HANDS ON LEARNING AT THE CHINCOTEAGUE BAY STATION

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Enhancing the Quality of Education in the Oxford Area School District
The OEF is a Conduit for Scholarships

A conduit is defined as any means of transmission or conveyance. And that definitely describes the OEF when it comes to scholarships. The OEF serves as a funnel to help OAHS graduates receive scholarships to institutions of higher learning. At the Senior Awards Night in April, the OEF was very pleased to have their Executive Director Dr. Raymond Fischer present the following scholarships.

**Hopewell Scholarship**

Mia Gerrard is this year’s winner of the Hopewell Scholarship that is given to an outstanding student who plans to attend a four-year college or university. It is one of the largest single scholarships given at this awards ceremony. Understanding that Mia maintains a grade average of at least 3.0 in her studies, she will receive a total of $40,000 in scholarship money over a four-year period. Ms. Gerrard plans to attend Villanova University in the fall and major in nursing. To prepare for her future career, Mia has volunteered at Christiana Care Hospital, Jennersville Hospital, the Chester County Suicide Prevention Youth Council, and Aevidum Youth Board. This scholarship marks the seventh year that it has been awarded to a deserving senior. The applications are reviewed by three members of the OEF who make recommendations to the donors for their selection.

**Younger Family Scholarship**

2022 marks the second year of the Younger Family Scholarship. It is one of the largest scholarships awarded to OAHS graduates. The $40,000 will be spread out over the four years of the university education of Gina Martinelli. She plans to major in forensic science at West Virginia University. According to one of her teachers, Gina enjoys and excels in problem-based learning something required in her chosen field. The scholarship was established by Elizabeth Younger (OAHS class of ’67) in memory of her late husband Alvin (class of ’67) and his family for their commitment to higher education. Special consideration is given to students who are the first in their family to continue their education after high school. Like the Hopewell scholarship, a trio of OEF board members reviews these applications and make several recommendations.

**Gene and Louise Rahll Scholarship**

This year marks the first awarding of a new scholarship – the Gene and Louise Rahll Scholarship. This award goes to two deserving graduates who plan to continue their education – whether it is at a four-year college or university, a community college, or a trade school. This year’s awardees are James (Jac) Connor and Victoria Milburn. Both students will receive $5,000. Victoria plans to use her scholarship monies to pursue a degree in biomedicine at Susquehanna University. A member of several honor societies, she has balanced her high school years with volunteer work, summer employment, sports, and girl scouting. Jac will utilize his talents in music to pursue a degree in music production at Millersville University. Like Victoria, he is a member of several honor societies and has volunteered with several organizations, but he is also interested in performance and the creation of music. A committee of three reviews the applications and chooses the recipient. By awarding this scholarship, Mr. Rahll (Class of ’46) honors his roots in Oxford.

**Message from the President**

The 2021-2022 school year allowed the Foundation to return to almost normal operations after the COVID-19 pandemic. We again had volunteers in classrooms and mentors and tutors working with students. We also were able to provide grants to teachers and scholarships to graduating seniors.

As President of the Oxford Educational Foundation, I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 so you can see our accomplishments during that year.

After reading this report, I hope you will be motivated to help us support the students of Oxford by either volunteering or by making a donation to the Foundation.

Yours,
Steve Roberts, OEF President
INTERESTED IN FUNDING A SCHOLARSHIP?

If so, the OEF is here to guide you. A scholarship can be a one-time award or an ongoing commitment. The OEF can provide assistance in focusing the nature of the award and the criteria for applications. For scholarships spread across several years, the OEF maintains connections to students to help monitor their continued success. To fund a scholarship, it is recommended that donors begin with a conversation with OEF Executive Director, Dr. Raymond Fischer. Ray can be contacted at rfischer@oxfordeducationalfoundation.org. He also stays in communication with the Oxford Area High School Guidance Office to get the word out on scholarships. Let the OEF be a conduit for you in helping to support the students in this community. It can be an easy and rewarding way to show an appreciation of higher education and help students fulfill their career dreams. Good things happen when prior OAHs graduates, community members, and the Oxford Educational Foundation team up to help students further their education!

