

# Gloucester Education Foundation

*Annual Report 2011*

IDEAS





*A nonprofit organization dedicated to making Gloucester one of the five best school districts in Massachusetts.*

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## President's Message

### *Five-in-Five: Are We There Yet?*

Five years ago a handful of people had an idea. Why not create a way to make it easier for people in this community to support the public schools? And why not set a high bar to work toward? Why not try to help Gloucester's public schools become one of the five best districts in the state in five years?

That is how the Foundation began. Now at five years, it's time to ask, "Are we there yet?" In many ways, yes, we are. Where we have not yet reached the bar, we are helping the District move in a positive direction. Ultimately, as we said from the beginning, "It depends on how you define best?" Here are a few of the ways I think we do rank among the best and some areas where we continue to focus:

#### Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

- Few, if any, Massachusetts Districts have such extensive machine and robotics education woven into their curriculum beginning in the 5th grade and spiraling up to the 12th.
- Gloucester's partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is unique, powerful, and growing.
- Each summer GEF sponsors 40 middle school students' participation in a 2-week summer science and engineering camp at MIT and Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center.
- The new Birdseye-Hammond Lab in the O'Maley Middle School offers hands-on investigative learning in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- GEF and the Gloucester Public School District (GPSD) have been invited to submit a major grant proposal that, if successful, would extend the STEM activities throughout the District.

#### Arts

- GPSD arts teachers receive funds for special projects, equipment, and supplies.
- *Arts in the Schools* grants support area artists to work with classroom teachers.
- The annual Arts Festival brings people downtown from all over the city for a day of poetry, performances, photography, painting, and plenty more.
- With the Cape Ann Museum, local artist Susan Erony, and GHS teachers, we are developing a digital and text curriculum resource *The History of Art on Cape Ann*.
- The possibility of working with the North Shore Jazz Project and Berklee School of Music to expand our jazz music offerings is an exciting new development.

### *Being the Best*

As I see it, test scores are only one measure of success in such a diverse community. GPSD offers a broad range of opportunities, including strong academic, sports, extracurricular, and vocational programs for students to explore and find learning experiences that best meet their interests. And isn't that what education is really about? That's what the Foundation tries to do—supply the resources that help engage and excite the many different kinds of students to want to learn more.

### *The Next Five Years*

The original impetus for creating GEF remains—to make it easier for our community to support the public school district. We ask for your support today, and in the years ahead. Your contributions make a big impact on the lives of our young people. Please give as generously as you can by sending a tax-deductible donation to GEF, 33 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930. Our work to help make our public school district be among the best in Massachusetts depends on you.



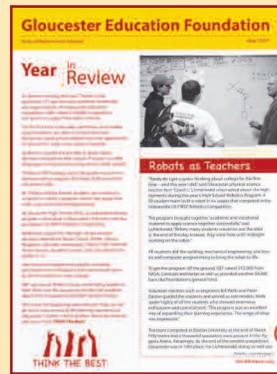
**Ed Shoucair,**  
*President,*  
**Gloucester**  
**Education**  
**Foundation**

