



Sparta Education Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

spartaeducationfoundation.org

Message from The Sparta Education Foundation President

As the Sparta Education Foundation (SEF) enters its second decade, we continue to find new ways to exemplify our vision. All the fundraising activities resulted in the SEF funding grants worth over \$175,000 in 2016. These amazing grants are detailed in this report. In 2016, the SEF accomplished the milestone of hosting the Tenth Annual Krogh's Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. The "Tradition Before the Tradition" carries on the wonderful spirit of the community. This event reminds us that we are all thankful to call Sparta home.

The response to the Second Annual Sparta Dragon Boat Festival in May was once again extremely positive; this has become a signature event in town. Although the weather was more like winter than late spring, ten more boats competed in 2016. Who knew Sparta was so creative and competitive? The thousands of Spartans who participated did. From the colorful outfits to the cheering spectators and the beautiful Lake Mohawk boardwalk setting, who could ask for a more festive atmosphere?

We saw great success in our other fundraising events too. The Fourth Annual Wine Tasting and Food Pairing event in September saw record attendance. The Alumni Paver and Pathways to Excellence Paver programs continued to thrive. SEF volunteers directed car parking at the Rocks, Ribs & Ridges Concert in June, which resulted in a donation to the Foundation. We continued our fan support of the New Jersey Devils in March, and even got the opportunity to have a group photo taken on the ice at the Prudential Center. How cool is that?

The SEF kicked off some new technology fundraising activities this year as well. Partnering with Play-4-Your-Cause we launched the FireFan app, which allows sports fans to donate to the Foundation while watching their favorite sporting events. The SEF is also a registered non-profit listed on AmazonSmile, which means we earn money each time you select the Foundation when you shop.

In 2016, we welcomed Donna Spinetta to the Board of Trustees. She is truly an asset to the Board and to the community. We are very fortunate to have her expertise in marketing and her enthusiasm for our cause. The Sparta High School Student Liaison Program continued with two new students, Bayleigh Takacs and Will McKenna. We are grateful to Joe Leone, Principal of Alpine School, who filled the role of Principal Liaison for the second year. We also started a partnership with our new Sparta School District Superintendent, Dr. Michael Rossi, and we appreciate his support.

It is with deep appreciation that we thank our event sponsors, our event chairs, our countless volunteers, and our growing board of Trustees for their continued participation in our mission. We are proud of what we have accomplished this year. Together we are committed to moving education forward. Strong Schools Equal A Strong Community. The future of Sparta's School District is bright.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dykstra
President, Sparta Education Foundation

Our 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 in and positive awareness of 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 corporation, 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 2016, 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 2016 we have awarded grants totaling over \$775,000.

2016 Board of Trustees



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2016 GRANTS

In 2016, the SEF funded ten grants totaling \$175,137.00 for the year.

12 Sphero Robotics Balls: \$1,200, Helen Morgan School

These 12 app-controlled robotic balls introduce students to the world of computer programming while increasing their STEM knowledge.

9 Document Cameras: \$4,023, Helen Morgan School

Nine additional Epson DC-12 document cameras continue to upgrade classroom technology.

180 Chromebook Laptop Computers: \$51,339, Sparta High School

180 Chromebook computers are used in six classrooms for the Sparta High School English Department.

300-Gallon Shark and Predator Aquarium: \$15,067, Sparta High School

This tank is located in the existing coral reef learning center exhibit in the Media Center.

10 Audio Amplification Systems: \$6,690, Sparta High School

Ten audio amplification systems are used in Special Services freshman classrooms.

10 HP Chromebooks: \$2,586, Sparta High School

Ten Chromebooks for Special Education English Department 11th and 12th graders help students with moderate disabilities reach their individual goals, improve fine motor skills and benefit from the use of specialized apps.

Kinesthetic Classroom Furniture: \$11,305, Sparta High School

A collection of kinesthetic classroom furniture for resource level classrooms includes eight activity desks, four FitPro balls with stability legs, four stand-up desks and six pedal desks.

624 Chromebooks, 24 Charging Carts: \$67,277 (Year 1), Sparta High School

Year One of a Three-Year grant for 624 Chromebooks and 24 charging carts for science, math and history classrooms. Part of the 1:World Initiative of a computer for each student, the grant request for the first year is \$67,276.88 and the total amount of the three-year grant is \$201,830.

Wonder Workshop Dash & Robot Classroom Pack: \$8,651, Mohawk Avenue School

This technology includes 10iPad Air 2s and introduces robotics and coding to third grade students, providing them with a stepping stone to the Sphero Robotic Balls already used by Helen Morgan School's fourth and fifth graders.

Google Expeditions Kits: \$6,999, Sparta Middle School

These kits are designed to enhance geographic literacy among students by taking them on virtual field trips using a View Master-style device that interacts with a cell phone to take tours of places ranging from streets in Rome to deep underwater excursions.

