

Milton Foundation for Education

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Celebration for Education Raises \$185,000 To support Milton Public Schools

More than 800 people attended the sixth annual Celebration for Education on Saturday November 20 and helped the non-profit Milton Foundation for Education raise approximately \$185,000 to benefit World Languages instruction and other programs to support the Milton Public schools.

There was a star quality to this year's Celebration, the Foundation's major yearly fundraiser. U.S. Rep. Stephen F. Lynch, House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi, State Rep. Walter F. Timilty, and State Sen. Brian A. Joyce attended. The husband-and-wife team of television journalists Jonathan Hall and Karen Marinella served as masters of ceremonies as well.

"We're grateful for the support Milton residents and friends of our schools have shown once again," said Mary McLaughlin, a co-chair of this year's Celebration. "We began working on this event in July and relied on nearly 100 volunteers to do everything from solicit donations to close out the auction near midnight on Saturday. Everyone benefited from a great team of volunteers."

In a Lombardo's ballroom festooned with holiday-themed auction items, bidding for the live auction was topped by \$4,200 paid for a week-long stay in a vacation home in Spain. A pair of weekend visits to Washington D.C., hosted by Congressman Lynch, brought in \$2,500 apiece. The grand prize raffle – a week-long golf vacation for four in Ireland – was won by Ned and Alison Corcoran, of Milton.

People who attended the event enjoyed performances by the Milton High School After School Chorus, the Milton High School String Quartet and the Milton High School Jazz Ensemble.

This year's Celebration theme was "For the Love of Language" and proceeds will support the World Languages programs in the schools, as well as the ongoing work of the Foundation, which includes grant to teachers, annual recognition of the town's outstanding teachers and additional support for school programs.

The success of the event is made possible by individual and corporate sponsors who contribute funds and auction items that make the night an entertaining success, said McLaughlin, who is also a Foundation board member.

"A lot of individuals, as well as small businesses and large corporations, were generous with their time, their services and their money," said event co-chair Fran Launie, a Foundation board member. "The end result will be improved language instruction programs for the children in each school."

School officials have outlined general needs for the World Languages program, such as software packages for the new language labs and materials to support instruction at the elementary level. School officials will forward a proposal for consideration by the Foundation Board of Trustees.

The town offers the French Immersion and the FLES Spanish programs in elementary grades, as well as French, Spanish and Latin instruction in the higher grades.