

Family Resource Center Opens at College Heights

Every child is a star!

That's the title of the new art installation in the reception area at the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center. Designed and created by Decatur artist/architect Joseph Dreher, the three-dimensional artwork was commissioned as part of a grand project undertaken by DEF to transform the building into a teaching tool for both parents and children.

At the request of Superintendent Dr. Phyllis Edwards, the Foundation board raised funds to equip the school's reception area and to create a Family Resource Center that would provide instructional materials and equipment to encourage family learning. Since active involvement in the Early Childhood Center is one of DEF's chief strategic goals, the project was a natural fit.

The goal of the project was to create attractive spaces that promote good parenting skills, family literacy, and family engagement around learning. Numerous professionals assisted us in planning and designing the space, selecting colors and fabrics, ordering furniture, and choosing appropriate instructional materials. The design is based on the theme of learning and growing, and incorporates basic early childhood concepts: letters, numbers, colors, and shapes.

The Family Resource Center includes



child-friendly computers; educational software programs; books, magazines, and DVDs on various parenting topics; children's books; instructional DVDs; literacy kits for check out; mathematics kits for check out; and instructional puzzles and toys. Also available to parents are art supplies, a die cutter, and a laminator for creating teaching tools that will help them reinforce their child's learning at home.

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Family Resource Center

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Thanks to our generous donors and the hard work of numerous volunteers from the community, the College Heights Family Resource Center was open for business at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.



The Decatur Education Foundation would like to thank the Hume Family Foundation, the Decatur Rotary Club, and the Wachovia Foundation for their generous financial support for this project.

If you are interested in donating appropriate books or art supplies to the College Heights Family Resource Center, please contact Sherri Breunig at 404-370-4400 (dial 9 + ext. 28).

FOUNDATION FRIENDS

Cissa Rassel

In addition to being a proud mother of Decatur students, Cissa Rassel is a professional interior designer. She created a design concept for the reception area and hallways of the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center and has helped with selection of furniture and fabrics to be used in the new Family Resource Center. All told, she donated more than 50 hours of service to the Foundation. We couldn't have done it without her!



Anne and Eddie Fowlkes

Around Decatur, Anne and Eddie Fowlkes are well known as artists, art instructors, and wonderful volunteers. They are true blue bulldogs, so when called upon to help Decatur schools, they are usually more than willing. This past spring, they donated their time and talent to assist DEF's project at the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center by painting trees on the walls outside of each classroom. The trees will be used to teach children about colors, seasons, and things that grow.



Mini-Grant and Construction for Instruction Recipients

In 2005-2006, the Decatur Education Foundation gave approximately \$30,000 in grants to Decatur teachers and administrators to support innovative instruction through two signature programs – Mini-Grants and Construction for Instruction.

Mini-Grant Recipients Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

Project: Computer Based Learning for Exceptional Students

Amount awarded: \$1,425

Teacher: Ashley Deck

To purchase instructional software for use with exceptional students.

Project: Improving Phonology to Strengthen Pre-K

Amount awarded: \$600

Teachers: Jane Howe and Sally Busko

To purchase phonology software for use at the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center.

Project: Visual Clues for Success

Amount awarded: \$450

Teachers: Sallie Burn, Liza Smith, Mary Alice McMahon

To purchase Boardmaker software to support classroom instruction at the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center.



Gardening at Winnona Park Elementary

Project: Lepidoptera Home

Amount awarded: \$1,445

Teachers: Pam Maxson and Dianna Watson

To create a butterfly garden at Clairemont Elementary.

Project: Little Books for Little Readers

Amount awarded: \$500

Teacher: Heather Borowski

To purchase classroom books for kindergarten students at Clairemont Elementary.

Project: Enhanced Expeditions for All Students

Amount awarded: \$1,440

Teacher: Hamilton Edwards

To purchase digital cameras for use with student expeditions at Oakhurst Elementary.

Project: Community Expedition

Amount awarded: \$1,000

Teachers: Donna Smith and Susanna Shewan

To assist with production costs associated with a student-generated brochure on the City of Decatur at Oakhurst Elementary.



Digital photography at Oakhurst Elementary

“My students were able to see first hand how quilting is a way to create cultural identity. They visited the High Museum’s exhibit on the Quilts of Gees Bend and understood that every quilt has a story to tell about the people who sewed it.”

