



Sparta Education Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

spartaeducationfoundation.org

Message from the Sparta Education Foundation President

2015 was a productive year for the Sparta Education Foundation (SEF). With the support of our many sponsors, contributors, volunteers, teachers, students and district administration, the SEF met the goals of its mission to raise funds and promote pride in our community. The 9th annual Krogh's Turkey Trot and the inaugural Dragon Boat Festival, along with other events and programs, generated significant funds that allowed the SEF to approve grants totaling \$63,652. By the end of 2015 the total amount given back to Sparta Schools reached over \$660,000. The grants for 2015 are detailed in the report and include the continued support of the robotics program at SHS, document cameras, iPads, electronic balances and a coral reef aquarium that will be managed by SHS science students.

The inaugural Dragon Boat Festival was introduced to the community in May 2015. With 42 teams competing for 1st place and a boardwalk full of spectators, it turned out to be a great day for the entire community. The 2015 Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot was our most successful and was rated #1 in the state of New Jersey. Over 2,200 runners for the 5K and additional runners/walkers for the Fun Run, the Plaza was full of holiday spirit and a great way to start Thanksgiving. The Alumni Walkway at Sparta High School, Pathways to Excellence at Theatre Center and a Wine Tasting Event helped to round out the year and raise additional funds.

In 2015 we welcomed a new Trustee to the SEF board. Emily Holdsworth is a Sparta graduate and science teacher at the Middle School. Emily is a great link between the district staff and the SEF. We are very fortunate to have her join us and we thank her for giving back to the district as a teacher and an SEF Trustee. We also started a new program with the High School and added two Student Liaisons to our board. Nicole Assaro and Courtney McKenna attended our meetings and events, relayed information back to the High School, recruited volunteers, and added another dimension to our organization.

We firmly believe that strong communities and strong public 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 students and help everyone in the district strive for excellence.

Dorothy LaBeau
Sparta Education Foundation President



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.

Our Vision

- To promote pride and positive awareness in the Sparta Public Schools.
- To engage the entire community in philanthropic giving that strengthens our public schools, supports our teachers, and inspires our students.

The Sparta Education Foundation is a non-profit, all-volunteer, community based organization founded 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. The Trustees are responsible for organizing fundraising projects and other activities that benefit Sparta schools. During 2015, Sparta Education Foundation's "Efficiency of Funds" remained high for each dollar collected and administrative expenses at 7%.

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 2015 we awarded grants totaling \$63,652 bringing the overall total to \$600,000.

2015 Board of Trustees: First row, Don Cutshall, Trustee; Courtney McKenna, Student Liaison; Erik Hein, Secretary; Nancy Purnell, Treasurer; Second row, Emily Holdsworth, Trustee; Gwen Donovan, Trustee; Nicole Assaro, Student Liaison; Donna West, Trustee; Jennifer Plotts, Volunteer/2016 Trustee; Danielle Dykstra, Vice President; Dorothy La Beau, President. Not pictured: Joe Leone, Principal Liaison and Kylene Anderson, Board of Education Liaison.



2015 Grants

The SEF funded eight grants in 2015 for \$52,652, plus Year Five of the ongoing Robotics grant for \$11,000, totaling \$63,652 for the year.

BrightLink Interactive Projectors \$8,690

Five additional Epson BrightLink Interactive Projectors were purchased to replace the outdated Smartboards at Sparta Middle Schools.

Professional-Grade Cameras \$5,724

Twelve Nikon cameras and camera cases were purchased for the Sparta High School Photography classes.

Document Cameras \$2,725

Five additional Epson document cameras are now in use at Sparta Middle School.

Coral Reef Aquarium \$16,004

The entire school, especially STEM students, was involved in many aspects of the creation of the aquarium and its use as an educational tool. This grant funded the purchase of a 150-gallon tank, filtration components, live rocks, coral, fish, invertebrates, sand, algae and salt water. The five-phase project involved student-led research, construction of the tank and filtration system, tank maintenance, the design and creation of a museum-caliber exhibit, and use of the tank for ongoing educational purposes. It is currently on display in the Sparta High School Media Center.

Robotics Program Equipment, Year Five, \$11,000

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 2015, we approved funding for Year Four bringing our total funding to \$61,125 (\$50,125 as of 2014, plus \$11,000 in 2015=\$61,125) for this award-winning program.