**Thank you**

# GEF MILESTONES

## 5 Years of Firsts: Meeting Needs & Having Impact

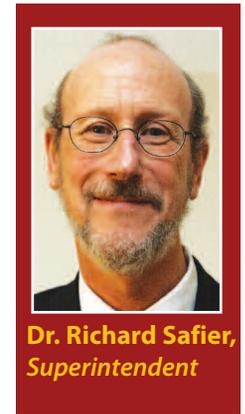
- 06/16/05** Seeds sown for GEF at exploratory meeting
- 09/08/05** 1st GEF Board Meeting
- 09/06/06** 1st grant made to GPSD (\$36,600)
- 10/16/06** 1st Annual Meeting
- 12/11/06** Birdseye-Hammond Fund established
- 02/12/07** Mini-grants awarded to all elementary schools
- 02/26/07** *FIRST* Robotics Competition
- 1st FY (March 2007) \$86,717 community support; 118 donors**
- 04/09/07** 1st Celebration Night
- 04/09/07** 1st Annual Report published
- 10/10/07** 1st Golf Tournament
- 12/12/07** \$1.3M (over 3 yrs.) *Sea Initiative* funding awarded
- 01/08/08** GEF-funded Science Coordinator hired
- 01/08/08** GEF funds grades 4 & 5 Investigations curriculum
- 02/25/08** GEF wins *FIRST* Robotics Competition Judges' Award
- 02/28/08** 1st Annual Robotics Fair for 5th grade students
- 2nd FY (March 2008) \$133,382 community support; 215 donors**
- 05/10/08** 1st Annual GEF-sponsored GPSD Arts Festival
- 06/10/08** 1st Annual GEF Summer Science program
- 3rd FY (March 2009) \$202,917 community support; 274 donors**
- 09/01/09** GHS Physics of Robotics curriculum funded
- 09/01/09** GHS Graphic Design course reinstated with GEF funds
- 09/01/09** Birdseye-Hammond STE Center opens at O'Maley
- 4th FY (March 2010) \$169,915 community support\*; 376 donors**  
*\*despite the ongoing recession*
- 04/01/10** GHS *Community Briefing* published
- 06/01/10** Math Specialist hired for GPSD
- 06/10/10** 1st Annual Career Day held at O'Maley
- 08/01/10** 1st District-wide Elementary Summer Literacy Program
- 5th FY (March 2011) \$172,756 community support; 342 donors**



Student learning, growth, and achievement are greatly enhanced when instruction is filled with deep, rich, authentic experiences that stimulate inquiry and reflection. Such opportunities have been the gift of the Gloucester Education Foundation over the last five years. The Foundation has sponsored and offered a growing set of enrichment activities both during and after school, activities such as world languages, applied math and science offerings, and an expanded arts program. In the arts, we can look to the District-wide Arts Festival, elementary theater productions, and a digital art course as examples. In math and science, the GEF has provided support for the acquisition of math textbooks, and, of course, they have been instrumental in instituting the quintessential 21st-Century science program, the Middle School Birdseye-Hammond Science, Technology and Engineering Center, to name just two of the many initiatives. In Robotics and Technology, Field Studies, and in a host of after-school programs the Foundation has fulfilled its mission to contribute to an enriched and supportive learning environment.

On behalf of the Gloucester School Committee, the staff, and most especially, the students of the Gloucester Public Schools, I want to extend a profound thanks and appreciation to the Gloucester Education Foundation for the outstanding work that you do. I look forward to our continuing, collaborative efforts.

**Dr. Richard Safier**  
Superintendent GPSD



Gloucester Daily Times





## Gloucester High School



**Dr. William Goodwin,  
Principal**

*Producing graduates with integrity, knowledge and skills necessary for productive citizenship.*

Grades 9-12  
1052 students

**Diverse GEF programs help students find their niche.**

Gloucester High School Principal Bill Goodwin believes many students who might not have graduated from high school due to a variety of academic and other struggles have had their lives turned around by finding that spark of interest, even passion, in a subject offered to them through a GEF-sponsored program over the last four years.

Many who seemed to lack an interest in school have gone to college or other post-secondary study, Goodwin says, to pursue marine or engineering science, theater, music, business and marketing, or some other special field as a result of their exposure to what GHS offers, on and off campus, to an increasingly diverse and challenging student population.

"It's finding that hook," says Goodwin, who envisions some of these kids going off to study and bringing back to their own community whatever expertise they've pursued beyond high school. "They can get here and think they don't have any interests, nothing in the ordinary stream of things seems to catch, and then suddenly they visit the Maritime Heritage Center or do a play or make a painting, or play an instrument, and 'click.' It's who they ARE, and never knew it. And they're off and running."

This reflects the stated mission of Gloucester High School, which hangs in Goodwin's office: "To produce graduates with integrity, knowledge, and skills necessary for productive citizenship."

"We're here to educate all our kids, not just the ones who take to academics easily," Goodwin says. "The GEF enables us to do that in ways we could not possibly achieve without them. Kids who once hated school, love it now. What more can you ask?"