DORIS AND ELLSWORTH MCALLISTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

For the fifth time, the Doris and Ellsworth McAllister Memorial Scholarship was awarded. That deserving student is Owen James Rector. Owen will attend The College of St. Rose in Albany, NY. There, he plans to earn his degree in education so he can follow in his father's footsteps and become a teacher. This $800 scholarship is given by the McAllister family in honor of their parents who instilled the importance of education in their eight children, all of whom continued their education after high school. Their eight children also choose the winner. In addition, Owen is the recipient of the $2,000 Marion James and Anna Ressler Hess Scholarship. Mr. and Mrs. Hess were both believers in and supporters of education. This merit-based scholarship is targeted for a person who plans to pursue a teaching career. The Hess’ daughter, a retired university professor, chooses the winner. Owen is also the recipient of the $250 Lois Martino Scholarship given in memory of Lois, a longtime OEF volunteer in the Oxford Schools. Lois was a past winner of the OEF’s Randy Sebastian Volunteer of the Year Award. Two individuals who knew Lois well selected the recipient.

2022 ENDOWMENT UPDATE

Charles Dickens once wrote, “It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” This was indeed true for the OEF endowment in 2022.

At the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year our endowment totaled $757,888.91. These funds are divided between accounts currently managed by Chester County Community Foundation/Truist and Fulton Financial.

While the accounts declined with the market downturn, the accounts did have several additions. The largest addition was a substantial donation from Gene and Louise Rahll. Mr. Rahll is an Oxford graduate who has been a strong supporter of the Foundation. The current OEF Board also participated in a second “Endowment Challenge” where their donations were matched by an anonymous donor. This challenge added $9,116.00 to the endowment total.

Currently the OEF is conducting an endowment appeal within the Leaving a Legacy Campaign. The results of this appeal should be finalized by the end of December. Please consider making a donation of any size to help the OEF reach their goal of a $1,000,000 endowment.

If you shop at Amazon.com, you can automatically support Oxford Educational Foundation. Go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your account and select Oxford Educational Foundation as your charitable organization. Automatically, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to OEF every time you shop. It’s that simple! You won’t have to sign up for a new account or pay additional fees. Detailed info on the program is available at http://smile.amazon.com/about

OEF spends the dollars to benefit students. The Foundation appreciates your participation!
The Early College Academy beginning in its ninth year is co-located at Cecil College and Oxford Area High School. Successful students will complete a high school diploma and an associate's degree. The credits earned through transfer agreements can be transferred to a number of 4-year education institutions in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Associate Degrees include STEM and Business. Within these tracks students study in specific areas that include: Simulation Design and gaming; Mechanical Engineering; Government Contracting; Cyber Security and Business Administration. Approximately 69 students are enrolled in the Academy and the fifth cohort class of 19 students graduated from Cecil College with their Associate's Degree this past May 2022.

Project REEL (Research Experiences to Enhance Learning) was established at the high school eleven years ago by science teacher Brian Urig in partnership with his alma mater, Ohio State University. Ohio State designed Project REEL as a way to transition entry-level college chemistry classes into more research-based courses.

Through Project REEL, Mr. Urig has incorporated a research module approach into the Advanced Placement chemistry curriculum that is similar to what students experience in Ohio State’s freshman chemistry classes. “The goal of Project REEL is to increase retention in science by exposing students to actual research techniques and procedures,” he said. “It represents a real change from the ‘cookbook’ chemistry many of us experienced in high school and college courses.”

EITC funds will be held in reserve to support future trips to Ohio State. Continued utilization of their high tech equipment on pigment research is a learning experience for the students. In addition, a new furnace was purchased for pigment research. As the lead institution for Project REEL, Ohio State University continues to give the students an excellent taste of higher level laboratory research and at the same time extend them academically. They utilize state of the art equipment and software traditionally not found in high school chemistry labs. Overall, the students obtain an appreciation for the scientific and ethical nature of research and gain an increased interest in science and technology.

