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**IN KIND DONATIONS**  
Bernardsville Print Center  
Gary's Wine & Marketplace  
56 Degrees Wine  
Ken Rent  
Real Cocktails



SHSD staff members enjoying the Chili Cook Off.  
(L to R): Teresa Vaught, Jennifer Shouffler, Gretchen Dempsey, Scott Neigel, Coleen Butler, April Friedman



United States Equestrian Team Foundation stable in Gladstone

Photos by Debbie Weisman courtesy The Bernardsville News

**SHEF is looking for members with a passion for education!**

Do you want to help SHEF find ways to provide and promote the enrichment of our children's education? We would love to hear from you! SHEF looks for volunteers with backgrounds in finance, education, event planning, law, writing, marketing, data management and more. Please consider joining our SHEF Board of Trustees, or volunteering for a few hours a month to help our students to "stand on their toes and reach for the stars!" Call SHEF at 908-204-1930 ext. 1344 or email sfuls@shsd.org.

**DONATE BY MAIL: PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE AND MAIL TO:**  
SHEF, PO BOX 684, BERNARDSVILLE, NJ 07924.  
**DONATE ONLINE: BY GOING TO WWW.SHEFNJ.ORG.**

VOLUME 12 SEPT 2016

# NEWS

The mission of the Somerset Hills Education Foundation (SHEF) is to promote and provide educational opportunities through innovative programs and projects for the benefit of the students of the Somerset Hills School District.

**A Message from the SHEF Chair...**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Somerset Hills Education Foundation (SHEF) this year and throughout our 20-year history. Since 1966, SHEF has donated over \$1,000,000 to the Somerset Hills School District. Through these donations and your participation, we have worked together to provide exciting educational opportunities for our students. Our commitment sends the message to our children that we believe in the importance of education and their future.

I would like to thank our district staff for their commitment to education as well – your innovative ideas provide students with great learning opportunities. Being able to fund these programs is one of the highlights for SHEF Trustees each year.

During the 2015-2016 school year, SHEF awarded \$22,000 in teacher-initiated grants. SHEF also helped fund the Bernards High School Intergenerational Prom and brought back its signature fundraising event: the Chili Cook-Off.

The Board of Trustees includes a diverse group of dedicated volunteers who

bring a wealth of experience to lead SHEF. The Trustees include parents of students in every school, faculty and administration, as well as a representative from the Board of Education. I am honored to lead this organization and look forward to more volunteers joining us this year.

Please consider helping SHEF to continue to provide wonderful programs and projects by making a donation to our foundation. You can use the enclosed envelope, or donate online by going to our website: shefnj.org.

With your help and continued support, SHEF looks forward to serving our community for another 20 years and beyond!

Sincerely,  
*Jennifer Adams*  
Jennifer Adams  
Chair

**SHEF Hosts Successful Chili Cook Off**

On March 12th, SHEF held the Chili Cook Off at the beautiful and historic United States Equestrian Team Foundation stable in Gladstone. Over 300 guests attended and enjoyed a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, chili tasting/contest and drinks. Live music was provided by the band Catz n Dawgz.

SHEF is grateful to many committee members and volunteers who helped make the event a success. Teachers, district staff and parents were among the many individuals who took the time to work on various aspects of the event.

This year the committee maintained its objective to attract local sponsorships to underwrite the event. Many local businesses came forward as sponsors to help make this a successful year. The donor list included: **Diamond Level:** Lexus of Bridgewater; **Gold Level:** Brandes and Maselli Architects, Brown and Brown Benefit Advisors, Phillips & Fredericks Jewelers; **Silver Level:** Penelope Ayers, PNC Bank; **Bronze Level:** Omega Corp USA.