## O'Maley Middle School



**Deb Lucey,  
Principal**

*Organized around the unique needs of maturing learners and nurturing habits of heart, mind, and work.*

Grades 6-8  
695 students

**Hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities abound.**

Students at O'Maley Middle School will see the installment of a fully functional wind turbine at its campus this spring as part of their study of the impact that human beings have on our environment, thanks to further GEF funding of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program that has been in operation at the school in steadily more dynamic, ground-breaking capacities over the last four years.

"Student understanding of the factors that affect climate leads to deeper appreciation of the balance between human activities and atmospheric changes," writes O'Maley Principal Deb Lucey. "Students armed with scientific knowledge and a desire

to make a difference use the engineering design process to create a scale model of a wind turbine that generates electricity."

Students build "test prototypes" in the STEM lab at O'Maley, teaching them the hands-on application principles involved in harnessing wind power as a safe, sustainable, abundant energy source, especially here on our windswept Cape Ann peninsula.

The wind turbine will be installed as the first of an assortment of different styles on one of the flat rooftops at O'Maley, affording students the opportunity to see a variety of turbine designs and performance in action.

"None of this would be possible without the continued support of the GEF," asserts Lucey. "How the world works—what happens to it, how we can affect it in positive ways—we are relying more and more on grants to supplement the education of our students both inside and outside the classroom, in all subjects. But never more dramatically than in science. It's so essential."

## East Gloucester Elementary School



**Gregg Bach,**  
Principal

*Encouraging academic excellence, social awareness, appreciation of Gloucester's historical, cultural and natural environment, and preparing the foundation for lifelong learning.*

Grades K-5  
262 students

### Ballroom dance experience rewards tenacity and unites participants.

The success of the Ballroom Dancing program with fifth grade boys, in particular, took Principal Gregg Bach somewhat by surprise.

"It's not something I ever would have done as a fifth grade boy," he says with a chuckle, "but we've had a participation rate of something like 99 percent. And it's not an easy set of skills to learn, either," he adds, particularly when the outcome involves not only dancing all those moves with an opposite sex partner over and over again, but performing it all live in front of a packed gymnasium of cheering, camera-snapping parents at the Mad Hot Ball every spring.

"It's complex, what they learn," Bach says. "First, they have to work at it—ballroom dancing does not come easily to most people. It involves doubling up on phys ed and music skills and aptitudes, addressing some developing maturity issues and learning to engage and move and communicate more openly

with other kids. It teaches superb skills like sticking to a task, trying hard through discomfort, getting past embarrassment and improving, seeing results. In the process, they're building self-confidence and a sense of ease in how they move through the world in general. You really see a change come over them."

GEF funds make it possible for local professional dance instructors to come to the school for hands-on lessons, plus collaboration with the gym teacher and music teacher. Classes take place during the day.

"It also unites these kids as a class," Bach adds. "They come together, become close, and you know that will last through high school. It just will. It's one of the most amazing things we get to see around here, and that's saying something."

## Plum Cove Elementary School



**Tammy Morgan,**  
Principal

*Working to cultivate a learning experience for the children that challenges them to be thoughtful, inquisitive, and ambitious students.*

Grades K-5  
221 students

### Students discover the habitats right in their own backyard.

Principal Tammy Morgan at Plum Cove School in Lanesville is enthusiastic about the impact of GEF funding on science curriculum for her students, particularly in what she calls "bringing the world to life" via field study projects.

"The spring field trips coming up just so reinforce and enrich what the kids learn about the world, about what's available to them in their own backyards," Morgan says. "Going out and experiencing it for themselves, hands-on, just raises their motivation, reinforces and enriches everything so much more than just a classroom can do."

Morgan says a GEF grant in collaboration with Gloucester-based Kestrel Educational Adventures brings experts into the school and then back out again into the field, for example with an upcoming program involving fourth graders and vernal ponds.

