HELPING STUDENTS LEARN TODAY SO THEY CAN LEAD TOMORROW

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

SPRING 2023
A Message From the Downingtown Community Education Foundation

SPARK is an interesting word. It can be a noun meaning something that sets off a sudden force or a latent particle capable of growth or developing. SPARK can also be a verb meaning to respond with enthusiasm or stir to activity.

DCEF wants to make sparks fly - every day, as much as possible, for as many students and educators as possible. We have the privilege of working collaboratively with a number of inspiring individuals, community-minded local businesses, dedicated teachers and administrators and invested parents and alumni who are sparks in their own right and ignite sparks in others.

Together we inspire students, engage teachers, corporations and individuals and enrich our community by making sparks fly.

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DCEF sparks curiosity in students...inspiring them to learn today so they can lead tomorrow.

DCEF's After School & Summer Enrichment programs, along with Kdg JumpStart and the Mobile Book Club, build a foundation for success in school and then go beyond the classroom to fan the sparks of students’ natural curiosity and creativity. Students can meet an author, build a volcano, find out why bugs can walk on water, publish a book and so much more while learning confidence and teamwork.

Research shows that when you build relationships with students they will learn more. That is why for four years DCEF has partnered with DASD, CCRES, Austill’s Therapy Services and CCIU to bring Kdg JumpStart to all 10 elementary schools. Now thanks to a spark from Deb Rooney and Principal Ilana Shipe from Bradford Heights, DCEF is sponsoring a Home Visitation Program for all new to school students. Teachers and parent volunteers will visit new families, building connections and forming partnerships that will have a lasting impact not only with students’ academic and emotional success but also strengthen our school communities.

Over 300 students in DASD are pulling double duty in school, learning English as a second language while absorbing all subjects taught. The increasingly multilingual character of DASD’s student population creates a high-stakes challenge for all involved - students, parents who want to see them flourish and educators who want to ensure their academic success.

Jessica Mazzoli witnesses these challenges first hand on a daily basis in her job as an ESL Program Specialist, so she initiated an afterschool English Language Learners program focusing on fun activities and teamwork to enhance and spark their language learning. DCEF heavily subsidizes this program to ensure that all children have an opportunity to participate.

"Our daughter enjoys the program, and is learning a lot."
Engaged teachers inspire students, so DCEF engages teachers... by encouraging them to spark their students’ creativity and passion. At DCEF we are the “incubator”, funding innovative programs on a small scale to determine viability, impact and scalability to all students in the district.

Since 2010 DCEF has awarded close to $200,000 in grants to teachers. In addition to our existing teacher and student grant funds that focus on the Arts, Culture & Humanities, Service Learning, Libraries and Student Empowerment, DCEF is initiating a SPARK Award. Beginning in the Fall of 2023, DCEF will give a teacher or team of educators in each building in the district $1,000 to help them spark the creativity and innovation in their students. Creativity unleashes potential and helps spark new ideas. Innovation turns creative ideas into viable solutions. Hand in hand, they are powerful ways to disrupt and adapt, to help students find their hidden talents and to discover the next ‘big thing’ for today’s ever-changing world.

Jennifer Martin, a Social Studies teacher at DHS-West, wanted to reignite a spark that had been lit decades earlier. For more than 20 years, students attended an amazing Holocaust symposium where survivors shared their stories. Unfortunately, the symposium is no longer able to be held due to age and limited number of survivors. In 2014 a memorial was placed at West but it drew little attention.

Jennifer Martin’s students had an idea to create a useful and beautiful space centered around that existing Holocaust Memorial. So Jenn listened to her students and built a consortium of partners - DASD educators and administration, students, local businesses and DCEF to revitalize and rededicate this space where students can relax and reflect, where teachers can teach outdoors and where all can remember and appreciate the sacrifices that have been made so no one will ever again have to endure such intolerance and violence.

Our impact extends beyond programs and grants. DCEF sparks teachers, students and community leaders to enrich our community. There are so many!

Tom Mulvey, “Head Narwhal” of the Marsh Creek 6th Grade Center since it opened in 2014, champions integrating the arts and creative thinking into education, creating well-rounded students who will succeed academically and socially. Thank you Tom for being the spark for the Narwhal Learning Center bringing opportunities for students and teachers to learn and teach in new and different ways outdoors in a natural setting.

West Pharmaceutical Services has been the spark for many of DCEF's endeavors. Their generosity not only set the wheels in motion for the Mobile Innovation Lab but also has made the dream of the Narwhal Learning Center a reality. We are grateful to have such a strong corporate and community partner.

The Vikings are known for their fierce bravery and exploration of the unknown. The Hamilton family comes from that strong Norse heritage coupled with an equally strong commitment to their community. They want to encourage the students to fearlessly pursue whatever sparks their interest as they explore and learn along the Viking Learning Trail. Thank you Ronda, Hank, Carl, Drew, and Jesse Hamilton for your dedication and commitment to Downingtown.

