



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Message from the President

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to share with our members and friends this annual report. As required by our by-laws, this report will cover OEF activities from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

During that period, we have worked diligently to achieve our yearly goals. We continue the commitment to our mission statement, "to enhance the quality of education in the OASD...providing a mentoring and tutoring program for our students...providing professional grants for the faculty that encourage the development of innovative programs."

The success of our community, country, and world lies in the hands of our youth. We are proud to work with the school board, faculty/staff and administration to ensure our students receive the quality education they both need and deserve in order to succeed in the 21st century.

John C. Pittenger '69

From the Executive Director's Desk

For 20 years, the OEF has been supporting and enhancing the education of students in the Oxford Area School District. As members, we believe even a small effort can have a big impact in the life of a student. We encourage you to join us in our endeavor by becoming a mentor, volunteer, or tutor. If you are interested in assisting us as we work to reach more students in need, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (610) 932-7200 or oxfordedfound@yahoo.com

We also welcome any financial support offered through donations and contributions to our endowment fund. On behalf of the OEF, I thank you for helping us make a difference.

Dr. Raymond A. Fessler

Oxford Educational Foundation Celebrates 20th Year Anniversary

On September 13th, the Oxford Educational Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special community luncheon at Penn's Grove Middle School. Highlights of the event included its accomplishments over the years, citations from Chester County Commissioner, Terence Farrell and State Senator, Andrew Dinniman, the introduction of the OEF's Leaving a Legacy for Learning Program and the announcement of the OEF's first Emeritus Members of the Board of Directors.

The Emeritus Board members included: **John C. Pittenger**, former PA Secretary of Education and OEF co-founder and president; **Dr. Richard Winchester**, OEF co-founder, president and volunteer mentor and tutor; **Randy Sebastian**, longtime OEF board member and legal counsel; and **John Ware IV**, a charter member of the Board of Directors.



Pictured from left are Pauline Pittenger, accepting on behalf of her late husband; Dr. Winchester and Winnie Sebastian, accepting on behalf of her late husband along with son Curt and daughter Melinda.

Thank you to all our Volunteers and Supporters of the OEF!!! We look forward to the next twenty years!!

RSVP AWARD

The Oxford Educational Foundation gave their annual RSVP award on Thursday, June 12, 2014. The Randy Sebastian Volunteer Person of the Year award was presented to two recipients, Steve Roberts and James Sumner, during the June 12th breakfast hosted by the Foundation and the Oxford Area Education Association.

Steve has been a volunteer tutor for 10 years. He is a graduate of Kennett High School and received his BSME from the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Gail, reside in Oxford. His hobbies include antique cars and being a "horse husband."

Steve has been an engineer for over 35 years, serving in various positions for Exelon, BE&K and Demark. He served on the OASD Board of Directors for 8 years. He has been involved with OEF since 1995 as a board member and as a tutor since 2004. Steve has tutored 13 students in algebra, geometry, physics and chemistry.

Jim Sumner graduated from Oxford Area High School and attended Lincoln University and US Navy Submarine School. He received his BA in History and BS in Psychology from Penn State University. Jim also received a PA teaching certificate from West Chester University and a Masters Degree in Christian Education from Union Seminary in Richmond, VA.

Jim and his wife, Etha, reside in Oxford. Although Jim is now retired, he has been an electrician, small repair contractor, metallographer, teacher and Director of Christian Education of Oxford Presbyterian Church. His hobbies include politics, civil service, social

service, reading and singing.

Jim has been involved with the OEF since its beginning. His wife, Etha, was a charter member. He has mentored five students and tutored 12. He jokes that his students have made a social studies teacher re-learn algebra!

Jim has volunteered in many other organizations such as the Oxford Presbyterian Church, Lighthouse, and Little League Coach Jr. Soccer program. He has also served on the Boro Council, OASD Board of Directors, Meals on Wheels, Kacie's Cause, ACE Anti-

human trafficking and Democratic Committee.

Steve's and Jim's dedication to helping Oxford students with some very challenging subjects is very much appreciated by OEF, and we are proud to honor them with



our RSVP award.

Pictured above from L to R is OEF President Jim McLeod, RSVP recipients Jim Sumner and Steve Roberts, OEF Board member Pam Mason, and OEF Executive Director and retired OASD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ray Fischer

The Marion James & Anna Ressler Hess Memorial Scholarship

Mary Williams is the 2014 recipient of the Hess Memorial Scholarship. Mary is attending West Chester University where she is majoring in Mathematics Education. Her goal is to become a high school math teacher. Congratulations Mary!

