



# SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*Annual Report 2017*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

2017 was another tremendous year for the Sparta Education Foundation and we couldn't have done it without the community's continued support. As our tagline states: Strong Schools. Strong Community. Your support made it possible for us to achieve our goals in funding grants that strengthen our schools, support our teachers and inspire our students. This connection was validated when we won the Outstanding Community Event of The Year at the recent Toast To The Stars Awards dinner hosted by the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. The award recognized the conception, planning and implementation of a successful event for the community. We received this award for the 2017 successes of Krogh's Turkey Trot and the Sparta Dragon Boat Festival.

These events generated significant funds allowing us to award seven grants totaling \$119,336 for the year. Our grants support everything from STEM to the Arts, and from Phys Ed to Special Ed. We are proud of this accomplishment and the educational opportunities for the students that are the result. Our events and grants are described in detail later in this report.

One of the ways we promoted awareness about the Foundation was by participating in Sparta Day and Back-To-School-Nights at each school. In 2017, the SEF and its volunteers provided parking for the Rock, Ribs, & Ridges concert at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. Our new trustee Andy Garger won the rib-eating contest at Sussex County Auto Mall, part of a promotional event for the concert.

We welcomed two new trustees to the board in 2017, Amy Cilli and Andy Garger. Their enthusiasm and passion for the cause are a great benefit to the Foundation and the school district. Laura Trent, Principal at Mohawk Avenue School, continued the tradition of a strong relationship between the schools and the Foundation in her role of Principal Liaison. Bayleigh Takacs added a second year to her role as Student Liaison and Erin Scott joined her to fill out the team. They kept the SEF informed about high school activities and news. We thank them for their contributions throughout 2017, and for championing the call for student volunteers for our events. We wish them success as they head off to college in the fall.

We are so grateful to the faithful sponsors, the legions of volunteers and the enthusiastic participants of our events. I'd also like to extend our thanks to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mike Rossi, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Dr. Dan Johnson, Board of Education member Kylen Anderson and the entire administrative office at the Board of Education; we are proud to have a strong working relationship with the Board of Education. Together, we show the spirit of our community and the pride of our school district. As the saying goes, "It takes a little more to be a Spartan."

Thank you,  
Danielle Dykstra



# THE SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## OUR MISSION

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) New Jersey 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 2017, 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 2017 we have awarded grants totaling over \$895,000.

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Danielle Dykstra  
*President*



Donna West  
*Vice-President*



Nancy Purnell  
*Treasurer*



Gwen Donovan  
*Secretary*



Amy Cilli  
*Trustee*



Vaishali Dhand  
*Trustee*



Andy Garger  
*Trustee*



Dorothy LaBeau  
*Former SEF President*



Jennifer Plotts  
*Trustee*



Donna Spinetta  
*Trustee*

## SEF BY THE NUMBERS

11

NUMBER OF YEARS  
SEF has been around

7

CURRENT NUMBER  
of fundraising activities

96%

EFFICIENCY  
RATE

\$895k

TOTAL NUMBER  
funded for grants since 2006

7

TOTAL NUMBER  
of grants in 2017

10

NUMBER OF  
current Trustees

4

NUMBER OF  
of SEF Committees

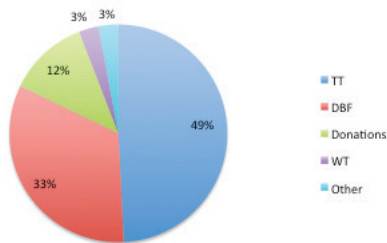
83

NUMBER OF SPONSORS  
we've had over the years

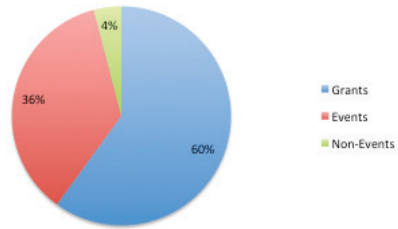


## SEF BY THE NUMBERS

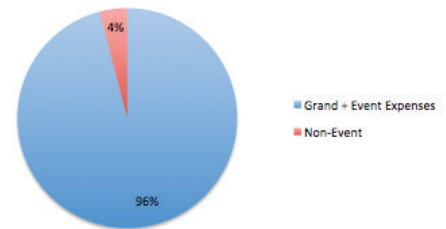
### FUNDS GENERATED



### EXPENSES



### EFFICIENCY OF FUNDS



The Sparta Education Foundation Board of Trustees reviews grant applications three times a year. Specific funding decisions are based on advancing the organization's goals to support curriculum-based projects equitably across all schools within the district.