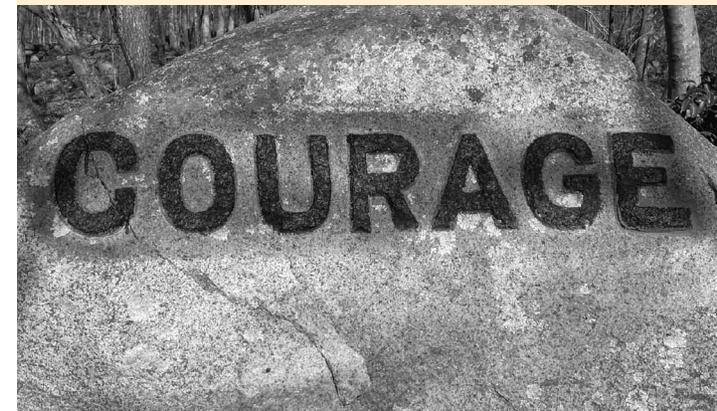
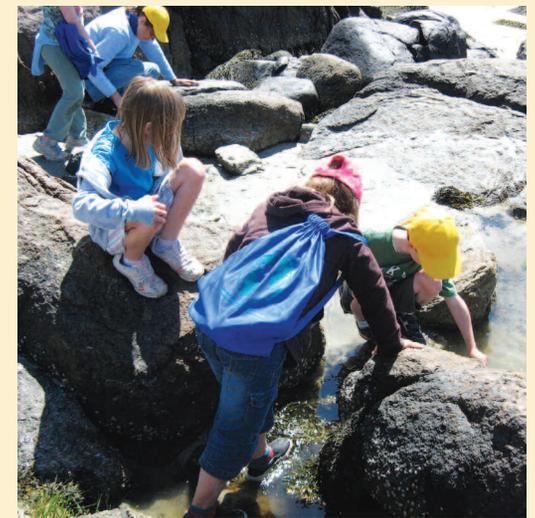
"It so enriches their experience to be able to see and identify and classify the animals in their own habitats, which happen to be their own backyards in many cases," Morgan says. "Salamanders, frogs, all these creatures, the pond just comes to life. It's something we absolutely could not do if it were not for the GEF—your contributions are just so valuable to us, getting our kids out in the world to discover it for themselves."

For the younger grades, Morgan says, field trips to the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center focus on teaching children about the ocean, how waves work, all varieties of marine life and hands-on exposure to tide pools and all sorts of undersea creatures.

"From day one, our kids get to be hands-on in science. That's huge."



Gloucester Daily Times

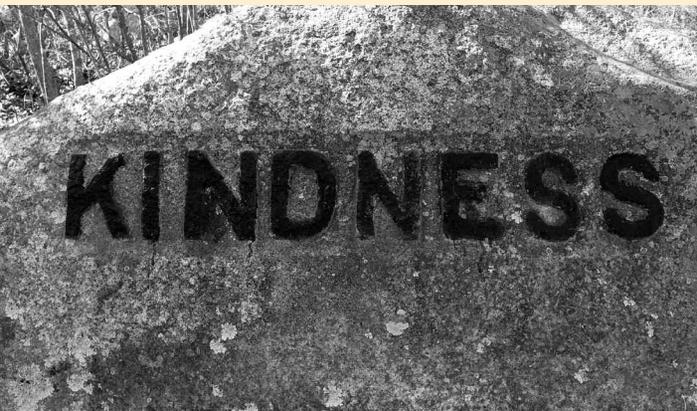




Gloucester Daily Times



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## West Parish Elementary School



**Jean Perry,**  
*Principal*

*“Caring to Learn, Learning to Care”*

**Grades K-5**  
**384 students**

**A theatre project, in which everyone has a role, brings literature to life.**

The Summer Literacy program at West Parish last summer, made possible by a grant from the GEF, involved both younger and older students in writing, producing, and acting in plays in conjunction with the Gloucester Stage Company (GSC) that were performed for parents and their fellow students, both during the summer and after the school year began.

“The younger kids did folk tales and fairy tales, and acted out stories written by Patricia Pollacco,” says Principal Jean Perry, who said participation was very high in the summer programs, and that the performances in the fall inspired other children to become involved in the school-year drama program, also a GSC and GEF collaboration.

