

SOMERSET HILLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dedicated to Supporting Bedwell Elementary School, Bernardsville Middle School, and Bernards High School

Message From The Board of Trustees

The Somerset Hills Education Foundation (SHEF) reached new heights during the past year as donor support increased to a record level of more than \$100,000! Our 4th annual Chili Cook-Off was another resounding success – attendance (534) has doubled and net proceeds (\$78,000) have tripled since the first event. Gracious response to our fundraising campaigns by individual donors, school district staff members and vendors, corporate matching gifts, and the United Way extended our income.

The most satisfying aspect of this fundraising has been the Foundation's ability to fund district-wide programs. By devoting \$27,000 to fund 19 project grants this year, we have now dispersed \$185,000 to 131 mini-projects over the last ten years. And by committing an additional \$59,000 to the Computers on Wheels (COWs) initiative, the Foundation will provide the district with mobile carts containing a full set of wireless laptop computers in each school.

We want to thank our district staff for their commitment to education – the Foundation is pleased to support your exciting classroom innovation

that gives students difference-making experiences. And finally we wish to thank our more than 300 contributors – your continued generous support will allow us to make the district's educational offerings even more special.

Keith Kebel

Keith Kebel, Chairman



From left to right are Valerie Zanardi, Vice Chair-Person SHEF; Keith Kebel, Chairman SHEF; Debra Wilkins, Director of Curriculum, The Somerset Hills School District; Julie Kieffer, Co-President Bernardsville Middle School HSA.

Aren't COWs Farming Animals?

The Somerset Hills Board of Education received a few "big" checks at their May 23rd meeting. The Somerset Hills Education Foundation (SHEF) presented a blown-up version of the check they donated to the BOE to be used to purchase more COWs for the three schools in the district.

Aren't cows farming animals, you ask, and why does the school district need them? "**Computers on Wheels** (COWs) are mobile carts that contain 24 laptops, a printer, and accessories for wireless connectivity to the district's network. The COWs can be wheeled into any classroom and instantly be available for student use. "COWs in the classroom will make our children more competitive in a technology-dominated world," states Mr. Peter Miller, Superintendent of Schools.

Education research has shown that the use of laptops helps improve students' writing and reading skills, enables collaboration, and becomes a means for addressing low achievement and equal access to technology. Additional studies show that technology can dramatically improve learning and student achievement, particularly when it is integrated into curriculum to achieve clear and measurable educational objectives. Ms. Debbie Wilkins, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, states, "The Computers on Wheels will allow every child in a class to have controlled Internet access to research topics as the curriculum need arises."

SHEF presented a check for \$58,660 to continue the funding of their COWs initiative. The funds for this check were raised at SHEF's recent Chili Cook-Off, which was held this past March on the Upton Pyne estate in Bernardsville. Local restaurants, caterers, teachers, and parents cooked up over 20 different versions of chili and competed for the prize of being the best chili in Somerset Hills. A live band, silent auction, and a mechanical bull highlighted the event. SHEF appreciates that many local businesses underwrote aspects of the evening so that all of the money raised went directly back into the school district.

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look inside!

Chili Cook-Off 2007

Financial Contributors

Financial Report

SHEF Grants

Support the Foundation

Annual Giving Envelope is attached

VISIT US AT www.shefnj.org OR CALL 908.204.1930 ext 299

Financial Contributions

A sincere thank you to all who have generously donated to SHEF in the 2006-2007 school year:

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Bob & Karen Ball
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Steve & Suzanne Baum
Glenn & Gia Baumert

2006-2007 SHEF GRANTS

The Somerset Hills Educational Foundation (SHEF) is pleased to support innovative programs in The Somerset Hills School District. Over the past ten years, dedicated trustees have donated time, energy, and enthusiasm to help SHEF accept donations totaling over \$220,000. This current school year, SHEF has dispersed almost \$127,000 of the proceeds from fundraising efforts to the following grants:

Bedwell Elementary School

Insects in Flight: Taking Off with Monarch Butterflies and Luna Moths; Miles Across America II; Enrichment Program Document Camera; Rock Climbing Wall, Walking John James Audubon's Footsteps; Bedwell Builders

Bernardsville Middle School

Seventh-Grade Space Day; Fitness Gram/Activity Gram; Lights, Camera, Action!; Sing a Song of Our Nation's Past; S.O.W.; Career Dimensions

