



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Message from the President

As the President of the Oxford Educational Foundation, it is my pleasure to present this Annual Report, which covers from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. It has been a year of significant transition for the Foundation. After seven years as President, Jim McLeod decided to step down, and I have the task of trying to fill his shoes. Fortunately, he has been very helpful as I learn this new role. In January, Charles Lewis, who had been the Treasurer of the Foundation since our inception and gave the Board confidence that our finances were in good hands, retired from the school district. Pam Mason, a long term board member, has taken over as our Treasurer. Pam's involvement on the Board and her accounting skills have allowed us to streamline the financial operation of the organization.

We have an active and committed board, a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator, a skilled Executive Director and a very good relationship with the school district. With all those components, we are able to achieve our mission to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District.

As you read this Annual Report, I hope you will agree that we have had a good year, and you will be motivated to help us by either volunteering to help in the schools, or by making a donation to the organization.



New OEF Volunteer Coordinator

The OEF Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Mrs. Karen Olivieri was hired as the Oxford Educational Foundation's new Volunteer Coordinator. Karen retired at the end of the 2014 school year after 36 years of teaching in the Oxford Area School District. She taught kindergarten, first, and second grades throughout her long career. Karen's first-hand knowledge of the workings of the school district, the programs in place, and the needs of students have made her an excellent asset as the OEF strives to meet its goal of contributing to the success of all OASD students.

Mrs. Olivieri's duties include coordinating the volunteers who spend time working with students in the OASD schools. Karen will also match mentors with students while coordinating tutoring sessions. All independent OEF volunteers (tutors and mentors) placed into the schools have met the necessary criteria required by the revised District Volunteer Policy. In addition, they have participated in a mandatory training program required by OEF.

Karen is a life-long resident of Oxford, a graduate of the Oxford schools, and a passionate advocate for students. About her new position Karen says, "During my years as a teacher at OASD, my goal was to inspire my students to be excited about learning and for all of my students to feel successful and valued. I hope to continue to achieve those goals as OEF Volunteer Coordinator."

We are very happy to welcome Karen and we are sure that you will find her to be professional and enthusiastic as she and the OEF strive to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District.

Pictured on left is Steve Roberts, OEF President, Karen Olivieri, OEF Volunteer Coordinator and Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Executive Director

RSVP AWARD

The Oxford Educational Foundation gave their annual RSVP award on Thursday, June 11, 2015. The Randy Sebastian Volunteer Person of the Year award was presented to **Linda Lutz** during the June 11th breakfast hosted by the Foundation and the Oxford Area Education Association.

It is a tradition in the Oxford school district to end the school year with a breakfast for staff. The event is jointly sponsored by the Oxford Educational Foundation and the Oxford Area Education Association. The teacher's association presents awards to volunteers and the OEF presents its annual RSVP Award.

The Randy Sebastian Volunteer Person of the Year Award is given to a volunteer who gives freely of their time to enhance the education of students in the OASD.

This year's winner, Linda Lutz is a graduate of Oxford Area High School and a retired professional teacher. She taught high school math and later business and computer programming at Harrisburg Community College. Mrs. Lutz was accompanied to the breakfast by her husband, one of her daughters, and several grandchildren. She received this honor as gratitude for her work in the elementary buildings and Penn's Grove Middle School as a volunteer and tutor. In the elementary buildings, Mrs. Lutz is known for her extensive planning of cross-curricular lessons that mix fun with learning.



One example is the use of a complex pulley system to teach the rules of phonics. In another lesson, Linda used magic to help teach vowel sounds. In the middle school, she is an algebra tutor. Thanks to giving generously of her time and talents, her enthusiasm for learning, her patience, and her creativity in designing lessons, Linda Lutz is very deserving of the RSVP award.

Pictured below from L to R. is OEF Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Olivieri, OEF Executive Director and retired Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Board member and retired OASD teacher, Roberta McManus, RSVP recipient, Linda Lutz, OEF Board President, Steve Roberts and David Woods, OASD Superintendent of Schools

The Marion James & Anna Ressler Hess Memorial Scholarship

Emily Flynn is the 2015 recipient of the Hess Memorial Scholarship. Emily is attending West Chester University where she is majoring in Elementary Education with a dual certification in special education. Her goal is to become an elementary teacher. Congratulations Emily!

