

Worcester Educational Development Foundation

YEAR IN REVIEW 2011-2012



Helping Students and Teachers Thrive

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Your Support Makes This
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2nd Annual Distinguished
Alumni and Friends of the
Worcester Public Schools
Banquet
November 8

2nd Annual Foley 5K Road
Race
May 6

*Please join us in supporting
our students and schools!*

As we look back on the past school year, we are so thankful for the generous donors and many volunteers who have brought more than \$200,000 to the Worcester Public Schools.

Now, as this school year begins, we are re-imagining what this organization can become. Our objective is to grow in service to our schools. Our commitment to our supporters and our schools is that we will:

Sustain our base of strength. The WEDF enjoys a strong network of donors, friends and community partners. They are committed to the students and teachers who fill Worcester's schools each day. We will continue to nurture those relationships and maintain what we have done so well for the past seven years.

Sharpen our strategic focus. We will collaborate with the Worcester Public Schools to define a larger vision and set of goals for our organization. This alignment will help us even better connect donors to strategic education initiatives in our city.

Grow our impact. In growing from our strong roots and branching into a multi-year strategy, we intend to expand our fundraising, show measurable results, and build for the future.

This will be a journey; this growth and development cannot happen overnight. But we are energized by what we have done, and what we believe we will become. We hope you will be with us as we drive forward on our mission: to **help Worcester's students and teachers thrive.**

Two handwritten signatures are shown side-by-side. The signature on the left is 'Stephen Pitcher' and the one on the right is 'Sandy Mayrand'.

Welcome to new WEDF President Stephen Pitcher

The Worcester Educational Development Foundation is delighted to announce that Stephen M. Pitcher will serve as the organization's third President. Since 2005, Mr. Pitcher has

served as President of the EcoTarium and will be leaving at the end of September to continue his career in transitional management.

With a professional background in corporate finance and management, Steve served as Director of Finance and Systems for Norton Advanced

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Ceramics in Worcester, as Vice President of Finance and Controller at Vetrotex CertainTeed, a Saint Gobain Company located in Philadelphia and as Vice President and CFO of Davenport Resources, an early stage investment company located in New York City.

Steve is the founding partner of Compass Partners whose goal is to strengthen small and medium-sized organizations through strategic planning, process improvement, and on-demand support. He is also a founder and partner in Leadership Transitions which is dedicated to building the capacity of nonprofit organizations before, during, and after a leadership change.

Steve has extensive community involvement having served as the Interim Executive Director at Preservation Worcester and as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Higgins Armory Museum and Music Worcester. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Greendale YMCA, is on the Board of the Worcester Club, and continues as a member of the Higgins Armory Finance Committee.

He attended Worcester Public Schools from Kindergarten through High School. His children were also in the WPS system and now his grandchildren attend.

Community Partnerships

Coats for Kids

In October 2011, the WEDF and the Junior League of Worcester together raised \$30,000 to buy more than 2,000 coats for kids in Worcester schools.

Lifelong Education

A \$30,000 United Way grant funds adult education through the WEDF. The GED basic education classes prepare adults to enter the workforce or go on to higher education.

Many of these adult learners are parents of Worcester Public School students. As they advance their own education, they can be better role models for their children – and better help them with their homework.

Helping Students Thrive

AVID ~ The AVID program targets students performing in the academic middle, and advances them into more rigorous honors and AP courses. More than 2,000 middle and high school students participated in AVID over the last two years.

Art and Music ~ The WEDF spent \$20,000 on art supplies, musical instruments, and field trips to special performances, including busing all high school seniors to see Macbeth at Hanover Theater.

Health and Wellness ~ Team uniforms, equipment for the All-City Swim Team, anti-bullying programs through Rachel's Challenge at the middle schools – all this was made possible through WEDF's supporters. And our first ever Foley 5K Road Race raised funds for every elementary school to purchase new equipment for recess and physical education.

Science ~ Every middle school in the district was furnished with new supplies for hands-on science – everything from magnets and clay to scientific calculators and iPads.

Major Donors

These programs have been made possible by our many generous supporters, including these corporations and foundations:

Abbott Bioresearch Center

Alden Trust

Anonymous Donor

Commerce Bank

GoodWorks Insurance

Grafton Hillers

Hanover Insurance Group Foundation

Nathaniel Wheeler Trust

Stoddard Charitable Trust

TJX

Worcester Credit Union

Helping Teachers Thrive

Innovative Worcester teachers with new ideas for the classroom can apply for up to \$500 from the WEDF mini-grants program. In February 2012, teachers from every quadrant of the Worcester Public Schools received funds to bring new learning experiences in a wide array of disciplines, spanning engineering, the fine arts, sports, Shakespeare, history, health, and more. Below are just three examples of the 25 mini-grant projects.

