

Windham Independent, December 10, 2009

Windham High School Capital Campaign Underway

by Mary Ann Horaj (including photo)



Members of the Endowment seated (l-r): Diane Carpenter-Immediate Past President/current Capital Campaign Coord, Travis Blais -Secretary, Kevin Waterhouse. Standing: Lisa Strong, Mindy Davis - President, Stacey Bruzzese - Vice President, Kelley Gage - Treasurer, Beverly Donovan, Tom Barstow.
Missing: Bob Coole, Henry LaBranche and Lee Maloney

The Windham Endowment for Community Advancement is "all things good for Windham" as explained by Diane Carpenter, Capital Campaign Coordinator. With 2009 drawing to a close, and philanthropists looking for ways to allocate their funds to a charity, the Windham Endowment is set up to help you channel those funds. It provides the donor with the satisfaction of knowing their contributions are helping to enhance the quality of life for their community for present and future generations. Whether you are an individual, organization, or corporation there are options available to provide support including educational, cultural, recreational and environmental initiatives within the town. The goal of the Endowment is to provide benefits to the community without having an impact on tax dollars.

The Windham Endowment is in the midst of their Capital Campaign to benefit Windham High School through the spring of 2010. The Endowment is currently focusing on three areas: Fine Arts, Science, and Alternative Energy. Diane Carpenter said, "We want to enhance the largest asset in town and make things available to the community that wouldn't otherwise be there."

Giving locally makes a difference locally and benefits us all directly. There isn't a vibrant community that doesn't have a high school and a high school is at the center of what makes a community good. We are working to make dreams come true."

Through the generosity of the Pappalardo family, the Endowment gifted a baby grand piano to Windham High School. That same piano was an integral part of the recent inaugural concert at Windham High School. The Endowment has also gifted a bassoon and symphonic chimes to the high school. They are raising funds for an acoustical shell, which will improve the sound in the auditorium, but can also be relocated to the gymnasium. Other initiatives include a free-standing greenhouse to enhance the science curriculum and the Windham Initiative for Renewable Energy (W.I.R.E.) with a goal to install a weather station, a wind turbine and solar panels up at the high school. The Endowment has worked cooperatively with the school district to identify enhancements above what tax dollars could provide. Diane Carpenter said, "As people make plans for their year end giving, the Windham Endowment offers a local component to someone's options. Giving locally and making a difference in your community is what we're all about." Donations of any amount are welcomed and can be made on line at www.windhamendowment.org or you may mail a check directly to the Endowment at PO Box 4315, Windham, NH 03087.

Diane Carpenter explained other options available for giving which include corporate matches, dollars granted for volunteer work and through grants such as the Verizon Wireless Foundation. Seniors ages 70 ½ and older can make tax-free contributions of up to \$100,000 (\$200,000 per couple) from their IRA to a qualified public charity until December 31, 2009.

The Windham Endowment currently has established sources for dedicated funds for the Windham Community Band, Nesmith Library, Boy Scout Troop 266 and Windham Initiative for Renewable Energy. One resident opted to establish a scholarship fund for graduating seniors in their name.

The Windham Endowment for Community Advancement is a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

If you are interested in receiving more information, please contact Diane Carpenter, Capital Campaign Coordinator, at (603) 437-0686 or email at dcarpenter@windhamendowment.org.