Strings Component (violin, cello, basses, etc.) - The Music Educators in the Oxford Area School District, along with the National Association for Music Education, strive to provide a standards-based music education for all students through instruction by highly-qualified music educators. The District in 2019 and 2020 began the Band to Orchestra Program (Strings) in grades three and four. In 2021 they added grade 5. This school year the Strings program has included grade 6. The Program now has a full time Strings teacher. The funds assisted in purchasing string instruments for the students. Where many school districts are cutting back in the Arts, Oxford Area School District has always kept the Arts on the forefront.
The Oxford Area School District has been developing their STEM curriculum across all grade levels Kindergarten through grade 12. They aim to integrate all four STEM disciplines for use in real-life applications. Project-based learning and problem-solving are a big focus. The K-12 curriculum is embedding STEM activities into the math and science curriculums.

They realize that science, technology, engineering and mathematics play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy, and are a critical component to helping the U.S. presently and in the future. This education also creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy, and enables the next generation of innovators.

The school district also realizes that STEM is meant to create a program that integrates all four disciplines in a way that forces the student to use cross-disciplinary knowledge to solve problems. Students will often be required to use what they already know to figure out the right answer for themselves. This requires a significant amount of creativity and flexible thinking, as well as technical knowledge and mastery of each individual discipline.

Students quickly learn how to think for themselves and abandon their expectations of being told what to think.

STEM teachers guide their students in their learning to build up mastery of the four disciplines over time.

Technology continues to advance by leaps and bounds seemingly every day. Yet everything from new software to new metal alloys for spacecraft to the discovery of new sources of renewable energy or the cure for a previously incurable disease all need to be produced by someone. And as technology continues to advance, the already high demand for STEM professionals continues to climb. Examples of these are Software Developers, Statisticians, or Computer Systems Analysts. Engineering and Physical Science is the next largest category of in-demand STEM careers. These are careers like Orthodontists, Petroleum Engineers, Biochemists, Nurse Anesthetists, Civil Engineers, and Cartographers just to name a few.

EITC funds through professional grants assist with expenses for supplies, equipment and the promotion of careers in STEM.

Anyone interested in knowing more about these educational programs and the Educational Investment Tax Credit (EITC) program for PA businesses can visit www.newpa.com/eitc or give Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Executive Director a call at (717) 947-0075 or email at rfischer@oxfordeducationalfoundation.org
What if there were a way to excite and educate students at the same time? What if that way could foster creativity, critical thinking and decision making in the process? Dr. Nicole Addis, Hopewell Elementary School Principal, proposed such an idea to the OEF in 2015 with a Pittenger Grant application for a STEM room.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching where students, as teams, learn in a hands-on mode using technology, measurements, and scientific discovery. The STEM method motivates and inspires young people to generate new technologies and ideas. It aims to encourage students to explore and be flexible and curious, which equips them to respond to real-world challenges.

Initially Dr. Addis presented STEM as a basic introduction to career exploration and the OEF was pleased to support her experimental vision. But as the program has evolved and grown across several schools, it has become more of an introduction to critical thinking skills, or computational thinking. Computational thinking is defined as the process of identifying a clear, defined, step-by-step solution to a complex problem. Its definition includes breaking down a problem into smaller pieces, recognizing patterns and eliminating extraneous details so that the step-by-step solution can be replicated by humans or computers. Current theory says that when students master computational thinking, they will be equipped with enough flexibility that as technology evolves, they will be able to master new concepts whether in science fields or other fields.

STEM classes now are a special area subject for all students at Hopewell, just like art or music. Mr. John Barcus, a 25+ year teacher, is Oxford’s Hopewell School STEM teacher. He introduces his students to computational thinking with Ozobots. These are tiny robots that can be programmed with color coding and lines. “Students really respond well to working with the little robots.” he says. Since reading isn’t necessary, kids with varying levels of abilities can work successfully with the Ozobots. The students build on those skills to work with bar coding and Apple Swift language.

Mr. Barcus has expanded the program when he teaches in the Nottingham School STEAM room. That program is an introduction to STEM/STEAM for the 4th Grade students that he offers one day a week. He has also initiated a monthly peer group meeting of all the STEM and technology teachers that includes Mr. James at Penns Grove and Mr. Haney and Mr. Woodel at the High School.