– Lynn Holden, Glennwood Academy



Quilting at Glennwood Academy

Project: Jump Starting Teacher Technology Class

Amount awarded: \$400

Teachers: Suzanne Jerol, Erin Eliassen, and Mary Mack

To purchase jump drives for teachers who participate in Instructional Technology courses at Oakhurst Elementary.

Project: Quilting at Glennwood

Amount awarded: \$1,670

Teachers: Lynn Holden, Angela Jones, Bill Withers, Angela Belgrave, and Kristen Karably

To purchase supplies associated with a unit of study on quilting at Glennwood Academy.

Project: The Kids’ Times

Amount awarded: \$500

Teacher: Carla Von Hoffman

To purchase supplies for a student-generated school newspaper.

“By the end of the school year, the students involved in this grant project had grown tremendously not only with their mastery of technology, but with their internalization of the writing process as a natural way to develop thoughts ...”

– Kiernan Cantergiani,
Renfroe Middle School

Project: Bird Habitat/Outdoor Classroom
Amount awarded: \$2,500

Teachers: Donna Fortenberry, Susan Beck, Rebecca Fiscal, and Margarita Cruz
To purchase plants and equipment for the installation of a Bird Habitat and Outdoor Classroom at Winnona Park Elementary.

Project: Keyboards for Kids
Amount awarded: \$2,000

Teachers: Ann Whitley and Sandra Stroud-Pennington
To purchase instructional Neos by AlphaSmart for use at Winnona Park Elementary.



Shakespeare Without Tears at Glennwood Academy

Project: Animation Light Box

Amount awarded: \$445

Teacher: Lynn Holden

To purchase supplies for the creation of an animation light box at Glennwood Academy.

Project: Shakespeare without Tears Part II

Amount awarded: \$1,500

Teachers: Marcia Pauly and Gloria Lee

To support an artist-in-residence program with Georgia Shakespeare at Glennwood Academy.

Project: Georgia Gardens Project

Amount awarded: \$900

Teacher: Susan Davis

To purchase resource books on field guides related to gardening in Georgia for the pond project at Renfroe Middle School.

Project: Sixth Grade Listening Center

Amount awarded: \$700

Teachers: Colleen Devine and Lori Flowers, Renfroe Middle School

To purchase equipment and instructional materials for two listening centers in 6th grade Language Arts classes.



A Renfroe Middle School Culture Club expedition

“Receiving the mini grant from the Decatur Education Foundation enabled us to buy all of the plants, bird feeder and birdhouse materials, river rocks, and supplies to build our benches for our outdoor classroom and bird habitat.”

– Donna Fortenberry,
Winnona Park Elementary

Project: Reading for Health

Amount awarded: \$264

Teacher: Sonja Neely

To purchase books for use with 6th grade health students.

Project: 21st Century Classroom

Amount awarded: \$1,000

Teachers: Jeanne Lee and Kristen Embry

To purchase a classroom projector for use with instructional software at Decatur High School.



0-5 Newsroom at Oakhurst Elementary



Photojournalism at Decatur High School

Project: PDA in the Classroom

Amount awarded: \$700

Teachers: Kim Boswell and Vicki Chiang, Decatur High School

To purchase a PDA for instructional use in the classroom.

Project: Interactive U.S. History

Amount awarded: \$1,000

Teachers: Kim Boswell and Chris Billingsley

To purchase software for use in U.S. History classrooms at Decatur High School.

Project: Leisure Listening Library

Amount awarded: \$525

Teachers: Laura Cadenhead and Mary McMahon

To purchase books on tape for use with struggling readers at Decatur High School.

Construction for Instruction Grants, Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

Project: Steps to the ActivBoard

Amount awarded: \$100

Teacher: Heather Borowski

To purchase materials to be used in building steps up to the kindergarten ActivBoard at Clairmont Elementary.

Project: Clairmont Extreme Makeover

Amount awarded: \$1,500

Teacher: Dianna Watson

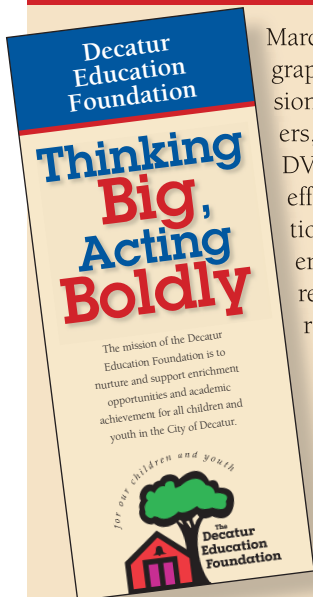
To assist with the re-creation of the school courtyard.