OEF Professional Grants 2014-15

The Oxford Educational Foundation was pleased to be able to support innovation in the classroom again this year with over \$8600 in grants to professional staff. The 2014-2015 Professional Grants brought the total awards over the past fifteen years to \$146,486.

Jordan Bank submitted a grant in the amount of:

\$598 to Germaine Baughman for an Apple TV and Ipad Air to expand technology in the classroom.

Nottingham teachers were awarded \$1900. 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.

\$900 to Pamela Anderson for the Delaware Museum of Natural History to bring their Outreach program on animals to all 3rd grade classrooms.

Hopewell teachers were awarded a total of \$2711.22. They were:

\$636 to Amy Swisher for four mobile pocket projectors to enhance classroom instruction.

\$600 to Music teacher, Ryan Maule for a Sound System and Recorder to assist in



the school's instrumental music classes.

\$1375.24 to Valerie Beimfohr, Gina Gagliardi, Peggy Logue, Kelly Midkiff, Theresa Norris and Jennifer Winand for the purchase of 4 ELMO Projection Units to aid in the instruction of Language Arts and Math.



Pictured above is Gina Gagliardi and Jennifer Winand displaying their ELMO Projection Unit.

\$100 to Kelly Midkiff for science fair ribbons for their second annual Science Fair for Hopewell students.

Penn's Grove received a grant in the amount of :

\$440.35 to Sarah Gajeski 7th grade science teacher, for the purchase of a class set of Science World. The magazine is used in conjunction with the science curriculum.

Oxford Area High School received a total of \$2998.00. The staff receiving the grants were:

\$1500 to Kevin Claus for a class field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

\$1498 to Scott Wooddell for the purchase of an iOS App creation computer and program.

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

2015 John C. Pittenger Education Grant

John C. Pittenger, or Pitt to his many friends, passionately believed education was the road to better self governance and better democracy. His personal achievements such as graduating cum laude from Harvard Law School (1958) and his career successes serving as a state legislator (1965 to 1968), as Pennsylvania Secretary of Education (1972-1976), and as Rutgers Law School Dean (1981 to 1986) exemplified that belief. In particular, Mr. Pittenger championed public education as the means to achievement for all Pennsylvania children.

Mr. Pittenger's larger influence is felt through the PHEAA scholarship bill he drafted as legislator and the modernization of the PA School Code he wrote while Secretary of Education. His continuing influence can be seen locally in the Oxford Educational Foundation. He created and nurtured the OEF after moving to his farm in West Nottingham in 1986 because he believed public education is best served by engaging the entire community in supporting schools.

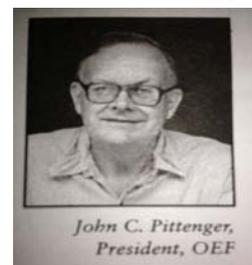
The Foundation honors John Pittenger by providing a monetary grant to an OASD school that best exemplifies Pitt's desire to enhance education in the Oxford Area School District. The Oxford Educational Foundation is pleased to award the 2015 Pittenger Grant in the amount of **\$5,000** to **Hopewell Elementary School** for the creation of an elementary STEM classroom. STEM or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics has gained attention in the past years. More importantly, STEM classrooms have afforded opportunities to students in the areas beyond Science. These classrooms have provided female and male students the opportunity to explore careers in areas that they may not have considered within the scope of their career pathway. The involvement in the exploration of STEM at an early age such as fifth and sixth grade students,



Pictured above is Steve Roberts, OEF President, Matt Hovanec Assistant Principal, Dr. Nicole Addis, Principal, Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Executive Director and David Woods, OASD Superintendent

provides insight into these careers at a younger age. The purpose of the STEM classroom is to excite and educate students. Career opportunities, engineering and technology encourage students to explore beyond the walls of the classroom. The critical thinking component is key as the students work together.

The STEM classroom is an opportunity to open doors to students who may not have considered the careers in the fields of Science, Engineering, and Technology. Hopewell Elementary School has hosted a Science Fair for the past four years. The students are innovative in their ability to explore and create a hypothesis. This type of investigation would be cultivated through a STEM classroom all year round. In addition to developing content knowledge in these areas, STEM education also seeks to promote scientific inquiry and problem-solving skills. Environmental science, as well as social and behavioral sciences would also be explored (economics and anthropology).