Electronic Balances \$3,684

A collection of 25 electric balances replaced outdated manual balances in the Science Department of Sparta Middle School.

VariQuest Poster Maker 3600 with eColorSystem \$4,500

All classes benefit from a variety of classroom materials generated by the poster which support instructional strategies in every subject. The Poster maker creates professional and educational materials that assist teachers with lesson planning, motivate student learning and improve communication. Additionally, the machine broadens a teacher's ability to weave multi-dimensional components into classroom learning. Based in the Middle School, it is used throughout the district.

iPads \$9,450

The Alpine School STEP class received 25 iPads

Electric Piano \$1,875

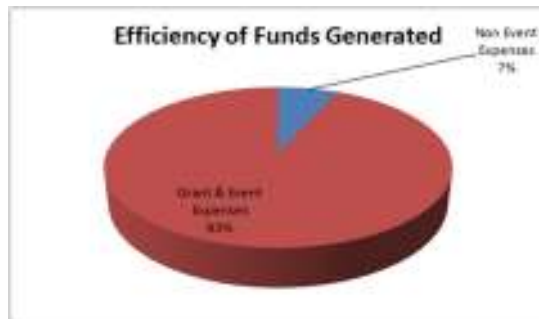
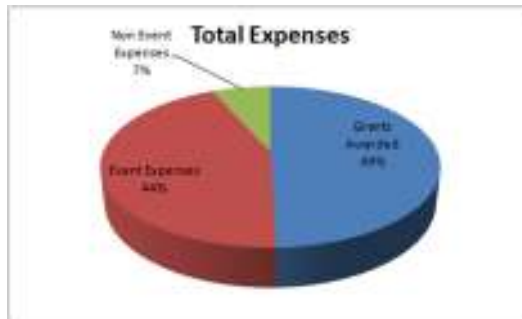
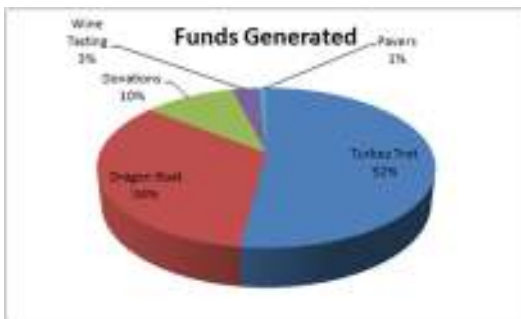
The Mohawk Avenue School received a Yamaha Clavinova for their music classes.

2015 Financial Statement

Funds available start of 2015		\$ 72,513
Funds Generated in 2015		\$179,628
Event Revenues*	\$164,625	
Adjustment to Event Revenue**	(4,082)	
Contributions and Other	\$ 19,085	
Grant Funds Returned	\$ 0	
Total Expenses in 2015		\$128,469
Grants Awarded in 2015	\$63,652	
Event Expenses*	\$58,422	
Adjustment to Event Expense**	(2,162)	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 8,557	
Funds at Year End 2015		\$123,672

* Event Revenues / Expenses includes Turkey Trot, Wine Tasting, Dragon Boat Festival, Pavers and NJ Devils

** Adjustments to Event Revenue /Expense reflects funds received / expenses paid in calendar year other than 2015.



The Isak Anderson Memorial Fund was established in July 2015, with a year-end closing balance of \$43,593.94. These funds will be disbursed by a committee of the SEF chaired by the Anderson Family.

2015 Fundraisers



First Annual Dragon Boat Festival May 17, 2015

Our first-ever Dragon Boat Festival was a huge success on the beautiful shores of Lake Mohawk. Over 40 teams participated in this fun-filled event which *The New Jersey Herald* called a highlight of 2015 in their Year in Review feature. Taking home the Gold award were The Puff Dragons, the Silver Award went to Redshed Crossfit, and Bronze Award winners were Oar We There Yet. Thirsty Dragons were winners of the Spirit Award.

We'd like to thank the participating teams, spectators, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, the Sparta Police Department, Lake Mohawk Life Guard and Marine Squad and the Lake Mohawk Country Club for partnering with us on this exciting event.