In addition, twenty area chefs served up chili to partygoers. The winners for this year's contest were: **Best Display:** 1st Place - Penguin Ice Cream, 2nd Place - Delicious Heights, 3rd Place - Team Screwballs; **Popular Vote:** 1st Place - Flavor Geeks™, 2nd Place - Penguin Ice Cream, 3rd Place - Los Dos Amigos; **Best Restaurant:** 1st Place - Pricilla's Pantry, 2nd Place - Penguin Ice Cream, 3rd Place - Soup Shoppe.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the arts.



Pricilla's Pantry serves up their best chili to support SHEF. Photo by Debbie Weisman courtesy The Bernardsville News

**Major Initiatives for 2015-2016 • SHEF Supports the Arts**

Since 2006, SHEF has funded almost \$650,000 for technology and major gifts. This past year SHEF awarded \$23,000 to support the Arts.

School	Amount	Description of Initiative
Bedwell	\$7,000	Peters Valley School of Craft - Host a multi-day program for demonstration and exploration of various crafts
BMS	\$3,000	Artist in Residence - Employ artist to work with students and speak to then about careers in the arts
BHS	\$3,000	Composer in Residence - Employ composer to work with students to create an original composition and discuss the composition process, music theory and careers in music
District	\$10,000	Help fund a new Steinway piano to replace the one in the Performing Arts Center

**MAKE YOUR DONATION AT [www.shefnj.org](http://www.shefnj.org) OR CALL 908.204.1930 ext 1344**

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**Financial Contributions**  
A sincere thank you to all who have generously donated to SHEF in the 2015-2016 school year:

**PLATINUM SOCIETY (\$5,000 +)**  
Lexus of Bridgewater

**SILVER SOCIETY (\$2,500 +)**  
Brandes Maselli Architects  
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**BRONZE SOCIETY (\$1,000 +)**  
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Somerset Hills Board of Education  
Somerset Hills Veterinary Service  
Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery  
Robert & Frances Tosti  
Simon Wilson  
VNA of Somerset Hills

# 2015 - 2016 SHEF Grants

Since 1996 SHEF has funded \$384,252 for staff initiated grants. This past year, SHEF awarded more than \$22,000 in SHEF grants, including the following:

**Fall 2015 Grants**

**BEDWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
- IXL - ELA/Math Skills Across 3rd grade  
- Awesome Authors Kinderstudies  
- Around the World in Dance!

**BERNARDSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
- "Believe to Achieve" Assembly  
- Mine Brook Project for 8th grade Science classes  
- Brain Awareness Week

**BERNARDS HIGH SCHOOL**  
- Using an iPad to Enhance Musical Instruction

**Spring 2016 Grants**

**BEDWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
- Samsu Math Manipulative Kits for 1st grade

**BERNARDSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
- Chess Club - purchase of new chess sets  
- ABC - Art created by and for the BMS community  
- Digital Audio Books for Library Media Center

**BERNARDS HIGH SCHOOL**  
- Main Hallway Wall Mural  
- Engineers Teaching Algebra  
- Down Draft Sanding Table

## SHEF Staff Contributions and Staff Tributes

**Staff Contributions** and **Staff Tribute** donations amounted more than \$8,600 for the fiscal year.

**Staff Contributions** are the generous donations made by SHSD staff members, which were matched dollar for dollar by the Peapack/Gladstone Bank. These donations are used specifically to fund SHEF grants. SHEF accepted a check in the amount of \$2,500 from Peapack Gladstone Bank for the matching gift program for SHSD Staff Contributions.

The **Staff Tribute** campaign, coordinated by volunteers **Neiha Kapoor** and **Catherine Perone**, are donations made by SHSD families in honor of staff members who have made an impact on their children's education.

The **SHEF** Board of Trustees gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Peapack/Gladstone Bank, the Somerset Hills District Staff, and the families who honored staff with a donation to **SHEF**.

### Please donate to SHEF today

Thank you! We can't say it enough! Because of your generosity in this past fiscal year, SHEF funded more than \$45,000 in educational programs and projects. SHEF's mission is to promote innovative programs that benefit our students, and this can only be accomplished with your generous support. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to SHEF by using the enclosed envelope, or by making an online donation via credit card at our website: www.shefnj.org. And please let us know if your company offers a matching gift program. SHEF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization whose Federal Tax ID number is 22-3446481. Thank you!