“We so appreciate the help from the GEF in being able to offer programs like this to our kids. Theater, in all its forms—not every child will want to perform, but there is something for everyone to try, from writing to costumes to doing whatever needs to be done—is just so good for kids. They feel better about themselves, better about what they discover they can do that perhaps other subjects had not yet revealed to them—for some kids, this program made their summer.”

Perry says it is particularly satisfying to see a child who has been a struggling reader suddenly make the connection between a made-up story coming to life, and what is written down in books. That is a lasting impression they carry forward all their lives.

“We have no money for extras,” she says. “This starts out as an extra, but becomes so fundamental. We’re very grateful.”

## Beeman Memorial Elementary School



**Ellen Sibley,**  
*Principal*

*“Kids Shine Brightly at Beeman”*

**Grades K-5**  
**286 students**

**Students learn to be guardians of the local ecosystem.**

At Beeman Memorial School in Riverdale, Principal Ellen Sibley is excited about a project she says has been teaching students in a multi-age fourth/fifth grade class and a fifth grade class to make positive changes in their own community, as well as turning them into budding scientists.

These students, with the help of a GEF grant piggybacked with help from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and a marine science initiative called Living Blue, are learning first-hand the responsibilities that go with being “stewards of the ocean.” They’re working on a project to increase the salinity of the

Mill Pond in Riverdale to encourage the healthy re-growth of saltwater estuary plants and animals, which have died off and been replaced with invasive species after years of disruption from rainwater runoff and chemical imbalance.

“They’ve been learning about the regulation of saltwater flow, why it’s important, how to achieve it, what to look for in a healthy estuary environment,” Sibley says. “They’ll be down there in May, counting and classifying creatures.”

Meanwhile, other fourth and fifth grade classes have begun working on posters for City Hall and elsewhere to call attention to another project, this one co-funded by the GEF and Gorton’s: the planting of 4,000 dune grass plants at Good Harbor Beach, meant to help preserve the natural habitat of the dunes.

“These kids will never look at dune grass the same way again,” Sibley says. “A hundred and fifteen kids, each planting grass, each having an impact on what happens to the dunes” at Gloucester’s most popular beach.

## Veterans' Memorial Elementary School



**Cherylann Parker,**  
Principal

*Creating a safe place where students may learn and grow academically, emotionally and socially.*

Grades K-5  
238 students

### Summer Literacy program extends the learning year.

After a wildly popular first year (among parents and children alike) of GEF funding for the Summer Literacy program at Veterans' Memorial School, applications to participate the following summer were so numerous that a cap had to be placed on the numbers interested to keep the program within budget and small enough per session to reach every student, says Vets' Principal Cherylann Parker.

"It has been so successful in so many ways," Parker says of the program, which involves three sessions in July meant to integrate literature into fun and artistic activities that bring words and images to life for these elementary students, many of whom struggle in a variety of ways with

straight academic subjects. Improving literacy skills during the summer also helps bridge the gap that happens in many kids' skills between the end of school in June and the start of another year in September.

Adding to the compelling story of the program's success, Parker points out, is how important it turned out to be to provide lunch for the children.

This year, so that more funds will be available for the literacy elements, Parker hopes to collaborate with The Open Door to provide lunch for all children participating in the GEF program, free of charge to families.

"We have great plans for this year's program," Parker reports. "We want to revamp and redo the lobby, bring it to life with words and pictures, using all the materials at our disposal and some very excited imaginations. I can't wait to see what they do!"

## Year 5 Programs Funded by GEF

### GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Equipment for Physics of Robotics ROV
- Equipment for chemistry & physics (glassware, equipment repair, PASCO equipment)
- Equipment for music program (amplifier)
- Arts supplies (clay, paints, paper, etc.)
- Extended-Day Advisor Stipends:
  - Docksiders Band Director
  - Summer Band Director
  - Chorus Director
  - School Literary/Arts Magazine "Elicitor"
  - Theatre Program
    - Fall Play
    - Statewide Drama Festival
    - Spring Musical
  - National Honor Society
  - Community Service
  - Student Council Advisor
  - Chess Program
- Art History Curriculum Development
- A.P. Prep Summer Programs
  - Chemistry
  - English
  - Economics
  - Physics
- GHS Community Briefing published
- MIT workshop for teachers\*
- Marketing/DECA Program