This year the School District sent STEM staff members to be trained and certified as “Project Lead The Way” teachers. Under the leadership and support of the OASD Administration, this program has been offered in the upper grades and is now moving into the lower grades. Hopewell Elementary School was designated as one of “Project Lead the Way” distinguished schools!

Since that first Grant seven years ago, the OEF has been pleased to continue supporting STEM in the Oxford schools with three additional Pittenger Grants; a STEAM room in Nottingham School, Break Out Kits in Elk Ridge Elementary, and Forensics Kits in Penns Grove. Thirteen other Professional Grants were made for STEM materials to support classrooms in every Oxford school. The Oxford Area School District also strongly supports STEM/STEAM in our schools. The beautiful cooperation between the Foundation, the District and the building professionals provides an amazing opportunity for students.

The world we live in is changing, and we must keep pace with it. STEM education helps young people to be flexible, look for patterns, find connections, and evaluate information. STEM builds creativity and problem solving. These skills will serve the students well whatever direction their lives take them.
Fulfilling The OEF’s Mission via Professional Grants

The second half of the OEF mission statement reads, “The Foundation also supports professional grants for the faculty that encourage the development of innovative programs, but do not replicate instructional materials supplied by the school district.” This means that new ideas are encouraged and those initiatives will not have to wait for the yearly district budget process. Why is that needed? A few of the various reasons follow:

1) As part of the complex budget process, teachers order their supplies before they have met their future students. That means they are unaware of the skills, interests, or needs of their students, or even how many they will be teaching.

2) Oftentimes, teachers are introduced to new methods or educational aids through their own reading, at conferences, or as part of their continuing education process.

3) And then, there are the unexpected things that occur in education – such as the Covid pandemic. Even as pupils and teachers remained in their classrooms this past year, they found that the pandemic caused changes – changes in their classroom layouts, changes in the ability of students (especially younger ones) to remain on task, and even anxiety issues.

That is why this Professional Grant Program is so very important. It allows district faculty to apply for grants four times throughout a school year. It provides a more immediate solution to the budget process.

The OEF is very pleased to recognize the following teachers who were awarded grants in the 2021 – 2022 school year. The purchase of these items was for the benefit of their students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jordan Bank Kindergarten Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Wilkinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Ciaccia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra McCaskey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Diamond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tami DeHaut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Lewin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vinyl floor cushions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bring author Julia Cook to the school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide calming and relaxing activities for Diagnostic students (ex: rain sticks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Bouncy Bands” and “Wiggle Seats”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Kindergarten Here I Come” kits for next year’s class to be given out at registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cricut maker for teacher and student made projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costumes for characters from books read in the classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<th>Elk Ridge Elementary School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Hollick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Sumner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Arot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryanne Lamont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portable lap desks and cushions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumber and soil needed for vegetable beds</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Surf Seats” for small group instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment to increase hand strength in learning support students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two “Brain Bikes” for the Elk Ridge Sensory Room</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nottingham Elementary School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Jury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Adams &amp; Anna Skiles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Paugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Goldsmith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Swisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Mahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy Jury</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Pop-it Fidgets” to use in multi-sensory instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Bouncy Bands” to improve focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinesthetic equipment to improve focus and engagement</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hopewell Elementary School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Hammer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Hammer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukuleles to enhance creativity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn Museum visit to enhance studies of Ancient Civilizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrist bands to promote positive behaviors</td>
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<tr>
<th>Penn's Grove School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Hammer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Powers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ukuleles to add to the guitar classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dough sheeting machine for Life Skills students to make and sell dog treats</td>
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<tr>
<th>Oxford Area High School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen Powers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dough sheeting machine for Life Skills students to make and sell dog treats</td>
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The purchase price of the above items totaled $16,132.69 toward enhancing the education of the students of the OASD. This marked the twenty-fourth year of awarding Professional Grants which brings the overall total of the program to approximately $294,000! The OEF wishes to thank all donors for their support of the Professional Grants. Many thanks to the teachers also. When the community, district professionals and the OEF all come together, good things happen! Oxford’s students are the real winners here!
**FIRST FRIDAYS WITH BOOKWORMS AND BLANKETS**

In one of his books, Dr. Seuss wrote, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.” That sums up the attitude of the OEF on First Fridays in Oxford. Thanks to the initiative of OEF Board Member Alison Verbanas, the OEF sponsors Bookworms and Blankets on the grounds of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. The point of the interactive display is to put books in the hands of Oxford children.

