



"Making a Difference"

Novi Educational Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2007

2007 Teacher of the Year



Over the past five years the Novi Educational Foundation, in cooperation with the **Suburban Collection**, has selected a worthy Novi Community School District teacher as the Suburban Collection Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year gets free use of a Suburban Collection vehicle for one year. Previous teachers of the year were Terry Garcia (Novi Meadows) in 2003, Frank Rayburn (Middle School) in 2004, Scott Hill (Parkview) in 2005 and Jim Hanson (Novi High School) in 2006.

The 2007 recipient of the **Suburban Collection Teacher of the Year** announced in May is Lisa LaPorte. Lisa has been teaching 6th Grade at Novi Meadows since 1990. Lisa received her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1989.

Lisa is dedicated to teaching and helping her students grow, as demonstrated by her involvement in extracurricular activities, including an after-school math club she founded and runs.

Lisa is also a member of the school district's math committee, the state's content advisory committee for math and the Novi Meadows Achievement Team. She is a mentor to teacher interns.

Lisa was nominated for this recognition due to her professionalism, compassion for teaching and dedication to her students and her profession. She is an excellent role model for students. Lisa encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning. She makes learning fun.

David Fischer, Chairman and CEO of the Suburban Collection said "the Teacher of the Year program is our way of giving something back to the men and women who have contributed so much to the success of the Novi community. We want to acknowledge their outstanding commitment to the development and accomplishments of our children."



2007 GRANTS

Over the past 6 years the NEF has awarded over \$80,000 in grants to classrooms at all levels. A total of **\$22,877** was distributed this year to fund sixteen projects throughout the Novi School District. Unlike in years past, the grant proposals were solicited not only from teachers but also from other school organizations including parent and student groups. The following grants were given in the spring of 2007:

- **Exploring Detroit's Ceramics Heritage with Pewabic Pottery:** Erin Worden (\$4,325) to introduce the High School students to the art and techniques of Detroit's Pewabic Pottery with a visit and tour of the studio in Detroit and a workshop at the high school run by a professional ceramic artist from Pewabic.
- **Welcome to Novi High School--English Language Learners Project:** Shannon Hadley (\$500) to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to help create a video/DVD and binders for new English Language Learners students.
- **Unity in the Community: A District Wide Initiative:** Nicole Carter (\$1,000) to fund activities that promote diversity through education and exposure to different cultures.
- **Terry Wooten, Poet Presentation:** Christy Casher (\$840) Poet, Terry Wooten to present to seventh grade students as part of their poetry unit. Mr. Wooten's experiences related to writing will be shared with students.
- **Science Fair Entry Fees:** Margaret Gonzalez-Sheeran (\$520) This award will cover the student entry fee for up to 60 Middle School projects to be entered in the Detroit Science Fair.
- **Read Naturally:** Rene Ruiz (\$1,340) to purchase reading materials and accompanying CD's that read the text aloud to the student. The materials are targeted for reading support at Novi Meadows.
- **Children's Talking Dictionaries:** Jennifer Jehnzen, Marianne Malarkey, and Mandy Covault (\$800) to purchase several "Children's Talking Dictionaries and Spell Correctors".

- **Novi Meadows Academic Contests:** Katherine Ellis (\$800) to pay for entry fees for the fifth and sixth grade students to participate in a series of national language arts, math, and interdisciplinary contests.
- **Publishing Student's Own Books:** Katherine Ellis (\$650) to pay for hard cover publication of books written by Novi Meadows students.
- **Science Bags:** Sherry Griesinger, Jennifer Semeyn, and Peggy Hare (\$1,611) to purchase materials to create and provide themed non-fiction/literature bags containing nonfiction texts and corresponding children's literature, activities and games relating to science of social studies topics.
- **Writer's Workshop and Museum:** Sherry Griesinger (\$520) to support a classroom publishing center, allowing students to publish their writing in professional looking published books while enriching and enhancing the writing process.
- **Summer Writing and Reading Program:** Caroline Williams (Novi Woods PTO) (\$1,700) to create "writing/reading packs" to be sent home with all students at the end of the school year.
- **The World and You:** Gerard Kenrick, Kathleen Karbousky, Janet Bickner, and Dawn Long (\$1,481) to purchase student books that develop and reinforce key geographic skills for the modern world, a small classroom library highlighting people and places from diverse areas, and an assembly celebrating music and cultures from around the world.
- **Earth Explorer's Day:** Tricia Styles, Melissa Israel, and James Boileau (\$850) a series of hands-on experiments demonstrating nine different natural and scientific phenomena including soil filtration, water erosion, glaciers, insulation, and nocturnal animals.
- **Read and Be Well:** Mary Cooper (\$1,200) to support a service project in which students will create and publish their own books to be shared with young patients at St. John Providence Park Hospital when it opens.
- **Galileo Leadership Academy:** Monique Beels (\$3,864) to provide funds for one teacher to participate in the Galileo Leadership Academy which develops and supports teachers in their continuing journey to become exemplary professionals and models for educators as leaders and learners within their schools.

