

LAKE PLACID NEWS

ROTARY CLUB NEWS: Ed-Opp Fund provides access to opportunity



Rotary Club of Lake Placid check passing (Photo provided)

On Dec. 6, Lake Placid Educational Opportunity Fund Co-President Sibyl Quayle and Vice President Stephanie Colby visited the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Lake Placid.

The “Ed-Opp Fund” was awarded a \$1,000 check from the proceeds of Rotary’s popular Trivia Night Benefit. Support from individuals and organizations like the Rotary Club of Lake Placid has a significant impact on children’s lives right here in our community of Lake Placid, North Elba and Wilmington.

“A gift of \$1,000 is the average size of one teacher innovation grant which brings new ideas to Lake Placid classrooms,” Colby told the Rotary Club. She is a parent of a middle schooler. “A gift of this size could also cover six families’ yearly participation in the district’s backpack program, which sends children who could potentially go hungry over the weekend or on school vacations home with a backpack full of food.”

In 2016, a group of Lake Placid Central School District alumni, parents, educators and community members established the Educational Opportunity Fund at the Adirondack Foundation.

The mission is to enhance the learning and life chances of LPCSD children. Modeled after a handful of highly successful non-profits that support public schools in New York, the Fund underwrites projects and initiatives outside of the district’s operating budget.



Chromebooks in a local classroom (Photo provided)

The goal of the Educational Opportunity Fund is to provide every student, regardless of financial circumstances, the same access to opportunity. The Fund has raised thousands of dollars to provide books to elementary school children to keep them reading during the summer months, meals as part of the backpack program so that students don't go hungry over the weekend or during school breaks, and access to educational programs for students such as AP courses, Bridge courses, and SAT prep for students whose needs outweigh their resources. These are initiatives that fall outside of the school district's budget but are vitally important to the success of students during their school years and beyond.

“This fund is proving to be one of the best tools we have to help our students overcome barriers that they face and open doors that were once closed to them,” said Lake Placid School District Superintendent Roger Catania, who is also a Lake Placid Rotarian.

Teacher innovation grants are a staple of the fund's yearly awards and have prompted a new wave of excitement and enthusiasm in Lake Placid Central

School District classrooms. Ergonomic Hokki stools to boost core strength along with concentration, Chromebooks to personalize the learning experience, and programmable robots and drones to increase STEM skills are just a few of the projects the Educational Opportunity Fund has supported to bring innovation into classrooms.

To date, the group has recommended awards totaling more than \$20,000 in support of its mission of equal access to opportunity, with the backing of the Rotary Club of Lake Placid as well as many other private gifts and grants.

Quayle, a retired pre-school teacher, told the assembled Rotarians, “We are deeply grateful to the Rotary Club of Lake Placid and the many families and businesses who have chosen to support the Educational Opportunity Fund for the Lake Placid Central School District.”

If you like helping other people, and are curious about Rotary, stop on by a Rotary meeting any Thursday at 7:20 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott, or find us on Facebook or online at our website, RotaryLakePlacid.com.
