



# SPOT THE TROT



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW  
SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sparta Community—

As 2020 began no one could have imagined what the year had in store for us. Our conversations were filled with the new Covid-19 lexicon: pandemic; transmission rate; social distancing; PPE; contact tracing; and of course, our new fashion accessory was a face mask. Families and schools had to navigate the “new normal” of online and hybrid schooling.

But the year was marked not only by its challenges, but by how the Sparta Community met them. We saw grassroots groups come together to help each other out –whether it was delivering food to first responders, sewing masks, or just checking in on your neighbors. We proved once again that we are a strong, close-knit community.

The Sparta Education Foundation had to adjust too. We had to cancel the Dragon Boat Festival, we postponed our inaugural Cornament (a cornhole tournament) twice, and our biggest event and community favorite, the Krogh’s Turkey Trot went virtual. But our Sponsors came through for us and we were even able to pick up a few new ones. Please support our local businesses, many of whom have been sponsors of the SEF over the years. They make up the fabric of our town and need us now more than ever.

Here is to hoping this new decade is filled with nothing but happy surprises for us all.

Sincerely,  
Donna West  
President, Sparta Education Foundation



## SPARTA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Sparta Education Foundation (SEF) is 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 2020, 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 2020 we have awarded grants totaling over \$1,134,307.

## 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.

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.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Donna West  
President



Heather Egli  
Secretary



Dan Sarnowski  
Treasurer



Gwen Donovan  
Trustee



Beth Hofgesang  
Trustee



Andy Garger  
Trustee



Paige Lucas  
Trustee



Catherine Jennings  
Trustee

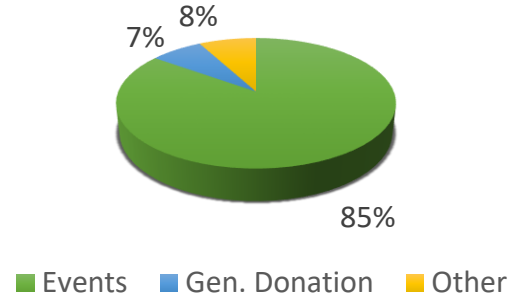


Heather Raquet  
Trustee

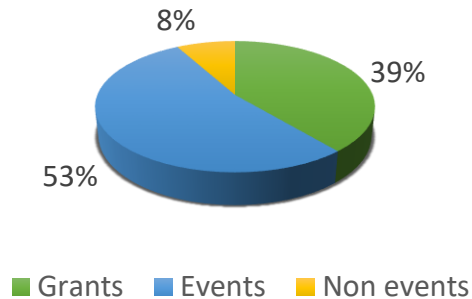
*We are grateful to our liaisons: Patrick McQueeney Sparta Administration Liaison; Frank Cibauri, Principal Liaison; Vanessa Serrano, Sparta Board of Education Liaison; and Lukas Hein, Student Liaison; for their time and valuable contributions.*

# 2020 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

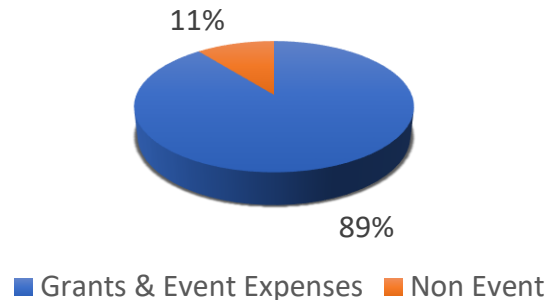
## Funds Generated



## Expenses



## Efficiency of Funds



|                                     |          |                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS AT START OF 2020</b> |          | <b>\$151,661</b> |
| *Adjustment to opening balance      |          | \$315            |
| <b>Funds generated in 2020</b>      |          | <b>\$52,443</b>  |
| **Event revenues                    | \$44,545 |                  |
| ***Adjustments to Event revenues    | \$4,131  |                  |
| Contributions & Other               | \$3,767  |                  |
| <b>Expenses in 2020</b>             |          | <b>\$88,327</b>  |
| Grants awarded in 2020              | \$61,243 |                  |
| **Event expenses                    | \$11,689 |                  |
| ***Adjustment to Event expenses     | \$5,907  |                  |
| Administrative expenses             | \$9,488  |                  |
| <b>FUNDS AT YEAR END 2020</b>       |          | <b>\$116,092</b> |

\*Adjustment amount represents money in the PayPal account on Dec. 31, 2019

\*\*Event Revenues / Expenses includes DBF, Cornament, Turkey Trot, and Pavers.

