

Westerly Education Endowment Fund

Spring/Summer 2010



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Welcome to the Westerly Education Endowment Fund's (WEEEF's) second newsletter! We appreciate your support and wanted to share all the good news that is going on with WEEEF. We hope you enjoy it and welcome any feedback you may have.

2010 to 2011 Grant Cycle

The Westerly Education Endowment Fund (WEEF) was founded in March of 2001 by a group of concerned Westerly citizens in partnership with The Rhode Island Foundation to augment educational opportunities within the community of Westerly and seeks to offer the opportunity for an enhanced educational experience to all Westerly students. The town of Westerly is the first in the state to partner with The Rhode Island Foundation to build a permanent endowment for the public schools.

The goal of the fund is not to replace the school budget, but instead to expand projects, programs, and services beyond those currently offered for students in public schools in Westerly.

Grants from the Westerly Education Endowment Fund may support a broad range of projects and services proposed by students, teachers, administrators, parents or members of the Westerly School District community — any individual or organization that works toward enhancing the educational experience in Westerly public schools. Examples of potential projects include these, among others: academic and educational enrichment projects, professional training, and recognition programs. Currently our grant committee is reviewing 34 grant applications; this is nine more than we have ever received in one year! This shows that we have a lot of people who want to help enhance WPS student's education, in order to meet these needs we need your support.

Grant Recipient Testimonial

During the last grant cycle WEEF awarded a grant to the Westerly Middle School for netbooks. The following testimonial was written by Mr. Rob Gouvin: *"The netbooks have been an asset to our team this year. It has been great being able to have each student use their own computer without rushing them so another student could log on. The netbooks have been used for ELA projects, research papers, and benefitted the math class as students used them in conjunction with the new School Fusion software. Students were able to blog and send me answer keys through the school web network so I could get rapid assessment without a paper trail. The netbooks take up less room than a conventional laptop and allow the student to use the desk surface for other things."* To see more pictures of grant recipients please visit our website!



Want to send a donation to WEEF? Make checks payable to WEEF and mail to P.O. Box 1219, Westerly, RI 02891. We really appreciate your support!!

Variety Show

This past January we held our first ever Old Fashioned Variety Show! Alumni, faculty, students and professionals performed together to help us raise money for our Performing Arts Directed Giving Fund. The sold out crowd was entertained for almost three hours! Among the performers were: Bradshaw Wish, Courtney Greenstein, Thomas LaPere, Mr. Harrington & State Street School Select Choir 2009, High School Quartet, Marion Markham, Westerly High School Dance Team, Nicolas King, Angela Bacari, Joey Nigrelli and The Truth, Lori Olsen, Richard Pendola, William Quirk, Jeanne's Dance Team, Frank Pendola, Jeremy Parise & Jen Turner, Nicholas Trebesacci, Francis & Jane Gencarelli and Ensemble. We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all our performers for volunteering their time! Thanks to the following sponsors for their generosity: Dynasys, Michael & Karen Slosberg, Daniel Gaccione, Michael P. Lynch - Attorney-at-Law, Paul Lynch, Rebecca J. Woodward DMD & Adam S. Kaufman DMD, Gerard & Debbie Ventresca, Zoë & Co. Professional Bra Fitters, Drew & Janell Bruno, Joseph Cugini, Charles & Jane Holdredge, Franklin & Marion Leddy, Linda Urso, Larry Vetelino, Robert & Ann Cruso, Arthur & Angela Smith and Honey Dew Donuts. Special thanks to Ann Cruso for coordinating this special event. If you'd like to see more pictures, visit our website! Encore, Encore!

Letter of Thanks

This letter is from Sydney Clays fifth grader at Westerly Middle School:

Thank you for giving us the money for the field trip to URI. I appreciated it. I had so much fun! I want to go into Marine Biology and now I can. My favorite part was seeing the college people and interacting with them and I loved the green house. I also liked seeing how they made the cement canoes. So again thank you for giving us money for the field trip. See picture below from their trip.



Upcoming Golf Tournament

Our 8th Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 24th 2010. Registration is at 11:30, Tee Time: 12:30 pm. It is a Scramble format. The \$120 Entry Fee includes: green fees, cart, lunch, steak dinner, raw bar and a full array of great prizes. Last year's golf tournament was a big success; a fun time was had by all players! Check out our website for pictures from last year's tournament. If you would like more information please call Gina Laudone at 401-741-5680 or Joe Celico at 401-212-8000. Player registration forms and/or Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from our website www.weefri.org. Please consider joining us or sponsoring this event whose proceeds go to supporting grants for Westerly Public School students.

Spotlighted Grant

Project T.G.I.F.—Turning Grease into Fuel, aims to recycle used cooking oil into biodiesel to help heat needy people's home in Westerly. This project has been run by the Junior WIN Team, a group of hard working Westerly students whose mission was to help their community and environment. WEEF awarded a grant to their team during the last grant cycle. The project's idea was first initiated after reading an article in The Westerly Sun about the WARM shelter's campaign to raise funds for heating assistance. At the same time, the team knew of the growing problem of global warming. They looked for a solution to this problem through recycling cooking oil. Some restaurants may produce up to 300 gallons of cooking oil per month. These restaurants then pay a company to dispose of the oil. Instead, they envisioned a system where companies would donate their oil to be recycled, and some of the oil recycled would be donated to the WARM shelter for heating assistance. Their goal is to raise awareness about the possibility of recycling cooking oil as well as creating a sustainable system to recycle the cooking oil. They worked with Grease Co. and various biodiesel companies to create a system where restaurants give them used cooking oil, and they would process the oil and then donate a portion to the local charitable agencies, which would distribute the oil to the families on their lists for heating assistance. This junior WIN team has won the 2009-2010 President's Environmental Youth Awards. We are proud to share their accomplishments. The picture shown on the left is of the receptacle they set up at the Westerly Landfill. If you'd like to learn more about their project go to www.w-i-n.ws

