

A Message from the Chair

by Fran Rossoff

Last fall, a group of Morris Educational Foundation board members began the search for a great fundraiser. They decided on a wonderful event called “*Morristown’s Got Talent*.” This group, the steering committee of the MEF fundraising committee led by Vince Morreale, did indeed find that Morristown has great talent. They found that the Morris Educational Foundation Board of Trustees has tremendous talent as well! This committee took on marketing and advertising, a talent search, fundraising, technical issues surrounding theatre preparation, celebrity recruitment, and so much more. They set their sights on an event and had four months to prepare and execute it. They involved the entire MEF board . . . and they did it! It is a pleasure to be in the company of such dedication. Kudos to all involved!

The Talent Show is just one area in which the MEF is working so diligently. Our Friends Campaign, led by Katherine Henckler and Carol Alison, has brought over \$36,400 to the Foundation, adding to our ability to entertain more of the deserving grant requests we receive from staff in the Morris School District. To date, we have granted over \$52,000 in grants for the 2007/2008 school year. They have

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Morristown’s Got Talent! by Debbie Sontupe

The Morris Educational Foundation took the town by storm with its first major fundraiser in years, *Morristown’s Got Talent!* This talent show featuring the best amateur talent from Morristown, Morris Plains and Morris Township, was held on February 27th at The Community Theater at the Mayo Performing Arts Center. The evening featured 16 acts of various talents selected from 68 contestants who auditioned for the show.

The finalists were competing for cash prizes of \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd place and \$250 for 3rd place. This year’s first place winner was “*Timeless Jazz*” who took the audience back in time with a rendition of Fats Waller’s “*Ain’t Misbehaving*.” Second place was captured by “*Essence*,” a trio of hip hop dancers who choreographed their own dance to “*Promise Ring*.” The third place winners were *The Sainato Brothers*, a tap dance trio who tapped their way through time spanning from Mozart to hip hop.

In addition to the competing contestants, the audience was treated to special guest performances by the Frelinghuysen Middle School Jazz Band, the Frelinghuysen Middle School Select Choir and the Morristown High School Jazz Band.

This year’s celebrity judges, who generously donated their time, included: Kent Manahan of NJN News, Guy Adami of CNBC’s Fast Money, Rio Clemente, the “Bishop of Jazz” and Leslie Maxie, ESPN Sports Reporter and former Olympian. All of the judges reside in the Morristown area.

The show was the first of what the Morris Educational Foundation plans to be an annual event. “We are proud to give our local amateur community an opportunity to showcase their talents in front of their hometown and in a top notch facility such as The Community

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Members of *Timeless Jazz* holding their first place check. Their rendition of Fats Waller’s “*Ain’t Misbehaving*” took the audience back in time and won the group first place in the MEF talent show, “*Morristown’s Got Talent!*”

MSD Educational Symposium

by Sharon Rafanello

The Morris Educational Foundation and the Morris School District funded the first all day educational symposium held at Frelinghuysen Middle School on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Over 100 teachers, primarily from the Morris School District and Morris Plains Borough schools were in attendance, gaining information and teaching tips on differentiating instruction from world renowned educator, Jim Grant.

During the workshop, “*Differentiated Instruction: The More Ways We Teach, the More Students We Reach*” (grades K–12), Grant shared classroom tested “reach to teach” easily implanted strategies, adaptations and teaching tools to help all students meet with success. Differentiating instruction is a thoughtful process to approach teaching and learning for students of differing abilities. It matches a teacher’s instructional approach to students’ varying background knowledge, readiness, learning styles and interests with an underlying awareness that “one size doesn’t fit all.” Meeting individual student needs is a challenge that teachers face every day in the classroom.

According to Sharon Rafanello, Director of the MSD Academy for Professional Development, “It was a privilege to have Mr. Grant come to the district and speak to our teachers. He is a wealth of information, and he presents it in a way that is easy for teachers to implement right away in their classrooms.”