\*\*\* Adjustments to Event Revenue /Expense reflects funds received / expenses paid for events in 2019.

Contributions & Other – General Donations, Amazon Smile, In Kind.

The Isak Anderson Memorial Fund was established in July 2015.

The 2020 year-end closing balance was \$23,395.

These funds will be disbursed by a committee of the SEF chaired by the Anderson Family.

## 2020 GRANTS

*In 2020, the Sparta Education Foundation funded 5 grants totaling \$49,064 for the year*

### **VEX Robotics Equipment and a Makerbot Education 3D printer, SMS, \$9,344**

#### **February 2020**

This grant is for VEX Robotics equipment and a Makerbot Education 3D printer starter kit that brings design, building, 3D printing and robotic programming capabilities to the middle school. This grant now brings elements of the Robotics program to all grades in the Sparta schools.



### **Aquarium Upgrades, Sparta High School, \$4,314**

#### **April 2020**

The Coral Reef Active Learning Center at the Sparta High School Media Center teaches concepts in biology, chemistry, anatomy, environmental science, marine biology, photography and art, among others. The Learning Center includes a 150-gallon coral reef aquarium, 300-gallon predator aquarium, and multiple displays. The two aquariums are in need of some general maintenance, repair and restocking. This grant supplies items like new coral, sea anemones, invertebrates and fish including a new stingray for the predator tank.



## 2020 GRANTS

### **Playaway Audiobooks, Mohawk Avenue School, \$1,914**

**April 2020**

Playaway audiobooks promote independent reading for third grade students. Teachers help students choose books in a particular genre or a vehicle to analyze authors' writing styles. The entire book is narrated on the Playaway device and the listener can control the speed of the narrator. Playaway devices are checked out from the Media Center and can be brought home by students, making the home and school connection even stronger. Book titles are grade level appropriate and include high interest stories.



### **Supplemental Learning Tools, Helen Morgan and Mohawk Avenue Schools, \$25,535**

**April 2020**

This grant provides a focused, intensive approach to developing reading skills. It utilizes text sets to meet the needs of learners in a collaborative manner. It will fund StartUp Phonics Skill Bag bundles for students in Grade 1. A custom book list providing multiple sets of books will be used for book clubs in for Grade 5.



## 2020 GRANTS

### Google Expeditions Kits, Sparta High School, \$9,749

**May 2020**

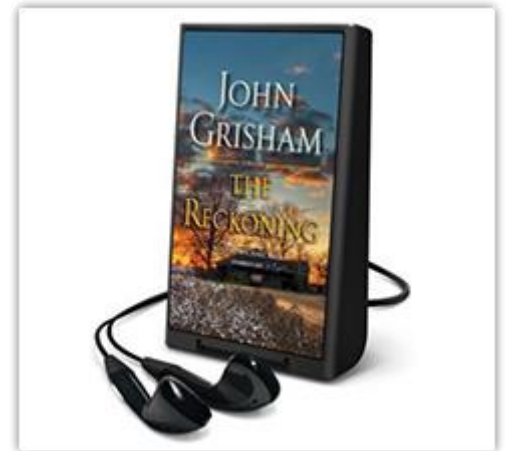
Google Expeditions allow students to travel the globe using virtual or augmented reality tours. Destinations include historical places, outer space, college campuses, inside volcanoes and the ocean floor. Teachers and guidance counselors can use them in all classrooms at any time, drawing on content from social studies, English/language arts, the arts and science. Experiencing places outside of the classroom can foster a love of learning and an appreciation for other cultures as students begin to feel they are truly global citizens.



### Playaway Audiobooks, Sparta High School, \$1,335

**May 2020**

The grant provides non-distracting audio options for curricular-assigned books. The book list directly correlates to available titles in Grades 9-12. The Playaways are self-contained audiobook devices that offer students an additional way to read and understand curricular literature. All English Department curriculum novels and books will be available for students to check out from the high school's Media Center. Teachers will also have the ability to borrow these devices to support in-class lessons and promote literature.



