



OXFORD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Enhancing the Quality of Education in the Oxford Area School District

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Message from the President

While this past school year saw the school district celebrate new levels of achievements in the education of the students, OEF also celebrated new levels of assisting the district in its success. The number of students we helped was an all time high and the number of OEF dedicated volunteers increased as well. The success of our community, country and world lies in the hands of our youth. A good education is essential to provide them with the tools to do so. We are proud to work with the school board, faculty and administration to provide the students with a quality education.

J. H. Cole '69

From the Superintendent's Desk

On behalf of the school board and administration, I wish to thank the Oxford Educational Foundation for more than 15 years in supporting and enhancing the education of the students in the Oxford Area School District. From college scholarships to faculty and building grants, and the dedicated and invaluable mentors and tutors who volunteer in all grade levels, OEF is committed to providing every Oxford student with as many opportunities for success as possible.

The OEF's tremendous work on behalf of our schools continues in the 2011-2012 school year. Thanks to the OEF funding, 10 teacher and building grants will bring new books, musical instruments, and technology into the classroom. School-wide author visits and professional development activities will be provided. Through "Rachel's Challenge", middle school students and staff will learn new strategies for developing an even more positive school climate.

Again, our greatest appreciation to the Oxford Educational Foundation for giving us so many reasons to be Oxford proud.

Dr. Raymond A. Fessler

THE MENTORING and TUTORING PROGRAM

A major effort of the Oxford Educational Foundation is the Mentoring and Tutoring Program. Some mentors work with individual students to help them make good choices and improve their performance in school. Some combine mentoring and tutoring by helping with course work under the direction of a teacher. Others focus on tutoring a specific subject. During the 2010-2011 school year, 37 volunteers worked with 320 students.

Jennifer Whelan, the Volunteer Coordinator, collaborates with volunteers, school counselors, teachers, and principals to identify the needs of students and match them with the most appropriate mentor or tutor. Many of the 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 what we can do to improve our work. The forms are distributed to parents, faculty, and mentors and tutors in the spring and analyzed during the summer. The evaluation of the 2010-2011 school year found that 93% of the parents who responded to the survey saw a positive influence on the students in the program. It showed that mentoring and tutoring increases the self confidence of the student, which often results in improved academic performance. One parent wrote "Thank you to all the tutors for giving our children your time and patience. Job well done."

Jennifer welcomes the opportunity to speak with community groups, retirement communities, and other organizations about our program.

Please consider sharing your time and talent with the students by becoming a mentor or tutor. You can contact Jennifer Whelan at 610-932-7200, or email her at oxfordedfound@yahoo.com, or go to www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org for an application or for additional information.

RSVP AWARD

The Oxford Educational Foundation was pleased to present its annual RSVP award this year to a long time volunteer mentor, Mrs. Nancy Thomson. The Randy Sebastian Volunteer of the Year award was presented during the June 14th breakfast hosted by the OEF and the Oxford Area Education Association.



Pictured above from L to R is OEF President Jim McLeod, VP Susan Melrath, RSVP recipient Nancy Thomson and Superintendent Dr. Raymond Fischer

The Thomsons moved to the Ware Retirement complex in 2000 and immediately got involved with the Oxford Educational Foundation as mentors. Their daughter, Karen Cantarera, was one of our first volunteer coordinators and she recruited both her Mom and Dad to help Oxford students. Nancy has worked with five students since 2000 and has assisted with her current student for over five years. An integral part of Ashley's school career from 2nd through 7th grade, Nancy looks forward to continuing her mentoring for the rest of Ashley's school years.

The OEF wants to thank Nancy for her commitment to mentoring.

OEF Professional Grants 2011

Over the past 11 years the OEF has awarded over \$87,000 in grants to the OASD staff. From CPR manikins in 2001 to interactive classroom technology in 2011, the Foundation has helped fund innovative teaching and

education in our District.

The Special Projects Committee changed our grant application process this year to one which allowed staff to apply at four different times during the year. We were able to fund nine proposals over the school year including \$880 to Ryan Maule for lyres for the Penn's Grove marching band and \$400 to Bill Ray for demountable outdoor basketball hoops for lunchtime recess at the same building. With a tighter school district budget, the OEF helped bring current technology into two Jordan Bank classrooms (\$3,000) in 2011 based on proposals from Danielle Malinowski and Mary Black and into the Elk Ridge Library (\$950) in response to a proposal from Margaret McGinnis and Herbert Hayes. The interactive white boards (**pictured below**) provided large group teaching from internet resources with online interactivity.