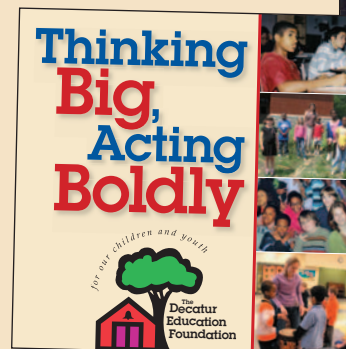
An ActivBoard in use at Clairmont Elementary

FOUNDATION FRIENDS

Marcia Lampe and Greg Farley, Lampe-Farley Communications



Marcia Lampe and Greg Farley have donated their graphic design services to us on a number of occasions. They've worked on invitations for fundraisers, our promotional flyers, the covers of our new DVD, and they even redesigned our website. Their efforts have helped us improve our communication with constituents and create a recognized and respected brand.



Dear Neighbors and Friends,

The Decatur Education Foundation recently celebrated its fifth anniversary as an organization. In that short time, we have raised more than a half-million dollars to provide enrichment opportunities and academic support for the children and youth of Decatur.



We offer a wide array of programs from mini-grants to college scholarships, all of which are possible only through the generosity of Decatur's residents, businesses, and many friends.

We have made tremendous strides toward ensuring that our work is significant and will have a lasting impact.

We are now in year two of implementing the Foundation's strategic plan and have made tremendous strides toward ensuring that our work is significant and will have a lasting impact on the lives of Decatur students. Because of generous partners, we were able to successfully complete the installation of a Family Resource Center at the College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center, and we will continue to be actively involved in supporting and advocating for the center. We have expanded our innovative programs and, as you will see in this report, our donors and volunteers continue to increase in number.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank all of you who have supported us, and I'd like to encourage you to continue. If you have not yet joined us in our efforts, I hope this report will inspire you to do so. The Foundation needs you to continue to provide support and create opportunities for the children, youth, and professional educators of Decatur.

Gratefully,
D. Gayle Gellerstedt

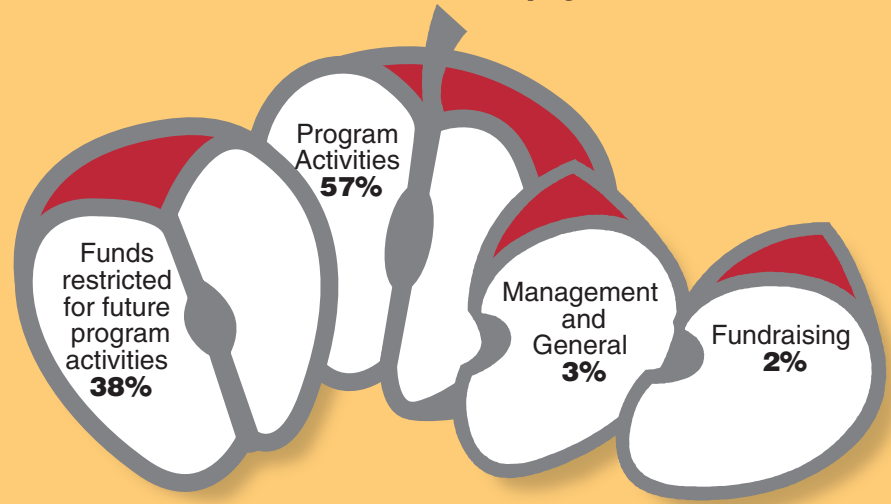
Decatur Education Foundation Financial Report for 2005

Revenue and Support:

Unrestricted Contributions	\$89,040
Restricted Contributions	\$39,366
Investment Income	\$3,783
Total Revenue and Support	\$132,189

Expenses:

Management and General	\$4,828
Fundraising	\$2,379
Program Activities (funded)	\$75,045
Funds restricted for future program activities	\$49,937



FOUNDATION FRIENDS

Frank Lesesne – f2technology

Frank Lesesne donates his time and talent to keep the Decatur Education Foundation website up and running. His firm, f2technology,



donated hosting services and website maintenance software called "Delegate." Use of the software has improved our ability to keep the site up-to-date and our donors more informed.



