



RTHS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

RTHS Education Foundation
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For Immediate Release:

RTHS Education Foundation: In the beginning...

The RTHS Education Foundation (RTHSEF) was created over 15 years ago. This foundation was established as an independent, not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation organized as a method of providing a long term, self-sustaining financial program to enrich, enhance and supplement educational opportunities beyond limits of normal tax support for all RTHS students. To accomplish this, the RTHSEF has an annual fundraiser as well as accepts donations throughout the year.

The RTHSEF was born out of the vision of the late Dr. Jerry Wilson. He thought the community's support of our school system was vital to the success of the Rochelle area. He, along with members of the first board, helped to create a group which, through community support, is able to give back to RTHS. To demonstrate how Dr. Wilson's vision has come full circle, RTHS alumni that once benefited from this group's generosity are now part of the current board and are continuing the vision.

The first project Dr. Wilson and the original board tackled was the remodel of the old campus Counseling Center. The former Counseling Center was spatially limited, with modest room to service student's needs. The board committed to helping the administration create a more expansive space to the rapidly growing Counseling Center. Formerly two classrooms, the new re-designed space provided three counselors offices and a meeting/work room for students to utilize the various Counseling services offered.

In recent years, the RTHSEF has committed to helping fund major projects, such as creating the Foreign Language Lab, a Science computer lab, and GPS systems for the Agriculture department. The board also contributed to smaller-scale projects, including a floral cooler for the Horticulture department, a stove for Special Education, Spanish and bilingual books for the Library/Media Center, curriculum materials for the Social Studies Department and more.

In 2008, the RTHSEF board was able to fund over \$9,000 in grants, due to the overwhelming success of the 2007 30 Men Who Cook Fundraiser. With the generosity of local families, sponsors, and community the board provided grants for a wireless microphone system for Vocal Music department, projections units for Social Studies, sewing machines for Pins and Needles sewing club, and audio books for the Library.

Join us for the 2nd Annual **30 Men Who Cook**, September 20, at the Rochelle Country Club from 6-9 pm. Our chefs will carve up their signature dishes and the public will get to sample the cuisine. Your participation at 30 Men Who Cook will keep the tradition of supporting RTHS alive for many more generations.

For more information on the RTHS Education Foundation, visit www.rths.rochelle.net and refer to the "contents" section on the RTHS homepage.