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Our Past, Present, & Future Support Is Making a Difference



Photo: Kris Qua

"Shoot for the Stars"

A program designed to motivate students
improve their academic performance.

December 2017



RPI and National Grid Foundation Have Partnered To Create ...

SHOOT FOR THE STARS

A program designed to motivate students improve their academic performance.

By Christine Berardi

Local students from the Troy City School District, Boys and Girls Club of Troy and the Lansingburgh Boys and Girls Club participating in the “Shoot for the Stars” program were invited to see RPI’s Division 1 Men’s team take on Quinnipiac University November 10 at the Houston Field House. The program, designed to motivate students to improve academic performance, attendance and school behavior, rewards students and a guest with tickets to select RPI Division 1 men’s and women’s ice hockey games.

A select group of students enjoyed the spotlight as they participated in a pre-game on-ice ceremonial puck-drop presentation. They were joined by Ed White, Executive Director, National Grid Foundation; Kathleen M. Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive; Patrick Madden, Troy Mayor; Dr. Lee McElroy, RPI’s Athletic Director; and Deborah Chesky, RPI’s Senior Advancement Officer of Foundation Relations.

RPI and National Grid Foundation have partnered

to create the “Shoot for the Stars” program which began in January, 2014 with children from the Troy City School District. Since the program’s inception, thousands of children have participated. This year, National Grid Foundation is supporting “Shoot for the Stars” with a \$15,000 investment.

“National Grid Foundation is pleased to again team up with Rensselaer on the Shoot for the Stars program. The addition of our Rising Stars program component, which recognizes the most exceptional young students in each grade, will stimulate even greater performance in the classroom. This addition, along with inspiration from Rensselaer’s exceptional scholar-athletes, and the reward of a Rensselaer hockey game, will benefit the students of the Greater Troy area immensely,” said Ed White, Executive Director, National Grid Foundation.

RPI’s scholar-athletes are role models and mentors to students in the “Shoot for the Stars” program. It is another way to promote interest

Destiny

Is a quarterly publication created to give you a glimpse into the stories of some of the wonderful organizations and programs National Grid Foundation supports.

Editor Christine Berardi
Creative Director Pamela Focá
Executive Director Edward H. White Jr.
Writer Deborah Drew

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National Grid Foundation Service Area Key.
Color corresponds to service area of artical.

■ = MA Area ■ = NY Upstate Area
■ = RI Area ■ = NY Downstate & LI Area



and participating in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields along with athletic endeavors.

“Helping our youth achieve success through positive reinforcement is an excellent way to help them reach their goals and strive for even greater accomplishments. I want to commend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and National Grid Foundation for spearheading this program and their ongoing commitment to the children of our communities,” stated Rensselaer County Executive, Kathleen M. Jimino.

“Shoot for the Stars” is the latest in a series of National Grid Foundation programs, which includes the successful “Hoops for the Stars” program at Siena College, Syracuse University, the University at Buffalo, Providence College and the University of Rhode Island that provide tickets to men’s and women’s basketball games to middle school students for their academic achievements.

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Change is Simple
environmental education

SUPERCHARGING THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

By Deborah Drew

Change may not be so simple for many seeking to adjust some aspect of life, but tucked away in a small, yet dynamic space in Beverly, Mass., local non-profit Change is Simple is continually exploring ways to energize how elementary students on Massachusetts' North Shore are learning about the science of sustainability – and making change simple – through its hands-on STEM programming.

Change is Simple began delivering its interactive program in a single classroom more than six years ago. Now, it annually reaches over 6,000 students in the Greater Boston area.

According to co-founders and program directors Patrick and Lauren Belmonte, the Change is Simple mission is simple: Inspire students to adopt lifelong environmental and social values by implementing a comprehensive sustainability education program within elementary classrooms.

As part of its program, Change is Simple also partners with Northeastern University to train and mobilize college science students to mentor elementary children in classrooms. While developing interest and skills in science, children learn how to live sustainably and become champions for sustainability at home and in their community. College students learn important mentoring, developmental and business skills as well.

The program also includes professional development that builds each teacher's capacity to continue to integrate sustainability through STEM in their classrooms with confidence.



Photo: Change is Simple

“The contribution Change is Simple has made to our schools is incredible. We have kids looking at the environment in a whole new way. It is everything you could want in a science program.”

– Principal, Woburn Public Schools

This fall, the National Grid Foundation awarded \$16,000 to Change is Simple to support its “Energy Grid” and “Renewable Energy” portions of curriculum that will create energy awareness at the community level. With this funding, project-based learning will reach 1,230 students in 53 fourth grade elementary classrooms within the cities of Beverly, Salem, Woburn, and Lynn, Mass. and will be the main component of the STEM curriculum for half of the school year for these classrooms.

Each student will spend 20 hours on energy-focused, hands-on learning in school and at home. Students will become energy experts and leaders, educating their families as well. Students will conduct in-home energy audits and present their findings to families, along with advice on how to make positive changes.