The gently-used books are given out for free. Community donors and the Oxford Public Library are the sources of these donated books. Each month, books are gathered to fit a theme. One summer theme for both children and adults was about the USA – history and renowned Americans along with places and things to see across this country. Another month found popular children’s books with Pete the Cat, Dr. Seuss characters, Clifford the Big Red Dog, dinosaurs and sharks among the offerings found in baskets scattered on the church lawn. Blankets are provided to sit upon while scanning the offerings. Books for young teens are also available. A recent adult collection of bestselling books included books by John Sanford, Kristen Hannah, John Grisham, and more.

A small bag of gummi worms is provided as a delicious treat, along with a Bookworm bookmark. Of course the goal is to encourage young people to find a book to enjoy as their own. In addition, a map is provided of “Free Little Libraries” available around town for those who wish to pass on the books after reading.

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful First Friday event. Stop by, browse and put a good book in the hands of readers of all ages. The adventures provided in good books await!

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**OEF’S 2ND ANNUAL ROAD RALLY SET FOR OCTOBER 22**

America has long been described as a country with a car culture. We love our automobiles and car sports continue to grow in popularity - just look at the crowds attending NASCAR events. A road rally is also a car sport - one that is inexpensive and requires no special equipment. Road rallies are all about friendly competition with no risk. Speed is not the name of the game in a road rally – precision driving is.

A road rally is not a race! So how is the winner of the road rally determined? The team that is the most accurate in following the step-by-step instructions while maintaining the average speed wins. Rallies are good for both beginners and veterans alike. Care to form a team? At least two people are needed in the car - a driver whose eyes stay focused on the road and a navigator to read the driving instructions. Timing is very important since safe and legal speeds must be followed. The OEF team has determined the exact time between each checkpoint based on the designated average speed. You need to get the timing just right - arriving either too early or too late will cause a team to be assigned penalty points. The further away from the optimal time, the more penalty points given. At the end of the event, the team with the lowest score is declared the winner. Can you use your GPS to navigate? Sorry, but no! You will have to navigate the old-fashioned way.

The Oxford Educational Foundation (OEF) began planning for this year’s rally immediately after last year’s was completed. Under the guidance of board member Carolyn Hess, a theme, route, safe speeds, and detailed instructions have been created. Being an educational foundation, it is not surprising that the themes have centered on the history of the area. Last year’s journey was a ride through the countryside visiting local landmarks. This year, the OEF is excited to offer this year’s participants a guided path to locate the many small villages found throughout the Oxford Area School District. This scenic drive in the middle of autumn offers participants the opportunity to enjoy a fun day in the least expensive form of motorsport. All that is needed is a running vehicle, some gas in the tank, and a digital camera. (Do you ever go anywhere without your cell phone?). The required photos demonstrate that drivers have followed the correct route. Although the route will take about two hours to drive, remember to allow additional time for registration before the event and the celebration afterwards. It promises to be a great time for families and friends.

Won't you consider joining the OEF on Saturday, October 22? Not only does it promise a great time but it will help the OEF raise money to give back to the schools via their Professional Grants to help the students of the district. The entry fee is $25 regardless of the number of passengers. This event is appropriate for all ages, so bring the family and tell your friends. There’s no better way to enjoy a fun filled Saturday in this beautiful corner of the county. Information can be found on the OEF website [www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org) and on the OEF’s Facebook site. Entries are also welcomed on the day of the rally! Food will be available at the end of the event. Hope to see you there!
2022 PITTENGER AWARD

The OEF has been awarding Pittenger Grants since 2011. They are named for one of the original organizers of the Foundation, John C. Pittenger. Mr. Pittenger had been the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education and the Dean of the Rutgers Law School before retiring to West Nottingham Township. Public education was extremely important to him and he felt that the OEF was a terrific way to bring volunteers and resources to support the work of Oxford schools. The Pittenger Grants are awarded to a school building based on the Principal’s proposal for an innovative program that will enhance education and impact all students in their building.