“It was exciting to have the materials to undertake what could have been a daunting task.”
– Heather Farrington

Constructing 3-D Models, Flagg Street School

4th and 5th graders created accurate scale models of classrooms in their school. Students were fully engaged as they applied math skills they had learned throughout the year and gained new skills in project management and problem-solving. Math teacher Heather Farrington gave awards for the most accurate and creative models.

Seussical the Musical, New Citizens Center

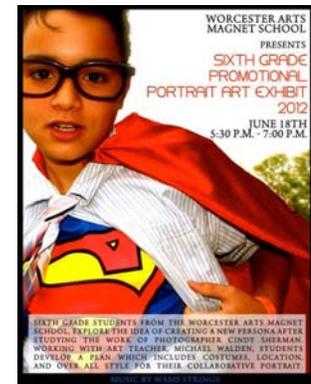
“It was the first time most of the students had ever been to a professional live theater production.” – Alice Hunter

Students attended “Seussical” at the Hanover Theater, and then put on their own musical based on Dr. Seuss tales. The entire student body contributed to making scenery, choreographing dances, creating costumes, and, of course, singing and acting in the show. Teachers Alice Hunter,

Steve Alzamora, and Lauren Sargent even stretched the funds to improve the sound and lighting systems for school productions.

Creating Art in the Style of Artist Cindy Sherman, Worcester Arts Magnet

Michael Walden and Doreen Genna worked with sixth grade students to explore the idea of creating a new persona after studying the work of photographer Cindy Sherman. Students developed a plan which included costumes, location, and overall style for their collaborative portrait.



Making Strides for Health and Math at Sullivan Middle School

Robert Thorsen of Sullivan Middle bought pedometers and had his students count the number of steps they took during gym class, calculate the distance they traveled, and track their progress over a three-week period.

“Students who normally put in minimal participation made a greater effort.” – Robert Thorsen

Sandy Mayrand, Outgoing WEDF President, Receives Dr. Stephen E. Mills Founder's Award



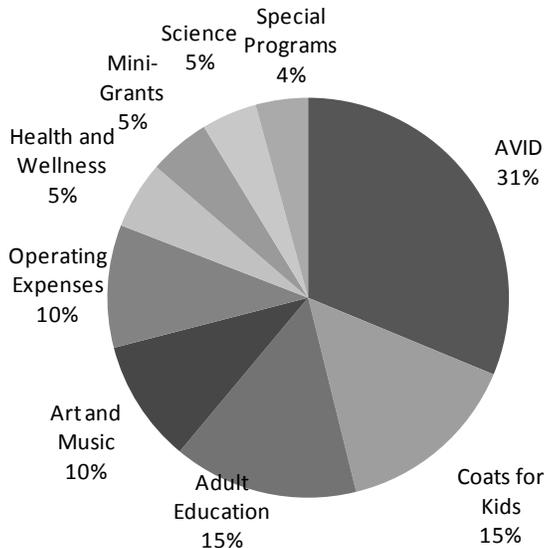
Sandra Mayrand, Executive Director of the Regional Science Resource Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and outgoing President of the WEDF, is the 2012 Dr. Stephen E. Mills Founder's Award recipient.

During her three year term as President, Ms. Mayrand guided the WEDF through the development of a strategic plan, establishing financial policies and procedures to secure WEDF's future, and improving public relations through friend building and strengthened communications.

For more than 25 years, Ms. Mayrand has been a leader locally, state-wide and at the national level in advancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education and careers, working tirelessly with school districts throughout Massachusetts. WEDF salutes and thanks Sandy Mayrand for her leadership and commitment to public education and for advancing our mission.

WEDF Allocations 2011-2012 School Year

Your Support Makes This Possible



Donations may be sent to:
WEDF
Suite 224
210 Park Avenue
Worcester, MA 01609

Employee payroll deductions may be set up by contacting wedf@gmail.org

Thank you in advance!

WEDF assesses a 3% fee on all restricted contributions to cover administrative costs associated with managing the funds.

Distinguished Alumni

The first ever Distinguished Alumni & Friends of the Worcester Public Schools event was held in November 2011.

The honorees were recognized for their outstanding achievements. They are an inspiration to the students of today.

To learn more about the 2011 honorees and our 2012 event, visit wedfwps.org