

# OXFORD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 142, OXFORD, PA 19363

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

### President's Message

As OEF President for the past year, I have had the pleasure of working with many of the talented and dedicated educators, staff and volunteers in our school district. I completed my first 12 years of education in this district, as did both of my children. So my personal involvement with the Oxford Area School system dates back some 40 plus years. Allow me to tell you that I am proud to be associated with these dedicated and energetic individuals who educate our children. For a small rural area in Southern Chester County that tends to get overlooked, we have quality faculty, staff and volunteers who help educate our students. I'm proud to be a small part of that effort.

In the next few pages, you will see what our Foundation has done this past year to "enhance the quality of education" in our district.

Many thanks to Art Salatto, OASD Communications Specialist for his photographs, and all who assisted in preparing articles for this issue.



Seated from left to right is Student representative Mollie Delp, Past President Sandy Pepple, Vice President Susan Melrath. Standing is Stephen Roberts Secretary, Jennifer Whelan, Volunteer Coordinator and Jim McLeod, President

### THE MENTORING and TUTORING PROGRAM

Jennifer Whelan, our Volunteer Coordinator, collaborates with volunteers, counselors and principals to shape our programs so that they best serve the students in the Oxford Area School District. Jennifer works closely with school personnel to identify the needs of students and then match them with the most appropriate volunteer. Many of our mentors and tutors work with the same student for several years. These relationships benefit the students in countless ways and demonstrate the commitment of our volunteers.

Each year we conduct a survey to measure the effectiveness of the mentoring and tutoring program and to learn from the participants what we can do to improve our work. An evaluation form is sent to mentors and tutors, parents of students in the program, and teachers of the students. The forms are distributed near the end of the school year, and are analyzed during the summer. As in previous years, the 2007-2008 survey showed that the mentoring and tutoring program had a positive influence on students. A high percentage of parents and teachers reported that the students showed improvement in grades, attendance, and self-confidence.

Parents reported that the students' comprehension improved because of the individual attention provided by mentors and tutors. One of the parents commented "I think the Mentor program is one of the best programs the Nottingham School offers." This past year, a total of 291 students were served by 30 mentors and tutors who worked in all the schools in the district.

Jennifer welcomes the opportunity to speak with community groups, retirement communities, and other organizations regarding our programs. Children benefit from a spectrum of community support. Please consider sharing your time and talents by becoming a mentor or tutor. You may contact Jennifer at 610-932-7200 or [oxfordedfound@yahoo.com](mailto:oxfordedfound@yahoo.com) for an application or additional information.

## THE MENTORS' PICNIC

This year we held two Mentor Picnics. The first was held at the Nottingham School on May 15<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 2-6 and their mentors. The second was held at the High School for grades 9-12 and their mentors. The picnics are a wonderful opportunity for students and mentors to come together one last time for food and fun before concluding the year. Many mentors continue to have contact with their students during the summer.



The three preceding pictures were taken at the OEF Mentors' Picnics. The first two were from the Nottingham School picnic. The picture above is a group photo at the high school picnic.

## ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

During the past fiscal year, OEF's two Endowment Funds continued to remain strong in value despite the decline in the financial markets. Our Fulton Financial Advisors account is \$141,080.93 and the National Penn account is \$103,671.45 totaling \$244,752.38.

The Endowment accounts, which were established twelve years ago, contain specifically designated donations that are invested with the interest and dividends available to help off-set general operating expenses. This year \$2,250.14 of interest was withdrawn for that purpose.

We hope that someday the accounts will grow to the extent that they will support our yearly operating expenses of approximately \$15,000.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support our Endowment Funds.

## O E F AWARDS \$7,327 IN PROFESSIONAL GRANTS

In April, 2008 the Oxford Educational Foundation was pleased to announce that over \$7300 was approved for six grants for the 2008-2009 school year. These grants continue an eight year tradition that has funded teacher grants for a total of \$55,000 to enhance the educational programs in the Oxford schools.

Two of the current grants are a continuation of grants from previous years. Brian Urig (pictured below), the Chemistry teacher in the Oxford Area High School, received \$1288 to purchase materials to continue his work with Project REEL. This program is connected with an Ohio State University initiative to transform entry level college chemistry classes into more research based courses. Oxford Area High School is one of a select group of high schools to be partnered with Ohio State to bring this idea to the high school level. Mr. Urig took two Oxford alumni to Ohio State in June 2008 to present details of the Oxford Area High School program to the CERAMICS 2008 conference.



