



# OUTLOOK

THE SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jean Campbell  
President

On May 2, 2007, SOMEF will celebrate a major landmark: the 10th Anniversary of the ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program. We salute the 1,000 volunteers who have helped more than 1,500 children to bridge the achievement gap.

SOMEF relies on the skills, talent and generosity of volunteers to accomplish all that it does (teacher grants and fellowships, capital improvements, etc.). We often spotlight teachers who have received SOMEF grants, children who have benefited from them, and facilities that we have improved. Behind all of these efforts are the members of our dedicated volunteer Board. We welcome our newest trustees: Jim Reilly, Janice Rowe-Little, Michelle Langsam, Rick Sirois and Pat Cotter.

A financial advisor at Regent Atlantic Capital and the parent of two Seth Boyden students, **Jim Reilly** is a New York City native who truly loves the diversity of our community. His financial expertise and acumen will be great assets to our SOMEF team.

After 21 years at AT&T, **Janice Little** currently works at Datascribe, a transcription company. Active in H.S.A.'s, PTA's and the Maplewood Lacrosse Club, she has a daughter at Columbia High School and one at Maplewood Middle School. Janice serves on our Marketing Committee.

Long-time South Orange resident, **Michelle Langsam** has a background in marketing and public relations and is the parent of two daughters, one at Columbia and one at South Orange Middle School.

Our new Recording Secretary, she has also been active on several of our fundraising event committees.

**Rick Sirois**, a designer of theater lighting and sound systems on Broadway and with the Metropolitan Opera, has two daughters attending CHS and Marshall School. Having been involved in youth soccer, he obtained a series of grants totaling over \$1.1 million to refurbish the athletic fields at DeHart Park. We look forward to Rick's efforts at finding new funding sources for SOMEF.

**Pat Cotter** agreed to join the Board and take on the position of SOMEF Treasurer following the retirement of the dedicated Nancy Sobieski. An attorney and community volunteer, she ably manages our finances. Her daughter, a graduate of Maplewood Middle School, attends Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child.

As a non-profit organization, SOMEF seeks new volunteers for its committees and initiatives. Please contact us if you want to get involved. Best wishes for success this school year, and thank you in advance for your contribution to our Year End Appeal!

*P.S. SOMEF received 66 Teacher Grant applications this fall, for a total of \$170,000. We do not have sufficient funds to fulfill all of these requests, but you can close the gap by contributing directly to an innovative Teacher Grant today. See page 3 for details.*



We welcome our new SOMEF Trustees: (Top) Pat Cotter and Michelle Langsam; (Bottom) Rick Sirois, Janice Rowe-Little, Jim Reilly.

## CALLING ALL COOKS, AND FOODIES TOO!



On January 20, 2007, SOMEF will hold the 3rd annual Night of 100 Dinners. Guests will be wined and dined at

beautiful, private homes in South Orange and Maplewood by our volunteer hosts. This popular event brings together a diverse group of people to eat, drink and celebrate our community and our commitment to our children. Last year's Dinners dished up over \$11,000 for SOMEF and fun was had by all. If you would like to participate, as a host or a guest, please contact Meryl Levine ASAP at meryl116@verizon.net or 973 763 6535. Bon appetit!

# ACHIEVE

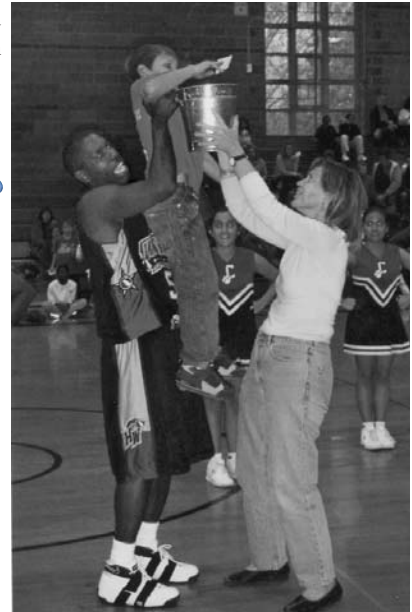
CELEBRATE WITH US!