The SEF has representatives from each school who work with the faculty in their schools to identify needs. Although project ideas can come from any source, funding is awarded only after review of a proposal that meets the funding criteria set by the Sparta Education Foundation Board of Trustees.

		TOTAL
<b>TOTAL FUNDS (START OF 2017)</b>		<b>\$98,507</b>
<b>FUNDS GENERATED IN 2017</b>		<b>\$209,132</b>
EVENT REVENUES*	\$195,603	
ADJUSTMENT TO EVENT REVENUE**	(8,107)	
CONTRIBUTIONS & OTHER	\$21,082	
GRANT FUNDS RETURNED	\$553	
<b>EXPENSES IN 2017</b>		<b>\$198,852</b>
GRANTS AWARDED IN 2017	\$119,336	
EVENT EXPENSES*	\$68,767	
ADJUSTMENT TO EVENT EXPENSE**	\$2,692	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$8,057	
<b>FUNDS AT YEAR END 2017</b>		<b>\$108,787</b>

# 2017 GRANTS

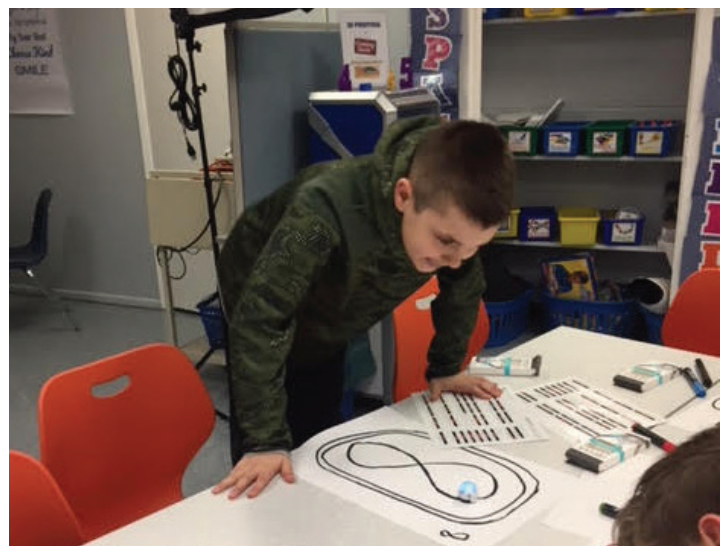
*In 2017, the SEF funded seven grants totaling over \$119,000!*

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## *Cubelets and Ozobot Kits + 14 iPads: \$11,571*

### HELEN MORGAN SCHOOL

The pack of 56 Cubelets includes Sense, Think and Act Cubelets that incorporate programming challenges. An Ozobot classroom kit supports STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) using skill exercises with the Bit smart robot. These technology items will be used by all Helen Morgan School students. The iPad Air 2s will supplement the use of these grant items.



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## *Portable Art Displays: \$6,793*

### SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

The Art and Photography Departments submitted the grant in order to have adequate equipment for displaying the creative works of over 600 Sparta High School students. The display equipment includes six folding display panels, each measuring 12-feet wide by 78-inches high. Additionally, the grant funded six folding tabletop display partitions which are each five-feet wide and about three-and-a-half feet tall.

# 2017 GRANTS

## *8 Sound Systems: \$11,587*

### SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

The sound systems are portable, Bluetooth-compatible, and will be used in eight sophomore classrooms.

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## *Year Two Chromebooks: \$67,277*

### SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

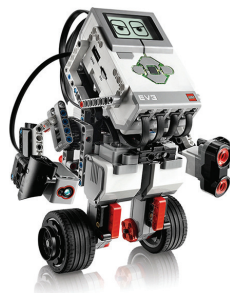
This grant represents a continuation of the three-year commitment to bring Chromebooks to high school students. Part of the 1:1 World Initiative connecting each student to a computer, the total amount of the three-year grant is \$201,803.

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## *10 Lego Mindstorms: \$4,464*

### SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The ten Lego Mindstorms sets will expose Sparta Middle School STEP students to engineering, coding and robotics, allowing the students to facilitate online and in-person lessons to the entire school population. This grant will also utilize the equipment to start a schoolwide Robotics Club in the 2018-19 school year. The Lego Mindstorm grant also provides students with the first curriculum-based coding/robotics program in the middle school, providing a consistent training platform for the students from elementary through high school.





