



Teachers and district staff pose at a community ceremony where they received grants of up to \$1,000 each for classroom materials through the Circle of Giving campaign.

Renton Community Foundation celebrates 10 years of community support by giving teachers and community organizations \$42,000 in cash grants

'Circle of Giving' campaign awards teachers \$19,000 in classroom funding

January 21, 2010—The Renton Community Foundation today celebrated a decade of philanthropy by granting \$42,000 in cash awards to Renton School District staff and community organizations through its 2010 Circle of Giving Campaign. The funds were awarded at a special celebration at the Renton Senior Activity Center.

Twenty-four teachers or groups of school staff received up to \$1,000 each to purchase additional science materials including microscopes and science equipment, fund special art projects, publish student writing, purchase digital photography equipment and more. An additional \$8,000 was added to this year's grants. In total, Renton teachers received \$19,000.

Funding for these grants come from personal donations of \$1,000 each made by 34 community members and business leaders including Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel and past school superintendents Dr. Dolores Gibbons and Dr. Gary Kohlwes.

Each year, staff submit a request for the funds along with an explanation of how the money will be used to improve student learning. If the proposal is accepted, staff can receive up to \$1,000 cash to use in their classroom or for school-based projects. This year, 74 teachers and staff made requests of more than \$52,000 through the Circle of Giving grant process.

Other organizations receiving grants this year include Salvation Army, Renton Rotary Food Bank, Allied Arts of Renton, Renton Clothes Bank and others.

This marks the [Renton Community Foundation's](#) (RCF) tenth year of awarding grants to schools and community organizations. RCF has awarded more than \$250,000 to teachers and local organizations since it was established in 1999 through a partnership between the City of Renton, the Renton Chamber of Commerce, Renton Technical College, Valley Medical Center and the Renton School District. Governed by a volunteer board of directors, RCF manages over \$5 million and 45 individual funds, benefiting everything from health care to education, to youth and families, to the arts.



Renton teachers receiving this year's Circle of Giving awards:

Jeff Porter and a 5 th -grade team at Maplewood Heights Elementary, to purchase microscopes	Sara Chaison, Maplewood Heights Elementary, to purchase supplies for reading materials and phonics games	Anna Wiley, Highlands Elementary, to purchase digital cameras for students to use for yearbook projects	Teresa Code, Hazen High, to purchase microscopes
Jill Suresh, Dimmitt Middle School, to purchase a set of books for students learning to read English	Kasondra Harrocks, Head Start Center, to purchase listening centers, and preschool computer software to share between Head Start classrooms	Alfred Sidman, Renton High, to build a working green building to model and test low-impact living technologies	Nelsen Middle School team, to purchase a set of folktales to use when teaching cultures of the world
Mark Lyke, Renton High, to purchase a set of teaching manipulatives for use in chemistry classrooms	Sena Camarata, Hazen High, to purchase digital pH meters and digital thermometers for use in labs and classrooms	Ines Zerbato, Sierra Heights Elementary, to purchase books, audio CDs, and multi-cultural materials to build a bilingual library for students learning English	Lise Lindfors, Renton Park Elementary, to purchase books for students in a program for children on the Autism spectrum
Robin Paape, Highlands Elementary, to purchase jump ropes for the school's Jump Rope Club	Rebekah Larsen, Renton Park Elementary, to purchase and implement Autism-specific communication devices	Marissa Lenci, Cascade Elementary, to purchase materials to build a mobile sensory room for students in need of strengthening motor skills	Cascade Elementary kindergarten and first-grade teams, to purchase materials for a literary listening center
Stuart Fox, Campbell Hill Elementary, to purchase books at various reading levels and classrooms supplies	Hazelwood Elementary team, to purchase diverse artwork and artifacts reflecting Asian, Hispanic, African and European customs to display throughout school	Lawrence Mosko, Lindbergh High, to purchase a green house for growing plants as part of the Advanced Placement Biology, Biology 1-2 and Life Science classes	Black River High team to purchase computer program to help students develop improved reading skills and two levels of nonfiction story books
Lindbergh High team, to purchase supplies to create multi-use, lightweight movable backdrop displays for theater productions	Jean Boley, Sierra Heights Elementary, to purchase library materials to improve the literacy of male readers	Stephanie Pender, Nelsen Middle School, to purchase 100 books for classrooms and the library	Lakeridge Elementary team, to purchase books and audio CD's for use in 5 th -grade Social Studies classes