Attention, Decatur Alumni!

The Decatur High School Alumni Association Is Under Construction

The Foundation has taken on the project of organizing, building, and managing a Decatur High School Alumni Association. Mr. Bill Funk, former principal of Decatur High School (1983-1998), will chair the effort.

If you attended Trinity High School or Decatur High School and would like to receive information and updates on the Alumni Association, please go to www.decatureducationfoundation.org, click on Alumni, and subscribe to our database; or contact Bill Funk at bfunk@csdecatur.org. We will keep you informed as we develop the organization.



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DEF Welcomes New Board Members



John Joyner

A senior partner with law firm Joyner and Burnette, John has lived in Decatur for 45 years. He is an active member of Decatur Presbyterian Church, the DeKalb Library Foundation, and the Georgia State Bar Association, and he serves on the Board of Directors for the Decatur Development Authority. John is married to Marceil Joyner. Their two children attended Decatur schools, as do their three grandchildren.



Eric Willis

A native Atlantan, Eric has been a Decatur resident for three years and is the owner of Sónz Fitness Decatur. He was recently named president of Sonz Franchise, Inc. Eric is an active member of the Decatur Rotary Club, the DeKalb Medical Center Foundation Fundraising Committee, and World Changers Church in College Park.



Katie Pedersen

A 14-year Decatur resident and a proud Decatur parent, Katie works for Perkins + Will as an architect and project manager. She is active in the Clairemont Elementary PTA. Last year, Katie served as co-chair of Clairemont's annual Decatur Holiday Marketplace. Her husband is Alvin McNeely. They have two children, Matilda and Phoebe, who both attend Clairemont Elementary School.



Lindsay Jones

Lindsay R.M. Jones has lived in Decatur since 2001. He practices law and serves as a municipal court judge for the City of Decatur. He also serves on the board for the South Decatur Community Development Corporation. Prior to relocating to Decatur, he lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Minnesota. His daughter Isabella will enter the Decatur Schools in fall 2007.

2006 DEF Scholarship Winners



Bill Mealor, Jr., Memorial Scholarship Award

2006 winner: Demarco Bullock, pictured with Marie Mealor and Bill Mealor, Sr.



Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship Award

2006 winner: Sara Proctor, pictured with Donna and Bill Woolf



Thomas Hauk Memorial Scholarship Award

2006 winner: Lloyd-Christopher Hilton, pictured with Rev. Kate Hauk and Dr. Gary Hauk

Harry Edwards Memorial Scholarship

With Jim Moore's vision and leadership, the Decatur High School Class of 1960 raised more than \$16,000 to establish the Harry Edwards Memorial Scholarship. An official signing ceremony was held in the Decatur High School Media Center in the fall of 2005, and ten members of the Class of 1960 came back to Decatur to participate in the event (photo below). The first Harry Edwards Memorial Scholarship was awarded to a member of the DHS Class of 2006, 40 years after Harry's untimely death in Vietnam.



Harry Edwards Memorial Scholarship Award (new)

2006 (and first) winner: David Allen, pictured with Jim Moore, DHS Class of 1960



Westchester Life Skills Scholarship Award

2006 (and first) winner: Kate Stucke, pictured with Cheryl Kuebler



Carl and Mae Renfroe Memorial Scholarship Awards

2006 winners:

Cameron Cross and Vita Brown, pictured with Jean Eickhoff

Patrick Family Foundation Scholarship Moves to DEF

The Patrick Family Foundation was established in 1988 by Decatur residents Joseph E. and Geraldine A. Patrick. Decatur High School alumnae Joe (Pat) Patrick (DHS 1963), Hilda Buchanan Patrick (DHS 1962), and Dorothea Patrick Smith (DHS 1968) established the scholarship fund in 2002 with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta (CFGA). The family moved the fund to the Decatur Education Foundation in 2006 with the full blessing of the CFGA.

“... it makes incredible sense for CFGA to transfer that fund to the Decatur Education Foundation to ensure an even closer connection to the Decatur students.”

— Community Foundation President Alicia Philipp

“The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta was a great help to us in getting it started before DEF existed, but shifting the funds and administration to the people who will directly manage and benefit from the scholarships makes perfect sense to me,” said Pat Patrick.

