

SHELTER ISLAND

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT · AUGUST 31, 2011

¡Viva Madrid!

A generous grant from the Shelter Island Educational Foundation made it possible for ten Shelter Island students to travel to Madrid, Spain last summer, where they lived with Spanish host families and studied Spanish language and culture. Mrs. Teri Piccozzi and her daughter, Lila Piccozzi Kneeland, both Spanish teachers, accompanied the group.

On June 27, 2011, the Shelter Island group boarded the plane to go to Madrid. On June 28th, the students met their host families at the Suffolk University Madrid campus, and began their stay by going to the families' homes and becoming acquainted with their new "parents, brothers, sisters, and pets." The next ten days were spent studying Spanish for two hours



Shelter Island High School students take a break at La Plaza Mayor.



A visit to the Monastery of El Escorial.

and learning about Spanish culture for one hour every morning at the university campus. In addition, students ate their meals with their families and used their conversational Spanish skills.

The afternoons were spent on excursions; the group visited nearby Segovia, where they saw the amazing Aqueduct that was built by the Romans nearly two thousand years ago. Another day they visited Toledo, a medieval city. They enjoyed seeing the paintings by the master artist, El Greco. In Madrid they toured the Prado Museum and viewed paintings by Velazquez, El Greco and Goya. In addition the students visited other sights of Madrid: La Plaza Mayor and La Plaza del Sol.

At night the students strolled the city and went shopping. One night they danced at a club, and on the last night, they watched Flamenco dancers perform. On July 7th, the students said good-bye to their families and friends and were off to return home to Shelter Island. — Teri Piccozzi, Spanish teacher

The purpose of the Shelter Island Educational Foundation is to pursue, create and provide excellent educational opportunities that enhance, inspire and broaden the horizons of our children and the community.

The Foundation seeks to go beyond the boundaries of local school district budgetary obligations and geographic isolation, augmenting the resources of individual teachers, family and community, and nourishing our unique island heritage.



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Message from the President

"How many kids want to go to Madrid?" "How much will it cost?" These were a couple of the pressing questions at the November, 2010 Ed Foundation board meeting at which we made decisions on grant applications. Fast forward to July...ten Shelter Island High School junior and seniors—eight with the Foundation's assistance—are living with host families in Madrid, studying Spanish language and culture by day, and strolling the streets and taking in the sights by night.

Scenes like this, for me, make the work of the Shelter Island Educational Foundation meaningful. In addition to sponsoring beloved ongoing programs such as The Nutcracker ballet, Young Playwrights, Schooner Trip and 2Rs4fun!, the Foundation challenges applicants to imagine educational opportunities and let us help make them happen. And now for the numbers...

This year, individual and institutional grant awards totaled \$32,388. In addition, \$39,554 was awarded in gifts designated by donors for specific programs. The Foundation distributed a total of \$71,942 in awards this fiscal year.

The Foundation's assets as of August 31, 2011 are \$333,395. Of this, \$17,317 is unrestricted, \$147,182 is temporarily restricted (with \$54,741 designated towards specific projects and \$92,441 representing accumulated interest and dividends) and \$168,896 permanently restricted.

The Harman Hawkins Educational Endowment Fund, a segregated perpetual fund, has a historical cost of \$168,896 and a fair market value of \$244,440.

Contributions, net proceeds of special events, interest and dividends for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2011 were \$125,094. General administrative expenses totaled \$12,890. Fundraising expenses, including the cost of special events, totaled \$6,786.

The Foundation is thankful for its many partners in executing our mission to broaden the horizons of our children and our community:

- Volunteer webmaster, Don D'Amato, who keeps us technologically current (become our friend on facebook!);
- Denise DiPaolo and the Shelter Island Public Library for collaborating on programs such as 2Rs4fun! and Battle of the Books;
- Dr. Michael Hynes, the new superintendent of the Shelter Island School, and teachers for their enthusiasm and willingness to support existing and future programs;
- Our board members, a diverse and forward-thinking group of volunteers dedicated to providing innovative opportunities for our children and community; and
- Our loyal and generous donors, who continue to bring their passion and support to the children of Shelter Island.

As a teacher and parent of children attending the Shelter Island School, I have had the pleasure of seeing students' imaginings take shape with the help of the Foundation. Here's to another year of making dreams happen.

Lynne Colligan
President

Sailing Club



Drew Garrison and Matt Murphy sail on a broad reach.

