



# Gorham Educational Foundation News

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2008

## GEF Sponsorship Campaign 2008

GEF's goal for 2007-2008 is to gain 250 new private and corporate sponsors to support us in our efforts this school year.

Be a part of an energetic organization dedicated to bringing good things to our schools to ensure great kids come out of those schools ready for the world.

Please visit the GEF website at [www.gorhamef.org](http://www.gorhamef.org) to become a sponsor online! It's easy, and your donation is tax deductible.\*

Help GEF realize its goal of growing and helping more Gorham kids succeed and lead the world.

\*GEF is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.

### Board of Directors

Jon Smith, President

Katherine Garrard, Secretary

Sterling Williams, Treasurer

Kristine Biegel

Gerry Day

Sara Nelson

Melinda Shain

Ted Sharp, *ex officio*

Janet Williams, *ex officio*

## GEF Announces 2008 Grant Cycle and New Micro-grants!

The GEF Board announces the opening of its 2008 grant application acceptance period. Beginning February 15, 2008, applications, guidelines and instructions may be downloaded from the GEF website. Grant applications must be in keeping with the focus and priorities of GEF's mission. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$1,200. The application deadline is May 1, 2008 for

grants to be awarded in June 2008.

In addition, GEF will also accept applications for micro-grants between \$50 and \$250 throughout the year on a rolling basis. GEF hopes these smaller, more available grants will be just what teachers need to make a real difference in the classroom. Applications will be available on the web in February. Call for more information: 233-1919.

### Grant Workshops a Big Success!

Through a generous donation from Gorham Savings Bank, GEF was able to host 2 grant workshops for educators this Fall. The workshops introduced teachers to the variety of grant opportunities available and provided tips and hints for writing a successful grant proposal. Attendance at the events was large and enthusiastic and several grants have been submitted as a result of the workshops. Great ideas were exchanged and developed and will form the basis of more grant applications. GEF provides help for writing the grants, helping teachers formulate a budget for their ideas, and offers assistance matching an idea with an appropriate grant opportunity. GEF plans an additional workshop in the Spring.

### Spring Wine Tasting Event

Mark your calendars for May 17, 2008! GEF and Baxter Memorial Library have partnered to plan an exciting evening of wine tasting, featuring stunning Maine wines, fabulous tidbits and tasty morsels presented by the Pinecrest Inn and their own Mo Terry, followed by coffee and pastries. Participate in the silent auction designed to raise funds for both GEF and the Library. Please be generous in your support of these two wonderful community organizations.

To enhance the fun, the two groups are issuing a community-wide challenge for the silent auction. Groups and businesses are challenged to assemble and donate a basket of items for auction. Crea-

### OUR MISSION

The Gorham Educational Foundation is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education in the Gorham public schools through supporting programs that encourage a thirst for knowledge, respect for the community and responsible citizenship.

Our core goals are to enrich learning, promote ethics and leadership and to support excellence in teaching.

*GEF is an IRS certified 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible.*

### GEF STARS Program

The STARS program is going strong in Gorham. "School Teachers Are Really Special" is a way to recognize a teacher who has influenced you or your child in some way, or to let that special educator know how much you appreciate him or her.

Forms to make your teacher a STAR are in each school's main office and on the GEF website. For a minimum donation of \$10, your special teacher will receive a note telling him or her how special you know they are and a star hung in the hallway of fame.

## RECOGNIZE THAT SPECIAL TEACHER GIVE HIM OR HER THE "STARS" TREATMENT

Name of teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) to appear on gift card  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Simply fill out this form and return it with your check to GEF, Inc. PO Box 295,  
Gorham, ME 04038. A minimum of \$10 gift per name is requested.

### Meet GEF's Newest Board Member!

Gerry Day was unanimously elected to the GEF Board at the October meeting. Gerry brings a wealth of experience and community involvement to the organization.

When Gerry was asked about her impressions of GEF, she said, "When I was approached about serving with GEF, I admit I thought it would be just another committee. However, in my first few months, I have found the organization vibrant, full of 'out-of-the-box' creative thinking, and an organization that holds educators in Gorham in very high regard." Gerry also said, "Since I retired from education after 41 years, I have actively looked for a way to continue supporting teachers and education. This committee seeks to find ways to help teachers do that

'something extra' for their students, as well as reward deserving teachers, of which we have many! I feel fortunate to be a member of the Board of Directors for the Gorham Educational Foundation. I feel this committee will be instrumental in providing opportunities for Gorham teachers to continue their excellent work for our Gorham youth."

Join us in welcoming Gerry to GEF. She is such a wonderful addition to our growing team! If you would like to be a part of GEF, please contact us for volunteer opportunities via phone or email.

[233-1919 or [gorhamef@maine.rr.com](mailto:gorhamef@maine.rr.com)].

### Spring Fundraiser: Wine Tasting and Silent Auction

tivity is encouraged and will be rewarded with a prize for the People's Choice of most creative collection. Groups are challenged to assemble a collection of items for donation to the auction that reflect something special about the group or business. For example, a group of math teachers from one of the schools might choose to assemble a basket of math tools, games and books. A plant nursery might assemble gardening supplies, pots, soil and a gift certificate all in a wheel barrow. Employees

at an oil company might consider a gift certificate for oil, along with a fuzzy afghan or blanket and a cuddly stuffed animal. What a great way for the community to support these organizations and have fun in the process! A special grand prize raffle will be available to those attending the tasting, which of course, is for adults only! Visit the library to register your group for the competition and to get more details, or call GEF at 233-1919.