Older technology – Books - were the focus of two funded proposals. A \$1,200 grant to Kristina Johns helped bring a children's author, Eric Wright, to Nottingham School. The Visiting Author program supported reading literacy, listening skills, and writing abilities across the entire building. Elizabeth Baity was awarded \$1,034 for Theme Sets or books on mathematics, earth science, and physical science that brought content supportive of PSSA testing targeted to different reading levels in her Elk Ridge classroom.

Building environment was addressed by two grants that funded improvement in school wide behavior. Kimberly McCardell was awarded \$1,727 for the Second Step program in Jordan Bank and Elk Ridge. The program teaches skills to students to help them meet classroom and building wide behavior expectations. In Penn's Grove, Restorative Practices Training was funded for \$1,120 based on a proposal from Lisa Stenz and Kate Black. The award helped staff from the building attend training in techniques to improve conflict resolution in school settings. They then shared methodologies with other staff and student groups to support a positive school culture.



Pictured above is Germaine Baughman using Second Step with her kindergartners at Jordan Bank.

OEF Building Grant 2011

With a goal to expand innovative educational opportunities, the OEF offered a new grant option this year. A Request for Proposals with a \$5,000 maximum was issued in January 2011 to building administrators. Several excellent proposals were reviewed and "Rachel's Challenge", a proposal from Lisa Stenz in Penn's Grove, was selected for the award. The program is intended to provide a powerful emotional impact to initiate systemic change within the student body after an in-school and a public presentation in September and the formation of a student led Chain Links Club.

This is a nationwide program, founded on the legacy of Rachel Scott one of the victims at Columbine High School. It has a goal of making permanent positive changes to sustain a chain reaction of kindness and tolerance across the entire school. Rachel's Challenge, in conjunction with other initiatives from Ms. Stenz, aims to create a more tolerant and positive atmosphere in Oxford's middle school.

OEF Needs Your Expertise!

OEF is assembling a database of experts for faculty to consult. Do you have an area of expertise that could be put to use in the classroom? OEF is looking for people to be e-mail pen-pals, virtual consultants or guest speakers. Are you willing to be included on our list?



This photo was taken at Nottingham School when the father of teacher Dina Heffner volunteered in her classroom last Spring. Charlie Duccilli was a professional soccer player for the Philadelphia Atoms and came in to share his expertise. He also spoke to the students about living a healthy lifestyle and the importance of exercising.

For example:

Career - What information about your career could be used in class? How do the topics taught in school drive what you do in your work? What training/schooling is needed for this career?

Travel experience - Could your travels be of use for a discussion of geography or different cultures? Do they complement the reading in the classroom?

Hobbies/Interests - Do you have hobbies or interests that can add perspective and information to the curriculum currently taught?

You don't have to be a professional soccer player, but we're sure many of you out there have life experiences that could be shared with our students and teachers. If so, please contact Jennifer Whelan at oxforded-found@yahoo.com or 610-932-7200.

THE MARION JAMES & ANNA RESSLER HESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The 2011 recipients of the Hess Memorial Scholarship were Taylor Thomas and Rebecca Williams.. Taylor is currently attending West Chester University majoring in Elementary and Special Education. Rebecca is also attending West Chester University and majoring in Elementary Education. We wish them well in their pursuit of careers in education.

In 2004, the family of Marion James and Anna Ressler Hess established this scholarship in their names to benefit students pursuing teaching careers.

OAHS student on OEF's Board of Directors

For the past ten years, a member of the OAHS junior class has served a two-year term on the OEF's Board of Directors. This student is nominated by the administration. Graduating senior Julie Mason completed her term in June and is off to the University of Virginia to study International Affairs. Julie was an asset to our board and we wish her well in furthering her education.

Junior class student Briar Foran will be elected to our Board at the Annual Meeting in October. We look forward to having Briar represent the students of the OASD.

Mentor Picnic



The mentor picnic took place on Monday, June 6th on the grounds of the Nottingham School. Mentors, students and school administrators attended the event and enjoyed an afternoon filled with pizza, fun and games. The picnic brought to a close another successful school year of mentoring by our dedicated volunteers. Mentors work with students for one to two hours a week and sometimes follow students for several years. The picnic is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of a school year!!

OEF recognized as an Educational Improvement Organization

For the third consecutive year OEF attained the status of an Educational Improvement Organization recognized by the PA Department of Education for bringing innovative programs into the classrooms. This achievement allows the Foundation to solicit and accept donations from approved corporations that receive generous Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) for their contributions.

This past year OEF received donations totaling \$2,000 from Fulton Bank and National Penn Bank to be used to fund Project Reel.