Debbie Shaffer (pictured below), a Learning Support teacher at Penn's Grove School, received \$571 to purchase more sensory-input items for her classroom. This proposal expanded the use of materials for students with ADHD, an effort Ms. Shaffer initiated with a 2006 OEF grant.



Mark James, the Technology Education teacher at Penn's Grove, was given \$1789 to purchase 15 motorized simple machine sets. These kits will be used by all seventh grade students as they design and construct machines to solve various problems.

A group of Language Arts teachers at Penn's Grove based their grant proposal around the use of "Literature Circles." During 2008-2009 about 100 seventh grade students will pilot this program utilizing the four books (fiction and non fiction) selected by the group of six teachers. The OEF grant of \$1628 allowed the purchase of classroom sets of Esperanza Rising, Letters From Rifka, Maggie's Door and Immigrant Kids.

Mary Black (pictured below), the Extended -Day Kindergarten teacher at Jordan Bank, was granted \$1050 to purchase materials called Reading Rods. Reading Rods is a research based, multi-sensory program that begins with instruction in initial consonant sounds and then teaches parts of speech. This program, if proven successful, can be extended through all kindergarten classes and up through grade 3.



The final OEF grant was awarded to Kristina Johns who is the librarian at the Nottingham School. Ms. Johns created a proposal with the support of the entire Nottingham School staff to host a local author. A visiting author project was very successful in 2007 and the school staff felt it was beneficial for the whole student body. OEF gave Ms. Johns \$1000 to continue the author program in 2008-2009.

### **THE MARION JAMES & ANNA RESSLER HESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The 2008 recipient of the Hess Memorial Scholarship was graduating senior Elizabeth Hamilton. She is now attending Ithaca College studying music education/musical performance.

Elizabeth plays the flute and is extremely talented. She was selected for All-State Band her sophomore, junior and senior years. She was also selected to perform with the Philadelphia Sinfonia in her senior year.

After graduation Elizabeth would like to perform with a symphony orchestra and teach music in an elementary, middle or high school.

In 2004, the family of Marion James and Anna Ressler Hess established this scholarship in their names to benefit students pursuing a career in teaching. The 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 recipients were Diana Jean DiGiacommo, Melissa Stanton, Brendan Shearn and Kelly O'Connor.

### **RSVP AWARD**

The Foundation held its tenth annual Randy Sebastian Volunteer Person of the Year Celebration at a Breakfast on Monday, June 16, 2008 in the Oxford High School Cafeteria. We gather each year to salute all who volunteer their time in support of the students in our district.

The Oxford Educational Foundation was pleased to honor two involved parents this year by presenting them with the annual Randy Sebastian Volunteer Person of the Year Award (RSVP Award). The awards were given at the end of the year breakfast for staff members.

The first honoree was Charise Russell who was nominated by Nottingham School teachers, Kim Kulesza, Karen Olivieri, Robyn Colon and Linda Knarr. Their nomination was based on Ms. Russell's five years of dedicated service to the staff and students of the Nottingham School. The teachers praised her for her work in many classrooms with math and science lessons. She was also recognized for help with many activities including the holiday programs. They called her a "volunteer extraordinaire."



Pictured above from left to right is Nottingham teacher Robin Colon, 2008 RSVP recipient Cherise Russell and Nottingham teacher Linda Knarr.

The second volunteer honored was Annamarie Bunel, who was nominated by Jordan Bank teachers, Tracey Leonard and Diane Harris. Both staff members spoke highly of Ms. Bunel's willingness to do a variety of jobs including planning classroom parties, helping with fundraisers and all types of tasks that benefited the students by helping the teachers prepare classroom materials. Ms. Bunel was honored as a "valuable asset" to Jordan Bank.

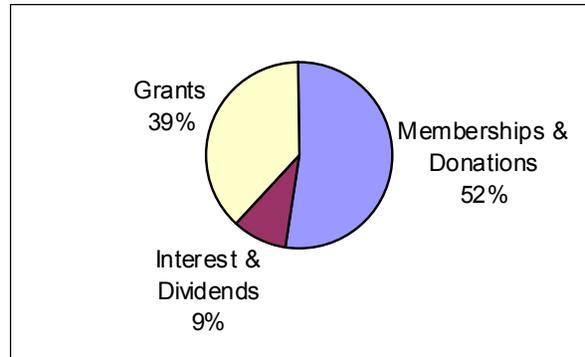


Pictured above from left to right is Nottingham teacher Diane Harris, 2008 RSVP recipient Annamarie Bunel and Nottingham teacher Tracey Leonard.

