



SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
"Ensuring a bright future for our children"

Phone: 973-378-2055      [www.somef.org](http://www.somef.org)

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**ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program is  
Beneficiary of Maplewood Mayor's Ball 2006**

June 2006 --The Second Annual Maplewood Mayor's Ball, held on June 1, 2006, was a wonderful evening of dining and dancing and community fundraising at the Maplewood Country Club. Proceeds from the sold-out event benefited three outstanding local programs dedicated to helping children find alternative personal paths to success: Summer Stars, Reading Stars; the South Orange/Maplewood Mentors Program (SOMMP) and the ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program. The evening, which featured silent auctions, live auctions, raffles, dinner and dancing, raised \$52,000.

Columbia High School was the beneficiary of the first Mayor's Ball.

The three beneficiaries of the 2006 event were:

1. Parenting Center- Summer Stars, Coaching for Success Programs: Sponsored by the Parenting Center of the School District of South Orange and Maplewood, these two programs aim to maximize each child's learning potential in nurturing, creative environments. Focused on the importance of early intervention, Summer Stars and Coaching for Success give kindergartners through second graders a helping hand toward becoming successful participants in a classroom environment.
2. ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program: Sponsored by the South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation (SOMEF) and the School District of South Orange and Maplewood, the highly successful ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program helps over 250 children in the district overcome deficits in reading, writing or other basic skills. Over 75 adults and close to 100 high school students volunteer to help these students ages 7-17 reach their academic potential each year. SOMEF is a non-profit foundation that works with the school district to achieve these objectives.
3. The South Orange/Maplewood Mentors Program (SOMMP): SOMMP works exclusively with Columbia High School students in need of additional guidance. Through mentoring, open dialogue, and discussions on sound decision making, SOMMP hopes to empower these youth to make good decisions and to take control of their lives.

Mayor Profeta believes that children will rise to the occasion when given the right chance - a set of circumstances that help that particular child excel. But what works for one child, often does not work for all. A variety of solutions and approaches are important.

"If we start when they are very young and continue to guide them through their formative years, we can make a big difference in the lives of the children of our community," said Mayor Profeta. "I hope people will join us in our effort to light the path to success for our children."

The Mayor's Ball is organized by community volunteers. For further information on the ball, visit [www.MayorsBall.org](http://www.MayorsBall.org).