Freedom House Celebrates Newly-Renovated Space in Boston

By Deborah Drew

This fall, Freedom House, the Boston-based social service agency that provides youth development and college preparatory services for urban students, opened its doors to a fully-renovated facility in one of the city's largest underserved urban neighborhoods.

Located in the former Grove Hall Library building, an 8,000-square-foot concrete and glass building with an open floor plan, was transformed into a facility that meets the agency's needs, serving 2,000 students on-site and in local schools.

According to Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, "Freedom House is an invaluable resource for students and families in this neighborhood. The transformation of this city-owned property into a dynamic, state-of-the-art space for youth is cause for great celebration."

And celebrate they did. In September, two years after repairs were complete, Freedom House held a ribbon-cutting ceremony with elected officials, community members – including Ed White, Executive Director, National Grid Foundation and Foundation Board Member Hon. Louis Elisa, II, – along students and staff who are in Freedom House on a daily basis.

Earlier this year, the National Grid Foundation supported the Freedom House "PUSH" (Preparing Urban Students for Higher Education) program with a \$25,000 grant to help further its mission to transform the economic and cultural fabric of high need communities through education and leadership development. Freedom House sees its work as fundamental to the success of the entire community.



Freedom House fully renovated facility.



Freedom house ribbon cutting ceremony.

While Freedom House began in 1949 as an all-purpose social service agency working on civil rights issues and neighborhood improvement, it has in recent decades focused more narrowly on youth development, with tutoring and college preparatory programming. It administers college preparatory programs at the Jeremiah Burke and Snowden International high schools, Bunker Hill Community College, UMass Boston, Roxbury Community College and the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology.

Freedom House is a nonprofit community-based organization in Roxbury, Massachusetts (a neighborhood of Boston).



From Vision to Reality - National Grid Foundation

Bob Catell Retires from National Grid Foundation Board of Directors



By Christine Berardi

From vision to reality to retirement, Bob Catell has seen the growth of National Grid Foundation from its beginning. After serving on the Board of Directors for the past nine years, he says it's time to retire.

The December 2017 National Grid Foundation Board of Directors Meeting is Bob's last meeting as a board member.

"It's time," he said referring to his retirement which took his fellow board members and Foundation staff by surprise. "New and different ideas are always needed to continue the Foundation's mission."

History

In December 1998, his vision of a creating a corporate foundation became a reality. Bob, ever the community-minded man, said, "We had this idea for a number of years," Bob said. "Through Brooklyn Union and KeySpan's Community Affairs Area, the company supported the communities we served with small grants to non-profit organizations. We wanted to do more; we just didn't have a lot of funds."

Originally named the KeySpan Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was created and financed by shareholder funds, not customer money, according to Bob. KeySpan Corporation provided a \$20 million endowment to establish the Foundation which is a separate entity. In September 2000, the Company enhanced its commitment with an additional \$10 million gift. Ten years ago, National Grid provided a \$5 million gift to the Foundation.

With the organization, staff and a board of directors in place, good community stewardship

could begin with "the proper funding and good branding," Bob said. "In addition to providing the needed support, this was another way to get our name out there in a positive way"

National Grid Foundation's grant-making area has grown as the company has grown – from KeySpan Corporation serving Long Island, Brooklyn, Staten Island and parts of Queens, NY to National Grid to covering additional parts of upstate New York and parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Nearly 20 Years later and over \$23 Million!

The numbers speak for themselves. As we enter our 20th year, the Foundation has provided grants to more than 1,000 community organizations totaling a generous \$23 million. Approximately \$10 million has been distributed in the nine years that Bob served on the Board of Directors.

The Foundation also has contributed to disaster relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy through American Red Cross and the United Way organizations.



Bob with a graduating class at Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School Summer Training Institute.

In 2005, the Foundation joined the company with donations to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund as a prime presenter of “From the Big Apple to the Big Easy” NYC’s Concerts for the Gulf Coast at Madison Square Garden.

Seven years later, National Grid Foundation lent a big helping hand to the United Way after Hurricane Sandy destroyed so much in the Foundation’s territory. United Way of Long Island and United Way of New York City each received a one-time \$250,000 Foundation grant to assist their agencies with essential programs to help residents recover from the devastation.

Areas of Focus

While there are many worthy issues, the organization focuses its work in education and environment. Emergency heating assistance programs are included as National Grid Foundation provides grants to major charities which can direct the funds to local agencies.

“I’m a big advocate of supporting educational organizations that give people the encouragement to become the best they can along with groups that work to protect and improve environment,” he said. “We also provide grants to specialized energy programs, namely the heating funds which provide grants to those who are having difficulty paying their heating bills.”

Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and Prospect Park Alliance are some of the organizations that are near and dear to Bob.