The Mentor, Tutor, and Volunteer Program (2014-2015)

A major effort of the Oxford Educational Foundation is to provide mentors, tutors, and volunteers to the schools. Some volunteers mentor individual students to help them make good choices and improve their performance in school. Some combine mentoring and tutoring by helping with course work at the direction of a teacher. Some focus on tutoring a specific subject. Some assist the teacher in the classroom, and others provide clerical support in the schools.

Karen Olivieri, 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, tutor, or classroom volunteer. 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.

During the 2014-2015 school year, we increased the number of volunteers from 24 to 52. Those volunteers worked more than 1800 hours in the schools, and a conservative evaluation of their efforts shows that they provided more than \$30,000 worth of services to the school district.

We conducted 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 were distributed to parents, faculty, mentors and tutors in the spring and analyzed during the summer. The evaluation of the 2014-2015 school year found that 96% of the faculty who responded to the survey saw a positive impact from the program. It also showed that 83% of the parents who responded to the survey saw an increase in self-confidence by students in the program. An increase in student self-confidence often results in improved academic performance. One parent wrote that getting a tutor was the

best decision they made this year, and that the student went from a very low D to A+, because the tutor helped the student connect with what he hadn't absorbed in class. The parent could see an improvement in the student's testing confidence and his pride to bring home a test for the parent to sign.

Karen Olivieri 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, tutor, or classroom volunteer. You can contact Karen at 610-932-7200, or email her at oxfordedfound@yahoo.com, or go to www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org for an application or for additional information.



Summer Tutoring

Normally, tutoring only takes place during the school year, but this summer, Luis Cisneros wanted to prepare for his class in September in PreCalculus. We were fortunate that Emily Owens, a math student entering her senior year at Shippensburg University, offered to tutor math. So, she teamed with Steve Roberts to review Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry topics with Luis, so he will be ready to tackle PreCalculus head on at the beginning of school.

OEF recognized as an Educational Improvement Organization

For the seventh consecutive year, the Oxford Educational Foundation, through Educational Improvement Tax Credit donations (EITC) from the Fulton Bank, National Penn Bank and Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc. helped fund high school chemistry teacher Brian Urig's AP Chemistry's Project REEL and Early College Academy. OEF provided funds totaling \$15,520.

The **Early College Academy** is a new program in the Oxford Area School District, co-located at Cecil College and Oxford Area High School. Successful students will complete a high school diploma and an associate's degree from Cecil College, Maryland. The credits earned through transfer agreements can be transferred to number of 4-year education institutions in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Each year up to 25 students are selected for admission to the Academy. Application materials are reviewed and evaluated by administrators from the Oxford Area School District. Prior to their freshman year, Academy students will participate in an orientation program to introduce them to academic expectations and resources available to them during their four years in the Academy. Throughout their enrollments, students are supported by



Pictured above is Mr. Dormer, David Woods, Jim McLeod, Terri Wimer, Fulton Bank Oxford Branch and Carol Beam, Fulton Bank Executive, presenting a \$3,020 EITC contribution to Dr. Ray Fischer



Pictured above is Sylvia Justice and Jodi Farrow National Penn Branch Managers, Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Executive Director, Mr. Brian Urig, Steve Roberts, OEF President and Mr. Dormer, OAHS Principal. National Penn contributed \$8,000 to support both programs.

college staff. While taking classes, students are guided through seminars and receive individualized advising to assist them build the academic skills needed to succeed in high school and college coursework.

The programs offered through Cecil that would award an Associate's degree (60 college credits) are in the areas that may include STEM.



Pictured above from L. to R. is Karen Olivieri, Steve Roberts, Jennifer Cave, Director of Clinical Services at PTS, Dr. Ray Fischer and David Woods receiving an EITC check in the amount of \$4500.

Within these tracks the specific areas include: simulation and design, mechanical engineering, government contracting, cyber security and business administration. Academy students will be guided through their coursework with the support of an academic advisor. This program where a complete degree is attainable while still in high school, is a first for Oxford.

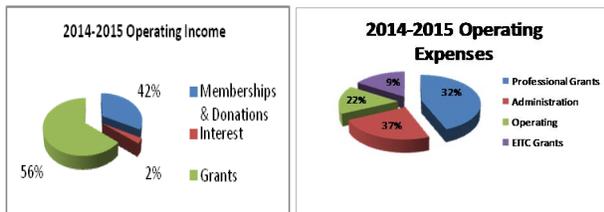
FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN for FY 2014-2015

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, Wells Fargo Bank, Dansko, Oxford Area Foundation and local charitable foundations.



