



The
Foundation
for the Public Schools of the
Tarrytowns

Update January 2008

What better way to kick off the New Year than with a resolution to provide our donors with more consistent news about the Foundation. In particular, how we are making progress toward our mission:

To encourage and enhance academics, athletics, the arts, technology and other programs of the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. To commit to the enrichment of learning experiences so that all students can excel.

Thanks to our donors, in 2007 we reached our goal of raising more than \$50,000 in our annual appeal drive. This appeal goes out to the Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown communities, as well as alumni from Sleepy Hollow High School, Washington Irving High School and North Tarrytown High School.

Aside from our annual appeal, we raised nearly \$80,000 from our largest fundraiser – the Foundation Dinner Dance. Money raised from this event comes from our silent and live auctions and the advertisements placed in our Dinner Dance Journal. All items that we have in our silent and live auction are donated from restaurants, sports teams, stores, landscapers, artists, designers, and many more from local community members whose generosity continues to inspire.

In addition, throughout the year the Foundation received corporate donations from community corporate supporters, such as Hitachi America, Ltd., totaling approximately \$10,000 in further funding.

**We raised nearly
\$80 thousand
dollars
from our Dinner Dance**

Enriching Learning Experiences For all our Children

Aside from fundraising, a tremendous amount of volunteer work goes into deciding how to use these funds to further our mission. The Foundation Board consists of 21 members who are actively involved in both fundraising and grant making. The Board has several active committees work-

**We have heard from many alumni
who appreciate the opportunity to
Reconnect with
their High School
through the Buy-A-Seat program
and the Annual Appeal.**

ing with the school district to define the district's needs, and target Foundation funding where it can have the most impact.

The Creativity Grants Committee, for example, speaks with each school in our district and works with teachers and administrators to “think outside the box” to create new programs that provide students with enrichment activities to enhance the overall curriculum.

Programs that this committee has funded include many that are likely familiar, such as the Washington Irving School theater program, author and poet visits, level-books reading programs and digital media programs. There are many others. For example, the Foundation funded a greenhouse program to supplement science programs at the intermediate school level. This program takes students further into the science of plant production and organic farming. The connections that students can make from this hands-on learning are invaluable. Not to mention that they get to cook a lunch from what they have grown.

Another example of creative learning is the Foundation-funded Weather Station at Washington Irving School. While learning about barometric weather pressures and

converting sunlight into energy, students are provided an enriched learning experience that supports and enhances overall curriculum principles.

2008 is proving to be an exciting and busy year for the Foundation. Our first-ever Buy-A-Seat fundraiser has already reached the Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown High School Alumni community and more than 100 seats have been purchased. This particular fundraiser allows alumni to “purchase” a seat in the new state-of-the-art auditorium in the High School/Middle School. Each seat will bear a brass plate with a donor's personalized inscription. Don't worry if you are not yet an alumni. You will be offered a chance to buy-a-seat in the New Year, as we will be offering this opportunity to everyone in our school district.

Over the past two years, the Foundation has reached out to the alumni community. This has been a rewarding experience both for the Foundation and alumni. We have heard from many alumni who appreciate the opportunity to reconnect with their High School through the Buy-A-Seat program and the Annual Appeal. Alumni, whether they have graduated in 1939 or last year, have indicated to us that they enjoy hearing about the Foundation and the initiatives that it has provided in our district.

Save the date for our upcoming spring Dinner Dance on May 10, 2008 at the Westchester Marriott. Invitations will be mailed in late March. We are truly fortunate to have so many volunteers who make this large and complex event such a success.

We are always here to talk to you, listen to your ideas and suggestions, and answer any questions that you may have. Contact us at 366-8457 or foundation@tufsd.org.

Andres Valdespino
President
Shelly Colley
Foundation Administrator

*Please also visit our website at:
www.tufsd.org/foundation*