Turkey Trot



Record-breaking crowds and over 2,200 finishers celebrated our 9th annual "Tradition Before The Tradition" bright and early on Thanksgiving morning. Garden State Runs (gsruns.org) named our 5K race and 1K Fun Run the #1 Turkey Trot in the state based on the gorgeous lakeside setting, Thanksgiving Eve Packet Pickup and Pasta Dinner, and post-race refreshments.

Pathways to Excellence & Alumni Walkway Pavers

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

Pathways to Excellence in front of Panera at the Theatre Centre

Alumni Walkway outside the Sparta High School cafeteria

These ongoing opportunities are an enduring way to celebrate students, alumni, teachers and community members. Order Pathways to Excellence and Alumni Walkway paver stones at: spartaeducationfoundation.org.

In 2015, \$582 was raised by Pathways to Excellence and Alumni Walkway sales.



Wine, Beer and Food Tasting

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

Special thanks go to Tom and Kylene Anderson who once again hosted this memorable evening.

Sponsors and Contributors to the 2015 Turkey Trot

The Sparta Education Foundation would like to thank our Turkey Trot 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.

Platinum Sponsor (\$5,000 or greater)

Krogh's Restaurant & Brew Pub

Gold Sponsor (\$2,000 or greater)

Thorlabs, Inc.

Bib Sponsor (\$2,000 or greater)

Eastern Propane

Runner Bag Sponsor (\$1,500 or greater)

Realty Executives

Silver Sponsors (\$1,000 or greater)

AltitudeClimb-Newton Medical Center	Biondo Investment Advisors
Coldwell Banker – Julie Killen	Culligan
Dykstra Associates, PC	High Point Solutions
Krave Café + Caterers	Lakeland Bank
Laddey, Clark & Ryan, LLP, Attorneys at Law	
Lake Mohawk Country Club	Pine Cone Chiropractic
SchoolCraft Studios	Spavia Day Spa
Staff of Sparta Township Schools	Villa Capri II

Bronze Sponsors (\$500 or greater)

Augie's Brooklyn Bagels & Deli	Sparta Driving School
Be A Foster or Adoptive Parent 877-NJFOSTER	
First Hope Bank	Highlands State Bank
Inspire Fitness	The Liquor Factory
McGuire Chevrolet	Onore Men's Clothing
Royal Coachman Worldwide	St. Moritz Grill & Bar
Sharpe Plumbing & Heating	Shelter Vintage
Sparta Athletic Club	Sparta Elks Club #2356
Sparta Runners Club	Wellness Pediatrics
Weichert, Realtors: Dawn Corbo and Dawnice LaFave	

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 2015 grants possible.

Sponsors and Contributors to the 2015 Dragon Boat Festival

The Sparta Education Foundation would like to thank our Dragon Boat Festival contributors and event sponsors. We would like to personally thank the Lake Mohawk Board and Staff for hosting the Dragon Boat Festival. Special thanks to Rich Carlson and the Lake Mohawk Lifeguards, Marine Patrol and staff for making all the Dragon Boat teams safe on the water.

Friend of the Festival (\$2,500 or greater)

Brown & Brown, Benefit Advisors

Fogarty and Hara Counsellors at Law

Lake Mohawk Country Club

Lake Mohawk Pool

In-Kind Sponsors (\$1,000 or greater)

George Morville of Gallagher Bollinger

Newton Medical Center/Atlantic Health System

Contributors

Bridge Marina

Homewood Suites by Hilton in Rockaway

Villa Capri II Pizzeria and Restaurant

Ocean State Job Lot

J. Thomas Jewelers

The Sign Connection

Sparta Township and the Sparta Police Department have also been a huge part of making our events safe and we thank them for their continued support. 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.

In Appreciation

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

Giuseppe Leone - Alpine School Principal, SEF Principal Liaison

Laura Trent- Mohawk Avenue School Principal

Doug Layman- Helen Morgan School Principal

Michael Gregory- Sparta Middle School Principal

Janet Ferraro- Sparta High School Principal

Special thanks to Sparta Superintendent of Schools Dennis Tobin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Dr. Daniel Johnson, Business Administrator Barbara Decker, Director of Buildings and Grounds Chris Swank, and the generous support of our volunteers, teachers and students. We are also grateful to Sparta Board of Education Liaison Kylene Anderson and former SEF Principal Liaison Doug Layman who served for part of 2015 and continues to co-chair the Dragon Boat Festival.

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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