



A NEWSLETTER TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY UPDATED ON RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS

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Dear Friends,

Hello and Happy New Year! Thank you for taking a moment to read about the exciting things happening with the BEF. We are very excited about 2022 for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, we are proud to share our recently awarded grants here with you. We have a well-rounded selection of funded programs, including social emotional well-being, technology, community wellness and healthcare. We hope you enjoy reading about each of them here in this newsletter.

Our annual Honor an Educator program kicks off in April. It’s a fantastic way to celebrate our teachers. Remember your coaches, instructors and other civic leaders too - we are all influenced by “teachers” in our everyday lives. This program offers an opportunity to celebrate them.

We are thrilled to bring back the Thanks for Giving Gala this year! Mark your calendars for **November 18, 2022!** It’s a fun-filled night to look forward to - musical entertainment and open bar, along with live and silent auctions at the beautiful Candlewood Inn. Gather your friends and save the date for this evening out!

Finally, we’d love to hear from YOU! All of our grants start with a spark. Do you have an idea for a new program you’d love to see in our town? We’d love to hear about it! Our board members are happy to speak with you on how to turn your idea into a grant request. Please reach out to one of us!

Be well ~
Kristen Joshi, *President*

SAVE THE DATE

THANKS FOR GIVING GALA

Friday
November 18, 2022

Candlewood Inn

Produce Garden at the Congregational Church of Brookfield

The Congregational Church of Brookfield is creating a garden to teach community members how to grow produce and provide organically grown fruits and vegetables to a local food bank. Volunteers will be taught Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic gardening techniques, primarily through hands-on lessons with a UConn-certified Master Gardener. Volunteers will also learn how to determine realistic target yields, rotate crops, and note how weather conditions, disease and pest damage impact the garden’s growth.



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

RECENTLY FUNDED PROGRAMS AT OUR SCHOOLS

Wellness Room

A Wellness Room at **Brookfield High School** has opened with help from a grant from the BEF. The Wellness Room is a relaxing and peaceful space for school counselors to welcome students for self-care seminars and classroom lessons, as well as offering a space to find some peace and tranquility during a busy high school day. The school counselors created a room that features space for yoga, puzzles, zen coloring and more. It also provides a more informal space to meet with school counselors. This is truly a special room!



Oculus for 6th Grade Science

Championed by 6th grade science teacher, Dennis Petrino, this grant will allow for the purchase of four Oculus virtual reality headsets to enhance the science curriculum at **Whisconier Middle School**. The possibilities for use abound - as students learn astronomy, they can stargaze in the constellations or see the surface of the moon; as they learn the laws of motion, they can calculate the path of an object and then follow behind it as it moves and lands on target; and as they learn about the construction of arches, they can stand underneath and appreciate the dimensions of the structure. The goggles connect to Mimeo boards so that all students can share in the experience. They also support multiple team building exercises and can engage some reluctant scientists.

STEM EMT Course

The Brookfield Education Foundation funded a grant request to support a new EMT course at **Brookfield High School**. Students will practice hands-on skills, such as learning to insert oropharyngeal airway adjuncts (OPA) and nasopharyngeal airway adjuncts (NPA). The skills in this class will enable students to successfully test for the State of Connecticut and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exams and certifications, allowing them to work as EMT's, lifeguards, and emergency dispatchers, plus, it provides a competitive edge for a career as a firefighter. Additionally, students will have opportunities to work within medical offices and hospitals in the area as well as differentiation on the student's college application.



Wellness Wednesdays

The Wellness Wednesdays Program, championed by Alison Fitzpatrick and the **Whisconier Middle School** Counselors, will allow students to learn to address stress and anxiety in a way that is both beneficial and fun. The BEF grant provides materials and resources for stations that promote mental health awareness, encourage positive stress relief strategies, and provide mental health resources. A google classroom will be created so students have access to the resources all year.