The Patrick Scholarship is the largest single scholarship currently available exclusively to Decatur High School students. Recipients of the award must apply and are selected based on demonstrated initiative, potential for success in higher education, and financial need. The \$5,000 award is renewable for four years of postsecondary study.

Community Foundation President Alicia Philipp said, “We connect donor passion to community need by educating and engaging those donors with the issues that

are at the core of their communities. The Patrick scholarship awards money to a Decatur High School graduate, so . . . it makes incredible sense for CFGA to transfer that fund to the Decatur Education Foundation to ensure an even closer connection to the Decatur students.”



Patrick Family Foundation Scholarship Award

2006 winner: Angela Riley, pictured with Jerry, Hilda and Pat Patrick

DEF Scholarship Honors a Decatur History Maker

In March 12, 2006, the DeKalb History Center honored Decatur Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson with the center’s History Maker Award for her courageous role in integrating Decatur public schools and libraries in the 1960s.

During the awards ceremony (photos at right) held at the Old Courthouse on the Square, Mayor Bill Floyd presented a check for \$10,000 to the Decatur Education Foundation to establish the Mary Elizabeth Brown Wilson Scholarship Fund in honor of Ms. Wilson’s dedication and sacrifice to the cause of justice in our community.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a Decatur High School graduate who has maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher and who has demonstrated a commitment to serve and improve the community.



Mary Elizabeth Brown Wilson Scholarship Award

2006 (and first) winner: Emmanuel Obe, pictured with Elizabeth Wilson

Student EdVentures

Exploring New Places, Cultures and Disciplines

THE DECATUR EDUCATION FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO Decatur students in grades 6-12 to participate in educational experiences that are outside of the regular classroom day. During the 2005-2006 school year, approximately 35 students received EdVenture Scholarships. These are their stories.



Spanish IV-V Trip to Mexico

“This past spring break, I traveled with five other members of my Spanish 4/5 class and our teacher to Mexico. We went to the Museum of Anthropology and learned about the ancient tribes who lived in Mexico and also got to experience the culture first-hand through food, music, and society. However, the best part of the trip for me was being able to understand the language and actually talk to people and comprehend what they were saying. To be able to interact with people in another language and culture is an indescribable feeling.” – Sara Redd, Decatur High School senior

8th Grade Trip to the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham

“The Birmingham trip provided a wonderful opportunity for my 8th grade class. They got to visit the 16th Street Baptist Church where a tragic bombing occurred and had an opportunity to become active participants in the Civil Rights movement by participating in a mock sit in. It was truly a moving, touching, and unforgettable experience for my students.” – Robyn Tibbetts, Renfroe Middle School teacher



Boston University Tanglewood Institute Summer Music Program

“I was one of a few students from all over the world who was lucky enough to participate in the 2006 Boston University Tanglewood Institute summer music program in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains in Lenox, Massachusetts. I spent eight weeks in Lenox intensely studying the fundamentals of advanced orchestral music. The [intense experience] taught me to push all limits and physical capacities so that I may prove myself as an exceptionally confident performer and individual.”

– Olivia Sedlack, Decatur High School senior



Engineers Academy at Georgia Tech

"Through the Exploring Engineers Academy, I was introduced to many disciplines of engineering, including architectural, chemical, civil, industrial, materials, mechanical, structural, and transportation, all in the course of a week. From the materials lab at the DOT to the life support system at the Georgia Aquarium and everything in between, we learned how engineering really plays a dramatic role in keeping our environment functional and safe. It was a tremendous experience and really opened my eyes to future opportunities."
— Robert Nuttall, Decatur High School junior



Drama Club Trip to New York

"I received a scholarship from the Decatur Education Foundation to go to New York City with my fellow drama club members. My grandmother, Ms. Parker, had put a lot of money into this trip because I told her I really wanted to go but it was a real stretch for her. The scholarship really helped. This was the trip of a lifetime for me, and I hope DEF continues to grow and support students like myself, because there are students out there who really need the money in order to participate. Thank you, Decatur Education Foundation, for making my trip possible and helping a sister out!" — Janesha Holloway, Decatur High School senior



Georgia Virtual School Program's SAT Prep Course

"Taking the On-line SAT prep course was a wonderful experience that the Decatur Education Foundation provided for me. My scores have improved immensely from when I started the course to now. I have a much better understanding of how to study for the SAT and how to get the score that best represents my ability."
— Eve Nettles, Decatur High School senior

— Eve Nettles, Decatur High School senior



National Scholastic Press Association Convention, Chicago, Illinois

"At NSPA in Chicago, I had one of the best experiences in my life. Not only was I in a great town with many sights, but I also came away with many beneficial things for our magazine. The unique and numerous sessions each day gave me a chance to pick certain attributes of my writing to strengthen. Each day I would wake up looking forward to the helpful session I would attend and the exciting Chicago city I would explore. My NSPA experience was nothing short of extremely productive and remarkably exciting."
— Alex Cohen, Decatur High School junior



TOUR deCATUR 2006

5K Road Race Bigger Than Ever!

