

# News from The Lebanon Township Education Foundation (LTEF)

## *What is the LTEF?*

The Lebanon Township Education Foundation (LTEF) was established in 2006 by a group of parents interested in enhancing educational opportunities within the Township. The founding members set out to raise money, through private donations, grants and fundraising events, which would be used to provide resources not available within the school budget. The funds raised by the Foundation provide programs, equipment and capital improvements that enhance the education experience of the children and adults in Lebanon Township. The LTEF is a 501(c)(3) organization; therefore most donations are tax deductible.

The LTEF has no paid employees and is managed by a small group of volunteers, enabling it to keep administrative costs to a minimum. This past year's administrative costs were only one percent of our net proceeds. Ninety-nine percent of the money we raised directly benefited residents of Lebanon Township – particularly our children.

## *How do we raise money?*

We started our fundraising activities with a membership drive in July of 2006 and in two short years we've netted greater than \$160,000. Fundraising activities have included, two Golf Outings, a 5K Race and Fun Run, a Cabin Fever party, the Bourbon Street Blues Fest and cash donations received from residents and local businesses. During the 2008/2009 school year, we are planning three major fundraising events, including a repeat of the Cabin Fever party and the Bourbon Street Blues Fest. The dates and times for our fundraisers will be announced shortly.

## *Where does our money go?*

While many may know us best for our playground fundraising, the LTEF is actually so much more. During the past 18 months the Valley View Playground has been the focus of most of our attention, due to the dire need for improved recreation equipment at the school and the enormous amount of money needed to complete the project. We anticipate the Valley View playground will cost \$150,000. With \$132,000 raised, we are just \$18,000 short of our goal. Aside from the playground project the LTEF supports the following programs and activities:

- \* Ralph Bleck Memorial Scholarship
- \* Enrichment Grant Program (formerly the Teacher Grant Program)
- \* Adult Education Classes
- \* Woodglen Recreation Project.

**We're on the web!**  
[www.LTEFuture.org](http://www.LTEFuture.org)

## *How can you help?*

There are three ways that you can support the LTEF:

- \* Volunteer your time! The LTEF is managed by a very small group of volunteers. Our immediate need is to get more people involved. The LTEF Board meets once a month, on the second Monday of each month. Please contact one of our Board members for more information about volunteering.
- \* Participate in our fundraising events!
- \* Make a donation! You can designate where your donation is used. We will keep your name anonymous, if you choose. Remember, donations benefit our children and are tax deductible.

Please visit our website at [www.LTEFuture.org](http://www.LTEFuture.org) to obtain additional information about our programs and activities.

*We thank you for your support!*

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## *LTEF Adult Education Highlights*

One of the goals of the LTEF is to provide educational and enrichment opportunities not only within our schools, but also to adults and seniors in the township as a whole.

This past April, the LTEF sponsored a 4-week course in Personal Finance, which covered such topics as funding for college education, retirement planning, and evaluating investment portfolios. The course was taught by Pei-Yung Song, who is a Woodglen parent as well as owner of Song Financial Planning LLC. Participants in this course benefited from 8 hours of very personal guidance and instruction.

During the 2007-08 school year, the LTEF also offered a Beginner Yoga Class Series to benefit the Playground Fund. We are very pleased to provide this opportunity again. The classes will begin on Wednesday, September 17, with one-half of the tuition being donated to the Playground. For further details, contact Julianne at [jatargan@comcast.net](mailto:jatargan@comcast.net), or 832-6156.

If you or someone you know has an expertise to share or would be interested in helping us plan and coordinate this exciting program, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Anne Mankiewich at [ajmank@aol.com](mailto:ajmank@aol.com), or 832-7997.

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## *LTEF Scholarship in Progress*

The LTEF has started work on a new scholarship. The LTEF Scholarship will be awarded on a yearly basis to a college-bound senior who is a Lebanon Township resident. The scholarship will be based on both financial need and academic achievement.

Over the coming months, the LTEF will be focusing on establishing specific criteria for this new scholarship. We would welcome input from any parents interested in making a contribution to this new program. If interested in participating in the Scholarship Committee, please contact Anne Mankiewich at [ajmank@aol.com](mailto:ajmank@aol.com), or 832-7997.

## ***Enrichment Grant Program (Formerly known as the Teacher Grant Program)***

The LTEF Enrichment Grant program was developed to help our education professionals streamline the process of putting their creative ideas to work. Through the LTEF website, donors can directly fund projects posted by our schools' educators and administrators, and all donation amounts are welcome.

This program has been a great success! Last year's grants and their originators include:

Jane Duval—Woodglen	Marie Petronella—Valley View	May Saxton—Valley View
ELMO Visual Literacy Machine	SPARK! Literary Magazine	Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle
\$1500.00	\$1000.00	\$100.00

The LTEF applauds your support for these important projects. Please keep in mind that when you make a contribution through this program, you are not only directly enhancing your child's classroom experience, you are also making a tax-deductible donation as allowed by the LTEF's 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status.