A teaching principal for almost 20 years, Mr. Grant is regarded by many as one of America’s most passionate advocates for children. He has authored or coauthored over two dozen books for educators and parents and is the founder of SDE, Inc. (Staff Development for Educators), which strives to assist teachers with creating classrooms in which all students can succeed. His books and other titles and materials that focus on differentiating instruction were available for purchase at a book fair after his presentation. Teacher feedback was very positive and there were many requests for a second symposium!

Want to learn more about the
Morris Educational Foundation?
Check out the MEF website
www.MorrisEdFoundation.org

Frelinghuysen Mural Residency by Janet Rosoff

We are excited to announce that professional artist, Dan Fenelon, has completed the murals for each of three houses at Frelinghuysen: House of the Phoenix, House of the Tiger and House of the Dragon. Three amazing pieces of artwork have a permanent place in each house hallway. In an effort to support the goal of house identity, the staff and parents of the Frelinghuysen Cultural Arts Committee arranged a mural residency project for sixth grade students. The sixth graders met with the artist and talked with him about his craft and the work that goes into creating murals. Each sixth grade student was provided with a tile to create his/her own house icon artwork, which now serves as a border for each mural. An added bonus to this project is an opportunity for students in grades seven and eight to create tiles, too. In the next several weeks, each seventh and eighth grader will receive a tile to decorate with his/her house icon. These tiles will also be displayed for all to see.

A huge thank you is extended to the Morris Education Foundation (MEF), the Arts Council of the Morris Area, and the Frelinghuysen Home and School Association for jointly funding the mural residency. A special thank you goes out to Molly Servais, Bernadette Doyle and Debi Goldberg for their time and effort in this project.

House of the Phoenix



House of the Dragon



House of the Tiger



ELL/Bilingual Department Scholarship for 2007



Osvaldo Reyes and the teachers of the ELL/Bilingual Department decided to initiate a bilingual scholarship as a means to motivate high school ELL/Bilingual students to do better in school, both in attendance and academics. Mark Manning, Supervisor of Humanities, has been very supportive of this initiative, as well as high school guidance counselor, Jose Acevedo. Last year, a scholarship was issued for \$2,300.

It is hoped that an ELL/Bilingual Department Scholarship can be issued every year. Mr. Richard Berek, a local business owner, contributed \$1000 in 2007 and has promised to support this scholarship effort for the next several years.

The recipient of the ELL/Bilingual Department Scholarship for 2007 was Sandra Marroquin. She is from Guatemala. Sandra works nights in a restaurant and attends CCM during the day. She wants to be a registered nurse and is pursuing that career at CCM. Sandra spoke to the Morristown High School ELL/Bilingual seniors on March 19 about her experience at CCM and as a recipient of the scholarship, and encouraged other ELL/Bilingual students to strive for similar achievements.

Morristown's Got Talent

(continued from page 1)

Theater at the Mayo Performing Arts Center,” said Vince Morreale, MEF board member and chairman of the Morristown's Got Talent Show. “The town was buzzing with excitement for days following the event. This year's event raised over \$16,000 for the MEF and truly captured the spirit of community. We have already received inquiries from contestants who want to audition for next year's show.”

“The Morris Educational Foundation is an integral part of the Morris School District, and this fundraising event will further the Foundation's ability to distribute financial and other resources to and for the Morris School District for enrichment programs and other projects aimed at enhancing the quality of education and educational opportunities for students in the district,” added Fran Rossoff, Chair of the Morris Educational Foundation.

Details of next year's show will be forthcoming in the MEF's fall newsletter. In addition, anyone interested in auditioning for or becoming a sponsor for next year's show may visit the show's new website at www.morristownsgottalent.com.



(Photo above) Morristown's Got Talent judges (left to right): Guy Adami, Leslie Maxie, Kent Manahan and Rio Clemente.



(Photo to the left) Marquee from The Community Theatre highlighting the Morristown's Got Talent show.

A Message from the Chair *(continued from page 1)*

shown us the innovative, creative and educationally progressive trends which the staff wants to introduce to our students. How lucky are the students of the Morris School District!