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Scholarships

- ◆ **Fuerst Scholarship**
Amber Aschwanden, Geoffrey Atia-Ahrens, Daniel Fryatt, Joshua Graham, Leah Rice, Albert Vellathottam, Cortlan White
- ◆ **Providence Hospital Health Career Scholarship**
Nicole Hubbell, Sifa Lubangula
- ◆ **Amanda Gee Memorial Scholarship**
Julie Thomson
- ◆ **David Langham Memorial Scholarship**
Marguerite Hoving, Kevin Lai, Steven Schleuder, Ellen Smith
- ◆ **Marilyn Renee' Carnegie Memorial Scholarship**
Katherine Harris, Kevin Lai
- ◆ **Nick Mainella Memorial Scholarship**
Stephanie Jaussi, Patrick Russell
- ◆ **Joel Finzel Memorial Scholarship**
Eric Hepler, Emily Kaltz, Nicholas Pagano, Ashley Parsell
- ◆ **Mary Baber Memorial Scholarship**
Mihnea Munteanu
- ◆ **Richard Erwin Memorial Scholarship**
Meghan Hoen, Matthew Lee

The Novi Educational Foundation, founded in 1986, is a nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer community Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide expanded educational opportunities throughout our community. The Foundation trustees review a variety of fund proposals, and then award funds in the area of educational grants for special classroom projects, scholarships, technology equipment, cultural programs, student grants and staff development.

NEF "Fun Run"

The NEF promoted a family fitness activity this fall by sponsoring a "Family Fun Run" on October 6, 2007 starting on the campus of Novi Meadows Elementary. Over 400 runners/walkers either ran 3 miles or walked 1 mile in this first ever event. Major sponsors of the event were **St. John Providence Park Hospital** (Gold Sponsor) and the **Center for Oral & Facial Surgery: Dr. Warren Vallerand, DDS, MD** (Silver Sponsor). Organizers of the event hope to make this an annual family event to promote healthy lifestyles and family fun. The NEF collected over \$6,000 to fund it's grants programs.

New Board Trustees

At their Annual Meeting in October the Novi Educational Foundation added two new members as trustees. The new trustees are **Mr. Karl Wizinsky** and **Mrs. Ellen Halverson**.

NEF Commemorates Mr. Dan Hiller

Last January, the NEF commemorated Dan Hiller, General Manager of the Novi Suburban Collection for his ongoing commitment of support and involvement with the educators and students of the Novi Community School District.

Dan's generosity was experienced by many educators through the Suburban Collections annual "Teacher of the Year" program. Awarding an outstanding teacher of our District with an all expenses paid, one year lease vehicle of their choice. His partnership with our organization was realized at the annual Charity golf outings and during the Novi Memorial Day Parade, by providing a convertible for the "Teacher of the Year" to be recognized by the community for their contributions to the education of our youth. Dan Hiller passed suddenly on September 3rd, 2006. We can truly say that we have lost a true friend and advocate for our Foundation who helped us "Make A Difference" for the Novi Community School District.

We therefore, wish to honor Dan's contributions to our Foundation by placing an 8x8 brick engraved with his name and date of passing at the entrance of Novi H.S. Wildcat Field. The Trustee's of the Novi Educational Foundation are hereby resolute in the passing of this proclamation.

12th Annual Charity Golf Outing

On June 21, 2007 the Foundation held it's 12th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. This year the tournament was held at Salem Hills Golf Club. Thanks to the support of 72 golfers, 29 hole sponsors, and a Gold Sponsorship by Peter and Debbie Dion the Foundation collected nearly \$8,000 to fund its grant programs.

13th Annual Charity Golf Scramble

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 18, 2008



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Make your tax deductible donation to the NEF today!

Name: _____

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State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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Donation Amount: _____ (all donations are tax deductible)

Please make checks payable to "NEF"

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Return to: Novi Community School District, NEF
25345 Taft Road
Novi, Michigan 48374

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS!