



Sparta Education Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

spartaeducationfoundation.org

Message from The Sparta Education Foundation President

2014 was another successful year for the Sparta Education Foundation (SEF). With the support of our many sponsors, contributors, volunteers, teachers, students and district administration, the SEF met both aspects of its mission. The annual Krogh's Turkey Trot and other events and programs generated significant funds that allowed the SEF to approve grants totaling \$82,945. It was during 2014 that we surpassed our goal of \$500,000, and by the end of the year that number grew to over \$537,000.

These grants--which fund a wide variety of equipment, programs and supplies for all of Sparta's public schools--are described in greater detail later in this report. While charitable giving across non-profits is down, the Foundation was able to continue to raise funds to support our schools.

The Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot continued to be one of the largest Turkey Trots in New Jersey, and in spite of the ice and snow that morning, the 2014 5K had 1,349 runners and raised over \$54,000. The Alumni Walkway at Sparta High School, Pathways to Excellence at Theatre Center and a Wine Tasting Event raised additional funds that helped in our success.

In 2014 we welcomed a new Trustee to the SEF board. Donna L. West is a Sparta parent and her impressive social media and technology expertise has given the SEF terrific new energy and ideas that will benefit Sparta and the Sparta School District for years to come. We are very fortunate to have Donna join us and we thank her family for sharing her with us.

We firmly believe that strong communities and strong schools go hand in hand. We are proud of what we have accomplished, and equally proud to be a part of a community that cares about our children's education. We will continue working for Sparta's children and are confident that your continued support will allow us to award grants that enrich the educational experience of our teachers and students.



Dorothy LaBeau, President, Sparta Education Foundation

Mission Statement

- To raise funds that will enable the Sparta Education Foundation to make ongoing charitable contributions that enrich the educational experience of children in the Sparta Public Schools
- To promote pride and positive awareness in the Sparta Public Schools.

Our Vision

- To engage the entire community in philanthropic giving that strengthens our public schools, supports our teachers, and inspires our students.

The Sparta Education Foundation was established in 2006 as an independent, 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. It has its own mission, goals and by-laws that are organized and managed by an independent Board of Trustees. The Foundation is not connected to the Sparta Board of Education or the Town Council. The Board is comprised entirely of volunteers who are committed to encouraging philanthropic support of our five public schools. They are responsible for the organization of fundraising projects and other activities that benefit Sparta schools. During 2014, Sparta Education Foundation's "Efficiency of Funds" remained high for each dollar collected.

We believe that a strong community counts on strong public schools to prepare its children to become productive citizens, strengthen property values, and inspire civic pride. As such, the SEF is committed to raising funds to ensure continued excellence. Through the end of 2014 we have awarded grants totaling over \$500,000.

2014 Board of Trustees: Left to right, Principal Liaison Doug Layman, Vice President Danielle Dykstra, Treasurer Erik Hein, President Dorothy LaBeau, Don Cutshall, Gwen Donovan, Treasurer Nancy Purnell and Donna West.

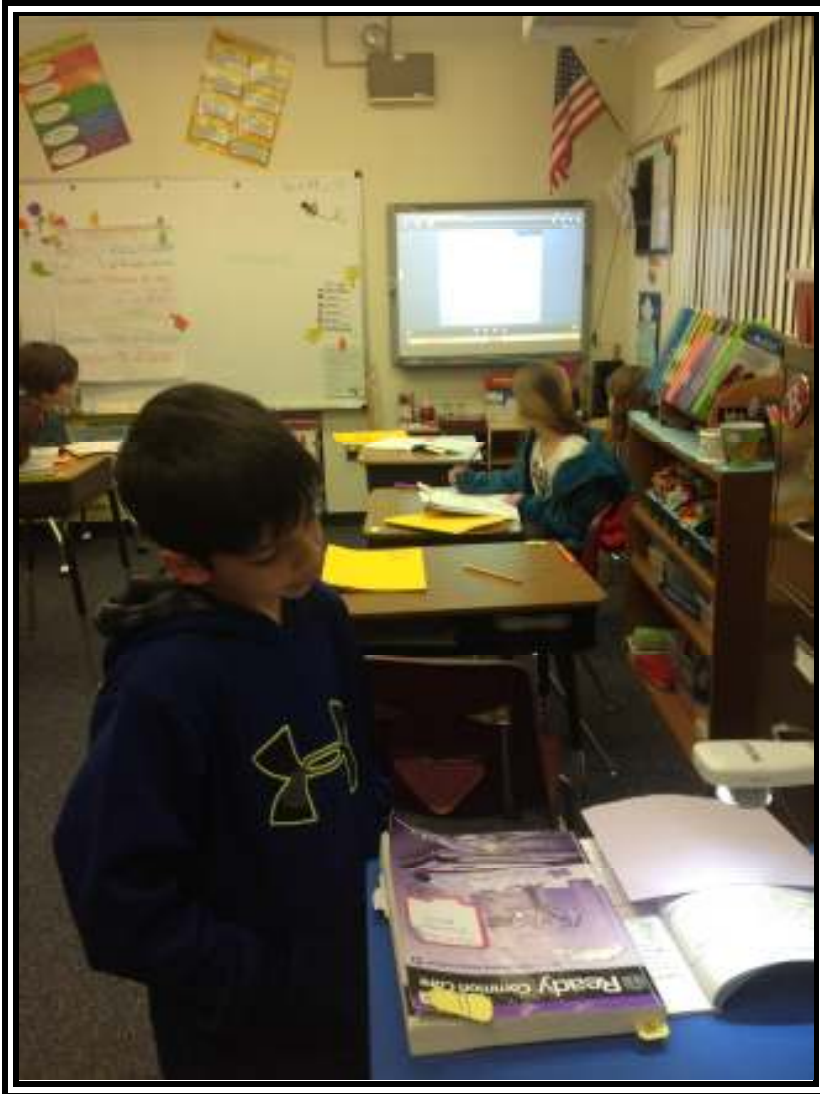


2014 Grants

The SEF awarded seven grants in 2014 for \$71,445, plus the ongoing Robotics grant for \$11,500, totaling \$82,945 for the year.

Document Cameras \$14,125

35 Epson Document Cameras for Helen Morgan, Alpine and Mohawk Avenue Schools. These cameras integrate current technology into the elementary settings.



"The document cameras have been a fantastic tool to emphasize the NJ Educational Technology Standards. Students have had the opportunity to review rough drafts, project examples of work, display passages in novels and texts, model math concepts using manipulatives and share snapshots to compare and contrast works. A large population of the students at HMS now has access to the cameras and new ideas are constantly being explored."--**Stephanie Bernardo, Librarian, Helen Morgan and Mohawk Avenue Schools**

Dillon Caswell, a student at Helen Morgan School, inspects one of the Epson document cameras in the library.

Golf Equipment \$4,374

Golf equipment was purchased to introduce students to the sport of golf as part of the Sparta Middle School's physical education curriculum.



"I am attaching some photos of my adapted PE class having an absolute blast playing mini golf in the gym. They said they loved playing mini golf and they enjoyed being creative and making obstacles for each of the holes. From my perspective it was a fun activity for them to do safely. For an adapted PE class when you combined a safe activity with something that's enjoyable you have a recipe for success. I want to thank the SEF again for all they have done." -- **Tony Papa, PE Teacher, Sparta Middle School**



Electric Instruments \$13,055

A collection of electric instruments for the Sparta Middle School Orchestra Program includes two violins, a five-string viola, cello and bass from Yamaha.



Sparta Middle School students from left to right: Caroline Kepler, violin; Allyssa Stouch, violin; Michael Lee, bass; Henry Sliberstein, cello; and Ben Lipton, five-string viola.

“The students, as well as myself, are over the moon with excitement! Incorporating the instruments is a great deal of technical work, but the students are helping and troubleshooting more than I could've imagined. This is a complete game changer in my program and we're having a blast! We can't thank the SEF enough for their generosity.” -- [Andrea Santora](#), [Orchestra Director, Sparta Middle School](#)

3-D Printers \$12,293

Sparta Middle School received three 3D printers, one digitizer scanner and carts to support the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program.



Christine Collister (seated) and Marilyn Steneken, science teachers from Sparta Middle School, joined 25 teachers from around the state who attended a MakerBot 3-D printer workshop October 22-24 at Picatinny Arsenal. The event was designed to promote education in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

“The Sparta Education Foundation has been very supportive of the Middle School STEM Program. Classroom supplies for a new 8th grade elective have been made available through an SEF Grant. The Sparta Education Foundation made the transition between the submission of the grant, the approval of the grant, and the acquiring of supplies a quick and easy process. These supplies enable me to share my passion for project-based learning and inspire the students by making connections between the classroom and the real world.”-- **Christine Collister, STEM Teacher, Sparta Middle School**

Robotics Program \$11,500

Sparta High School Robotics Program and Robotics Team purchased industrial-grade equipment for use in robotics learning.



Sparta High School Robotics Team, left to right: Tommy Apostolico, Dan Parker, Steven Viola, Joseph Han and Teacher Mark Meola. Not pictured is Jeremy Valshtein.

Robotics Equipment, Year Four

The SEF is proud to award funds for hardware, software and supplies for the Sparta High School Robotics and Pre-Engineering curriculum in order to offer both first-level and advanced-level Robotics Engineering courses for students in 9th through 12th grade. In 2014, we approved funding for Year Four bringing our total funding to \$50,125 for this award-winning program.

“Thank you once again for assisting Mr. Meola and our Robotics program with your very generous support. Mr. Meola has taken this program to a state-recognized program, soon to be competing at the state level and showing other high schools what Sparta offers within this field. The Sparta Education Foundation’s support has been such a large part of that, and, on behalf of the staff and students, we thank you so very much!” – **Dr. Daniel R. Johnson, Sparta High School Principal**

Material Processing and Home Technology Programs \$15,964

This grant funded a new table saw, planer, disk sander, bench-mounted metal bending equipment and midi lathe.



“With the addition of a new table saw and a replacement planer and disk sander, the Materials Processing courses have benefitted in ways that can't be measured. The efficiency and quality of the workmanship has been significantly enhanced due to the generosity of the SEF.”-- **Jeff Trzcinski, Technology, Career and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Sparta High School**



Sound Amplification Systems \$11,634

14 Sound Amplification Systems were provided to Sparta Middle School for Math and Language Arts classrooms.



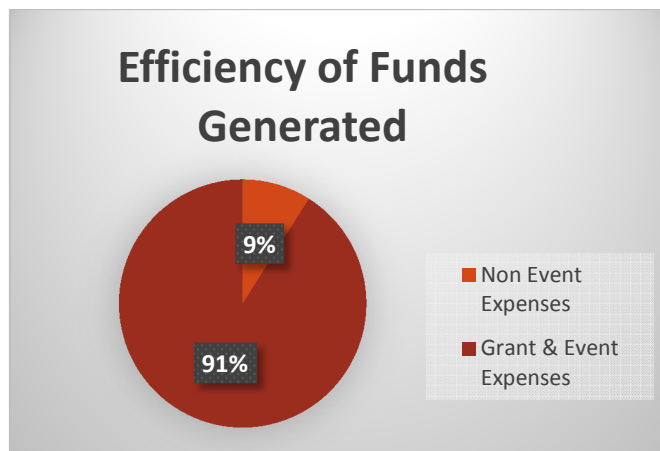
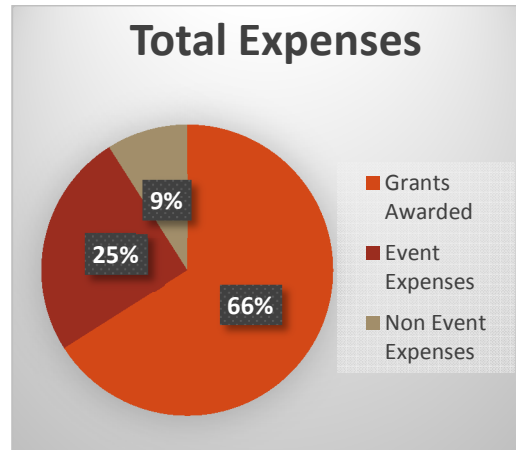
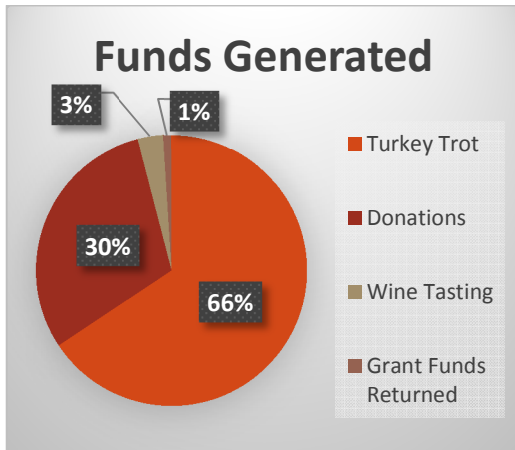
The TeachLogic Quantum II sound systems have numerous benefits including increased student attentiveness, improved student presentations and better classroom management. Once the sound systems are utilized, every student feels as if they are in the front row of the classroom, greatly improving their comprehension and academic performance.

The funding of this grant enabled sound systems to now be installed all Math and Language Arts classrooms for all three teams at all three grade levels at Sparta Middle School.

According to the grant application, "The teachers who are currently utilizing these devices have seen the immediate benefits, for all students. The speaker systems help the students reach their maximum potential in the school setting."

2014 Financial Statement

Funds available start of 2014		\$ 83,633
Funds Generated in 2014		\$114,199
Event Revenues	\$78,260	
Contributions and Other	\$34,689	
Grant Funds Returned	\$ 1,250	
Total Expenses in 2014		\$125,319
Grants Awarded in 2014	\$82,945	
Event Expenses	\$31,502	
Administrative Expenses	\$10,872	
Funds at Year End 2014		\$ 72,513



**Efficiency of Funds Generated: Deposit for Dragon Boat Festival made in 2014 for Event in 2015.

SEF In The News



On June 5, Sparta High School photography students and their Photography Teacher Christine Mase met with Shankar Arumugavelu, the Chief Information Officer of Verizon Wireless, as well as members of the finance organization at the Verizon Wireless office building in Warren, New Jersey. Mrs. Mase gave her photography class an assignment using only their cell phones called “A Day in the Life of Me.” The students developed photo collages using contemporary phone applications that were mounted and displayed throughout the Verizon Wireless building. SEF Vice President Danielle Dykstra, a Verizon employee, arranged the meeting.



A grant to Sparta High School funded a program that converts cooking oil into biodiesel and the school district has been using the biodiesel to run select vehicles including a school bus. The production equipment was designed and built by the students and teachers. Shown are Marcy Decker – Director of Transportation and Dave McMickle – Buildings and Grounds

2014 Fundraisers

Turkey Trot Marks Another Successful Year For Sparta's Schools



A snowy Thanksgiving morning didn't keep 1,349 runners from attending the 8th Annual Turkey Trot "Tradition Before The Tradition" 5K and One Mile Fun Run on November 27. The event raised over \$54,000. View the Turkey Trot video on our website, spartaeducationfoundation.org.



Pathways to Excellence



Engraved paver stones support the Sparta Education Foundation at two locations in town:

- **Pathways to Excellence** in front of Panera at the Theatre Centre
- **Alumni Walkway** outside the cafeteria at Sparta High School

These ongoing opportunities are an enduring way to celebrate students, alumni, teachers and community members.

Pathways to Excellence and Alumni Walkway paver stones can be ordered online at spartaeducationfoundation.org.

Alumni Walkway



Wine Tasting



Supporters of The SEF enjoyed an evening of wine and beer tastings, gourmet food samplings and gift baskets at a fundraiser held in September. This event was made possible through the generous support of The Liquor Factory, Krave Café + Caterers, and Tom and Kylene Anderson who hosted the memorable evening.

List of Sponsors and Contributors

The Sparta Education Foundation would like to thank our contributors and event sponsors. A special mention is given to our Platinum Sponsor, Krogh's Restaurant & Brew Pub, for their continuing support of the Turkey Trot. Also, Lake Mohawk Country Club has been a wonderful partner for the past 8 years and helps make our events possible. It is the generosity of contributors and sponsors that makes our mission possible. We continue to be grateful to our important in-kind contributions, which help us to stretch every dollar raised.

Platinum Sponsor (\$5,000 or greater)

Krogh's Restaurant & Brew Pub

Gold Sponsors (\$2,000 or greater)

Thorlabs, Inc.

Eastern Propane

Silver Sponsors (\$1,000 or greater)

AltitudeClimb-Newton Medical Center

Coldwell Banker – Julie Killen

High Point Solutions

Krave Café + Caterers

Lake Mohawk Country Club

Realty Executives

Staff of Sparta Township Schools

Biondo Investment Advisors

Dykstra Associates, PC

John L. & Grace P. Soldoveri Foundation

Lakeland Bank

Pine Cone Chiropractic

SchoolCraft Studios

Villa Capri II

Bronze Sponsors (\$500 or greater)

Augie's Brooklyn Bagels & Deli

First Hope Bank

Inspire Fitness

The Liquor Factory

Ocean State Job Lot

Royal Coachman Worldwide

Sharpe Plumbing & Heating

Sparta Elks Club #2356

Weichert, Realtors: Dawn Corbo and Dawnice LaFave

Aiskae Sparta Driving School

Highlands State Bank

Laddey, Clark & Ryan, LLP, Attorneys at Law

McGuire Chevrolet

Onore Men's Clothing

St. Moritz Grill & Bar

Shelter Vintage

Wellness Pediatrics

We need your continued support to make a difference! Please explore our website at spartaeducationfoundation.org for more information about what we do and how you can get involved. Thank you again to all our contributors who have made the 2014 grants totaling \$82,945 possible.

In Appreciation

We would like to express our appreciation to the PTOs for their continued contributions to advancing Sparta education and thank them for their support.

Alpine School PTO and Giuseppe Leone - Alpine School Principal

Mohawk Avenue School PTO and Laura Trent- Mohawk Avenue School Principal

Helen Morgan School PTO and Doug Layman- Helen Morgan School Principal

Sparta Middle School PTO and Michael Gregory- Sparta Middle School Principal

Sparta High School PSTO and Dr. Daniel R. Johnson- Sparta High School Principal

Special thanks to Sparta Superintendent of Schools Dennis Tobin, Assistant Superintendent-Director of Curriculum Dr. Melissa Varley, Business Administrator Linda Alvarez, Director of Buildings and Grounds Keith Gourlay, and the generous support of our volunteers, teachers and students. We are also grateful to Sparta Board of Education Liaison Scott Turner and former SEF Board Members Dave Bridge, Ken Johnson and Lorena Sergent who served for part of 2014.

We need your support to continue making a difference! Please explore our website spartaeducationfoundation.org for more information about what we do and how to get involved.

"The Sparta Education Foundation has played a significant role in providing a variety of grants, resources, equipment and programming to enhance our education programs and our overall goal of providing the best education possible for our students."

--Dennis Tobin, Sparta Township Superintendent of Schools



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