Praise for Bob

National Grid Foundation Chairman Al Wiltshire said, “Almost 20 years ago, Bob had a vision of creating opportunities to assist non-profit educational and environmental organizations within the company’s service territory creating the KeySpan Foundation now known as National Grid Foundation. He is an outstanding man who is loyal, committed to the community and a good

Story continues next page

Story continued from previous page

friend. His leadership, dedication, enthusiasm and many years of service to the board of directors are much appreciated.”

Board Member Carmen Fields said, “His leadership and wisdom will be sorely missed. I join fellow members in saluting Bob and thanking him for his service.”

Echoing Carmen’s sentiment Board Member George Mayhew, who is the Corporate Affairs Director and works in National Grid’s headquarters in the UK said, “It’s the end of an era. If Bob were British, he would be Lord Catell of Brooklyn.”

The outgoing board member said, “Thank you to all the board members for your kind words. I will miss the people who I worked with on the board and will miss seeing the results of the grants that National Grid Foundation provided to so many organizations. I’m flattered and humbled by the kind words from my fellow board members.

Bob may be retiring from National Grid Foundation’s Board of Directors, but still will continue working. He serves as Chairman of the Board of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) at SUNY Stony

Brook and Chairman, New York State Smart Grid Consortium. He also is on the Board of many governmental, not for profit and business organizations.

“I hope National Grid Foundation continues to be true to its mission and continues to grow,” said Bob.



Bob Catell, Vice Chairman of the National Grid Foundation was interviewed by Connoisseur Media’s Donna Vaughan regarding Project Warmth. He was joined by Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island, as well as Project Warmth recipient Richelle Nelson and her two daughters.



Bob Catell promotes National Grid Foundation’s support of United Way of Long Island’s Project Warmth which is a fuel-neutral emergency heating fund. The interview conducted by Frank Brinka for the Island Outlook program was broadcast on a number of radio stations across Long Island.

SeniorNet

SeniorNet's Computer Learning Going Strong!



By Christine Berardi

National Grid Foundation supports SeniorNet at Family Service League and its Computer Learning Center and Mobile Computer Classrooms with a \$9,800 grant to underwrite the printing of student manuals and other printed classroom and promotional materials.

Through a wide variety of classes and workshops, SeniorNet has taught computer education to more than 12,000 senior citizens. Class offerings include: basic computer skills and email, mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, social media, video streaming and much more. This program enriches the lives of older adults giving them an opportunity to discover the latest and greatest in technology while providing a 21st Century-way to connect with family and friends.

Slava Vero, director, SeniorNet at Family Service League, Long Island, left, is joined by Christine Berardi, Communication Lead/Editor, National Grid Foundation at SeniorNet's Annual Meeting. More than 100 people including representatives from SeniorNet National, elected officials and invited SeniorNet students and volunteers attended the meeting held at Cinema Arts Theater, Huntington October 31.

Winter Safety Tips

Old Man Winter made his presence known with early snow and freezing temperatures. To keep safe, the National Safety Council advises:

- Take it slow while shoveling snow
- If possible, push snow rather than lift. If you do lift, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel
- Lift with your legs and not your back
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion
- If using a snow blower and it jams, turn it off
- Keep your hands away from moving parts
- Be aware of carbon monoxide risk if running a snow blower in an enclosed space
- Refuel the snow blower when it is off



Middle School Students Honored for Putting Water Quality First



LONG ISLAND
PINE BARRENS
SOCIETY

By Christine Berardi

Mother Nature is proud of her middle school friends for bringing the importance of protecting and improving water quality on Long Island to the forefront.

Long Island Pine Barrens Society and National Grid Foundation honored 12 young environmentalists with the “Future Steward Award” at the 40th Pine Barrens Society’s Environmental Awards Gala at Oheka Castle in Huntington, NY held on October 19. In addition to attending the gala, the students met the founders of the Pine Barrens Society and discussed their award-winning research projects.

Dick Amper, Executive Director, Long Island Pine Barrens Society, said, “The Pine Barrens Society’s partnership with the National Grid Foundation allowed us to reward bright, environmentally-aware middle school children in a memorable ceremony at a terrific venue – Oheka Castle.”

The 12 finalists were selected from 100 students who participated in the “Middle School Kids Go To College” competition held at Stony Brook University. The 11-14 year-old students presented their research on topics such as limiting pesticide use, pharmaceuticals getting into Long Island’s groundwater, better sewage treatment and proper disposal of electronic devices to prevent drinking and surface water contamination. The project was funded with a grant from National Grid Foundation.



Photo: Long Island Pine Barrens Society

Finalists who participated in the “Middle School Kids Go To College” attend Environmental Awards Gala at Oheka Castle in Huntington, NY.



Photo: Long Island Pine Barrens Society

Executive Director, Edward White, takes selfie with award winners at Gala at Oheka Castle in Huntington, NY.

*Wishes for a
Wonderful New Year
2018*

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