Expenses

Administration Expenses include 37% of Executive Director's salary, payroll expenses, insurance, telephone, printing and accountant's audit.

Operating expenses include 63% of Volunteer Coordinator's Salary, Mentor Picnic, RSVP breakfast, 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.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

Endowment account values:

6/30/14: \$416,955

6/30/15: \$443,461

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As always, the OEF support of the Oxford Area School District is made possible through our volunteers and the generosity of the Oxford Community. And it is also true that more funds are needed. This year the directors have worked to make it easier for the community to monetarily support the work of the OEF – and have provided several avenues for this to occur. The easiest way to provide ongoing support while NOT affecting your wallet is to shop through **Amazon Smile**. If you shop on the internet through Amazon, please consider designating the OEF as a recipient of money donated by Amazon. It is a simple and quick set-up. Go to smile.amazon.com and choose the Oxford Educational Foundation as your designated charity. This works to generate funds because for every purchase that you make on the site, Amazon will donate one half of one percent of the total purchase price to the OEF. As Amazon advertizes "You shop. Amazon gives."

Another way to help support the OEF is through the **United Way**. When making donations, designate the Oxford Educational Foundation as your charity of choice. Your donation money will be funneled back to the OEF and then used to assist the OEF strive to fulfill its mission statement to "enhance the quality of education for the students of the Oxford Area School District".

Donations can also be made to the OEF through checks in the mail or through PayPal donations. Information and easy access buttons for membership, donations, Paypal, and amazon smile are all found on our website at www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org

Support for the OEF can also be provided through our program of Leaving a Legacy for Learning. To learn more about this program contact Dr. Ray Fischer at (717) 947-0075.

In Conclusion

The past year has been a strong year for the Oxford Educational Foundation, as we increased the number of volunteers in the schools, and the number of hours of service that those people provided. We have a strong relationship with the school administration, the principals, and the teachers.

We have been able to accomplish our mission "...to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford School District by providing a mentoring and tutoring program for the students, and professional grants for the faculty that encourage the development of innovative programs." And there is more to do, please consider helping us by volunteering in the schools or by supporting us financially. We can be reached at 610-932-7200, by email at oxfordedfound@yahoo.com, or by mail at PO Box 142, Oxford, PA.

Sincerely,

Steve Roberts
OEF President

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is **Thursday, October 15, 2015 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!



REVAMPED OEF WEBSITE

Sam Cooke wrote a song with the lyrics "It's been a long time coming, but I know a change is gonna come..." So it is with the changes to the website of the OEF. Recognizing that our previous one was outdated, the External Affairs committee, chaired by Judi Jefferis, has been working to make changes and modernize the website. Recognizing the difficulty in finding information and navigating the site, access buttons have been added to make it easier. Community members who wish to provide monetary support to the OEF can find several sites on our home page – these include connections to United Way, PayPal, and Amazon Smile along with our membership and donation forms. Teachers will find it easier to locate forms to apply for grant monies. Also, those wishing to volunteer their time and energy to be mentors, tutors or aides, will have direct access to forms and information about clearances. Those wondering about the work of the OEF can read all about it in our annual reports, newspaper articles, and history – all now available at our website. In order to make the website more user friendly for the members of the Oxford community, the OEF hired Colleen Owens to help make the website function efficiently. Her expertise has been invaluable. Curious about the changes? Want more info? Go to www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org We hope that you agree that the changes are providing better service to the community.



Oxford Educational Foundation
 PO Box 142
 Oxford, PA 19363

610-932-7200

October 2015

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 fifteen years, we have offered small but significant competitive Professional Grants totaling over \$146,000 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 and
 Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Executive Director

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*

Board of Directors

Steve Roberts	President	Yamilet Fernandez	Stephanie DeMott
Susan Melrath	Vice President	Woody Hartgrove	Judi Jefferis
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Valerie Kegley	Secretary	Zibby Harvey	Etha McDowell '67
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Randy Sebastian '64	Board Emeritus		
Dr. Richard Winchester	Board Emeritus	Dr. Raymond A. Fischer, Executive Director	
John Ware IV '59	Board Emeritus	Karen Olivieri, Volunteer Coordinator	



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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.