In a time when budget strategy is key and costs are ever rising, we at the Morris Educational Foundation believe that forward thinking is paramount. We will keep up with the latest in education, supplementing the work of the District with wonderful programs which the school budget alone cannot support.

The work of the MEF is accomplished through a cadre of volunteers working on a number of programs and committees. Our Teacher Tribute program, led by Claire Mackin and Nancy Hedinger, provides a way in which parents and other supporters can show appreciation to our staff for all their accomplishments. Our Staff Contribution program, led by Mary Ellen

Fultz, allows the staff who work in the district to “give back,” thereby participating in the great work of the Foundation. Our Scholarship Committee, led by Chip Frost, reads, evaluates and makes the final decisions as to awards to be given to deserving graduating seniors in our district. Our Marketing Committee, led by Paul Hughes, is always looking for more avenues through which to partner with corporations, creating yet more opportunities to serve the needs of our students. We are happy to announce the formation of a new Finance Committee which will be led by Chip Frost. This committee will work in conjunction with our great treasurer, Carol Alison, to research and make appropriate recommendations regarding all monetary decisions of the Board. Our School Liaison program is in place so that all of the parents/guardians and the staff of the Morris School District will understand the work of the MEF.

Viki Craig and Claire Mackin are taking over the leadership of this program. This informative and very well constructed newsletter is a result of the hard work of Deborah McComber, our wonderful editor. Finally, our Grants Committee, led by Ann Rhines, is able to examine, evaluate and recommend the grants which are determined to best benefit the students. That, my friends, is really why we exist. The students of the Morris School District are the real reason that these many volunteers work tirelessly on the Foundation board. I thank all those who lead these committees and all of their members. The MEF could not exist without them.

Won't you join us as a friend, a supporter, a believer of education? Truly, our future is in the development of our students' minds and hearts. We believe in them. Won't you?

Morris Educational Foundation Grants

So far in the 2007–2008 school year, the Morris Educational Foundation has funded grants totaling \$52,219 for projects aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for students in the Morris School District. MEF has also assisted in acquiring and administering grants and scholarships from outside sources. We continue to explore new venues for our funds. Keep those grant requests coming!

Reading is a Super Power

Patricia Sutton, Hillcrest School (\$500)

There is a significant part of our student body who is very interested in superheroes. Superhero books are available in a range of reading levels as well as in Spanish. Developing an interest in reading is so important at this age. Therefore, it is critical to provide books that have a strong appeal. This grant will allow the Hillcrest library to create a section of books that can sustain the reading interests of these students.

Extending Leadership Capacity

Josephine Noone,

Alexander Hamilton School (\$5,000)

Since 2003, the Leadership Team at Alexander Hamilton School has cooperated with the entire faculty to build leadership capacity throughout the school and to develop core values. The team has been working with Susan Mazza throughout its existence. As a new principal, Josephine Noone is committed to working with the Leadership Team to continue to build leadership capacity, foster communication, and nurture collaborative, trusting relationships. They require consulting and facilitation support in order to smooth the transition between principals, maintain the forward momentum as a school, and continue their development as a learning organization. Other schools in the district, along with leadership teams, will join AH when the facilitator is present.

From the Mississippi Delta to Urban Chicago: A Month of Blues Music Appreciation

James Stocker, Alfred Vail School (\$590)

This is a cooperative/interactive/academic project exploring the roots of blues music and its influence on American culture. This Black History Month experience begins as a social and biographical study in the classroom and ends with a school-wide multimedia and musical performance.



Celebrating Literature through the Arts

Adrienne Weber,

Normandy Park School (\$450)

A class will perform the play, Stone Soup. As preparation, the students will participate in learning activities involving the strong message, “the gift of sharing.”



Save Our Earth . . . Save Our Future

Jeffrey Brown,

Thomas Jefferson School (\$1200)

This is a multi-faceted program designed to promote awareness, education and action on the environmental, economic and social equity principals of sustainability. The Quest students will team up with several local organizations including the Morristown Environmental Commission, Unity Learning Environments and the Unity Charter School to host a community day event at Thomas Jefferson School. The students will design, organize and host the event to help educate local community members on the importance of protecting and sustaining our environment.