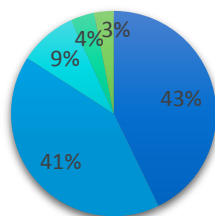
2016 Financial Statement

Funds available start of 2016		\$124,835
Funds Generated in 2016		\$231,482
Event Revenues*	\$202,092	
Adjustment to Event Revenue**	9,106	
Contributions and Other	\$ 20,284	
Grant Funds Returned	\$ 0	
Total Expenses in 2016		\$257,810
Grants Awarded in 2016	\$175,137	
Event Expenses*	\$ 73,869	
Adjustment to Event Expense**	(1,441)	
Administrative Expenses	\$ 10,245	
Funds at Year End 2016		\$ 98,507

* Event Revenues/Expenses include Krogh's Turkey Trot, Wine Tasting, Sparta Dragon Boat Festival, Pavers, NJ Devils and Rocks, Ribs & Ridges.

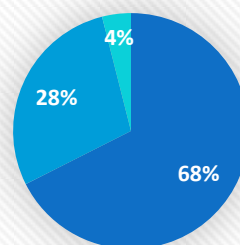
** Adjustments to Event Revenue/Expense reflect funds received / expenses paid in calendar year other than 2016.

Funds Generated



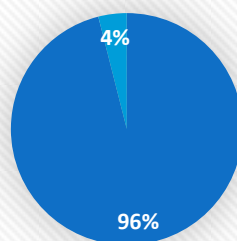
■ Turkey Trot ■ Dragon Boat ■ Donations
■ Wine Tasting ■ Other

Expenses



■ Grants ■ Events ■ Non-Events

Efficiency of Funds



■ Grant & Event Expenses ■ Non-Event Expenses

The Isak Anderson Memorial Fund was established in July 2015. The 2016 year end closing balance was \$54,823.88. These funds will be disbursed by a committee of the SEF chaired by the Anderson Family.

2016 Fundraisers



Crowds gather on the Lake Mohawk boardwalk.



2016 winning team: Sparta Station Athletics A.



Dragon Boat teams prepare to start their race.

2nd Annual Sparta Dragon Boat Festival May 15, 2016

The second annual Sparta Dragon Boat Festival hosted by the SEF took place on the beautiful shores of Lake Mohawk with 52 high-energy teams. First place winners were Sparta Station Athletics A; second place went to RedShed CrossFit and third place winners were RDA Fitness. The winning Club Team was NJ Dragon Boat. Each paddler brought high levels of enthusiasm to this exciting fundraiser.

We are grateful to our Major Sponsor Newton Medical Center/Atlantic Health System for their overwhelming support as well as our Friends of the Festival sponsors Fogarty & Hara Counsellors at Law, Northern Pride Web Design and Lake Mohawk Country Club.

Many thanks to our teams, spectators, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, the Sparta Police Department, Lake Mohawk Life Guards and Marine Patrol and the Lake Mohawk Country Club for making the Sparta Dragon Boat Festival such a successful event.



Getting into the Thanksgiving spirit.



Racers cross the 5K starting line.



The "Tradition Before the Tradition."



Energetic 1K Fun Runners start out strong.

10th Annual Krogh's Turkey Trot

An enthusiastic crowd and over 1,600 runners celebrated our 10th annual "Tradition Before The Tradition" bright and early on Thanksgiving morning. This event enjoyed perfect running weather and a free Pasta Party for all registered runners catered by Villa Capri II on Wednesday night at Lake Mohawk Country Club.

Scores of local volunteers kept things running smoothly, and Sparta High School student Blaze Dalio sang the national anthem before the race. Sparta School District Superintendent Dennis Tobin was the official race starter; he retired from his position in December, 2016. Additionally, the SEF hosted a food drive, collecting non-perishable donations to benefit the food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church of Sparta.

The 2016 Krogh's Turkey Trot was co-chaired by Kylen Anderson, a member of the Sparta Board of Education and Board of Education Liaison to the Sparta Education Foundation, and Dorothy LaBeau, trustee and past president of the Sparta Education Foundation. Kylen and Dorothy have chaired the Krogh's Turkey Trot from the start, and we thank them for their dedication.

4th Annual Wine, Beer and Food Tasting

A record number of SEF supporters enjoyed an evening of wine and beer tasting and gourmet food pairings as well as raffles for gift baskets at a fundraiser held on September 18. This event was made possible through the generous support of The Liquor Factory and Krave Café + Caterers. Part of the evening's festivities included passing the coveted Sparta Dragon Boat Festival award paddle to the 2016 winning team, Sparta Station Athletics A. Co-chairs of the Sparta Dragon Boat Festival Nancy Purnell and Doug Layman passed the honor onto team representative Jon Trotta.