This year the OEF was pleased to award two Pittenger Grants. Both Grants, one to Jordan Bank and one to Hopewell School, found Principals looking at ways to improve student behaviors and academic performance through non-classroom approaches.

Principal David Hamburg and his staff will use his grant to pilot sensory paths in Jordan Bank Elementary School. There has been increasing awareness that students need more physical activity during the school day. Sensory paths, or neurological tracks, are a series of guided movements for kids to follow in the school hallway. As students follow the path and complete the movements, they work off excess energy and develop their gross motor skills. The various movements on a path engage different parts of the body and brain and help students release stress and refocus their energies. They can then ready themselves to return to learning.

In Hopewell Elementary School, Dr. Nicole Addis proposed a cooperative recreational space for her students. The space will be available for mentors to spend time with their students and for therapists and counselors to work with their children. Additionally, Dr. Addis plans to incorporate the recreational room into Hopewell’s School-Wide Positive Goals Program. As students receive “Stinger” tickets for good behavior such as showing respect for others and good school citizenship, they will earn the right to socialize in the room and play with the table and electronic games.

Randy Sebastian Volunteer Person (RSVP) Award

Mr. Sebastian was a veteran, local lawyer, and founding member of OEF where he also served as a volunteer. The OEF honors Mr. Sebastian’s memory through this award. The RSVP award for the 2021-22 school year was presented to Lois Pyle. Lois graduated from the OASD in 1965. Her education began at Maple Grove, a one room school house, near Hickory Hill and then she moved to the new elementary school (now Jordan Bank). She was the first class in this building in 1953.

Lois worked for OASD as a reading tutor. Family obligations called her away from this position. Upon her return to Oxford, Lois sought opportunities to volunteer in elementary classrooms. Lois has been a volunteer since 2015. She volunteers a full day and works with groups of children, primarily reading to them. We look forward to many more volunteer years with Lois!
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

If you are thinking that being a volunteer isn’t right for you, let us give you some perspective. The age of OEF volunteers ranges from 17 to 82, they are working and not working, their education ranges from high school to multiple advanced degrees, they are married, single, and widowed. Some like math and science and some don’t. If you fit into any of these categories, you can be a volunteer for the OEF, and we need your skills. You need a background check and certain clearances, and we will help you get them. We also provide a short training session for volunteers. If you aren’t sure about being a volunteer, we can introduce you to a current volunteer, or you can communicate with Kim Lewin at 610-932-7200 or oxfordedfound@yahoo.com.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Volunteering in the schools is a wonderful way to get involved and give back. People that offer their free time to make a difference in the lives of children have no idea what a positive influence they are having on a student or an entire class. The benefits are numerous for everyone involved.

FOR THE STUDENTS -
There are so many benefits for the students when someone volunteers. First and foremost, the students love having someone else in the classroom to play math or literacy games, to listen to them read a story, to receive help with revising their writing, or to get individualized help in an area of need. At times a volunteer may be placed in one area of the room and each student gets a turn to do an activity with them. At other times, a volunteer may be in the classroom to help one student, but this always ends up helping the entire class community.

FOR THE TEACHERS –
Teachers utilize volunteers in a variety of ways. Some volunteers help by working with a small group of students while the teacher is working with everyone else. In addition, volunteers are useful when one student needs some extra support. There are also occasions when volunteers help a teacher by preparing materials, decorating bulletin boards, and cleaning up after a special activity. There are even opportunities for volunteers that can’t come into the school. Some teachers will send things home in the student’s backpack for the volunteer to work on at home. Mrs. Hamilton (first grade teacher) says, “I am so grateful for the help I have received every year from my classroom volunteers!”