Children of the Earth

Wendy Pollack–Gilson,

Normandy Park School (\$400)

In this project involving Quest students from all schools, students will learn survival, develop tracking skills and plant identification, write a journal reflecting on their experiences and develop teamwork. The Children of the Earth Foundation will provide two instructors per every 20 students for two days. They will meet outdoors on school property for guided activities to learn the skills listed above. The goal is to increase environmental awareness and positive action towards our natural world, while strengthening academic skills and team building.



For Grant Guidelines, contact us at
MEF@msdk12.net
or go to our website at
www.MorrisEdFoundation.org

Colonial Symphony Music Education Program

Norma Davis, MHS (\$3,500)

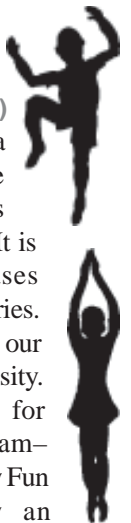
The Colonial Symphony conducts a music education program that augments the skills of the teachers, enhances the curriculum and expands the musical lives of students. This grant would support the following components: a series of composition classes for advanced music students, a special Open Master Class and a series of demonstrations/performances for the wind ensemble and orchestra by quintets from the Colonial Symphony.

Dance Dance Revolution

Robert Sparano,

Sussex Avenue School (\$1,665)

Dance Dance Revolution is a high-energy music and dance program that gets kids and adults on their feet and working out. It is noncompetitive, fun, increases overall fitness, and burns calories. It is an effective way to combat our nation's current epidemic of obesity. It will be used in gym class, for midday fitness, as a staff team-building activity, and as a Family Fun Night. Participants follow an increasingly complex sequence of dance steps in time to music, stepping on electronic pads that record their progress.



Stationery Studio

Christine Heimbach,

Hillcrest School (\$850.00)

Stationery Studio is a tool used to encourage writing by providing customized stationery with appropriate writing line styles, line width, color, and fonts. There is text-to-speech for students with special needs. There are over 200 themed/curriculum-based borders with an appropriate amount of visual appeal. Teachers will use Stationery Studio as a tool for creating activities, awards, invitations, certificates, templates, and outlines. This program will help students strengthen their writing and literacy skills.

Morris Educational Foundation Grants

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Dancing With a Pen

Storm Rose, Community School (\$2,000)

Many students in grades 7–12 are interested in the creative writing process — they write in journals spending time on their writing, most often alone, and often yearn to feel part of a wider community of people for whom writing is one of life’s outstanding joys. *Dancing with a Pen* is a program that provides the opportunity to join with others who share this same passion. There will be four days of workshops at Frelinghuysen from June 30—July 3, 2008. Students will work in groups, by genre, developing ideas and written pieces. Their writing experience will be enhanced by feature presentations and workshops with professional writers. Students are asked to pay a tuition of \$200. This grant will provide assistance for those who cannot afford the tuition.



Reading for the Right Reasons

Dawn Catanzaro, Hillcrest School (\$575)

To culminate a yearlong reading incentive for second graders to read one hundred books each, a Reading Day will take place with activities set up in each classroom. Children will move from room to room to enjoy the reading projects and activities. Students will also participate in a reading game show, entitled *The Bodacious Book Show*, directed by Christopher Agostino, an advocate for reading in schools. This will be a fun way for children to recall facts and characters from the books that they have read.

Professional Learning Community Technology Initiative

Cathy Cirrotti, Frelinghuysen Middle School (\$3,200)

FMS has developed Professional Learning Communities as a part of the new house system. Within these newly formed groups, teachers have begun to research and develop strategies to strengthen their present curriculum and instruction. One of the critical components is the need for increased technology in classrooms. Research states that the most effective way to infuse new technology is through pilot programs. Those involved will then mentor and instruct other colleagues. The science teachers feel that digital microscopes are needed to enhance the students’ study of cells. The language arts teachers would like an Elmo (digital visual presenter) — a tool that encourages interactive reading and writing. This device allows printed text to immediately be placed on an overhead for everyone to see. It is an effective tool for student assessment and can be utilized at teacher meetings to discuss student work samples. The equipment will be piloted, evaluated, and if successful, shared with others.