Bernards High School

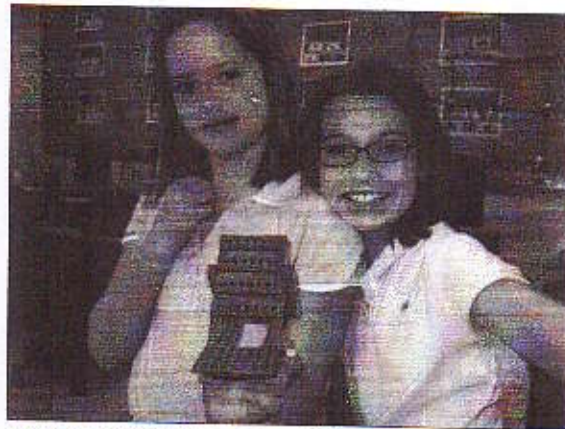
Waste Not Want Not; Powerful Portfolio Follow-Up; Data Collection Techniques for Field Projects in Science; Statistics with Minitab; Class Fashion Shoot; Everything Science for SHSD- 24/7

Somerset Hills School District

Tech Tips



It feels good to be appreciated: The 2nd graders at Bedwell thanked SHEF for funding *Insects in Flight*.



Bedwell Builders get creative with Legos!

Bedwell Builders

Written by Grant Recipient Allen Thurlow

The Bedwell Builders Club involved a group of 4th-grade students coming in during their recess to build complex constructive activities using the various mechanical engineering Lego Design Kits. Students learned about building pulleys, axles, and motors by completing Lego worksheets. This knowledge later helped students build solar powered cars, carousels, mini lawn chairs, draw bridges, conveyor belts, piano keys and many more structures by following specific steps of directions. This club created an educational opportunity to investigate and explore the world of mechanics.

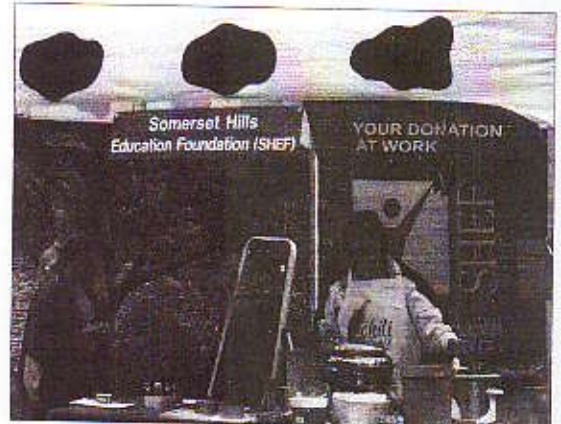
Financial Report

SHEF Financial Report 2006-2007

Opening Balance		\$32,737
Revenue		\$118,812
Chili Cook-Off Receipts	\$93,216	
Annual Campaign	\$10,111	
Directed Gift	\$9,600	
Matching Gifts & United Way	\$4,247	
Vendor Campaign	\$900	
Staff Campaign	\$738	
Disbursements		\$118,268
Computers On Wheels Grant	\$58,660	
Classroom Grants	\$26,663	
Directed Gift Grant	\$9,600	
Chili Cook-Off Expenses	\$15,058	
Postage, Printing, Website	\$4,736	
Insurance	\$1,605	
Administrative Services & Supplies	\$1,261	
Memberships, Permits, Registrations	\$685	
Closing Balance		\$33,281

SHEF Serves Up Chili

As a member of the Bernardsville Chamber of Commerce, SHEF served chili at the 2006 Unity Day. Visit this year's event at Nerville Pond on Saturday, October 6, 2007.



7th-Grade Space Day

Grant Recipients Ms. Malwitz and Ms. Flynn
Written by Grace Peralta, student

In order to enhance the NJ Core Curriculum Standards for Literacy and Science, students participated in 7th-Grade Space Day on May 17, 2007. Students explored space at the County College of Morris planetarium, ate a lunch of space food while listening to a speaker on that topic, and viewed the educational version of Apollo 13. Science classes also took part in the ever-popular "egg drop" competition, which asked students to design a protective chamber to experience some of the challenges NASA scientists do as they try to get astronauts safely back to Earth after a mission.



It tastes good, but we don't know if we would want to eat it everyday...

Data Collection Techniques

for Field Projects in Science
Written by Grant Recipient Jim Ferrara



Hand-held instrumentation interfaced with calculators allows for data collection to be performed in outdoor environments. This system gives these physics students a new opportunity to collect and analyze real-world data easily.



