



HURLBUTT STREET SCHOOL HOUSE, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Members, Neighbors, and Friends,

PRESERVE ~~ EDUCATE ~~ APPRECIATE

*Hurlbutt Street School
House*

1834 - 1935

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Linda Schmidt, *President*
Anne McCann, *Vice President*
Christine Silva, *Secretary*
Debra DeFeo, *Treasurer*

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Dorothy Broderick
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& Kenna Cole
Douglas Cole
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Daniel & Rebecca Darst
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Fairfield County Bank
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Hurlbutt Elementary School PTO
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Walter & Sharon Kress
Chris & Anne McCann
Miller/Driscoll School PTA
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Jack Mitchell
Russ & Kathy Mitchell
Sandy Mumbach
Joan Pendergast
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Wilton Rotary Foundation
Wilton Woman's Club
Melinda Wolcott

This has been the mission and purpose of the Hurlbutt Street School Association's Early Education Programs for over 50 years!

The school house was built in 1834, in one day, by members of the school district who donated their services. For the next 101 years this one-room school provided an education for as many as thirty children at one time, in grades one through eight. Many changes were made in the course of the years --- from kerosene lamps to electricity, from hornbooks and slates to notebooks and lead pencils, from simply learning the 3 R's to understanding the atom! The wood-burning stove, the water jug, the blackboard, the teaching chart, old-fashioned desks, the school bell, the rain barrel, and the outhouses remain. *We are very proud that the 1834 Hurlbutt Street School House has been designated Wilton's Fourth Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

After serving the neighborhood as the local school house between 1834-1935, and as a community center until the mid-1970s, the Hurlbutt Street School House has functioned as an early education museum where today's school children can visit for a day and learn in the ways of earlier times. It is owned and operated by the Hurlbutt Street School House, Inc. whose members work diligently to preserve the building and its traditions by conducting interactive classroom programs.

The preservation of the building and the organization and teaching of the historical programs could not be realized without the continued generosity of our volunteers, friends, and donors. During the past year, we are especially grateful to John Hess and Al Schmidt for sharing their much-needed carpentry skills with us. We are grateful to Tony Calderone for maintaining our front lawn area to keep the schoolhouse looking tidy. Ginny and Tim Merwin provide us with wild turkey feathers that allow the children to experience writing with quill pens and ink! We received help from Kaz Nobumoto and Ben Schmitt who restacked our woodpile and covered it with a new tarp. We so appreciate all the help we received from all of these generous folks, and from all of our many donors. It enables us to keep our little historic treasure functioning!

As we begin the new school year, we are looking forward to presenting our highly recognized education program to the children, including an upgraded curriculum for all of Wilton's third grade classes! We hope you will consider contributing using the enclosed form so that we may fulfill our intended mission and purpose. Donations of all amounts are most appreciated!

Sincerely,

Linda Schmidt, President