

BROOKFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS

Keeping the Brookfield community up to date on recently awarded grants

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BEF Founder, Carol Does, accepting the "Innovative Education Foundation of the Year" award in 2006

We are honored to have served Brookfield for the past 20 years as a community partner supporting new and innovative educational opportunities for Brookfield residents of all ages. Enjoy this winter's newsletter to see what great programs we have been proud to fund in this past year, as well as to be inspired by ways you can help us celebrate two decades of service to Brookfield.

Save - the - Date



Honor an Educator

April 2024

Thanks for Giving Gala

November 22, 2024
Candlewood Inn

Help Wanted!



Graphic Designer for creation of BEF marketing materials, including annual Gala event materials

For more information, please email:

brookfieldeducationfoundation@gmail.com

Since the BEF is a non-profit organization, we seek pro bono support.

THANKS FOR GIVING GALA

December 1, 2023

Candlewood Inn

Over \$31,000 Raised
Thank you Brookfield!

Our 2023 Thanks for Giving gala was a great success! Our gala was hosted once again at the Candlewood Inn right here in Brookfield at the beginning of December. As always, the night was filled with dinner, dancing and bidding! We are proud of the great increase in support from returning and new sponsors this year. We are forever grateful to businesses large and small who help us raise the funds needed to support our mission. We are equally grateful to the individual donors, gala attendees, auction prize donors, and auction prize bidders for their support of all we do at the BEF for Brookfield. Our annual gala reminds us how much our mission can only be fulfilled with the type of amazing community support we continue to receive. Thank you!

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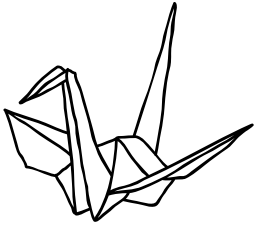


THANKS FOR GIVING GALA



2023 FUNDED PROGRAMS

Approximately \$30,000 in funds were distributed to qualifying grant applications in 2023



ORIGAMI BASICS PROGRAM

THE BROOKFIELD CRAFT CENTER | Champion: William Chen (Troop 5)

The Brookfield Education Foundation funded a grant request from William Chen, Troop 5, Brookfield, to launch an origami program at the Brookfield Craft Center as part of his Eagle Scout project. The program involved a 3-hour class where students were introduced to different styles of origami, the history and cultural component of origami, and basic folding skills. Participants tested their new skills by working on 4 different origami projects. Plans are underway to arrange for future workshops.



EMOTION INTO ART

WHISCONIER MIDDLE SCHOOL | Champion: Rachel Jalbert

Tom Varano visited WMS for a series of in-school programs and a community event that delivered a unique combination of speed painting of historical and contemporary figures woven into stories of important life lessons. These performances inspire the audience -- students and community members alike -- to follow their dreams with passion.



DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & THE GIFT OF MUSIC

BROOKFIELD LIBRARY & BHS | Champion: Debby Holland & Alexandra Stowell

This program delivered a visit from renowned violinist and public speaker, Brendan Slocumb, author of [The Violin Conspiracy](#). At the Brookfield Library program on February 15th, Mr. Slocumb shared how exercising creativity, particularly musically, has therapeutic and restorative benefits. On February 16th, Mr. Slocumb was the keynote speaker at "Diversity Day" at BHS where his personal story conveyed the important theme of being true to oneself.



ANDREA BEATY THEMATIC UNIT

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ELEMENTARY - 2ND GRADE | Champion: Jennifer Pink

The BEF has funded a program at CLES to support a book study of books by author, Andrea Beaty for 2nd graders. The selected books emphasize important learning lessons related to courage, perseverance, problem solving, and acceptance. The unit will be complemented by a field trip to the Ridgefield Playhouse to see [Ada Twist Scientist and Friends](#), and a joint reading exercise with families at home of [Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters](#).

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CURRENT ISSUES WITH ART GOTTLIEB

BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER | Champion: Amy Diezemann

The Brookfield Education Foundation funded an initiative to offer the senior community six discussion sessions on the nation's current issues. Facilitated by historian, social worker, and veteran, Art Gottlieb, the program provided a safe venue for open, engaging discussion of current events and issues in a non-judgmental environment.



CLIMATE, EARTH, ENVIRONMENT

BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER | Champion: Amy Diezemann

This program offered a four-part lecture series on Climate, our Earth, and the Environment. The lectures were conducted by Dr. Stephen Mitchell Wagener, Climate Change Educator, Ecologist and Professor of Biology at Western CT State University. This series offered engaging programming on an introductory topic level to seniors in the Brookfield community, providing an opportunity for life-long learning in an open, welcoming environment.



BRAIN AND BODY FITNESS

BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER | Champion: Amy Diezemann

The "Brain and Body Fitness" program brings a unique angle to exercising the brain and connecting the brain with the body through fitness at the Brookfield Senior Center. The exercise sessions include a variety of activities using beach balls, noodles, racquets, and word games that will awaken cognitive faculties, enhance memory function, intensify focus, and cultivate problem-solving skills. This program works to keep both the mind and body engaged while having fun.



Grant applications are continuously reviewed on a rolling basis.

Submit your idea today!



*Help us
celebrate*

20
YEARS

Ways you can help...

1

Consider a \$20 donation to the BEF in honor of our 20th anniversary

2

Submit your grant idea today to be part of our special 20th anniversary class of Grant Champions

3

Follow us on Facebook to help us achieve 20-fold growth of followers

4

Forward this newsletter to 2 friends who may be interested in learning more about the BEF



Thank you!

www.brookfielddeducationfoundation.org