



**DATE:** November 16, 2015  
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IMMEDIATE

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*Fostering investment in innovative educational opportunities  
to benefit the students of Farmington Public Schools*

## **Community Raises “A Toast to Education” – 2015/2016 FFHEF Grant Application now Available**

On Friday, October 23, 2015, more than 400 guests celebrated education at “A Toast to Education” hosted by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation (FFHEF) and held at Farmington Hills Manor. This third annual signature fundraising event featured modern big band jazz, food tastings from local restaurants, raffle items from local businesses and wine and beer tastings. Local business owners, parents, residents, Foundation trustees and school administrators served as guest pourers and servers. The event was sponsored by Busch’s Fresh Food Markets, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., LOC Federal Credit Union, Plante Moran CRESA, and BluMark Advisors. We are happy to report that this year’s event grossed more than \$31,000 to support innovation grants in scholastic achievement, extracurricular enrichment, the arts and technology integration.

Bill McCarthy of McCarthy & Smith, one of the event sponsors, served as a guest pourer. “It was a beautiful event; I was very impressed and heard nothing but positive remarks.” McCarthy congratulated the Foundation for their success.

“I loved the music, and the food was plentiful and delicious. It was a very nice event right here in Farmington,” commented Farmington Hills resident Wendy Scrimger.

David Roggenkamp, Board Chair of the Education Foundation, added, “The event was an overwhelming success. It was a wonderful example of our community working together in support of our students and schools.”

Raffle items were donated by many local, regional and national businesses as well as by a large number of school PTA/PTSA in the District. Guests purchased raffle tickets for a chance to win one of 45 prizes featuring “A Taste of Farmington” basket, Detroit Lions tickets, Detroit Pistons tickets, a 50 -inch TV and hand blown glass goblets from the Glass Academy. The raffle team was led jointly by Aimee Ergas, FFHEF Trustee and volunteers Bonny Marks and Sarina Mosher.

“Every prize showed the generosity of our community and the dedication of our FFHEF trustees...this was truly a team effort,” Ergas remarked.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation is pleased to announce, thanks to the success of A Toast of Education and other fundraising efforts, applications are now being accepted for the 2015-2016 grant cycle. Mini Grants of up to \$750, Collaborative Grants up to \$1,500 and Major Project Grants up to \$5,000 are available to Farmington

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Public Schools’ staff members and school-related organizations to fund programs that align with FFHEF’s mission to “foster investment in innovative educational opportunities to benefit the students of Farmington Public Schools” and its targeted investment areas of Technology, Academic Achievement, The Arts, and Extracurricular Enrichment. Funding for grants is provided by private donations and fundraising events.

Since it began making grants in 2013 the Education Foundation has awarded more than \$150,000 to a wide variety of programs. Grants funded teacher-submitted projects and initiatives ranging from promoting music sensory learning in special education to purchasing a high definition Go-Pro high definition camera for the TV-10 Technical and Career education program. Grants partnering with school groups and community organizations included “Hands on Your Food” class for high school students, “Be the Solution” student-led video series on sustainability and YMCA Camp Riley for students age five through 12. Technology purchases include the support of classroom learning initiatives using tablets, digital cameras, digital microscopes, MP3 players and mini PC products.

Applications were available beginning Friday, November 6 and will remain open until Monday, December 7, 2015. Applications must be completed and submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFHEF2016>. Information about grant policies and the grant allocations process is available on the Foundation web site at [www.ffhedfoundation.org](http://www.ffhedfoundation.org) under the Grants menu item.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Foundation’s mission is to “foster investment in innovative educational opportunities to benefit the students of Farmington Public Schools.” Additional information about the Education Foundation and its work is available online at [www.ffhedfoundation.org](http://www.ffhedfoundation.org), Facebook and Twitter. Questions may be directed to Nancy Jennings, Executive Director, at [director@ffhedfoundation.org](mailto:director@ffhedfoundation.org).