Both of these special volunteers embody the spirit of giving support to the students of the Oxford School District.

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN for FY 2007-2008

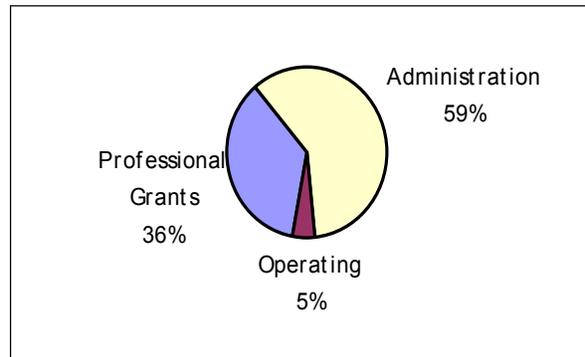
### Revenue



**Memberships & Donations** are received from alumni & community supporters and Community Foundations.

**Interest & Dividends** are received from our Endowment Fund.

**Grants** are applied for and awarded to us by the United Way of Southern Chester County, CCRES and a local charitable Foundation.



### Expenses

**Administration Expenses** include Volunteer Coordinator's Salary, payroll expenses, insurance, telephone, postage, printing, accountants audit and supplies.

**Operating expenses** include Mentor Picnic, Board Retreat, RSVP luncheon and volunteer clearances.

**Professional Grants** include grants awarded to teachers for Innovative Educational Programs not funded by the district.

## *In Conclusion*

As I finish my first year as OEF President after eight years as Vice President under the direction of Dick Winchester and most recently, Sandy Pepple, I look back on the changes not just in our district, but in the community as well. Much growth has occurred necessitating new construction and renovations to current buildings. There have also been improvements or expansions to infrastructure and services by local municipalities, resulting in additional financial pressure on residents.

The year ahead is full of questions and important decisions that must be made. The one factor that remains constant is the education of tomorrow's leaders, our youth.

On behalf of everyone involved with the OEF, I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Jim McLeod  
OEF President  
OAHS Class of 1969

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

As you can see from the charts on the previous page, our revenue sources are funds awarded to us from successful grant applications, interest and dividends on our endowment, and generous contributions from alumni and friends.

We appreciate whatever help you can give us, whether it be specified toward our Endowment Fund or our operating costs. All contributions, large or small, in excess of the \$5.00 per person membership fee, are tax deductible and can be sent to us at:  
P.O. Box 142, Oxford, PA 19363.

### **Please join us at our Annual Meeting.**

The annual meeting is October 16, 2008, at 7:30 pm in the Oxford Area District  
Administration Building, Ground Floor  
Conference Room, 125 Bell Tower Lane, Oxford. For more specific directions, please call us at 610-932-7200

---

The official registration statement and financial information of the Oxford Educational Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement.

The Oxford Educational Foundation is a United Way Agency. The Mentoring and Tutoring program of the OEF is made possible in part by the Chester County Regional Education Services, Inc.



Oxford Educational Foundation  
PO Box 142  
Oxford, PA 19363  
  
610-932-7200

October 2008

To Friends, faculty and supporters,

As we begin a new school year, it's important to remember our past accomplishments, but more importantly, to focus on the future goals of our school and students. Since our inception in 1994, the OEF has focused on enhancing the quality of education of the students. Through your donations, memberships and grants we have been able to help by placing volunteers, mentors and tutors throughout the district. In the past seven years, we have offered small but significant competitive Professional Grants to faculty members who initiate new and sustainable programs on all levels.

Because you are receiving this, we know that you care. We truly appreciate your continued interest in the quality of education in the OASD. Please enjoy the attached newsletter and know that what you give really does come back to you in many ways. Take a moment to consider the impact your membership and donation will make.

As always, thanks for your support and continued generosity.

Sincerely,



Jim McLeod  
President OEF

Any donation above the \$5 membership is tax deductible, or you may specify your United Way payroll deduction as a contribution to The Oxford Educational Foundation.

Oxford Educational Foundation  
P.O. Box 142  
Oxford, PA 19363  
Phone: (610) 932-7200

Application for Membership

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a graduate of Oxford Area  
School District? Yes \_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_

Year Graduated? \_\_\_\_\_

Member of The Oxford Educational  
Foundation since: \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 Yearly membership Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation \_\_\_\_\_