FOR THE VOLUNTEERS –
Participating in a child’s education is rewarding beyond words. It’s such a great feeling to give back. Although certainly not a requirement, there are times when the volunteer is also a parent of a child in the classroom. Parents often comment that they are amazed at all the tasks their child can do independently. All volunteers have something they can contribute whether it be a specific skill, a patient ear, or simply decorating/cutting skills – no experience is necessary.
THE MENTOR, TUTOR, AND CLASSROOM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A major effort of the OEF is to provide mentors, tutors, classroom assistants and other volunteers in the schools. Some volunteers mentor an individual student to help them make good choices and improve their performance in school. Some combine mentoring and tutoring by helping with their course work at the direction of a teacher. Some focus on tutoring a specific subject, and some assist teachers in the classroom, or provide clerical support.

Kim Lewin, the Volunteer Coordinator, works with parents, teachers, and guidance counselors to identify student needs and matches a student with the appropriate mentor or tutor. We always have a need for math and algebra tutors, and we have seen that students need a good foundation in those subjects to be successful in later courses in chemistry and physics.

During the 2021-2022 school year, our volunteers worked more than 2390 hours, and a conservative valuation of their work shows that they provided over $55,600 worth of services to the District. We are very happy that our volunteers made such a contribution to the schools.

We welcome the opportunity to speak to community groups, retirement communities, and other organizations about our program. We always need more mentors, tutors, and classroom volunteers.

These are among the many comments that express how the Oxford Educational Foundation (OEF), now in its 29th year, continues to fulfill its mission—to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District by providing mentors, tutors, and class volunteers to the students and providing professional grants to the teachers that encourage the development of innovative programs.
SPOTLIGHT ON AN OEF TUTOR

As part of its mission, the OEF supplies the school district with volunteers, mentors, and tutors. Dr. Ralph (Woody) Hartgrove leads the volunteers tallying the largest number of students tutored. Read more about Woody’s dedication and service over the past two decades.

How many students have you tutored? When did you start tutoring?
I do have a notebook and my last entry was for number 59. I started tutoring in the fall of 2002.

Which subjects are the focus of your tutoring?
Chemistry, geometry, and algebra

What makes for a successful tutoring session? Where do you conduct them? How often?
The student should let me know before we meet what we need to cover so I can prepare/review, student should bring an assignment or a test to review. We work problems for about an hour and determine if the student is more comfortable with the material. The sessions are conducted at either the high school cafeteria, the library, or my church’s library. We meet once a week unless there is a specific need for more time.

What traits are needed for students to be successful in tutoring sessions?
The students should show some responsibility for a successful session; they can do this by bringing work for us to do. I prefer that we meet after they have had a chance to relax, have had a snack, and know how they are going to get home.

Do you have contact with their teachers?
The teachers are happy to talk to me as needed but I interact with the students as if they are adults and try to keep third party input to a minimum.

Why did you begin tutoring? Why do you continue?
I have always felt a need to work with the young people in my community; I coached pre-high school basketball for 18 years and softball for 6 years. When I heard about OEF back in 2002, it was primarily tutoring that attracted me.

What benefits do you get from tutoring?
Tutoring helps me live my ambition to continue to be a lifelong learner. It helps me retain a youthful outlook and gives me a way to “give back” for all the impactful direction I received from my foundational community.

Are there any special comments, quotes, or experiences that stand out in your memory of tutoring?
I have on several occasions tutored a small group of students. This was particularly rewarding to see confidence develop when students helped each other with the problems.

Does it take a lot of preparation to become a tutor?
I think it depends on one’s previous experience with the subject. Textbooks are available through OEF and are excellent. But the teachers use online material in the classroom. This has become an issue only recently when so much is now online.

Did your tutoring continue during the last few Covid years? Any special challenges?
Tutoring was very erratic during those years. I had very few contacts.

You do not live in the school district. How did you come to volunteer for the OEF?
The Tutor/Mentor Coordinator in 2002 was a member of our church and she recruited me. My first student was the daughter of a member.

You are also on the Board of Directors for the OEF. Why? How long?
I have had ideas about the future of tutoring and how it is done. I have trouble keeping my ideas to myself. Someone recommended me for a Board position. I have served 6 years.