## "Take A Seat!" Plaques Have Been Installed in the PAC

The first group of "Take A Seat!" engraved brass plaques were installed in the Bernards High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) in October 2015. The next set of "Take A Seat!" plaques will be installed by the September 2016. Plaques can be purchased in 3 different donation ranges: \$300 for Center Orchestra Seats, \$250 for Outer Orchestra Seats, and \$125 for Balcony Seats in the PAC. "Take a Seat" plaques are a great way to honor graduates (past and present), families, SHSD staff members, or to memorialize a loved one. For more information, please visit our website: www.shefnj.org, or contact SHEF Trustee **Sally Hespe** at [sallyhespe@aol.com](mailto:sallyhespe@aol.com).



One of the first "Take A Seat!" plaque installations in the BHS PAC.

## 9th Annual Intergenerational Prom

The Bernards High School Key Club hosted the 9th annual Intergenerational Prom on May 6, 2016. Thanks in part to a generous donation from SHEF, the students and senior citizens enjoyed a fun night full of dancing, delicious food, and prizes. The student volunteers loved spending time and dancing with the seniors. Many students commented that it was the best dance they had ever been to. Thank you in part to the community volunteers and BHS staff who worked behind the scenes to make it a night to remember.



BHS Students and Senior Citizens dance the night away!

## Financial Report

SHEF Financial Report 2015-2016

For the period covering July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Opening Balance	\$82,423
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$115,126</b>
Chili Cook-off Receipts	\$78,415
Staff Tribute Campaign	\$5,825
Annual Giving Campaign	\$2,046
Matching Gifts & Just Give	\$0
Staff Donations Campaign	\$2,616
PG Matching Grant for Staff Contributions	\$396
Interest	\$79
Special Campaigns - Take A Seat	\$4,838
Directed Gift	\$1,000
Refunded SHSD Grants	\$925
Summer Enrichment Academy Fees	\$18,986
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>\$112,658</b>
Technology, Arts, & Large Scale Initiatives	\$23,000
Classroom Grants	\$22,120
Special Projects	\$500
Directed Gift	\$1,000
Chili Cook-Off Expenses	\$21,750
Database & Website Management	\$519
Printing & Postage	\$5,222
Insurance	\$3,648
Memberships, Registrations, Other	\$1,056
Administrative Expenses	\$6,615
Summer Enrichment Academy Expenses	\$27,228
<b>Closing Balance (includes Funds for Ongoing Projects)</b>	<b>\$84,891</b>
<b>June 30, 2016 Peter J. Miller Endowment Fund Acct. Balance</b>	<b>\$26,685</b>

## The 2016-2017 Board of Trustees

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## BMS Follows Through with Themes Learned from Eric LeGrand Assembly

As reported in our last newsletter, Eric LeGrand visited the Bernards Middle School in October 2015. SHEF helped provide the funds for his visit through a grant request from Suzanne Ryan, BMS School Nurse. LeGrand, who suffered a spinal cord injury in 2010 while playing for Rutgers, brought his message of hope and inspiration during an assembly for the entire school called "Believe to Achieve." LeGrand spent an hour relaying his life story and uplifting messages about his friends and family.

In a letter written to SHEF, Ms. Ryan communicated how the students have carried through with what they learned that day:

"In October, we believed in respecting ourselves and others during Red Ribbon Week.

In January, we believed in fitness when over 275 students and staff joined the Amazing Race exercise contest.

In February, we believed in serving others when BMS held a school wide community service project benefitting the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown.

In March, we believed in altruism during Random Acts of Kindness week.

In May, as students were completing a year of studies, we believed we could achieve academic success through hard work."

**Financial Contributions cont.**

**SUPPORTER (\$100 +)**

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