

CLIFTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION



2024-25 School Year Highlights

We are heartened by the generosity and support from our Clifton Public Schools community and family of individual, business donors and philanthropic foundations who have made this our most successful fundraising year ever. Together, we are opening doors and minds to opportunities that reach beyond those traditionally offered to public school students, empowering them to reach new heights in personal achievement.

Through your generosity, 59 grants were awarded this year, among them funding for sustainability initiatives like the newly formed Beekeepers Club and Kindness in Plants at CHS. Student empowerment grants supported Key Club leadership conferences as well as opportunities for fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students in Special Education programs collaborated with peers to enhance their proficiency in math and essential life skills. Makerspace, fully funded by the CEF, continued to promote STEAM throughout the district.

CEF Trustees work year-round to secure funding through a variety of ways. Thanks to a generous grant from the McCutchen Foundation, 10 POCKETALK S2 Plus Electric Translators were purchased for the ELL/Bilingual faculty and staff enabling district employees to communicate effectively with non-English speakers, providing every opportunity for student success in our richly diverse community.



CHS Key Club attends DECON 2025

CHS Beekeepers Club



Moments of Joy and Sorrow

There were some great moments of joy this year. The school year began with our very first annual CEF “Endless Summer” Fundraiser, a reunion of nearly 100 retired former Clifton Board of Education employees. CEF grants for High School and Middle School plays and musicals showcased student talent and brought joy to the entire Clifton community. “The 26th Annual Clifton Education Foundation C.A.S.T. Film Festival” further showcased the remarkable talent and creativity found in the halls of our schools. Through the generosity of the Clifton Community Band and Mustang Band Alumni Association, the annual “Lollipops & Roses” Fundraiser provided an afternoon of great music and community support. And again, thanks to funds received from the McCutchen Foundation, the CEF was able to provide major funding for the “Clifton Early Learner Academy’s Family Fun Day & Touch a Truck” resource event, providing a day of fun and valuable health and wellness resource information for families and the Clifton community at large. The CEF was pleased to once again provide funds for the Superintendent’s Annual “Governor’s Educator of the Year” Dinner, honoring teachers, educational service professionals and paraprofessionals recognized for their outstanding contributions to our students and school community.

The year sadly also brought some deep sorrow. The CEF joined the entire Clifton Public Schools community in mourning the loss of beloved School Two Principal Jennifer Lucas following her valiant battle with cancer. The CEF was honored to become the administrators for the ***Jennifer Lucas Memorial Scholarships*** formed in her memory to support worthy CHS seniors seeking a career in education or music. The CEF lent a hand in helping the faculty and staff of School Two channel their grief into positive ways to aid the community in healing, including funding for the “Jennifer Lucas Tell Me Something Good Bench” providing students and staff a place to talk, connect, and to share positive conversations, serving as a permanent memorial for a principal who was so deeply loved. A CEF grant provided funding for the school’s annual Thanksgiving Parade, which also served as an opportunity for the school community to find joy in what Ms. Lucas claimed was always her favorite event of the year.



Retired Principal Betty Gochman and School 14 Retirees at the “Endless Summer” Fundraiser



CELA Family Fun Day



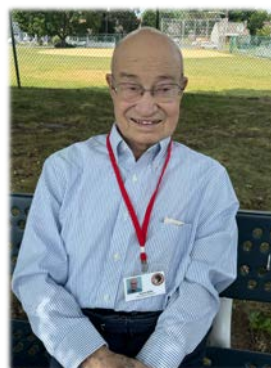
School 2 Thanksgiving Parade pays tribute to Ms. Jennifer Lucas and her love of the Jersey Shore

The CEF and the City of Clifton also lost a pillar of the community, Thomas Mullin, a longtime CEF Trustee, retired CBOE educator and supervisor, as well as 50-year commissioner with the Clifton Board of Recreation. Tom's legacy of kindness and service to the city he called home since the age of 10 will be honored and remembered through the establishment of the **"Thomas Mullin Leadership Grants"** which will provide funding in our schools for initiatives and opportunities that promote leadership and civic responsibility in our youth.

We were honored to also become the administrators of the **MICP Marcin Bednarz #4636 Memorial Scholarships** created by Marcin's beloved sister, School 2 Principal Maggie Wojtylo and the Bednarz family to honor the young paramedic whose life was cut short in April 2024. The CEF continues to administer the **Daniel Listmeier Memorial Scholarships**, honoring the late custodian whose dedication to the students in the CHS Aspire Program lives on through the generosity of family and friends.

The Clifton Public Schools and City of Clifton community and beyond was out in full force throughout the year, supporting the CEF more than ever. Our ongoing "Let's Do Lunch!" Fundraiser with our partners Agamies Gourmet Delicatessen & Caterers continues to be a source of revenue to fund grants, and our newly formed partnerships with the Philly Pretzel Factory Clifton and The Wandering Cup is providing fun ways for the CEF to support our school community. Our First Annual Tricky Tray was our largest fundraiser ever, with overwhelming support from generous individuals, businesses and our schools. Our deep gratitude to community volunteers Cindy DeVos, Mary Jo Foster and Patty Lavender for their tireless work in helping to make the evening a night to remember! Please visit our website, www.cliftoneducationfoundation.org for a list of sponsors and donors, and visit our business directory to thank and support those businesses who invest in Clifton Public Schools through their donations.

Lastly, the CEF extends their gratitude to Samantha DeRose, District Communications, who has served as our Liaison to the Superintendent for the past several years. We thank her for her guidance, wisdom and commitment to our school community and wish her a long and happy retirement!



*Thomas Mullin
CEF Trustee
2001~2025*

*School 13 has been
the top participant
in our
"Let's Do Lunch!"
fundraiser with a
record 9 dates!*



*Over 400 people attended our First Tricky
Tray raising funds and showing support for
our school community!*



*Wishing a Happy
Retirement to
Samantha DeRose!*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUST A FEW OF THE 59 GRANTS AWARDED IN THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR!



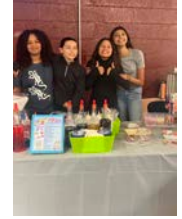
CHS International Thespian Society



School 12 "Transforming With Trofasts"



WWMS TREP\$ Club Marketplace



CCMS Art Classroom Lighting



CELA-A Family Game Night



CHS C.A.S.T. Film Festival



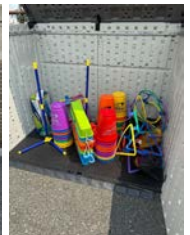
School 12 Spelling Bee



CHS Fall Play



School 12 Storage Shed



*School 11 Noise Canceling
Headphones & Standing Desks*



School 2 "KinderARTen"



School 2 Thanksgiving Parade



CHS Community Based Instruction



CCMS Character Education



CHS Life Skills Project

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @cliftoneducationfoundation for more grants & updates!