OEF Professional Grants 2013-14

The Oxford Educational Foundation was pleased to be able to support innovation in the classroom again this year with approximately \$12,000 in grants to professional staff.

Elk Ridge staff members submitted several exemplary proposals and were awarded \$2957.37 in grants. They were:

- \$1000 to Peggy McGinnis, Media Specialist, for increasing the collection of e-books for ER students.
- \$1507.37 to Maria Thompson for the purchase of a Spanish Take Home Library for her English as a Second Language students.
- \$450 to Shirley Hershey and Kathleen Conway for Raised Bed Garden Materials.

Nottingham teachers were awarded \$1350. They were:

- \$1000 to Kristina Johns who brought a visiting author to the school. The Visiting Author program supported reading literacy, listening skills, and writing abilities across the entire building.
- \$350 to Laura Hicks and Robin Colon for an assembly program on Rocks, Minerals and Fossils for fourth graders.

Hopewell teachers were awarded a total of \$5949.13. They were:

- \$250 to Aimee Smoker and Amy Swisher for continuing the school newspaper at Hopewell. The grant covers the cost of printing. They plan to publish the Buzzette several times throughout the year.
- \$1296.26 to physical education teacher, Erika Seamans, for materials that include stability balls and rack for Hopewell's PE classes.

\$1455.12 to Kristin Chastain, Monica Massimo, Leslie Gambrell and Cindy Louth for the purchase of 4 ELMO Projection Units to aid in the instruction of Language Arts.

\$2000 to Maureen Pongracz, Media Specialist, for arranging the Visiting Author, Jenn Bryan. **(picture below)** and Accelerated Book Quizzes.



\$97.75 to Rosemary Guarino for science fair ribbons for their second annual Science Fair for Hopewell students.

\$850 to Kristie Hurrelbrink for the purchase of a classroom set of Dictionary/Thesaurus for the use in all subjects but in particularly in Language Arts.

Penn's Grove staff received a total of \$1521.48 for their innovative requests.

\$1200 to Alan Schaeffer, science teacher and robotics team coach for Hopewell and Penn's Grove purchased 3 replacement Robots for the Robotics Teams.

\$321.48 to Amanda Stalfire, 7th grade social studies teacher, for the purchase of a class set of Jr. Scholastic Current Event Magazine. The magazine is used in conjunction with the social studies curriculum.

These professionals are to be commended for finding the innovative programs and materials to improve their classrooms.

Wells Fargo's 2013 Community Partners Giving Program

Wells Fargo Community Program is an annual program where each of its retail banking stores explores the needs of their local communities and selects a nonprofit organization or school to receive a \$1,000 grant. In 2013, Wells Fargo awarded close to \$300,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations and schools throughout Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The grants are part of the company's broader support of its communities. In the past few years, Wells Fargo invested more than \$15 million in non profit organizations and schools, and team members volunteered more than 38,000 hours across Pennsylvania and Delaware.

"At Wells Fargo, we are committed to supporting programs and organizations that we believe are important to the future of our communities' vitality and success," said Eric Roman, branch manager. "We are proud to support the Oxford Educational Foundation with a \$1,000 grant to support their mission of enhancing the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District."



Dr. Ray Fischer receiving \$1,000 check from Well's Fargo Bank Executives at their Annual Breakfast.



Mr. McLeod accepts a check for \$10,000 from Dr. Ray and Nancy Fischer to kick off the OEF's new Leaving a Legacy for Learning Program.

Leaving a Legacy for Learning Program

The OEF has introduced a new program called Leaving a Legacy for Learning. The program enables individuals and families the opportunity to provide monetary resources to the Oxford Educational Foundation's Endowment Fund. The interest earned will be utilized for the Foundation's operating expenses to provide volunteer services for the students in the Oxford Area School District. In addition, professional grants will be awarded to teachers for innovative programs that correlate with the District's approved curriculum.

There are several planned giving options that one could consider. They are:

Bequests: can be added to an existing or new will

Retirement Assets: a gift from an IRA, 401K, 403b, pension or other deferred plan is generally tax free if gifted to charity; and generally taxable when gifted to heirs

Charitable Gift Annuities: transfer cash or marketable securities to the OEF and benefit from a current income tax deduction

Life Insurance: donor names the OEF Endowment Fund as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of an existing policy; or donates a fully paid policy.