OAHs Chemistry teacher Brian Urig, pictured here, continues his work with Project Reel, which is a collaborative effort between the OAHs Chemistry Department and the Ohio State University. This year materials were purchased for

operation of the pictured spectrophotometer, which is vital for data analysis. Funding also allowed four students to travel to Ohio State University and present their work at poster sessions on the OSU campus. Their work was evaluated by OSU faculty.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

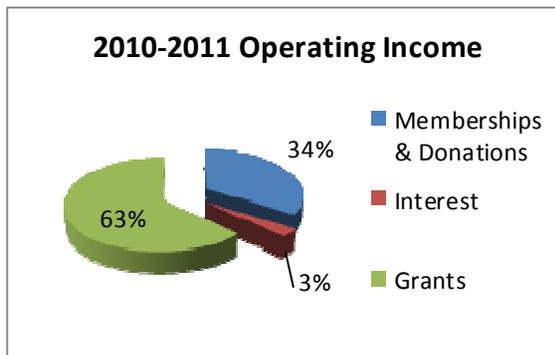
Endowment Account values

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| 6/30/2010: | \$233,697 |
| 6/30/2011: | \$277,252 |

Our Endowment accounts, established fifteen years ago, contain specifically designated donations that are invested with the interest and dividends available to help off-set general operating expenses. This year \$1,037.50 of interest was withdrawn for that purpose.

Please remember our Endowment in your future financial planning.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN for FY 2010-2011

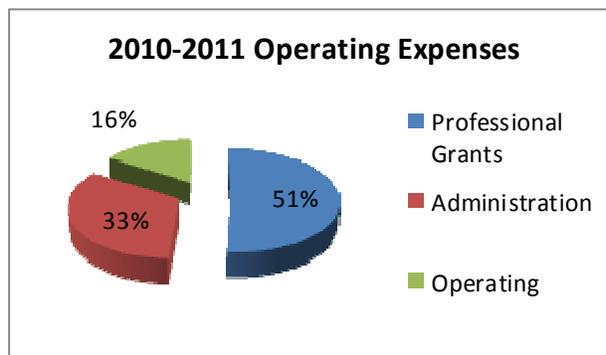


Revenue

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 CCRES CCCF, 1675 Foundation and local Charitable Foundations.



Expenses

Administration Expenses include 25% of Volunteer Coordinator's Salary, payroll expenses, insurance, telephone, printing and accountant's audit.

Operating expenses include 75% of Volunteer Coordinator's Salary, Mentor Picnic, Board Retreat, RSVP luncheon, supplies, postage and volunteer clearances.

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

In Conclusion

As we conclude and celebrate the 17th year of the Foundation, the mission, and reason for our existence, remains the same, *“To enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District”*.

We congratulate the district administration, faculty and staff on their accomplishments and achievements this past year. The Oxford Educational Foundation will again work side by side with the district to provide dedicated and committed mentors, tutors and classroom volunteers and Professional Grants to the faculty and administration to accomplish our mutual goal.

I hope you've recognized our new logo shown on the front page. Many thanks to our External Affairs Committee for their dedicated work on this new design

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

Sincerely,

Jim McLeod
OEF President
OAHS Class of 1969

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

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.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is October 20, 2011 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

ALL ARE WELCOME





OXFORD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
Enhancing the Quality of Education in the Oxford Area School District

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610-932-7200 phone
www.OxfordEducationalFoundation.org
oxfordedfound@yahoo.com

The Oxford Educational Foundation is funded in part by the Chester County Regional Education Service, Chester County Community Foundation, 1675 Foundation, Oxford Area Foundation, Fulton Bank, National Penn Bank, United Way contributions and surrounding businesses. Funds are also raised by membership fees and donations. The Oxford Educational Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All contributions, except for the \$5.00 per person membership fee, are tax deductible.

*Enhancing the Quality of Education in the
Oxford Area School District*

Board of Directors 2010/2011

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jim McLeod '69 | President | Vernon Ringler '53 | Judy Jefferis |
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| Charles Lewis, Treasurer | | | |

Oxford Educational Foundation
PO Box 142
Oxford, PA 19363

610-932-7200

October 2011

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 eleven years, we have offered small but significant competitive Professional Grants totaling over \$87,000 to faculty members who initiate new, innovative 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,

OEF Board of Directors

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.

Please use the form below and return it to us. THANK YOU

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

Membership or Renewal Form

Date:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please provide your email address to help us decrease our mailing costs. Future Annual Reports will be sent via email.

Are you a graduate of Oxford Area

School District? Yes ___ No ___

Year Graduated? _____

\$5.00 Yearly membership Fee _____

Tax Deductible Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

THANK YOU !!