



Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation Report

FALL 2022

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

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Supporting
lifelong learning
in Durham and
Middlefield.

ANNUAL APPEAL

Warm Regards to our CVEF friends,



CVEF President Nancy Earls welcomes the crowd to Spotlight on Grants

It was wonderful to see so many of you who attended our Spotlight on Grants event on Friday, October 14, at the Middlefield Federated Church. We were able to celebrate together the past 14 years of our history funding creative innovative grants. A special thanks to CVEF Board and Committee members who worked so hard to make this event a lively and fun evening.

As always, we are proud of these two communities and the creativity



Odyssey of the Mind participants

that thrives here. This year's grant awards are no exception. They span ages, interests and unique kinds of learning.

The natural world – learning about pollinator habitats; literature – bringing Shakespeare alive through library garden plantings; young learning – dramatic play fostering imagination and expression; music – reviving the community band with Tim Fisher and Bruce Schmottlach working together again. Take a close look at others in this newsletter.



Grantee Jen Huddleston

Your generous support during this, our annual appeal, allows us to continue to fund incredible programs that bring enrichment to our lives and engage our communities in a common purpose.

We welcome and appreciate your participation, your enthusiasm and your loyalty to CVEF.

With gratitude,

Nancy Earls, President, CVEF

2022 CVEF GRANTS

- **Sensory Walk Courtyard, Memorial School:** Students and staff create outdoor sensory walk where learners can regulate emotions, get a mind-body break and release energy for optimal learning.
- **Benefits of Cooking, Levi E. Coe Library:** Patrons encouraged to discover new recipes and family cooking via the AtoZ Food America database. Projects included.
- **Personal Narrative to Poetry, Memorial School:** Expand 5th graders' skills and interest in narrative and poetry writing. Create Japanese folding books of personal poetry. Share poetry at event.
- **No Bones About It!, CRHS:** Activity of Pre-Calculus/Robotics classes to expose learners to Science of Materials and Bio-medical Engineering disciplines. Create open Design Studio to allow for independent work for other students.
- **Community Compost, Coginchaug Area Transition:** Continue educating community about the need to compost. To reduce cost of transporting collected compost, compost made and distributed at DMIAAB.



- **Dramatic Play Stations, Durham Public Library:** Provide young library patrons and families a series of rotating dramatic play stations to develop language and literacy skills.
- **STEM Camp, Durham Middle-field Youth and Family Services (DMYFS/DMLWC):** Develop/run a summer STEM program to include science, technology, engineering, art and math opportunities and activities for youth ages 7 - 13.
- **Fine Feathered Friends, Levi E. Coe Library:** Storytime at library and local preschools teaches about natural world and sparks an interest in birds through purchase of birdfeeder and birdhouse cam.

- **Coginchaug Valley Community Band, Timothy Fisher and Bruce Schmottlach:** The community band is back! Includes community and CRHS members performing two concerts annually.
- **CRHS Pollinator Habitat, ECO Club:** High school students learn about pollinator habitats and then revitalize an outdoor garden by adding native plants to attract pollinators.
- **Bringing Shakespeare in the Garden, Mid-Lea Garden Club:** Refurbish Shakespeare Garden at Levi E. Coe Library to raise interest in Shakespeare through related flowers and plants.



(l-r) Merrill Adams; Howard Kelley's widow, Renee Kelley; Lainy Melvin; Nancy Earls, and Howard's daughter, Michele Zito.

Our 2021 **Howard Kelley Community Service Award** went to **Lainy Melvin**. Approximately 30 people gathered on May 7, 2022 to celebrate longtime Durham resident Lainy Melvin as the recipient of CVEF's 2021 Howard Kelley Community Service Award. The reception, held at Springs Golf Club, included several tributes to Lainy, recognized for her contributions as Director of the Durham Cooperative Nursery School and as a member of the Durham Senior Citizens Board.



Nominate Someone you Know for the Howard Kelley Award CVEF is always looking for nominations for the Howard Kelley Community Service Award. For more information and nominating guidelines, please visit coginchaugvef.org/howard-kelley-award

SPOTLIGHT ON GRANTS

A great evening of celebration happened Friday, October 14, as close to 100 people gathered to honor 14 years of grants given by the Cogenchaug Valley Education Foundation. The program included a multi-screen video compilation of

many grantees' successes. Interspersed within the video presentation were 11 live talks and demonstrations by the grantees themselves. Since 2008, CVEF has awarded 123 grants totaling more than \$175,000.



CVEF would like to thank the following businesses and organizations that supported Spotlight on Grants:

A&J Liquors • Bobby Sue's Krauszer's • Brenna Zettergren Memorial Foundation, Inc. • Carmine's Pizza and Italian Take Out • Center for Esthetic Dentistry • Chapman Manufacturing • Conroy Orthodontics • Country Flower Farms • Cozy Corner Restaurant and Pizza • Dean Autoworks, Inc. • Durham Democratic Town Committee • Durham Dental Associates • Durham Fair Foundation • Durham Family Eye Care • Durham Healthmart Pharmacy • The Durham Market • Durham-Middlefield Exchange Club • Larkin's Run • Little Rooster Liquors • Middlefield Federated Church • Middlefield Grocery • Pedals Smoothie and Juice Bar • Peerless Construction, LLC • Tenthorey Consulting, LLC • The Lyman Farm, Inc. • The Springs Golf Club • The Huscher Team of William Raveis Therapeutic Massage Center • Uncle Bob's Flower and Garden

Community Donations, July 2021 - June 2022

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Daryl and Renee Edwards*
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Business and Community Organization Partners, July 2021 - June 2022

Diamond (\$1,000 and above)

Peach Pit Foundation*

Gold (\$250-\$499)

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Durham Manufacturing Company*
Durham-Middlefield Exchange Club*
Middlefield Lions Club*
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Brenna Zettergren Memorial Foundation*
Center for Esthetic Dentistry
Durham Democratic Town Committee*

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Tenthorey Consulting, LLC*

Bronze (Up to \$100)

Lino's*
Middlefield Democratic Town Committee*
RLI Electric

* 5 years or more of giving

** In honor of Nancy Earls' leadership

Talk of the Towns

This popular CVEF event, held in April, featured four speakers. They included: **John Paoletti, PhD**, talking about understanding the statue of David by Michelangelo; **Katharine Owens, PhD**, sharing how she uses the arts to educate about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans; Police officer **Jo Schaller** reflecting on her career in policing and the "push and pull" of modern policing; and **Warren Herzig**, recalling the history of his local family farm, the challenges and future of farming, in general.

Online donations are easy.

Go to www.coginchaugvef.org and click on



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