2006-2007

marks the 10th Anniversary of the ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program. Starting with 51 tutors who served 81 students, the program now boasts 150 tutors serving over 200 students annually. On Wednesday, May 2, 2007, SOMEF will host Each One-Teach One: A Celebration of 10 Years of the ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program at the beautiful, new South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC). Chaired by Judy Levy and Mila Jasey, the event will showcase the work of Columbia High School's TV Arts and Advanced Photography students. There will be a gala reception and a commemorative journal with tributes and stories of ACHIEVE tutors and students and the local teachers who have contributed so much to the program's success. To volunteer on the planning committee, please contact Deborah Prinz at 973-762-5600, at extension 1851 or [dprinz@somsc.k12.nj.us](mailto:dprinz@somsc.k12.nj.us)

Many thanks to parents, SO/M staff members and local officials who faced off against the Harlem Wizards in October to benefit SOMEF and the CHS Scholarship Fund. It was an afternoon of hilarious family fun for two great causes.



*Pictured at right: Zack Fryer gets a boost from a Harlem Wizard to help SOMEF president Jean Campbell draw the raffle winner.*

*Pictured below: The intrepid Fun-raisers! Row 1: Mark Gleason (SO/M Board of Ed), Peter Nelson, Jim Podhoretz, Mark Rufolo, Malika Majeed (Tuscan School Principal), Dr. Maryrose Caulfield-Sloan (Jefferson School Principal), Row 2: Xavier Fitzgerald (team coach), David Huemer (MW Township Committee), Jeff Kurek, Vic DeLuca (MW Township Committee), Danny O'Sullivan, Bill Calabrese (SO Village President) Row 3: Steve Levine, Jimmy Lee, Erik Laughlin, Marlon Brownlee, Dr. Angelica Allen (Marshall School Principal), Sandra Kurek (SOMEF Trustee and coach coordinator)*



## LOOK BEYOND YOUR CHECKBOOK... DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK!

SOMEF receives most of its donations in the form of cash or services. But there is another way to show your support.

Donating shares of appreciated stock is a great way to benefit SOMEF and leverage tax benefits at the same time. When you give appreciated stock to SOMEF, you won't have to pay capital gains taxes on the profits, and you receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the stock\*.

Think about it. Perhaps you are in one of the following situations:

- ★ You have a family legacy stockholding and charitable inclinations

- ★ You own a stock with large gains that you are reluctant to sell because of tax consequences
- ★ You own too much of your employer's unrestricted publicly traded stock for your comfort level

Donating stock is simple. Contact us and we will provide delivery instructions to the institution that holds the stock.

Electronic delivery of stock shares is secure, expedient and cost efficient. We can also work with physical certificates. We look forward to a successful transaction!

For further information contact SOMEF Trustee Jim Reilly [jreilly@regentatlantic.com](mailto:jreilly@regentatlantic.com) or 973-635-7070 x 224.



\*With a gift of appreciated securities, the deduction in any given year is limited 30% of your Adjusted Gross Income on your Form 1040.

# SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHER GRANTS

## WALK ACROSS AMERICA, GET FIT FOR LIFE

Childhood obesity dominates the headlines. Getting kids moving and having fun is one way to inspire healthy, life-long habits.

To motivate her students, New Jersey Physical Education Teacher of the Year and Tuscan School instructor, Noelle Stewart Sullivan piloted the Walk Across America program last year. Using pedometers, Sullivan monitored students during gym class. Individual statistics were recorded, and a cumulative total was kept for the entire school. Tuscan's collective steps were measured to project their "travel" across the U.S. As a new state or major city was "reached," the students learned interesting facts about that place through broadcasts over the school's public address system.



The program was so successful that Judy LoBianco, District Supervisor of Health and Physical Education felt that all students in grades 3-8 would benefit and asked SOMEF to join forces with her to raise the additional funds needed. Through their combined efforts, \$2,212 was recently donated by the Maplewood Rotary Club, an anonymous donor, and the South Orange Rotary Club to purchase pedometers for all of the elementary schools. Recognizing the drug prevention potential of the walking program, the Maplewood Alliance, with a match from the individual donor, contributed an additional \$1,770 to outfit the middle schools. LoBianco believes that the walking programs will inspire our children to embrace the concept of being physically fit for life.

