

Twenty years ago, local parents, concerned over budget cuts to public schools and lack of funds for innovation, formed the Stonington Education Fund (SEF). In just a few short years, they raised enough money to automate the libraries at all 6 district schools, provide the acoustical shell for Stonington High School, and fund Mini-Grants and Apple Grants for complimentary educational programs. SEF has raised over \$450,000 in the last two decades. In 2014, we are still challenged with dwindling school budgets, and an ever-growing need for technology as well as support for the arts, extra-curricular activities, and sports.

Stonington is a strong but diverse community, and the students of Stonington Public Schools are its future. We are blessed with creative, energetic teachers who are motivated to prepare our children for the opportunities ahead, as well as instill a life-long love of learning. School should be a place where students go to exercise their mind, body, and spirit. SEF provides the means to make that happen by funding writing programs, sports, music, art, and science. In the last year, SEF has funded technology and equipment for the chemistry labs at SHS, Sea Perch ROV program at MMS & PMS, a Literature/Culture program that challenges stereotypes at PMS, and a Classroom Book project at WVSS. SEF has also made donations to the Sensory Garden at WVSS and re-surfacing the track at DMS.

So how can you help SEF grow?

Get involved! SEF is a volunteer organization, comprised of parents and citizens who want to see our town flourish. We need fresh ideas and creative minds. Currently, we have 9 members on the Board of Directors but there is room for more. We are actively looking for new Board members. This is a great way to give back to your community, and make a positive impact on our students' lives.

Donate! Every dollar counts, and no donation is too small. If your company has a United Way Fund drive or matching gift program, designate SEF as a recipient for all or part of your contribution. Just a small percentage of each paycheck adds up to significant funds for our students. If you did not already receive a letter asking for your support to our cause, visit our web page to add your contact information to our mailing list or simply contribute directly via PayPal.

Join us for the Education Celebration! This is our largest fundraiser usually held in late winter with dinner, drinks, music, and a silent auction. Last year there were close to 150 attendees and we raised over \$20,000. It is a fun night to hang out with other parents and friends of Stonington schools. We need many volunteers to make the night a success so let us know if you would like to be a part of this event, contact a SEF Director or send us an email via our web page. Watch for our "Save the Date" announcements, and mark your calendar. You won't want to miss our 20th Anniversary Celebration!

Stonington Education Fund is our organization--- the families of SPS students. Your donation directly impacts and benefits students in all six SPS schools and is tax deductible. For more information about SEF, our mission and grants, or to add your name to our mailing list, visit <http://www.stoningtoneducationfund.net>.

Thank you for your support,
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