



Ojai Education Foundation

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION:

The Ojai Education Foundation is a community-based, nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in public education by building community support and providing resources to our schools.

March 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thayne Whipple
OEF President

I want to personally thank the community of the Ojai Valley for your wonderful support of the Ojai Education Foundation this past year.

I also want to thank the teachers, administrators and staff of the Ojai Unified School District for your exceptional work in transforming the gifts we channel from the community and giving them life in

the minds of our terrific students! In addition to our signature mini-grants program, this year, OEF sponsored an exciting new elementary science program designed to prepare students for the curriculum at Matilija and Nordhoff. As an added bonus it has created a love for science among many of the students it has reached. We were also happy to sponsor the Education Heroes awards, where we had an opportunity to honor representatives of the outstanding teachers we are fortunate to have teaching our children here in Ojai.

At OEF, we view our role as that of a liaison between the community and the Ojai Unified School District.

Providing broad-based programmatic support, teacher enrichment and resources to improve the educational process, we focus your contributions directly to where they provide an improved education for our students. Benefits from these 'investments' are returned through quality of life in our valley, property value enhancement, and are of immeasurable worth in the lives of our youth who will soon lead us in the coming decades.

As a community, you supported us all the way through with participation in the Ojai Golf Classic, the magical Garden of Knowledge event and our Annual Appeal. What a memorable year! We look forward to working with all of our community in promoting education and providing the necessary resources that are so skillfully used in preparing our youth for their very bright futures.

Sincerely,

Thayne Whipple
President

GARDEN OF KNOWLEDGE

On September 16, 2006, the Ojai Education Foundation sponsored its first annual signature fundraising event, "The Garden of Knowledge", a beautiful fall evening of gourmet food, art, music and literature in a bucolic Ojai setting. Dinner and entertainment took place



at the home of architect Marc Whitman. This event featured a silent auction of works by nationally known local artists, book signings by Ojai's own authors, a world-class jazz ensemble, and delectable cuisine based on seasonally fresh, local foods. A short program included presentation of the OEF Education Hero of the Year award, and a keynote presentation by Leslie Fausset. Fausset, a graduate of Nordhoff, served as Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in the California Department of Education, and is now Superintendent of Solana Beach Unified School District. "I am honored to have been asked to come back to Ojai in this capacity, and am a firm believer in public education and the importance of community support for our public schools," said Fausset. "OEF exemplifies this kind of critical support that help our public schools strive for excellence", she added.

On Saturday, September 15, 2007, OEF will host its Second Annual Garden of Knowledge Party, featuring great food, a fine art silent auction, a display by many of Ojai's authors, and much more. Mark your calendar now for OEF's signature fund-raising event!

6th ANNUAL OJAI GOLF CLASSIC



Last year's Ojai Golf Classic at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa was another success, netting \$43,572 that was equally split between the Ojai Education Foundation and the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation. All 144 golfing slots sold out quickly.

The 7th Annual Golf Classic will be held on May 14, 2007 and promises to be the best one ever, with a fabulous silent auction, and a hosted reception dinner in the Ojai Valley Inn's beautiful herb garden. Visit the OEF website (<http://www.ojaief.org>) for a link to register online.



photo credit, Dave Luckenbach

“The kids love the new science program. I hear it from teachers, I hear it from parents, but most of all I see it in their faces when I show up at school with a box of wires, or a tray of sheep kidneys, or a bag of balloons. Every student wants to know, ‘What are we doing today Mr. Bailey?’ I am so thrilled that OEF has become such a powerful advocate for science in Ojai. It is my deeply held belief that developing a positive attitude towards science will motivate students to pursue these topics with greater enthusiasm through junior high, high school, and further into their lives. My hope is that my students will fall in love with science just I have in my life.”

Jim Bailey, OUSD Science Coordinator and Matilija Jr. High 8th Grade Science Teacher

OEF Programs

EDUCATION HEROES

To honor those educators who go beyond the call of duty to inspire students with their creativity, enthusiasm, and love of teaching, OEF provides a recognition ceremony and small gift awards to one teacher from each school in the District selected by their peers. At a ceremony at OUSD District boardroom on May 6, 2006, the following educators received recognition plaques and gifts as “Teachers of the Year”:

Bronwyn Cull	NORDHOFF HIGH SCHOOL
Don Orser	MATILIJIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Karen Orser	CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Greg Stafford	SUMMIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Linda McMichael	SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
John Hook	MEINERS OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Joann Yabrof	MIRA MONTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Vicki Surroz	TOPA TOPA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

After considering a stellar field of candidates, the OEF chose Doug Becker as its 2006 Education Hero of the Year, honoring a widely respected and beloved educator with a 24 year long history in Ojai. Congratulations to Doug, and thanks on behalf of the community for your many years of dedicated effort!

TEACHER ENRICHMENT

OEF provides small annual grants for teachers to allow them to participate in conferences, specialized training or learning opportunities. In 2006, a total of \$6,521 was disbursed for the following:

- ✦ **NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE IN ANAHEIM**
 Jim Bailey, Becky Beckett, Jim Mauch, Rene Nakao-Mauch and Rano Sidhu from Matilija and Nordhoff (\$4,571)
- ✦ **CALIFORNIA SCIENCE EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO**
 Carol Paquet and Nancy Welter from Matilija (\$1,250)
- ✦ **WRITING STRATEGIES CONFERENCE IN OXNARD**
 Pat Essick, Tracy Oakland, Amy Bujold, Cathy Maynard from Topa Topa Elementary (\$700)

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT

OEF provides support for District-wide activities that address specific educational needs not met with Federal, State or District funding. In 2006, our efforts focused on strengthening the District’s science programs by providing a science coordinator to train teachers and provide hands-on science demonstrations for OUSD elementary schools. In 2006 OEF funding provided partial salary support for Matilija Junior High School science teacher, Jim Bailey to serve as science coordinator (\$40,000).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 15	Mini-grant applications open
APRIL 7	Annual Meeting
MAY 14	7th Annual Golf Classic at Ojai Valley Inn
MAY 15	Mini-Grant Applications deadline
JUNE	Outstanding Teacher Awards/Mini-grant awarded
SEPTEMBER 15	Garden of Knowledge/Educational Hero Awards
OCTOBER 21	Ojai Day
NOVEMBER	Annual Appeal

For more information please visit our website: www.ojaief.org
OJAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION
PO Box 1769 Ojai, CA 93024 | Email: info@ojaief.org

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT OF ANY AMOUNT TO OEF
TO HELP MAKE OUR VISION TO CREATE A VIBRANT, RICH,
INSPIRING PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPERIENCE FOR
THE CHILDREN OF OJAI, A REALITY!

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR DONORS!

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