## SOMEF GRANTS SUPPORT PARENTING CENTER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### WITH HELP FROM THE PNC FOUNDATION

For the last five years, SOMEF has been an important partner of the School District's Parenting Center. Established by the school district in 1996 as an outgrowth of its Social Work program, the Center provides information, education and support to families throughout the community. Parents can use the Center's Academy Street library to explore parenting literature and videos, or attend its series of topical lectures. In addition to being an information resource, the Center works directly with children, parents and educators. According to director Karen Weiland, "SOMEF has been instrumental in allowing us to bring vital services to families in our District."

In 2004, SOMEF provided funds for the Parenting Center to develop anti-bullying clubs at both Jefferson and South Mountain Elementary schools. In 2005, another SOMEF grant

brought high school students to Clinton School to run lunch clubs for 5th graders, which included dance, exercise, chess, cooking, and more.



Mario Gomez and Tedd Jean enjoying their experience as Summer Stars.

SOMEF was also behind the Center's workshop to guide 40 parent-child teams paired with a coach who guided them through the third grade Invention Convention process.

Having secured funding from the PNC Foundation's *Grow up Great* initiative, SOMEF awarded \$5,000 in both 2005 and 2006 to support Summer Stars, which provides social skills and school readiness training for students entering first grade. Summer Stars gave students the opportunity to practice classroom learning skills and helped parents learn strategies to reinforce them at home. "We had great success with

this program," said Karen Weiland. "We need funding so that we can offer this sort of support to children and their parents."

### GRANT A TEACHER'S WISH – SOMEF'S 2007 LATE FUNDING APPEAL

SOMEF Teacher Grants pay for classroom equipment, curriculum materials, special events, visiting artists, and other enriching programs. We recently received applications totaling \$170,000, and had just \$30,000 on hand to distribute among the nine schools. We invite you to sponsor approved, but unfunded teacher grants directly.

Last year's Late Funding Appeal yielded \$2,600, fully funding three grants, and partially funding three more. To review the innovative projects and proposals that are waiting in the wings, visit [www.somef.org](http://www.somef.org) or call 973-378 2055 after December 8. Thank you for supporting the Teacher Grant Program!



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**The South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation (SOMEF)**

We believe that an exemplary public school system is essential to the well-being of our community. Our mission is to enhance the educational experience for all South Orange-Maplewood School District students and staff by providing funds to enrich educational programs, activities, and facilities.

**SOMEF NEWS FLASH!**

**SAVE THESE DATES:  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH**  
for the return of the

**NIGHT OF 100 DINNERS**

Join us for an elegant dinner at one of a number of private homes. Last year's memorable culinary & social event netted over \$11,000 for SOMEF.

**WEDNESDAY MAY 2ND  
EACH ONE TEACH ONE:  
A Celebration of 10 Years  
of the ACHIEVE Volunteer  
Tutor Program**

at the new South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC).

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
WWW.SOMEF.ORG**

**MULTIPLY YOUR GIFT TO SOMEF  
WITHOUT TAKING ANOTHER  
DOLLAR FROM YOUR POCKET!**

Many companies set aside funds to support non-profit organizations and have programs through which they will "match" the charitable contributions made by their employees. Through corporate gift matching, your employer can multiply your gift to SOMEF, making it go further.

Over the last three years, donors like you have taken advantage of generous corporate matching programs at JP Morgan Chase, the Washington Post Company, Pfizer, Verizon, Prudential, Bank of America and others. Check with your company's Human Resources office to see if they offer gift matching.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR  
YEAR-END CAMPAIGN**  
and follow the example of our trustees,  
100% of whom participate in year-end giving to SOMEF.

Please send your check  
made out to SOMEF to  
PO BOX 84, MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040

**2006-2007 Board of Trustees South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation**

David Ascher, Stephanie Bar Am, Jean Campbell, Treasure Cohen, Patti Coleman, Patricia Cotter, Beth Daugherty, Wayne Eastman, Lorraine Gibbons, Richard Goldstein, Peter Horoschak, Dallas Jackson, John Jeffries, Sandra Karriem, Sandra Kurek, Michelle Langsam, Meryl Levine, Janice Little, Joy Markel, Michael Malloy, Thea Okin, Susan Present, James Reborn, Jim Reilly, Rick Sirois, Mark Tolstoi  
**Deborah Prinz, Executive Director**