



A NEWSLETTER TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY UPDATED ON RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen Joshi, *President*
Kerri Pierz, *Secretary*
Christine Lennon, *Treasurer*

Kristin Bott
Kathryn Ciriello
Leanne Fuccillo
Stacey Gorman
Colette Sturm
Logan Sullender

Ex Officio Members

John Barile, *Superintendent*
Brookfield Public Schools

Yvonne Cech, *Director*
Brookfield Library

Carol Dores, *Founder*
Brookfield Education
Foundation

Joy Greenstein, *Member*
Brookfield Board of
Education

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we have all continued to adapt to a new, safer way of life in the midst of the pandemic, we continue to see the grant requests that we receive reflect our new way of life. The most recent program funded is a lifestyle tool which assists in establishing and monitoring physical education and movement for BHS students. This tool can be used in person or remotely. Please check out details for the PLAT4M grant in this newsletter.

We are always excited to hear about new grant ideas! While many of them come from the schools, or community entities such as the library or senior center, we want you to know that anyone can champion a grant. That means YOUR idea could result in a great program for the Brookfield community!

As spring approaches, keep an eye out for the Honor an Educator program. We love offering this opportunity to celebrate the educators that do so much for us!

Be well,

Kristen Joshi, *President*

THANKS FOR GIVING

Thank you to all who supported our local businesses during the Thanks for Giving Weekend in November!



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE BEF:

- Make a monetary donation
- Corporate match programs
- BEF Appreciation Cards
- Event Sponsorship
- Vehicle Donation
- Leave a Legacy Program
- Amazon Smile

Please go to www.brookfieldeducationfoundation.org for further details

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

- Nelson Mandela

School Major Grant

In January, the Brookfield Education Foundation was able to fund a request for PLT4M, an online platform for fitness education that features customizable lessons and units that include video tutorials and assessment tools for Brookfield High School students. Championed by Jeremy Kasack on behalf of the Brookfield High School PE Department, this tool was immediately put into use for Semester 2 for Brookfield High School students and will be utilized for years to come. Due to the challenge of teaching physical education remotely and the trend of exercise technology at home, the PE department felt that this will greatly enhance their ability to reach students at home and those in school to achieve their fitness goals and provide quality fitness instruction. Students will be invited into a class, download an app and be able to follow along with lessons that progressively take students through



proper exercise form basics, explain why it is important and how to progress to the next level. Students will have the ability to use the tools to track their progress not only in PE but in their extracurricular sports and personal fitness interests as well.

Could You Be Our Next Grant Champion?

What is a grant champion? And who are they? Grant champions are individuals interested in introducing a new program to support education in our town, and they bring this idea to the Brookfield Education Foundation to provide the funds needed to make that opportunity a reality.

Teachers and principals have submitted grants to test out new ideas not included in the annual school budget. The *One Book, One Read* program at Center Elementary School, Unified Theater and the RULER program now used out at all four Brookfield Public Schools all began with a grant from the BEF. Students started the String Ensemble and the Key Club at Brookfield High School with BEF grants. Key Club members then went on to teach seniors how to use iPads, supporting a BEF grant for the Senior Center.

A facilitator with Brookfield Cares partnered with Youth Mental Health Project to pilot the Brookfield Parent Support Network. A recent Eagle Scout project created standing desks at Brookfield High School to help some students focus in class, and a Girl Scout project put hand sanitizers in the schools to help reduce the number of absences due to illness, both with help from the BEF. If you walk along the Still River Greenway, you can read the self-guiding signs and learn about the historic, geological and environmental features of the Still River because of a joint project by Northwest Conservation District, Brookfield Parks & Recreation and Brookfield Conservation Commission, funded by the BEF.

The charts below show the distribution of grant funds by recipient and focus, and we are proud that our grants support opportunities for all ages, at both the schools and throughout the greater community. Do you have a novel idea that supports continuing education in Brookfield? If so, you could be the next grant champion! Please reach out to us at brookfieldeducationfoundation@gmail.com.

Brookfield Library Unveils First StoryWalk

In November 2020, the Brookfield Library opened the first StoryWalk, featuring *Be You!* by Peter H Reynold, with a grant from the BEF. The boards were placed on the library's front lawn, allowing families to walk and read the story anytime, even when the library was closed. At the start of the StoryWalk, families could pick a rock with a word painted on it, talk about its meaning, and then look for that word in the pages of the story. Keep an eye out this spring for the next story!