With the completion of the Learning Trail we are now focusing on the amphitheater/outdoor classroom. There is still time to be a part of this project that will be a long-term asset to our community. Contact Jackie Fenn (jfenn@dcedf.org).
DCEF was pleased to partner with DASD’s efforts for diversity, equity and inclusion by holding a first ever Culture Fest at Marsh Creek 6th Grade Center. Over 1,200 students and families enjoyed food from around the world, were entertained by talented students and celebrated our community.

**CULTURE FEST**

The DASD Dunkers took on the Harlem Wizards again this year and were led to an almost victory by Superintendent Bob O’Donnell. 1,600 kids, parents, grandparents, teachers and administrators enjoyed an evening of great family fun while raising over $25,000.

**HARLEM WIZARDS**

The Whitford Charitable Trust annually gives back to Chester County non-profit organizations who perform good work in the community where we live, work, play and raise our families. This year DCEF was fortunate to be a beneficiary of this hard-working group of dedicated community volunteers. Thank you!

New Legacy Donors 2023: Basil Anderson, Ronda, Jesse, Hank Hamilton & Siblings, KCBA Architects, McLean Contributionship, Dr. Richard & Mrs. Lily Siegel, Brian J. Stocker & Family, Whitford Charitable Fund

**NET ASSETS**

$654,000 as of March 31, 2023

$659,000 as of March 31, 2022

**# OF DONORS**

67 Individual Donors

84 Corporate Donors

5 Foundations & Grants

**HOW FUNDS WERE USED**

$24,500 Grants & School Projects

$20,250 Kdg JumpStart

$4,000 Mobile Book Club

$261,000 Narwhal Learning Center

$27,000 Scholarships

$336,750 TOTAL SUPPORT TO DASD

DCEF seeks to engage students’ creativity, passion and unique intelligence for the enrichment of our local and global communities. We are so fortunate that so many generous donors share this same desire.

Dr. Richard & Mrs. Lily Siegel, Anne & Brett Gerry and Basil Anderson are just a few of the folks who have recently established scholarships to ensure that DASD students will be able to continue to fan their spark and passion to pursue a secondary education. They are making a profound impact on student lives that will continue for decades.

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**GOLF OUTING**

Thanks to sponsors and golfers for making 2022 the best golf outing yet raising over $30,000!
We gratefully acknowledge those who have given over $10,000 since 2010

**LEGACY DONORS**

**PLATINUM $250,000+**
West Pharmaceutical Services

**CENTURY $100,000+**
Bentley Systems
S&T Bank

**GOLD $40,000+**
Harper Family Foundation
Anne & Brett Gerry
Meridian Bank
Krapf Bus

**SILVER $20,000+**
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Florence W. March
Hamilton Family
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Pfizer
Univest Bank & Trust
Verizon

**BRONZE $10,000+**
3M
Basil Anderson
Fulton Bank
Hankin Foundation
Jaimee & Joseph Kauffman
KCBA Architects
Dr. Emilie Lonardi

**3M**

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**Fulton Bank**

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**KCBA Architects**

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**ANNUAL DONORS**

**Grants, gifts and sponsorship of $250 or more from January 1, 2022 to March 30, 2023**

**$20,000+**
Anne & Brett Gerry • Ronda, Jesse, Hank Hamilton & Siblings* • S&T Bank • West Pharmaceutical Services

**$5,000-$10,000**
Basil Anderson • KCBA Architects • McLean Contributionship • Meridian Bank/Cassandra Woleschok* • Dr. Richard & Mrs. Lily Siegel • Priscilla & Jeffrey Singleton • Whitford Charitable Fund

**$2,000+**
A.G. Financial • AGI • Austill’s Educational Therapy Services • Automotive Training Center • Audrey Blust* • Canna Milne Financial • CM3 Building Solutions • D L Howell • Guy Donatelli • DSM • Eagle Wolfington Leasing • Horace Mann/Josh Winter* • Krapf Bus/Dan Jauch* • Main Line Financial Solutions • Main Line Health • Mid Penn Bank • National Guard • Service Master Services/Rachel Gibson* • Paige & Ashton Simmons* • Stand Strong Training Inc • Brian J. Stocker & Family* • STS, Inc.

**$1,000+**
A Child’s Place • AGC Chemicals • Avanceon • Brandywine Learning Center/Gina DiGiacomo* • Chester Valley Engineers • Exton Dental • Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union/Marc Ernest* • Kinetic Physical Therapy • Jacquelyn McCalla* • Provident Energy • Vanguard Realty

**$500+**
ACP • Bentley Systems • Gino Bradica* • Exelon PAC Match • Exton Custard Operations/Freddy’s • Malvern Bank • On the Go Kids • Stein Realty • Tuttle Marketing Services • United Sports Training Center • Urban Air • Worthington Waterproofing

**$250+**
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