Would you recommend that others tutor for the OEF? Why?
Absolutely, tutoring is a great way to stay connected to one’s community and to stay connected to one’s technical knowledge.
SENIOR CITIZEN TAX PROGRAM

The Business Office in the Oxford Area School district prepares a Senior Citizen Volunteer Tax Rebate Program. This program has been in effect for several years, and it is advantageous for our seniors to participate. This program encourages residents of the Oxford Area School District community to accrue up to one hundred hours of volunteer service to the school system. In exchange for volunteering, the business office will provide a $750 rebate. OEF Seniors who have used this tax rebate program have tutored Algebra, Chemistry, and other subjects, they have mentored children or volunteered as a classroom helper. Even if you cannot complete one hundred hours of service, the program is prorated per hour. There are several steps necessary in order to qualify for this program, including securing clearances, and completing financial paperwork. If you would like more information on this program the contact person is Evette Shaffer, Business Office Oxford Area School District, 610-932-6607 or by email at eshafer@oxfordasd.org.

MENTOR, TUTOR
AND
STUDENT PICNIC

After two years we were able to celebrate the annual mentor, tutor and student picnic. The picnic took place on Wednesday, June 1st under the old oak tree in front of Hopewell Elementary School. Mentors, Tutors and students, school counselors and school administrators attended the event and all enjoyed a picnic lunch of pizza, snacks and ice cream. The picnic brought to a close a successful school year of mentoring and tutoring by our dedicated volunteers. The year end event was a wonderful way to celebrate the volunteer and student relationship with fun and lasting memories.

Financial Breakdown
for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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, Oxford Area Civic Association, Oxford Area Foundation and United Way of Chester County.

Expenses

Administration Expenses (22%) which includes the Executive Director’s salary, payroll expenses, insurance, telephone, printing and accountant’s audit.

Operating Expenses (21%) which includes the Volunteer Coordinator’s Salary, supplies, postage, technology, annual report, dues and fees, marketing, mentor, tutor and student picnic, and RSVP breakfast.

Scholarships (39%) are awarded to graduating seniors to a post secondary institution.

EITC Grants (18%) are awarded to commonwealth-approved innovative programs.

Endowment Fund Update

Endowment account values:

6/30/21: $783,508
6/30/22: $758,000

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is
Thursday, October 20, 2022
at 7:30 pm

This year’s meeting will be held in the Oxford Area School District Administration Building Ground Floor Conference Room,
125 Bell Tower Lane, Oxford - No Zoom this year!

Please call (610) 932-7200 or email oxfordedfound@yahoo.com with any questions. For more specific directions, please call us at (610) 932-7200.
Dear OEF Friends,

I’ve been honored to serve on the OEF’s board and as an Executive Director over the past twenty-eight years. OEF is a proud partner with our school district and community in its support of enhancing the education of students in the Oxford Area School District. From professional grants to teachers, scholarships to students and providing dedicated and invaluable mentors, tutors and classroom volunteers in all grade levels. OEF is committed to providing every Oxford student with as many opportunities of success as possible. 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 an OEF volunteer. If you are interested in assisting us as we work to reach more students in need, please contact our volunteer coordinator. Kim Lewin at (610) 932-7200 or email at: coordinator@oxfordeducationalfoundation.org

On behalf of the OEF, we thank you for continued support in making a difference in the lives of the OASD students. We are “Oxford Proud.”

Gratefully,

Dr. Ray Fischer, OEF Executive Director

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GUIDESTAR PLATINUM RATING

The Oxford Educational Foundation was awarded a 2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency by Candid, which provides information on tax-exempt organizations so potential donors can evaluate an organization. The Platinum rating is the highest rating.

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2021-2022 OEF DONORS

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October 2022

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 seventeen years, we have offered small but significant competitive Professional Grants totaling over $294,000 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 annual report 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.

Oxford Educational Foundation
PO Box 142 · Oxford, PA 19363
610.932.7200

Membership or Renewal Form

Name:_________________________________________________________ Date: ____________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone: ________________________________________________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Please provide your email address to help us decrease our mailing costs.

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 for Supporting Us!
The Oxford Educational Foundation is funded in part by the CCRES, Chester County Community Foundation, Oxford Area Civic Association, Oxford Area Foundation, Truist/Commercial Bank, Fulton Bank, First Resource Bank of Exton, WSFS Bank, Herr’s Inc., United Way of Chester County, United Way of Southern Chester County 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.