### O'MALEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Science, Technology & Engineering Center:
  - Tech Specialist\*
  - Stipends to artists to create murals
  - Wind turbine project\*
  - Supplies and Materials\*
  - Lab Assistants\*
- Extended-Day Programs
  - Music Program
  - World Languages
    - German
    - Italian
    - Latin
    - Spanish
  - Robotics
  - CAD Boat Hull Design
  - Flight Simulation
  - Digital Film & Video
  - Extended-Day Coordinator
- Summer Science Program at MIT & GMHC\*

- Grade 6 Forest Connections Program
- Equipment for music program (amplifier)
- Arts supplies (clay, paints, paper, etc.)
- Career Day

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- District-wide Summer Literacy Program
- Grades K-2 Stone Soup Arts & Literacy
- Theater
- Extended Day Music Program (stipends, transportation & sheet music)
- Grade 2 Hands-On Science: Tidal Pools
- Grade 3 Hands-On Science: Mount Avalon – Glacial Landscapes
- Grade 4 Hands-On Science: Vernal Ponds
- Grade 4 Geographic Mapping Unit
- Grade 5 Hands-On Science: Dogtown Common – History & Biology
- Grade 5 Ballroom Dance Program
- Grade 5 Robotics
- Grade 5 LEGO® Engineering

### DISTRICT-WIDE INITIATIVES

- District-wide Science, Technology & Engineering Coordinator/Curriculum writer\*
- Math Specialist\*
- Grants writer
- Professional Development
- Arts Festival
- Transportation
- Sponsorship of Community-wide Education Forum

\* a Sea Initiative program  
Red text indicates a new program



**W**e have been proud supporters of the GEF and its mission for several years now and we want to thank you for all the hard work that goes into designing, supporting and funding what we see as a world-class slate of programs. Thank you for standing up for what is right for the 3000+ students in the Gloucester Public School District.

**Ed & Shilo Abell**  
GPSD Parents & GEF donors



## Notes on the Financials

### Growing Community Support for GEF

Community support for GEF grew this year to approximately \$175,000, even in the face of tough economic times. We are gratified that an increasing number of parents, businesses, and community leaders have recognized the positive impact of coming together through GEF in support of the Gloucester Public School District.

### Endowment Fund: A Valuable Asset

We are pleased to report that the GEF Endowment Fund has grown to approximately \$110,000. This fund is becoming increasingly important to the support GEF provides. Each year approximately 5% of the fund is used for programs that directly serve students. In the years ahead, GEF will launch a targeted campaign to grow this fund. In the meantime, those interested may elect to direct their donations to this fund specially designed to benefit Gloucester public school students for decades to come. Please note that GEF offers planned giving options, so please feel free to contact us to find out more.

### Sea Initiative Grant Funding Ending – Results Live On

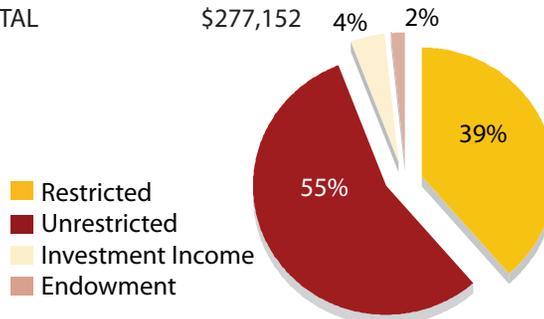
While funding for to the \$1.3 million *Sea Initiative* Partnership between the Gloucester Public School District and MIT is coming to an end this year, the benefits derived from the grant continue.

- GEF continues its partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this summer, with 40 O'Maley Middle School students participating, tuition free, in a two-week summer science and technology camp at MIT and Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center.
- Programs, curriculum and relationships developed during the *Sea Initiative* funding period give the Foundation and District an advantage in competing for new grant awards.
- MIT staff and alumni remain committed to working closely with GPSD teachers to bring cutting-edge learning into our classrooms.

