

Windham Endowment Donates Acoustical Shell

by Barbara O'Brien

Windham Endowment, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising money for a number of local purposes, has made another donation to the new Windham High School, a facility which opened its doors just this past September.

Diane Carpenter, one of the founders of Windham Endowment, met with School board members recently to present the donation of an eight-panel acoustical shell intended to enhance performances at the high school. School board members accepted the \$17,531 donation, unanimously, by a vote of 5 to 0.

Carpenter explained that the most recent donation is part of Windham Endowment's High School Capital Campaign, which focuses on three distinct designations, including Fine Arts, the Science Curriculum (Alternative Energy), and the General Fund. Those who donate to the High School Capital Campaign may specify the exact purpose of any donations.

Carpenter told school board members that the purpose of the acoustical shell will be two-fold; first, to use during performances of specialty groups, such as a flute ensemble or small choral group. It can also be used in larger places than the auditorium, such as the gymnasium or cafeteria, to focus the sound toward an audience.

According to Carpenter, the screen has already been manufactured and will be shipped from a factory located in Minnesota. The donation includes the cost of freight and handling. Additional panels can be added to the screen, as needed, up to a total of 13. "Eight panels will get us through the next few years, though," Carpenter said.

This is the third gift that Windham Endowment has directed toward the Fine Arts Program. The other two gifts include a bassoon and symphonic chimes, as well as a baby grand piano, which has already been featured at each of the concerts performed at Windham High School thus far. "Our goal is to enhance the high school for the entire community," Carpenter said.

School Superintendent Frank Bass announced that the prestigious All-State Jazz Festival will be held at Windham High School this year. "This is an incredible opportunity," Bass said, adding that a number of well-known jazz artists will be featured during the three-day festival.

As for additional donations to Windham Endowment, Carpenter said, "gifts of any size are always welcome." Many corporations also offer matching funds for donations made by their employees, she added. Donations to Windham Endowment are tax deductible.