The sailing team started off the school year enjoying the warmth of summer in September. There were eight sailors on the high school team and ten from middle school. This year the club was open to the fifth grade, a move that helped round out the group.

Amanda Clark took a break from her Olympic campaign and spent many days working with the high school team. She ran college level drills for the team and although there was some grunting and groaning at times, the upcoming freshman team members benefited greatly from Amanda's helpful insights and experience.

In mid-October the high school team participated in the two-day Lawrence A. White Regatta at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Twenty teams participated, hailing from as far away as Illinois, Georgia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Shelter Island team enjoyed the tough competition and wonderful Coast Guard facilities.

The senior girls, busy with a demanding volleyball schedule, left the remaining racing up to the freshman. The younger team had some respectable results for their first regatta together. They showed great promise, learned what the consequences of breaking the racing rules can be, and managed some great starts and outstanding finishes.

Amidst on and off snow flurries, the beginning of the 2011 spring sailing season opened with an unseasonably bitter cold start. Fortunately we were able to buy some extra, extra small drysuits and sailing apparel for the 5th and 6th graders to keep them warm for practices. The high school team competed in both fleet racing regattas plus their very first team racing regatta. There was little time to practice for either event in between the waves of cold fronts passing through the region.

The middle school sailors continued running basic sailing skill drills and were introduced more formally to racing. On the high school level, there was more emphasis on team racing, which helped introduce everyone to the Racing Rules of Sailing and how to apply those rules to their own advantage. Sailing just for fun was also introduced and encouraged for those not bitten by the racing bug.

— *Peter Needham, Sailing Coach*

The Shelter Island School Sailing Club is a collaborative effort among the Foundation, The Shelter Island Yacht Club, Camp Quinipet and the Shelter Island School. The Foundation is please to have partnered with the Yacht Club in offering new scholarship opportunities for the junior summer sailing program.

Learning at Sea



Shelter Island 8th graders once again spent an exciting week at sea aboard the 1926 Gloucester fishing schooner, *Alabama*. Sailing out of Martha's Vineyard with capable chaperones Meghan Lang and Ian Kanarvogel, the young sailors learned maritime heritage and many other lessons at sea. With no modern conveniences, they returned to another time through the quiet sails, hand water pumps and coal-fired stove. They awoke early for deck swabbing, galley duty and hauling sails and anchor. This is what some of the 8th grade sailors had to say:

"It's just another day on the *Alabama*, but there's something different...the view of the water sparkling under the warm sun...and there in front of your eyes is the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen." — *Colibri Lopez*

"The trip was definitely a trip of a lifetime that I will never forget." — *Serina Kaasik*

"I learned a whole lot about boats and sailing, people, the water and my classmates. This has been the best field trip I have ever been on in my life and I will always remember it." — *Kelly Colligan*

"We learned all about the sails and where the pins are located. On the last day, we had a pin chase and we raced to get to the pins first. I think we all brought home a lot of knowledge from this trip." — *Tristan Wissemann*

"Leaving the schooner was really sad because of all the great memories." — *Shawna Goody*

This trip is made possible through a generous designated gift to the Foundation and a partnership with the Shelter Island School.



Superintendent's Message:

I enjoyed reading the 2010 Shelter Island Educational Foundation Annual Report. I spent some time reflecting on the purpose of the Shelter Island Educational

Foundation's mission: *to pursue, create and provide excellent educational opportunities that enhance, inspire and broaden the horizons of our children and the community. The foundation seeks to go beyond the boundaries of local school district budgetary obligations and geographic isolation, augmenting the resources of individual teachers, family and community, and nourishing our unique island heritage.*

In my short tenure as Superintendent/Principal of the school, I have come to appreciate the support the Educational Foundation has provided our students, parents, teachers and the community. Please know the foundation will have my support with this very important partnership.

One new program that the school and the foundation are collaborating on is the Metropolitan Opera Program for schools. English teacher Logan Kingston and chorus teacher Jessica Bosak will teach students the elements of opera, culminating in attendance at a live performance of *Macbeth* at The Metropolitan Opera Lincoln Center in the spring.

I look forward to building our relationship and working toward providing exciting opportunities for our students for many years to come.

— Dr. Michael J. Hynes

Intrepid Scouts

Thirty Shelter Island Scouts, ranging from 1st to 11th grade, accompanied by parents and relatives, boarded the bus on a cold November morning bound for New York City. Scout Day at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum proved to be a great experience for all. Our scouts spoke to veterans, viewed the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, created crafts, explored the interactive displays, and enjoyed a simulator ride. The group is very appreciative of the support from the SIEF, and cannot wait to explore history again.