Starting this next year, GEF will look to fund the summer camp and other initiatives begun with *Sea Initiative* funding with new grant awards and through donations, especially to the Birdseye-Hammond STEM Fund. Please give as generously as you can to support the continuation of these wonderful science, technology, engineering, and math programs that are unique to Gloucester and have tangible performance results.

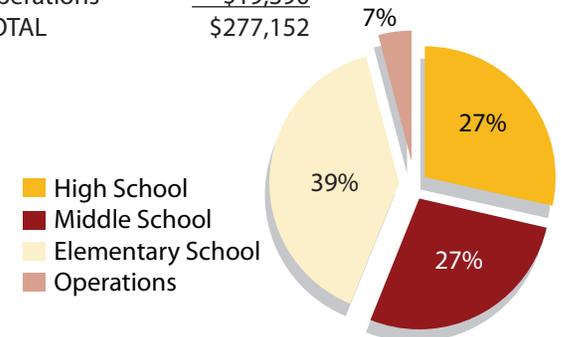
### Revenue

Restricted	\$107,177
Unrestricted	\$153,610
Investment Income	\$11,365
Endowment	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$277,152</b>



### Expenditures

High School	\$76,178
Middle School	\$74,103
Elementary Schools	\$107,481
Operations	\$19,390
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$277,152</b>



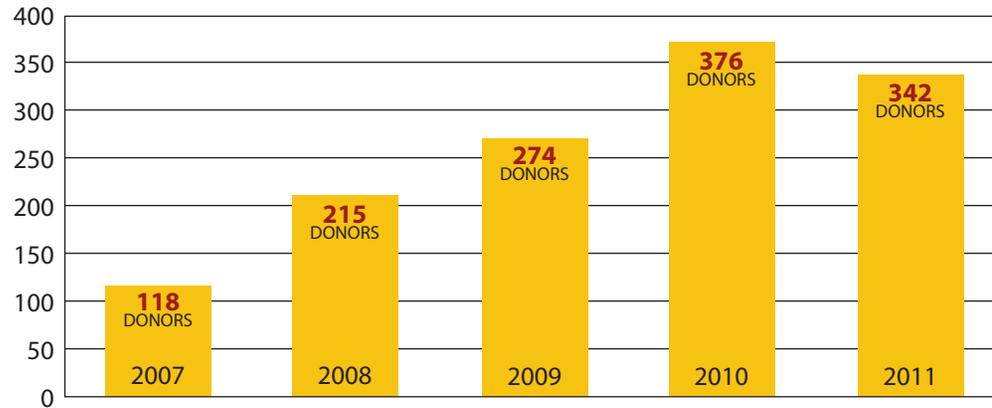
## Donor Driven Impact

GEF learns of the positive impact it has on Gloucester students in many ways. We hear it from educators who appreciate the curriculum enriching programs GEF funds. We hear it from our partners at the Cape Ann Museum and MIT where Gloucester students attend GEF-funded programs and are consistently complimented for their courtesy and intellectual curiosity. We hear it in the kind letters that parent donors enclose with their contributions. And, we heard it loud and clear recently when we received donations from a pair of young siblings who have participated in GEF funded programs.

These young donors, ages 10 and 14, chose to give to GEF because they “just want to help to make school better.” GEF is inspired by their faith in our ability to make positive change and proud that those who matter most – Gloucester’s students – value our work.

We are grateful to all the donors who, through their generosity, make GEF support of the Gloucester Public School District possible.

### Number of GEF Donors



**A**s the grandparent of a 10-year old fourth grader who participated in the All-City Band concert at GHS, I want to personally express my appreciation to GEF for providing funds for both the bus that picks up the kids at all elementary schools and delivers them to O'Maley for practice and for the stipend for David Benjamin's instruction and leadership. It was a wonderful event and I was glad to know how much the GEF puts into this program.