## 2020 GRANTS

### **Diverse Books and Playaway Audiobooks, Sparta Middle School, \$5,006**

**May 2020**

This grant supports the Eighth Grade English Language Arts classrooms with high interest diverse books and Playaway audiobook devices to accomplish the 1,000 Book Challenge, a competition among the three Eighth Grade learning teams. After reading a book, students create a 'shelfie' with their picture and a non-Googleable answer to one of the following questions: "What is something new your book taught you about the world or people living in it?" or "How did you see yourself reflected in the lives of the characters or individuals who are different from you?"



### **Two 3D Printers, Sparta Middle School, \$4,045**

**May 2020**

Two MakerBot Replicator + 3D printers will keep Sparta Middle School students at the forefront of educational technology. Most sixth and seventh grade students at the middle school participate in a nine-week STEM course which enables them to sharpen their problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills. 3D printing is widely used in the fields of architecture, education, medicine, manufacturing, aeronautics, military and food preparation. By familiarizing students with 3D printing and the design process, they are exposed to a diverse range of career possibilities.





## 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VIRTUAL KROGH'S TURKEY TROT

Even though the global pandemic defined 2020, the SEF decided to not cancel the 14th annual Krogh's Turkey Trot in 2020 and try a virtual option. This is our longest-running fundraiser and we felt it was important not to skip a year. Turkey Trot co-chairs Paige Lucas and Beth Hofgesang had no idea how it would be received, how many sponsors would commit, or how many runners would sign up.

Well, let's just say the community helped us knock it out of the park! Most of our sponsors returned to support us again this year, some for the 14th year in a row. The number of registrations and donations exceeded our expectations, and feedback from the community was so positive. People were thrilled that we kept the tradition going even if we could not be together in person.

Some people even showed up in White Deer Plaza on Thanksgiving morning to run the traditional course and stop in Krogh's to celebrate just like years past. We all had our new commemorative Krogh's Turkey Trot Gaiter on, and it was awesome! We are so proud to be part of a Foundation that impacts not just the schools but the community as a whole.

# KROGH'S TURKEY TROT SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

## Title Sponsor



## Gold Sponsor



## Digital Finisher's Certificate Sponsor



## Goody Bag Sponsor



## Grandstand Sponsor



## Bib Sponsor



# KROGH'S TURKEY TROT SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

## Silver Sponsors



# KROGH'S TURKEY TROT SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

## Bronze Sponsors

ASKIN & HOOKER, LLC

GALLAGHER INSURANCE

JULIE KILLEN-COLDWELL BANKER

LAKELAND SURVEYING

PINE CONE CHIROPRACTIC, LLC

RONETCO SUPERMARKETS, INC.

THE LIQUOR FACTORY

WEICHERT REALTORS—DAWNICE LAFAVE & DAWN CORBO

## OTHER SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

It takes a little more to be a Spartan! After Covid-19 led to a statewide shutdown in March 2020 and the months that followed, we were forced to re-schedule the inaugural Cornament twice and postpone the Dragon Boat Festival until 2022. The loss of these two fundraisers would have been even more devastating if not for the strong support of our generous sponsors. Many of them didn't request a refund, in fact many requested that their sponsorship be rolled over to other events. The goodwill of our sponsors truly leads the way to the incredible educational grants we are able to fund. There are not enough words to express our gratitude during these challenging days, but we take great comfort in the fact that our sponsors are dedicated to Sparta's students in good times and bad. Please keep them in mind when you need their services; it is the best way to thank them for their unwavering support of our school district and our community.

*Robert & Gina Lowen*

*Coldwell Banker*

*Nisivoccia LLP CPA*

*The Liquor Factory*

*Wellness Center Pediatrics LLC*

*Harte Orthodontics*

*Lakeland Bank*

*Dragon R Boat*

*M. John Scanlan Funeral Home*

*(Staff at Sparta Middle School)*

## IN APPRECIATION

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

MR. RONNIE SPRING  
*Sparta High School Principal*

MR. FRANK CIABURRI  
*Sparta Middle School Principal*

MR. DOUG LAYMAN  
*Helen Morgan School Principal*

MS. LAURA TRENT  
*Mohawk Avenue School Principal*

MR. GIUSEPPE “JOE” LEONE  
*Alpine School Principal*

MR. PATRICK MCQUEENEY  
*Interim Superintendent of Schools*

MR. CHRIS TAPPEN  
*Director of Buildings and Grounds*

DR. VANESSA SERRANO  
*Board of Education Liaison*

MR. LUKAS HEIN  
*Student Liaison*



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