## 2017 GRANTS

### *Coral Reef Learning Center ActivTable: \$13,268*

#### SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

A grant to expand the Coral Reef Active Learning Center in the Media Center at Sparta High School includes a Promethean ActivTable. The ActivTable's intuitive touch interface allows up to six students to simultaneously access a wealth of ready-to-use educational activities, tools and resources. Sparta High School Biology Teacher Ken Scognamiglio established the Coral Reef Active Learning Center through grants from the Sparta Education Foundation over the past two years.



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### *5 Rowing Machines: \$4,375*

#### SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

The rowing machines promote cardiovascular fitness, are portable, and can easily be moved outside when weather permits. These machines from Concept 2 meet the curriculum and are a good fit for all students, including those in the adaptive program.



## 2017 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Dragon Boat Festival • May 19, 2017

A sunny springtime day presented a perfect backdrop for the Sparta Education Foundation's Third Annual Dragon Boat Festival on Lake Mohawk. With 48 teams competing in separate heats throughout the day, some in brightly-colored and themed costumes, this high-energy event was just as much fun for spectators as it was for the paddlers. Winning teams included the first place Gold Medal to RedShed CrossFit. Silver Medal awards were given to RDA Fitness and Bronze Medals went to SSA-American Muscle.

#### SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

##### MAJOR SPONSOR

*\$5,000 or greater*

Atlantic Health System/  
Newton Medical Center

##### FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL

*\$2,500 or greater*

*Fogarty & Hara  
Counsellors at Law  
Lake Mohawk Country Club  
Northern Pride Web Design*

##### IN-KIND SPONSOR

*\$1,000 or greater*

*George Morville of Arthur J.  
Gallagher & Co.  
Nisivoccia LLP Certified  
Public Accountants and Advisors  
Brown & Brown  
Benefit Advisors  
Lake Mohawk Pool  
Wellness Pediatrics  
Villa Capri II*





## 2017 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting • September 24, 2017

The Sparta Education Foundation successfully hosted their Fifth Annual Wine and Craft Beer Tasting & Food Pairing fundraiser which featured an assortment of gourmet food specially selected to pair with an assortment of wines and craft beers.

“We are thrilled to mark the fifth year of this popular event,” said Danielle Dykstra, President of the SEF. “There was a great turnout and our guests enjoyed a wide variety of wines and beers to taste and delicious gourmet treats to pair with them.



We'd like to thank The Liquor Factory in Sparta for providing wine and beer for the tasting, and KRAVE Café + Caterers for their delicious food pairings. We also appreciate the Silent Auction items donated by the Russo family, the NJ Devils for donating tickets, J. Thomas Jewelers for their jewelry and gift certificate donations, and Steve Marencik and Mike Difrisco for donating additional raffle items.

Many thanks also to Kylen and Tom Anderson for generously hosting this event in their beautiful home, and to all the guests who came out to support our public schools."

## SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

KRAVE Cafe

The Liquor Factory

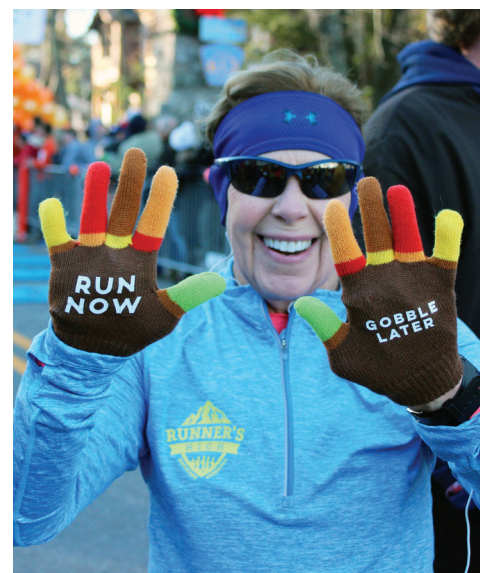


## 2017 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual Krogh's Turkey Trot • November 23, 2017

The Krogh's Turkey Trot marked its 11th anniversary in Lake Mohawk on a bright, chilly Thanksgiving morning with thousands of enthusiastic runners and spectators filling White Deer Plaza. This popular fundraiser is known as "The Tradition Before The Tradition," when an 8:45am start leaves plenty of time to prepare and enjoy Thanksgiving dinner. In addition to the main run, a one-mile Fun Run kicked off at 8:15am. Well over 2,100 runners participated in both events. Pre-run festivities included the Pasta Party for all registered runners catered by Villa Capri II on Wednesday night at Lake Mohawk Country Club. The Turkey Trot was directed by Sabrina Lucas and co-chaired by Kylene Anderson, a member of the Sparta Board of Education, and Dorothy LaBeau, trustee and past president of the Sparta Education Foundation.

