

October 6, 2008

Dear Neighbor,

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“The way you help students develop their thinking skills is by giving them plenty of interesting things to think about.”

I think that pretty much sums up the mission of the Okemos Education Foundation – helping our teachers give our young people lots of interesting things to think about.

Each year, thanks to the generosity of community members who care about the future, the OEF makes small but high-impact grants that enable innovative teachers to enrich the classroom experience in ways they could not otherwise afford.

Here are a few of the classroom purchases the OEF helped teachers make last year:

- Water testing kits that turned the Red Cedar River into a learning laboratory, allowing elementary students to practice science instead of reading about it in a textbook and enabling them to learn first hand about our impact on the environment. (\$400)
- DVDs and software subscriptions that brought history alive for elementary students by enabling them to take virtual field trips to Colonial Williamsburg and interact with historians and archeologists. (\$570)
- Phonics programs that helped transform struggling readers into eager life-long readers. (\$925)
- Replacements for well-worn classic children’s books in each of the elementary schools. (\$1,200)
- Musical instruments and materials for pre-school and kindergarten students. (\$660)
- A collection of books typically found on university required reading lists for our college-bound high school students. (\$1,200)

The OEF at a Glance

- Makes small, high-impact grants and awards to innovative Okemos teachers.
- A 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is completely tax-deductible.
- Our *Partners in Education* program includes giving levels ranging from \$50 to \$5000 and above.
- Provides *Partners* with public recognition throughout the year.

Learn more about the impact you can make by visiting www.oefsite.org

Other classroom grants enriched art, science, math and social science programs throughout our schools, while the OEF's *Commitment to Excellence* awards and professional development grants recognized and supported the outstanding teachers, staff, and community members that make Okemos one of the leading school systems in Michigan.

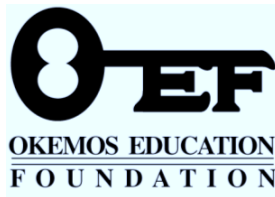
Would you like to join in this vital endeavor?

The enclosed **Pledge Form** explains how you can join us in shaping the future, while the **Partners in Education** sheet explains the community recognition you'll receive when you help.

I hope you'll join hundreds of your neighbors in making a vital difference in our young people's lives.

Dean Bolton
Chair
Okemos Education Foundation

P.S Even if you don't have children in the Okemos schools, supporting the OEF is still a great investment in the future. Our Okemos schools attract new residents seeking the best possible education for their families, boost property values, and make for a strong, optimistic, and prosperous community.



Partners in Education 2008-09

Friend

\$50 - \$249

- Recognition of partnership on OEF website, www.oefsite.org, and in spring OEF newsletter

Bronze Partner

\$250 - \$499

Bronze Partners receive Friend recognition plus:

- Recognition in program for annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet (deadline Nov. 1)
- Recognition in Power Point presentation and table placard at annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet
- Recognition in ad in *Towne Courier* newspaper (February 2009)
- Link to your business website from the OEF website (www.oefsite.org)
- Recognition in High School drama and athletic programs.

Silver Partner

\$500 - \$999

Silver Partners receive Bronze Partner recognition plus:

- 2 tickets to annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet and invitation to VIP Afterglow Reception

Gold Partner

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Gold Partners receive Bronze Partner recognition plus:

- 4 tickets to annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet and invitation to VIP Afterglow Reception
- Partnership announced at annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet
- Recognition as Founder on OEF Founders' plaque at Okemos High School
- Recognition in fall and spring OEF newsletters
- Recognition in school newsletters in February
- Special recognition on OEF website (www.oefsite.org)
- Certificate of appreciation for home or office
- Recognition in Okemos Public Schools district-wide newsletter, *Okemos SchoolSpeak*

Platinum Partner

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Platinum Partners receive Bronze Partner recognition plus:

- 8 tickets to annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet and invitation to VIP Afterglow Reception
- Partnership announced at annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet
- Recognition as Founder on OEF Founders' plaque at Okemos High School
- Recognition in fall and spring OEF newsletters
- Recognition in school newsletters in February
- Recognition in press release
- Special recognition on OEF website (www.oefsite.org)
- Certificate of appreciation for home or office
- May be recognized as an OEF event co-sponsor

Emerald Partner

\$5,000 and above

Emerald Partners receive Bronze Partner recognition plus:

- 8 tickets to annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet and invitation to VIP Afterglow Reception
- Partnership announced at annual OEF Commitment to Excellence Banquet
- Recognition as Founder on OEF Founders' plaque at Okemos High School
- Recognition in fall and spring OEF newsletters
- Recognition in school newsletters in February
- Recognition in press release
- Special recognition on OEF website (www.oefsite.org)
- Certificate of appreciation for home or office
- May be recognized as an OEF event sponsor or have an OEF grant named after them

Fall 2008 Fundraising Campaign Pledge Sheet

The OEF is grateful for donations in any amount. If you donate \$50 or more you become an OEF *Partner in Education*, with recognition and benefits at each level of giving. The enclosed *Partners in Education* information sheet provides details about the following levels of giving:

Friend	\$50 - \$249
Bronze	\$250 - \$499
Silver	\$500 - \$999
Gold	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Platinum	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Emerald	\$5,000 and up

All donations to OEF, a 510(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible.

Matching gift programs at your workplace may double or even triple your gift to the OEF. Please call your human resources office to see if your donation qualifies for a matching gift program.

To receive recognition for your support at the Commitment to Excellence Dinner, please respond by November 1st.

Learn more at www.oefsite.org.

Please make checks payable to: **Okemos Education Foundation 4406 N. Okemos Rd. Okemos MI 48864**

I/We wish to support the OEF in the amount of:

\$

Name(s) _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Please apply my donation to the OEF's
 General Fund (which covers this year's classroom grants, teacher awards and program costs)

Endowment Fund (to fund future grants and awards)

If donating \$50 or more, please indicate how you want your name to appear when OEF *Partners in Education* are recognized publicly:

If donating at Silver level or above, do you want complementary tickets to the *Commitment to Excellence Dinner* on November 20th? Yes No

Thank you for supporting the Okemos Education Foundation!