— Janine Mahoney, teacher / Girl Scout leader

2Rs4fun!

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." — T. S. Eliot

During our sixth consecutive session of 2Rs4fun!, an after-school writing and reading program for 3rd and 4th graders, we were continually and happily surprised by our students. A dictum that was proven true throughout my teaching career held that we sometimes underestimate what children can think and do as readers and writers. Our latest 2Rs class was no exception. One of the books we read this session, *Hate that Cat*, by Sharon Creech, once again proved that dictum true. At book talk, after finishing the book, a 4th-grader asked a serious question: "Is this book an epistolary book?"

"What do you mean?" I replied.

"You know, is it a fiction book that uses letter writing to tell a story?"

Wow! That really knocked me for a loop. Children are caught up in their own discoveries and love to discover for themselves. Rapport, building and nurturing relationships between individual mentors and mentees, is part of the 2Rs process of literacy. We begin to listen to children to find out what they know, and explore their potential through listening. There is more to 2Rs4fun! than just teaching the rubrics of language.

Each session starts with snacks and conversations. Students write about their lives in a "writer's notebook." There is no right or wrong way to write about their lives, only their own version. One student who came to us in the Fall 2010 session was not responsive to the program; she was shy, afraid and embarrassed to share — totally insecure. The mentor took the approach of working "outside the box" until the student became comfortable over time and enjoyed the special program designed to meet those special needs. Although confidence increased for this student, academic progress was still slow.

In the Spring 2011 session the student was back again, the first child to sign up for our first-come, first-served program. A new mentor worked to carefully enable the student to find an expanded comfort zone. It was an awakening as skills sharpened in both reading and writing. As the session progressed, the student began to shine, and communication with peers and mentors blossomed. As I walked into the F.I.T. Center toward the end of the school year, I heard a scream, "Mrs. Dwyer, how are you doing?" I turned and was greeted by an enormous smile from our "outside the box" student. The mentors and I agree this was our greatest success in the three years of the program's existence.

A goal of 2Rs is to develop student understanding of how reading good literature can help make better writers. Known to educators as "literacy learning," this concept promotes the development of original thought and expression in creative writing by asking students to think of themselves as authors and writers. To reach that goal, the 2Rs4fun! project pairs adult mentors with professional writing or teaching experience, one-on-one, with students in an after-school program outside the classroom. We have tried to help young students "read" their world as sources for writing fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Ordinary happenings and observations, with a little nudge, can often be transformed into something extraordinary. Although we can't measure the success of the underlying aim of making our students lifetime readers and writers, we can hope that we have given them a strong push in that direction. We are a joyful band of imaginative story makers—students, mentors and myself.

— Mary Dwyer, 2Rs4fun! Coordinator

The Ed Foundation is a proud partner with the Shelter Island Public Library in 2Rs4Fun!

Heights Fundraiser a Great Success!

On Sunday evening of the 4th of July weekend, threatening skies held clear to allow nearly 150 friends of the Foundation to enjoy great views, food and company. The occasion was the 2nd annual SIEF Porch Party. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the Campbell and Pike families, two fabulous porches in the Heights once again created a fantastic venue for a memorable evening. Music by Bogart & Broder set the mood, while porch raffle items donated by Brain Kass, Kirsten and Jay Lewis, The Shelter Island Hardware, Coastal Cottage, Jack's Marine, Grady Riley Gardens, and Marika's added to the excitement. Dandy Liquors graciously donated beverages.

The Foundation looks forward to continuing this successful event this coming summer.



How to Succeed...

Shelter Island's student musicians were treated to the Broadway revival of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, starring Harry Potter's Daniel Radcliff and John Laroquette. Students in 5th and 12th grades alike raved about the Tony award-winning musical comedy's cleverly designed moving sets, upbeat song and dance, and hilarious banter. This opportunity is provided by an annual designated gift to the Foundation.

Of Mice and Men

After the success of last year's attendance at *Twelve Angry Men*, Shelter Island School's 8th, 9th and 11th graders this year experienced a riveting performance of John Steinbeck's classic *Of Mice and Men* at the Southampton Cultural Center. Sharing a packed house with students from Southampton High School, students were gripped by the tragic story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant ranch hands during the Great Depression. Saucy dialogue by Candy's wife kept the teens interested. Attending performances of books studied in the classroom brings literature to life for students, while supporting the American literature and U.S. History curricula. This cultural experience was made possible by a generous grant from the Tishman Family Foundation.