Scores of local volunteers kept things running smoothly, and Sparta High School junior Ryden Mederos sang the national anthem before the race. Sparta School District Superintendent Dr. Mike Rossi, who also ran in the 5K, was the official race starter. Additionally, the SEF hosted a food drive, collecting non-perishable donations to benefit the Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry.





## 2017 FUNDRAISING EVENTS



### KROGH'S TURKEY TROT SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

#### TITLE SPONSOR

**\$5,000 or greater**

*Krogh's Restaurant & Brew Pub*

#### GOLD SPONSOR

**\$2,000 or greater**

*Thorlabs, Inc.*

#### GOODY BAG SPONSOR

**\$1,500 or greater**

*Realty Executives*

#### SILVER SPONSORS

**\$1,000 or greater**

*Atlantic Health System - Newton Medical Center*

*Biondo Investment Advisors*

*Coldwell Banker: Julia "Julie" Killen*

*Culligan: Andy Ball*

*Drayer Physical Therapy Institute*

*Duphiney Financial Network*

*Dykstra Associates, PC*

*Fraser Cerra Law*

*Krave Café and Caterers*

*Integrity Dental*

*Lake Mohawk Country Club*

*Pine Cone Chiropractic*

*RCCA-Regional Cancer Care Associates*

*SchoolCraft Studios*

*Sharpe Plumbing and Heating*

*Staff at Sparta Township Schools*

*Villa Capri II*

*Wellness Pediatrics*

#### BIB SPONSOR

**\$2,000 or greater**

*Eastern Propane*

#### LEADERBOARD SPONSOR

**\$1,500 or greater**

*Spavia*

#### BRONZE SPONSORS

**\$500 or greater**

*Askin & Hooker, LLC, Attorneys at Law*

*Be A Foster or Adoptive Parent 877-NJFOSTER*

*Blessings Auto Service*

*McGuire Chevrolet*

*Royal Coachman Worldwide*

*St. Moritz Grill & Bar*

*The Liquor Factory*

*Weichert, Realtors: Dawn Corbo*

*and Dawnice LaFave*

## 2017 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### 2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Night with the NJ Devils

*Strong community support for the Sparta Education Foundation was demonstrated at "A Night with the NJ Devils" fundraiser, the second annual event held on March 5. About 75 SEF supporters cheered on the Devils at Newark's Prudential Center. After the game, the group went on the ice and all participants were invited to take a shot at the goal.*



### 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 Sparta pride. For more information about ordering paver stones, visit [spartaeducationfoundation.org](http://spartaeducationfoundation.org).*



### Talbots Shopping

**TALBOTS**

*You're invited to a*  
**FASHIONABLE FUNDRAISER**

**TALBOTS &**  
Sparta Education Foundation

*invite you to join us for a day of shopping - all for a good cause!*

Thursday, Dec. 7

10% of pre-tax sales will be donated to  
Sparta Education Foundation  
a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization (the "Charity")

Talbots  
25 Sparta Avenue • Sparta, NJ  
(973) 729-4977

SEF Representative in attendance  
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

### Rock, Ribs & Ridges

*Student volunteers, school administrators, teachers, trustees and community members participated in this parking event at Sussex County Fairgrounds which raised \$2,500 for the SEF.*





# 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.*

**DR. MICHAEL ROSSI**  
Sparta Superintendent of Schools

**MICHAEL GREGORY**  
Sparta Middle School Principal

**DR. DANIEL JOHNSON**  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

**JANET FERRARO**  
Sparta High School Principal

**GIUSEPPE "JOE" LEONE**  
Alpine School Principal, SEF Principal Liaison

**PAM HINMAN**  
Business Administrator

**LAURA TRENT**  
Mohawk Avenue School Principal

**CHRIS TAPPEN**  
Director of Buildings and Grounds

**DOUG LAYMAN**  
Principal, Helen Morgan School

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The Sparta Education Foundation would like to extend special thanks to our teachers, students and volunteers for their generous support. 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 lend his expertise to the Dragon Boat Festival.

We need your support to continue making a difference!  
We welcome the public to our board meetings, especially the grant presentation meetings in December, March and June. Please explore our website for more information about what we do and how to get involved: [spartaeducationfoundation.org](http://spartaeducationfoundation.org)



## THE SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Sparta, NJ 07871  
1-800-905-7331



@SpartaEducationFoundation



@SpartaEducation



/SpartaEducationFoundation

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