Please be sure to periodically check our website for grants that need funding at [www.LTEFuture.org](http://www.LTEFuture.org).

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## ***LTEF Playground Committee***

One important function of the LTEF is to assist the school district with capital purchases that would be difficult to include in today's no-frills school budgets. That role is currently being carried out by the LTEF's Playground Committee. The Valley View playground is undersized, limited in play options, and does not meet the needs of our school population in its entirety. The committee has worked with key administrators and the school board to develop plans for a new outdoor play space at Valley View and is currently raising funds to bring the plans to fruition.

The plans call for school age and preschool age playground equipment, a basketball court/blacktop area, and a covered structure to be installed near the existing school ball fields. The projected cost for the playground is \$150,000, which includes equipment purchase and transportation, moderate site work, and initial engineering services. It assumes the majority of the labor will be donated. The figure does not include costs to ensure the site is accessible; these costs cannot yet be determined.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generous support of district families and area businesses, the fundraising efforts have been successful. To date, \$132,000 toward the \$150,000 goal has been raised. Personal donations, penny collections, a clothing drive, flower sales, bake sales, a golf outing, a portion of the proceeds from the Blues Fest, and more have combined to help us close in on our goal. Our accomplishments so far could not have been possible without the efforts of the LTEF board and volunteers, and the members of the playground committee. Fundraising will continue this year to help us reach our goal, and new volunteers are always welcome. To join, please contact chairperson Collette Evanko at [cpevanko@comcast.net](mailto:cpevanko@comcast.net).

Once the playground project at Valley View has been completed, efforts will begin to design and install age-appropriate fitness and recreational amenities at Woodglen School, ensuring all district children have opportunities for free play. Besides helping maintain physical health, free play during the school day helps children build social and problem-solving skills as well as reduce stress. It is an important part of our children's complete education. The LTEF and its playground committee are pleased to play a role in raising the funds to make outdoor play an integral and enjoyable part of our children's school experience.

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## *Ralph Bleck Memorial Scholarship*

The Lebanon Township Education Foundation is honored to administer the donations to the Ralph Bleck Scholarship Fund.

In May 2006, the friends of Ralph Bleck, a former 8th grade teacher at Woodglen School, established an annual \$500 scholarship to memorialize his life and his love for Lebanon Township. This scholarship recognizes a Woodglen School eighth grader who exemplifies some of the outstanding qualities of Ralph Bleck. The recipient is formally recognized at Woodglen School's award assembly and receives the monetary award in the spring of his/her high school senior year.

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### *The Bourbon Street Blues Fest was a great success!*

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time in order to make our Blues Fest a huge success. The volunteers on the Blues Fest Committee - Sean Francis, Greg Starr, Mike Trudel, Bob Tabor and John Roncoroni - did a great job putting the event together. Elyse Fiers' preparation kept the money flowing. Collette Evanko made sure that the kids were having a great time, with the help of Isabella Tabor and the Playground Committee. All our dedicated volunteers made sure that the event ran smoothly and professionally.

The Education Foundation netted \$18,200 from the Bourbon Street Blues Fest. The LTEF has designated over 80% of those net proceeds to our Playground Project.

Thanks for your dedication!  
Mike Walsh, President

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### *Meet the Faces of the LTEF!!!...*

*LTEF Board of Directors:*

<b>Mike Walsh</b>	President	<b>Anne Mankiewich</b>	Secretary	<b>Elyse Fiers</b>	Treasurer
<b>Susan Forenzo</b>	Vice President	<b>Bob Tabor</b>	Assistant Secretary	<b>Isabella Tabor</b>	Assistant Treasurer

*LTEF Trustees:* **Charlie Felts**  
**John Roncoroni**

*In addition, the LTEF would not be able to function without the important volunteers who head and staff our committees:*

<b>Collette Evanko</b>	Playground Committee	<b>Kristen Irving</b>	<b>Chris Houser</b>
<b>Lisa Ambielli</b>		<b>Bev Knoll</b>	<b>Lorraine Cangemi</b>
<b>Stephanie Bavos</b>		<b>Maureen McCord</b>	<b>Amy Whitmore</b>
<b>Erin Brogan</b>			
<b>Sean Francis</b>	Blues Fest Committee	<b>Greg Starr</b>	<b>Mike Trudel</b>
<b>John Roncoroni</b>		<b>Mike Walsh</b>	
<b>Bob Tabor</b>			
<b>Bob Tabor</b>	Golf Outing Committee	<b>George Wilhelms</b>	
<b>John Roncoroni</b>			
<b>Noreen Ranallo</b>	LTEF Website		
<b>Julianne Targan</b>	Enrichment Grant Program (formerly Teacher Grant Program)		