This year's TOUR deCATUR 5K road race was a huge success. More than 400 people participated, and we raised \$10,000 to support Decatur teachers and students – almost twice the amount raised last year.

Many race participants say, "It's all about the shirt." If that's true, then TOUR deCATUR delivered the goods in 2006 with a fantastic T-shirt design compliments of Decatur resident and Oakhurst Elementary parent Robin Doyon.

A large part of our success can be attributed to the assistance we received from Lee Ann Harvey of Volunteer! Decatur. Lee Ann donated her time to advise our steering committee on the fine art of recruiting and organizing volunteers. She also helped in the recruiting effort. The end result was a well-organized and efficient race day experience.

Many thanks to Robin Doyon, Lee Ann Harvey, the Clairemont, Oakhurst, Winnona Park, and Glennwood PTA/PTO groups, and all the fine Decatur volunteers who helped make TOUR deCATUR 2006 a successful event!

We would also like to thank our generous race sponsors:

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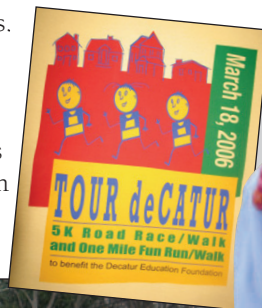
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The Chick-fil-A cow assists DeKalb Medical Center personnel with pre-race stretches.



TOUR deCATUR 2007

Fifth annual 5K road race and one-mile fun run to benefit the Decatur Education Foundation

**St. Patrick's Day
March 17, 2007**

8 a.m. start in front of Decatur High School

Registration fees received by

March 9:

\$18 adults

\$15 CSD employees

\$12 children under 18

Online registration available in 2007 at www.rungeorgia.com and www.active.com

2005 Low Country Boil

Proceeds Exceeded Last Year's Event by More Than 10 Percent!

Many thanks to our sponsors:

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The Psychology Practice of Barbara J. Rubin, Psy. D.
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Celebrity chefs Bill Floyd, Bill Markert, Jon Abercrombie and Fred Boykin.



FOUNDATION FRIENDS

Julie Rhame and Suson Hawkins, Short & Sweet Studios



One of the Foundation's chief goals over the next several years is to implement a communication plan that clearly and strongly promotes an understanding of who we are, what we've accomplished, and how community involvement and support will help us achieve our goals. Short and Sweet Studios stepped up to the plate to assist us with this effort in a big way. They produced a 13-minute promotional film on a pro-bono basis that explains the work of the Foundation and the ways that community members can get involved to help. We believe this very generous gift will have a tremendous impact on the future growth of the Foundation.

FOUNDATION FRIENDS

Diane Capriola (Little Shop of Stories), Eddie Owen (Eddie's Attic), and Jake Rothschild (Jake's Ice Cream)

Decatur business owners are terrific supporters of education in our community. Diane Capriola, owner of the Little Shop of Stories, Eddie Owen of Eddie's Attic, and Jake



Laughing Pizza at Eddie's Attic



Stories at Little Shop of Stories

Rothschild of Jake's Ice Cream are shining examples of business owners who have gone the extra mile to support the programs of the Decatur Education Foundation. These three business owners came to us with an idea for a fundraiser for the Foundation. They put their energy, creativity, and resources behind a "Family Fun Day" back in January. Ticket holders enjoyed a concert at Eddie's Attic by a group called "Laughing Pizza" followed by storytelling in the Little Shop of Stories and ice cream at Jake's. It was a successful event, and we are so appreciative of these business owners for thinking and working on our behalf.



Diane Capriola



Jake Rothschild (left) and Eddie Owen

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August 1, 2005-July 31, 2006

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Vol. 5, No. 1 • Fall 2006

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