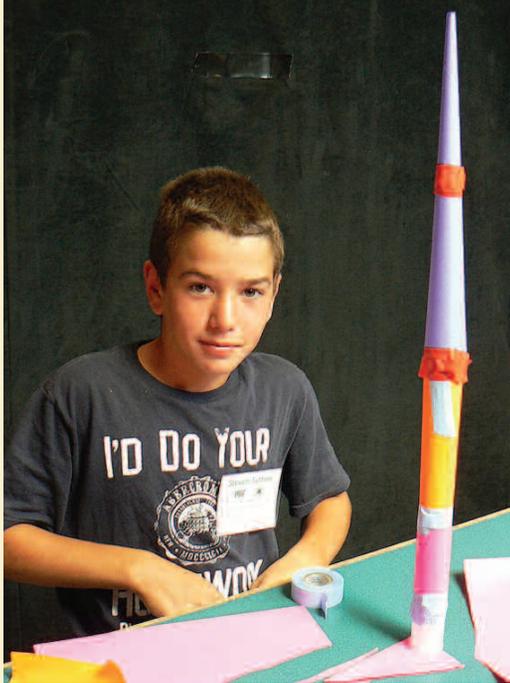
Ruth Pino

**W**e believe in helping others, especially the younger generation who are the future of this country. All cities and towns have experienced severe budget cuts in the delivery of services, this in turn affects the quality and quantity of school offerings and extracurricular youth programming. With these budget cuts, it is up to private individuals and businesses to ensure that the youth of today are well provided for by funding programs through organizations such as the GEF and the wide array of other good organizations on Cape Ann that work with the young. We join many others in filling in the gaps.

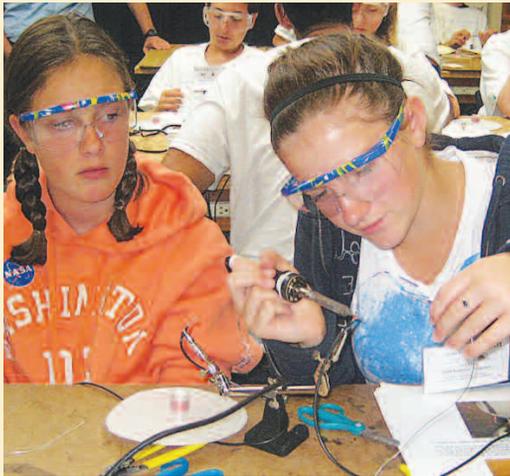
It has always been our way of life to do something about our areas of philanthropic interest rather than to sit back and watch organizations struggle. It is all about making a better world and putting money where it will make a large payoff. Through our local paper, we are always made aware of the problems, but we also read about the many youth who are excited about learning and are accomplishing great things. The Gloucester Educational Foundation has augmented the programs that the Gloucester Schools are able to offer, and many of these programs have “lit a fire” in the students’ minds through exciting programming.

Mollie & John Byrnes





MIT Edgerton Center



MIT Edgerton Center



## Gloucester Education Foundation 2010-2011 Contributors

### GEF Community Leader Family Sponsor (\$400+)

(\$10,000 +)

John & Mollie Byrnes\*  
Kathleen & Kevin Clancy\*  
Anonymous Foundation\*  
The Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation\*  
Joe & Maggie Rosa\*

### School Sponsor (\$5,000+)

Anonymous  
Cape Ann Savings Bank\*  
Comcast\*  
Martin & Michele Del Vecchio\*  
The Dusky Foundation\*  
The Stella & Charles Guttman Foundation, Inc.  
Richard & Anne Rosenfeld

### Grade Sponsor (\$1,000+)

Edward & Shilo Abell\*  
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Edward & Mary Anderson  
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**M**aking connections with the community is part of the Museum's mission, and our collaborations with the Gloucester Education Foundation enable us to reach our most important constituents - young people. We believe that providing students with a knowledge of Cape Ann's multifaceted story increases their sense of belonging, empowerment and civic pride. From the Annual Gloucester Student Arts Festival to their work on the "History of Art on Cape Ann" curriculum for high school students, GEF's commitment to creating quality educational opportunities for Gloucester's kids is unparalleled.

**Ronda Faloon**  
 Director, Cape Ann Museum





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