016 Co-presidents



"In this era of shrinking budgets and increased pressure on teachers and our students, AEF makes a real difference. It's the new equipment and books, special training for teachers, innovative curriculum, and special programs made possible by AEF that make learning effective and fun." ~ Erika Zekos, former AEF board member and donor.

AEF EVENTS

AEF events build community and raise vital funds for our grants.

In October, the Bee celebrated its 21st year of community celebration, costumes, and tough questions. Thank you to our host Rep. Ellen Story, our judges, all the 124 players, our sponsors, and fans. Congrats to the team sponsored by Amherst Dental for their win! This FUN-raiser earned over \$8000 to support excellence in education!

It's time to play our 21st Annual

October 29, 2015 7pm - 9pm
Amherst Middle School Auditorium



AEF Celebrates

Ellen Story

Friday, May 13th 6:00-10:00 p.m.
In the Marriott Center at the Campus Center, UMass Amherst

Ellen Story was instrumental in the founding of AEF in 1994, the same year she was elected as State Representative. Naturally we chose to honor her upon her retirement from office with a gala event in May. Thanks to all who came out for a night of great friends, food, trivia, and of course, appreciation for Ellen!



THANKS!

We would like to thank everyone for all of their help making 2015-2016 such a success!

AEF's Wonderful Sponsors

A.J. Hastings, Inc., Allison, Angier & McHale, Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, Amherst Business Improvement District, Amherst Club, Amherst College, Amherst Dental Group, Amherst Office Park, Amherst Survival Center friends, Bueno y Sano, Daily Hampshire Gazette, DeMaio Orthodontics/Northampton Pediatric Dentistry, Five College Realtors, Florence Bank, Friends of Future Hampshire County Diaper Bank, Greenfield Savings Bank, Hilltown Community Health Center, Integrity Development & Construction, Inc., Jankowski & Spencer, P.C., Jones Group Realtors, Jones Properties, Kuhn Riddle Architects, Northampton Area Pediatricians, Office of the Northwestern District Attorney, Pioneer Valley Driving School, Robert L Stern Financial Services, Rotary Club of Amherst, The Harp Irish Pub, The Pub, University of Massachusetts - Office of University Relations, VFW Post 754

With further support from: Daily Hampshire Gazette, Lumberyard Restaurant, Henion Bakery, Ferguson Signs, Sibies Pizza, UMass Athletics, UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst Cinema, Amherst Media

Special thanks!

To the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce for recognizing us with an A+ Award for Community Service

For their service in soliciting and reviewing grant applications, we thank the AEF Allocations Committee: Brenda Bushouse, Michael Hutton-Woodland (Chair), Susan Kennedy Marx, Meg Robertson, Megan Rosa, Diana Spurgin, and Jen Veshia

For their help with the 2015 Trivia Bee, we thank our emcee, State Representative Ellen Story; our judges Judy Brooks, John Coull, and Sharon Sharry; pianist Susan Lastowski; and quizmaster Joe Lastowski

For their help with the Celebrate Ellen Story event, we thank UMass Conference Services, State Senate President Stan Rosenberg, Jan Klausner-Wise, Rebecca Fricke, ARHS Jazz Combo, quizmaster Joe Lastowski, and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren for her recognition of Ellen's public service.

The Town of Amherst and the Amherst Regional Public Schools for their ongoing partnership and assistance with events and activities!

The Roger L. Wallace Excellence in Teaching Committee for their initiative and invitation to participate in this annual award.

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts for hosting Valley Gives Day.

And the inimitable Suzanne Baxter for helping to keep our operations running so smoothly!

Our Mission

The mission of the Amherst Education Foundation (AEF) is to support Amherst area public schools in providing a challenging and enriching educational experience that maximizes the learning potential of every student and prepares them to succeed in the 21st century.

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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