



Fall 2013

*Helping Students and Teachers Thrive*

## Inside

- 2 Same Leadership, New Address!
- 3 Hanover Funds New School Playground
- 3 Coats for Kids October 10th
- 3 More Mini-Grants Coming This Fall
- 3 Distinguished Alumni November 6th
- 4 2012 – 2013 Fiscal Year

## Thousands of WPS Students Experience Cultural Institutions Thanks to Alden Trust

No cell phones? No video games? No electricity? Those are the types of questions Worcester's third grade students might have asked themselves as they explored Old Sturbridge Village last school year. At the EcoTarium and Broad Meadow Brook, sixth grade students conducted hands-on science investigations, bringing their curriculum to life.

In fact, more than 9,000 Worcester students had the opportunity to experience our region's cultural institutions in the 2012-2013 school year, thanks to the generosity of the George I. Alden Trust. The Alden Trust pledged \$100,000 per year for five years to ensure that entire grade levels of students have the opportunity to explore first-hand the vast cultural resources of our community. The Trust not only supports the program fees, it also pays for all of the buses. WEDF thanks the George I. Alden Trust, and Durham Bus Company that is providing transportation at discounted rates.

## Same leadership, new address!

Louise Clarke accepts position of Interim Executive Director of the WEDF



The Worcester Educational Development Foundation (WEDF) is pleased to announce that Louise Clarke has accepted the position of Interim Executive Director. Ms. Clarke retired from the Worcester Public Schools in June after many years of dedicated service, and accepted the newly created Interim Executive Director role at WEDF in July. “Louise has been the bedrock for the WEDF since its inception, and we are delighted that she has accepted the Interim Executive Director position.” WEDF President Stephen Pitcher said.

The WEDF partners closely with the Worcester Public Schools, but it is a separately incorporated charitable organization. Since its founding in 2005, the WEDF has raised more than \$2 million for sports, arts, sciences, the AVID program, mini-grants for teachers, and more. Its Board of Directors includes representatives from business, community groups, and higher education, as well as Worcester Public Schools administrators, teachers and parents.

“The WEDF plays an important role in the life of the Worcester Public Schools,” said WPS Superintendent Dr. Melinda Boone. “We are excited about continuing

and strengthening our collaboration, working together to help Worcester’s students and teachers thrive.”

Ms. Clarke brings more than 30 years’ experience in both public education and non-profit management through her work in the Worcester Public Schools and the Alliance for Education. She has also served in leadership positions in the Junior League of Worcester, the YWCA and the United Way of Central Massachusetts.

The WEDF is setting up new office space this fall. Louise Clarke can be reached at [wedfwps@gmail.com](mailto:wedfwps@gmail.com).

*“The WEDF plays an important role in the life of the Worcester Public Schools. We are excited about continuing and strengthening our collaboration, working together to help Worcester’s students and teachers thrive.”*

*-WPS Superintendent Dr. Melinda Boone*

## Hanover Insurance Group Foundation Builds New Playground

The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation donated \$25,000 to fund a new playground for their neighborhood elementary school, Wawecus Road. The new eco-friendly recreational space includes two vibraphones and a row of durable drums.

Hanover employee volunteers, Wawecus families and city employees gathered to construct the new playspace on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Pictured at right with a young student is Jennifer Luisa, Assistant Vice President of Community Relations at Hanover and a WEDF board member.



## Coats for Kids Annual Fundraiser October 10th

3

More than 2,000 Worcester schoolchildren receive new winter coats each year, thanks to Worcester Public Schools volunteer coordinator, Paula Harity, and her dedicated committee. The annual fundraiser will be held Thursday, October 10 starting at 4 p.m. at Coral Seafood on Shrewsbury Street. There will be entertainment, appetizers, and prizes at this lively event. A minimum donation of \$ 10 is requested.

For more information, call Paula at 508-799-3030. If you wish to contribute to the program, please send your donations to: WEDF/Coats for Kids, Suite 224, 210 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA 01609.

## More Mini-Grants Coming This Fall

Mini-grants of up to \$500 for innovative teachers will be available again this fall – an announcement will be sent to WPS teachers in October. Both curriculum enhancement and Sports Alive funds will supplement the work of Worcester teachers and benefit our students. Learn more about our mini-grant program at <http://wedfwps.org/mini-grants/>.

## Distinguished Alumni & Friends of the Worcester Public Schools November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

We invite you to an inspiring event honoring a composer, an author, an ardent advocate for women's issues, a musician on a popular reality show, and others who have made Worcester proud and contributed to our community.

### The 2013 awardees are:

Myrna Benson  
Laddavanh "Anna" Bouphavichith  
Deborah D. Cary  
Allan "Kool Kojak" P. Grigg  
James Hogan  
Alexis Hyder  
Audrey Kurlan-Marcy  
Erin Moran McCormick  
Michael Orland  
Pagano Family  
James Rushton  
Jonathan Silverman

### Honorary Chairman & Keynote Speaker

President Barry Maloney

Join us on November 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the College of the Holy Cross for a dinner and celebration. Tickets are \$50 and checks may be sent to WEDF.

## 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

WEDF is a small organization, with just one part-time staff member, many dedicated volunteers, and many more generous donors. Together, we have benefited thousands of Worcester Public School students. As a result, children are excited to come to school and learn, teachers get classroom tools they've dreamed of, and all of us are part of a thriving community that makes us proud. Here's where WEDF's funding came from in the 2012-2013 year, and the programs those funds went to support.

### Contact Us!

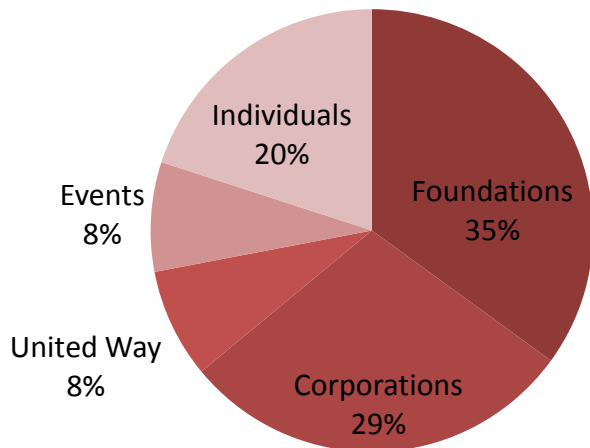
Learn more at our website  
[www.wedfwps.org](http://www.wedfwps.org)

Donations may be sent to:

WEDF  
Suite 224  
210 Park Avenue  
Worcester, MA 01609  
Email: [wedfwps@gmail.com](mailto:wedfwps@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance!

### FY 2012-2013 Funding Sources



### FY 2012-2013 Expenses and Distribution

