

Milton Foundation for Education

PRESS RELEASE October 30, 2003 Contact: Ed Hayward 617-696-1275 Gary Kelly 617-696-6227

Pathways to Fitness: An historic chance to support Milton's schools

A commemorative pathway constructed of engraved bricks on the new Milton High School campus promises to connect families, individuals, businesses and alumni to the town's historic school building project and the state-of-the-art Copeland Field House, according to organizers of the "Pathways to Fitness" walkway.

Phase I of the Pathways project involves 2,500 bricks, which are being sold in connection with the Milton Foundation for Education's November 22 Celebration for Education. "We see this as a unique opportunity for people to show their support for the Milton Public Schools and remember their families, a favorite teacher, a sports team or a loved one," said Gary Kelly, a member of the foundation board and organizer behind the Pathways project.

Milton residents, business owners, friends and families have the chance to purchase bricks and pavers of three different sizes and have them engraved. Word counts available on the brick faces range from 40 to 80 characters or letters depending on the size of the stone. Prices range from \$100 to \$1,000. Senior citizens can purchase bricks at a discounted cost, according to Kelly. Order forms have been sent home in student backpacks and will be available at stores in town. The order form can be found at the foundation's website: www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org or contact Gary Kelly at 617-696-6227.

Proceeds from the project will be dedicated in accordance with the "Focus on Fitness" theme of this year's Celebration for Education. The annual fundraiser, which has raised thousands to support arts, music, math, technology and science education in the past, has been dedicated this year to supporting programs in

health, physical education and athletics.

The field house was made possible by a grant from the Copeland Foundation, which allowed the facility to be incorporated into the plans for the new Milton High School, which is being funded by taxpayers and the state's School Building Assistance Program.

"The Copeland Field house at Milton High School is truly an historic structure," said Acting Superintendent of Schools Mary Gormley. "I think the Pathways project is a great way for people to incorporate their personal histories and the history of Milton and its residents into this new facility that will serve students, athletes and residents."

The ambitious project will be undertaken in phases, with Phase I making 2,500 bricks and pavers available for engraving, said Kelly. The first 1,000 bricks sold will be installed next summer, once construction crews building the new high school are finished with the project. Bricks purchased during the first phase will be placed near the door to the field house. Phase II will involve bricks to be placed in front of an entrance to the new high school building, said Kelly.

Pathways to Fitness will include "affinity sections" that group bricks by school or association. For instance, school PTOs may purchase the larger pavers. Those pavers would be surrounded by engraved bricks purchased by current and former school students and families.

Bricks can be dedicated to graduating classes, as well as clubs, activity groups and sports teams, said Kelly. "The look and design of the project will compliment the beautiful work that has already been done on the Copeland Field House," said Kelly, who cited the efforts of fellow organizer Joyce Tobin to ensure the placement and design of the walkways meet project standards. In addition to Tobin, other organizers of the Pathways to Fitness include Lynn O'Sullivan, Ruth Thomsen, Kathy Ferrari and Maureen Ellis.

Already, the idea of recording a family or business, or remembering a loved one, friend or neighbor has caught on with

residents.

Christine Hunt purchased a brick that will bear the engraving "Adams Street Early Learning Center", the pre-school she owns which operates at The Church of Our Savior on Adams Street in East Milton Square. "I want to support the schools. Running a nursery school, we feel a real connection to the Milton Public Schools," said Hunt, who is also a nurse at Cunningham Elementary School. "It's all for the benefit of the schools. It's wonderful."

She said she hopes that one day the children who attend her nursery school will walk into the Copeland Field House and notice the brick bearing the name of their first school.

Jim McCabe purchased a brick for his family – himself, his wife Jeanne, and their children James, 10, and Colin, 8, both Cunningham students. He wanted to support the foundation's fundraising efforts, which have raised thousands of dollars in the last five years to fund instructional materials and programs in all schools.

"Every year as towns face budget decisions I think it's a fact of life that you have to have foundations to do projects like this; to take programs beyond what the town can do financially," said McCabe.

He liked the idea of adding his family to a permanent memorial to the town's commitment to education. "I think it's a great idea. These bricks are going to be there for a long, long time," said McCabe. "You can always say, 'I donated to this cause or that cause.' But here you'll be able to see the stones for years to come."

Pathways for Fitness organizers are seeking landscape architects and contractors to provide assistance or services in the planning and installation of the walkways. Firms may contact Gary Kelly at 617-696-6227. # # #