The Nutcracker at Lincoln Center

The continuing generosity of Barbara Horgan enables Shelter Island School 8th graders to attend George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* at Lincoln Center. Student Matt Murphy was impressed by "the years of practice and amount of skill and training" that go into the performance, while Drew Garrison thought "the intricate dances were really cool and interesting." Students study many facets of the ballet before heading into the city for this world-class event. The Foundation is pleased to continue this beloved tradition.



YAWP

I celebrate myself,
and sing myself...

I sound my barbaric yawp
over the roofs of the world.

-Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

The Young American Writers Project (YAWP) sends professional writers and writing teachers from Stony Brook University into school classrooms, where they teach innovative, interdisciplinary writing workshops. Students from Shelter Island School's 7th grade class, as in years past, were taught the fundamentals of playwriting. Over a series of weeks, the young writers wrote one-act plays. One play was chosen from each school and was performed alongside other plays written by students from other East End schools. Kelly Colligan's play, *Wacky Wednesday*, starring classmates Serina Kaasik and Henry Lang, explored what far-out things can happen when teens push the limits of gender roles. The play was performed before a live audience at Southampton College's Avram Theater in April. Kenna McCarthy was the stage manager. All YAWP plays can be viewed on YouTube at: <http://yawpezine.com/> Spring 2011 issue.

This annual program was made possible by a generous designated gift to the Foundation.

SAT Prep

Shelter Island High School juniors were given the opportunity to kick their SAT skills up a notch with a new on-line SAT Prep program called Method Test Prep. Guidance counselor Mark Palios thought the program, which is widely used on Long Island and nationally, would be a valuable addition to the SAT prep class taught in the high school.

Highly motivated students who are willing to commit time and performance standards have access to the interactive program that prepares students for the rigors of the SAT's critical reading, math and writing components. Students work at their own pace to "skill and drill" questions and strategies.

This opportunity was made possible by the generosity of Ed and Nancy Barr.

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Donor Spotlight:

Barbara Horgan

Barbara Horgan has been a Shelter Island homeowner for many years. Her career was spent at the New York City Ballet, where she was the long-time assistant to the company's director, George Balanchine. Working that close to the heart of the company's creative genius, it's no surprise that Barbara is just about as devoted to the art form as a person could be.

Back in 2005, she put that devotion to work on Shelter Island. She knew that thousands of youngsters from all over the region attend the annual performances of *The Nutcracker*, and she wanted the children of Shelter Island families to have the same privilege. So, together with Linda Kofmehl, Barbara began to make charitable gifts to the Foundation that paid the cost of tickets and a bus ride to Lincoln Center for the entire 8th grade class every year.

Barbara's gifts continue to this day. Since she began sponsoring this program, more than 120 children have been enchanted by Tchaikovsky's magical Christmas fairy tale. Before they attend, the children learn about dance theater and the dancers, which enhances the experience.

Thank you, Barbara... You have truly made a difference!

Summary of 2011 GRANT AWARDS

The Foundation's individual grant awards are made to resident students of Shelter Island who wish to attend educational programs. In addition, institutional grant awards are made to institutions that offer programs that fit the guidelines of our mission.

The Foundation also has a designated gift program. Designated gifts are independently identified and supported by the commitment of generous community members.

Highlights of this year's two grant cycles, through which over \$32,000 was awarded, are as follows:

Individual Awards:

- Awards to eight students to attend a language and culture home-stay program in Madrid, Spain
- Award to one student to attend an AFS study abroad program in Norway
- Award to one student to participate in the National Youth Leaders NY State Conference
- Award to one student to attend the People to People Ambassador Program in Europe
- Award to one student to participate in an educational program in Paris and Madrid
- Award to one student to work in an orphanage program in the Dominican Republic
- Award to one student to attend a YMCA outdoor environmental program in Minnesota
- Award to two students to attend Camp Quinipet's Showkids Theatre program



Institutional Awards:

- Perlman Music Program of Shelter Island to fund their annual children's concert
- Shelter Island School Special Education department for three Kindle e-readers with text-to-speech technology
- The Shelter Island Public Library for various arts, science and literacy programs
- Shelter Island Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to visit The Intrepid Sea, Air and Space museum in New York City



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