Students from The Somerset Hills School District, shown here at Bernardsville Print Center, caroled throughout downtown Bernardsville to thank the local merchants for giving donations to support SHEF grants and initiatives.

How Can You Support the Foundation?

- Our **Annual Giving** envelope is included.
- A **Tribute or Memorial gift** is a perfect way to honor a teacher, friend, or relative while supporting the mission of the Foundation. A gift acknowledgment will be sent to the party of your choice.
- If you donate **appreciated stock** to SHEF, you are eligible to receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities transferred and you do not have to pay capital gains taxes on the appreciation.
- Many businesses will **match a charitable gift** made by employees and retirees to an education foundation like SHEF. This is a wonderful way to double the value of your donation. If applicable, please enclose your company's matching gift form with your donation to SHEF.
- A donation may be directed to the Foundation via the **annual United Way campaign** at many employers. Simply fill in our name (Somerset Hills Education Foundation) and tax identification number (223-446-481) as a specific agency of choice.
- **Volunteers are always being sought** to help with our fundraising efforts. We especially need more people with skill or interest in: communications, computing technology, event planning, finance, fundraising, law, marketing, or sales. If you wish to volunteer or share some ideas, please contact any of the trustees listed in this newsletter.

Aren't COWs Farming Animals? *continued from page 1*

The surplus of the funds from that event and money raised through SHEF's annual campaign will fund mini-grants for which the teachers in the district apply. To date, SHEF has donated over \$130,000 for the COWs program. By Fall 2007, 102 laptops will be available on carts in Bedwell, BMS, and BHS.

Due to the high demand for the usage of the COWs carts at the Bernardsville Middle School (BMS), the BMS Home & School Association decided to partner with SHEF this year to add a second cart at the middle school. At the same May 23rd meeting, they presented the BOE with a check for \$20,000 from their fundraising efforts. "What a wonderful partnership this is for two organizations that fund raise for the same school community to come together on such an innovative project," remarked Kim Banks, who is both a SHEF trustee and a BMS HSA member.

Generous financial support is needed to bring more COWs to the classrooms. All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to Somerset Hills Education Foundation, P.O. Box 684, Bernardsville, NJ 07924-0684.

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2007 Chili Cook-Off

The 2007 SHEF Chili Cook-Off, chaired by Amy Chatwin and Kris Lewis, was another triumph, raising \$78,000 to fund programs and projects in The Somerset Hills School District. Following on last year's course of approaching local sponsors to underwrite the event, the 2007 Chili Cook-Off committee was successful in finding supporters to cover all of the operating expenses. This allowed all of the money brought in from Ticket Sales, Ad Journal Sales, 50/50 Raffle, Photo Sales, and the Silent Auction to be funneled directly back into funding grants and initiatives at Bedwell Elementary School, Bernardsville Middle School, and Bernards High School. SHEF is very appreciative to all the local businesses, volunteers, and attendees who made this event so successful.

To add to the excitement this year, SHEF hired the band Hoi Polloi and introduced a mechanical bull. It was definitely amusing to watch the participants get the rides of their lives!

Twenty-two area chefs served up chili to the 500 partygoers, the second year SHEF has had a sell-out crowd. Two new awards, Best Display and Best Restaurant, were added to round out the Celebrity Chefs' Choice and Most Popular Vote awards. The winners for this 2007 Chili Cook-Off were:

Celebrity Chefs' Choice: 1st Place - Dental Associates; 2nd Place - Angela Calzetta & Adam Zweig. **Best Display:** 1st Place - FlavorGeeks™, Douglas Roth & Joseph Ray; 2nd Place - Gladstone Tavern. **Best Restaurant:** 1st Place - Pluckemin Inn; 2nd Place - The Soup Shoppe. **Most Popular Vote:** 1st Place - Ed McDowell; 2nd Place - FlavorGeeks™, Douglas Roth & Joseph Ray.

SHEF would especially like to express our gratitude to our hosts, Susan and Bob Landmesser, who generously welcomed SHEF to utilize their Upton Pyne estate. Their stables are a perfect setting to hold the "party of the year."



Chili Cook-Off attendees got the rides of their lives... and the students in the SHSD got COWs!

Save the Date For the 5th Annual chili cook-off

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Please contact SHEF at 908.204.1930 ext 299 if you are interested in volunteering with SHEF's major fundraising event.

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Given by
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 in memory of Caroline Seker

The mission of the Somerset Hills Education Foundation is to promote and provide educational opportunities through innovative programs and projects.