Special thanks go to Tom and Kylen Anderson who once again hosted this memorable evening at their lovely Lake Mohawk home.



Kylen Anderson, center, hosted the event.



Showing off some of the raffle prizes.



Host Tom Anderson and Alexandra Miller.



Nancy Purnell, Jon Trotta and Doug Layman.

2nd Annual Night at the New Jersey Devils



Hitting the ice at the Prudential Center.



Happy faces with the NJ Devils mascot.

The Second Annual Night at the New Jersey Devils fundraiser on March 25 was well-attended by Sparta hockey fans who enjoyed a great game, fun giveaways and a photo on the ice in Newark's Prudential Center.

Brick Paver Sales

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

Pathways to Excellence in front of Panera at the Theatre Centre, and the

Alumni Walkway outside the Sparta High School cafeteria.

These ongoing opportunities are an enduring way to celebrate students, alumni, teachers and community members. For more information about ordering paver stones, visit spartaeducationfoundation.org.



Pathways to Excellence at Theatre Centre.



Alumni Walkway at Sparta H.S.

Sponsors and Contributors to the 2016 Sparta Dragon Boat Festival

The Sparta Education Foundation would like to thank our 2016 Sparta Dragon Boat Festival contributors and event sponsors. We would like to personally thank the Lake Mohawk Board and Staff for hosting the Sparta Dragon Boat Festival. Special thanks to Rich Carlson and the Lake Mohawk Lifeguards, Marine Patrol and staff for making all the Sparta Dragon Boat teams safe on the water, and we want to thank Dynamic Boat Racing for allowing us to auction the steersman for the final heats with all money going to the SEF.

Major Sponsor (\$5,000 or greater)

Newton Medical Center/Atlantic Health System

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

Fogarty and Hara Counsellors at Law

Lake Mohawk Country Club

Northern Pride Web Design

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

George Morville at Arthur J. Gallagher & Company

Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors

Nisivoccia, LLP, Certified Public Accountants and Advisors

Villa Capri II

Lake Mohawk Pool

Contributor

The Sign Connection

Shop-Rite/RoNecto

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.

Sponsors and Contributors to the 2016 Krogh's Turkey Trot

The Sparta Education Foundation would like to thank our 2016 Krogh's 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 Krogh's 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

Leaderboard Sponsor (\$1,500 or greater)

Spavia

Silver Sponsors (\$1,000 or greater)

Biondo Investment Advisors	Newton Medical Center-Atlantic Health System
Coldwell Banker: Julia "Julie" Killen	Culligan-Andy Ball
Dykstra Associates, PC	Krave Café + Caterers
RCCA-Regional Cancer Care Associates	Pine Cone Chiropractic
SchoolCraft Studios	Villa Capri II
Morris Retirement Advisors	Dr. Ouimette and Dr. Pannicucci of Integrity Dental
Lake Mohawk Country Club	

Bronze Sponsors (\$500 or greater)

Augie's Brooklyn Bagels & Deli	Sparta Driving School
Be A Foster or Adoptive Parent 877-NJFOSTER	
First Hope Bank	Lakeland Bank
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McGuire Chevrolet	Onore Men's Clothing
Royal Coachman Worldwide	St. Moritz Grill & Bar
Sharpe Plumbing & Heating	Shelter Vintage
Sparta Elks Club #2356	Askin & Hooker, LLC, Attorneys at Law
Sparta Runners Club	Wellness Pediatrics
Blessings Auto Service	Laddey, Clark & Ryan, LLP, Attorneys at Law
Weichert, Realtors: Dawn Corbo and Dawnice LaFave	
Train Creative	

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 2016 grants possible.

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 “Joe” 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 outgoing Sparta Superintendent of Schools Dennis Tobin, current Sparta Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Rossi, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Dr. Daniel Johnson, Business Administrator Barbara Decker, Director of Buildings and Grounds Chris Tappen, and the generous support of our volunteers, teachers and students. We are also grateful to Sparta Board of Education Liaison Kylen Anderson and former SEF Principal Liaison and Helen Morgan School Principal Doug Layman who 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 (SEF) represents the essence of what a learning community should stand for. Providing resources, materials and programs that enrich the experiences for students from pre K to Grade 12, the SEF has enabled our school system to reach new academic and creative heights. Each member of the district has benefited from the tireless efforts of this progressive and generous organization.”

--Dr. Michael Rossi, Sparta Township Superintendent of Schools



The Sparta Education Foundation
270 Sparta Avenue
Suite 104, PMB 126
Sparta, NJ 07871
1-800-905-7331

spartaeducationfoundation.org
info@SpartaEducationFoundation.org
facebook.com/SpartaEducationFoundation
Twitter: @SpartaEducation
Instagram: instagram.com/spartaeducationfoundation/