If interested, please call the OEF at (610) 932-7200 for more information.

OEF recognized as an Educational Improvement Organization

For the sixth consecutive year, The Oxford Educational Foundation, through Educational Improvement Tax Credit donations (EITC) from the Fulton Bank and National Penn Bank, helped fund high school chemistry teacher Brian Urig's AP Chemistry's Project REEL. OEF provided funds totaling \$7,280.

Mr. Urig began Project REEL in September, 2006 as an addition to the Advanced Placement Chemistry curriculum after receiving the initial Oxford Educational Foundation professional grant. As the lead institution for Project REEL, Ohio State University envisions the following goals to be achieved at the high school level: students develop problem solving abilities, obtain an appreciation for the scientific and ethical nature of research and gain an increased interest in science and technology. According to Mr. Urig, "The program gives our students a taste of higher level laboratory research and definitely pushes them academically. It is interesting and fun because we utilize state of the art equipment and software that is not typically found in high school labs."

Project REEL continues to be a tremendous success here at Oxford Area High School, according to Mr. Urig, and the Oxford Educational Foundation is proud to be able to help fund this project for the benefit of Oxford's students.



Pictured on right Terry Wimer, Fulton Bank Oxford Branch Manager, presenting a \$4,280 EITC contribution check to OEF President Jim McLeod



Pictured above is Mr. Dormer, Mr. Urig, Sylvia Justice, National Penn Oxford Branch Manager, Jim McLeod & Dr. Fischer. National Penn contributed \$3,000 to Project Reel through an EITC contribution.

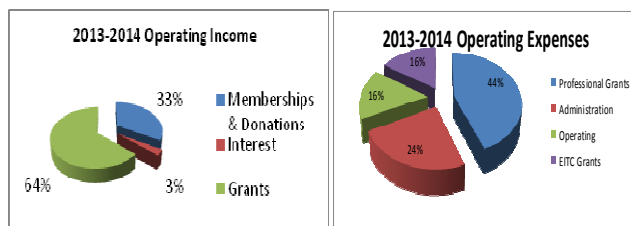
FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN for FY 2013-2014

Revenue

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

Interest & Dividends are withdrawn from our Endowment Fund.

Grants are applied for and awarded to OEF by the CCRES, Chester County Community Foundation, 1675 Foundation, Oxford Foundation and local Charitable Foundations.



Expenses

Administration Expenses include 24% of Volunteer Coordinator's Salary, payroll expenses, insurance, telephone, printing and accountant's audit.

Operating expenses include 76% of Volunteer Coordinator's Salary, Mentor Picnic, RSVP luncheon, supplies, postage, technology and volunteer clearances.

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

EITC grants are awarded to commonwealth-approved innovative programs.

In Conclusion

Congratulations to the district administration, faculty and staff on their achievements this past year. The Oxford Educational Foundation will again partner with the district to accomplish our mutual goals by providing dedicated mentors, tutors and classroom volunteers, as well as professional grants, to the faculty and administration.

On September 13th, I had the privilege of participating in OEF's 20th Anniversary luncheon. It was a pleasure to meet, greet, and honor some of the caring and committed individuals who were responsible for the formation of our foundation. When I pause and reflect on all of the devoted people who have been involved with the foundation, the hard-working volunteers who currently carry out our mission, and the structure that is in place for the future, I can't help but think our best years of enhancing the quality of education in the OASD district lie ahead of us.

On behalf of everyone involved with the OEF, I thank you for your enthusiasm and 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 comes 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.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

Endowment account values:

6/30/13: \$364,748

6/30/14: \$416,955

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Oxford Area School 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!



United Way of
Southern Chester County

Oxford Educational Foundation
PO Box 142
Oxford, PA 19363

610-932-7200

October 2014

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 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 thirteen years, we have offered small but significant competitive Professional Grants totaling over \$128,000 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 !!

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

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Dr. Richard Winchester	Board Emeritus	Dr. Raymond A. Fischer, Executive Director	
John Ware IV '59	Board Emeritus	Charles L. Lewis, Treasurer	



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oxfordedfound@yahoo.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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, Wells Fargo 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.