Cultural Arts Program 2007–2008

For the past three years, the Morris Educational Foundation has provided \$2,000 to each of the elementary schools and \$1,000 to the preschool at Lafayette to help fund cultural arts programs selected by each of the schools. This year the foundation also provided \$1,000 to each house at the Frelinghuysen Middle School for a “Mural Residency.” Morristown High School received two separate grants, one for the Challenge Day character-education program and the other for a Colonial Symphony residency.

Along with the Morris Educational Foundation, funding for the heavily valued cultural arts programs in our schools is provided by the Morris Area Arts Council and the schools’ parent associations.

Lafayette Learning Center: A musician performed a concert on social skills and a CD was purchased for each child.

Sussex Avenue School: “The Alley Cats Are Coming,” a vocal group, will perform on May 9. On March 20, popular local poet, B.J. Ward, spoke about writing and being creative.

Thomas Jefferson School: The fourth grade took part in a residency program in collaboration with The Community Theatre in Morristown.

Alexander Hamilton School: The Picasso People will perform and lead workshops for grades 3 and 5 on how to draw Picasso’s one-line rooster. The fourth grade will take part in four collage workshops centered around Picasso’s violin.

Woodland School: Author Judy Freeman will visit for a day and discuss her novels for children.

Alfred Vail School: Keppel’s *Magic Read Show* presented “Turn Off the T.V. and Read.” Students learned the importance of turning off the T.V. and looking for information in a book.

Hillcrest School: In collaboration with The Community Theatre, students experienced a creative drama residency. A professional teaching artist helped the students to create, express and imagine. Students took part in theatre games, storytelling and improvisation.

Frelinghuysen Middle School: Three beautiful murals were created and painted in the halls as a permanent identification of each of the houses (see story on page 2).

Morristown High School: \$1,500 was provided in support of fall Challenge Day. (For more information on the MHS Fall Challenge Day, see the lead article in the Fall 2007 MEF Newsletter at www.morrisedfoundation.org.) A \$3,500 music education grant was provided for Colonial Symphony to conduct composition classes, an Open Master Class and a series of demonstrations/performances for wind ensemble and orchestra.

Want to help fund exciting grants for MSD students? Support the TEACHER TRIBUTE PROGRAM by filling out and sending in the form on page 8 of this newsletter! Honor one of MSD’s exceptional staff members and, at the same time, enhance the quality of education in the Morris School District.

2007/2008 Annual Friends' Campaign

MATCHING FUNDS

Citi Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation

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Nancy Yard
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Susie & Fred Yawger

Please consider becoming a FRIEND.

The Friends' Campaign is an ongoing opportunity to support the Morris Educational Foundation. The annual campaign is the Foundation's major fundraiser. All of the money raised is returned to the schools of the Morris School District through numerous grants. Every school in the district receives money from the MEF.

To date, the 2007-08 Friends' Campaign has raised over \$36,400. If you have already received our request but have not yet contributed, please be as generous as possible when making your donation. If you are employed by a company with a matching gift program, we hope you will complete the appropriate forms.

We are always hoping for new Friends! We value all of our contributors at all levels of giving. It only takes a \$1 to become a Friend!



Annual Friends' Campaign

Morris Educational Foundation
P. O. Box 1224, Morristown, NJ 07962-1224

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$250 ____ \$500 ____ Other \$ _____

____ Corporate matching gift form enclosed.

____ I wish to make my contribution in the form of securities.

Please contact me at _____.

(Please make checks payable to: Morris Educational Foundation)

The following may have an interest in supporting the MEF:

Name _____ Address _____

The Morris Educational Foundation Teacher Tribute Program

Holiday 2007 Teacher Tribute Awardees

JOSE ACEVEDO (MHS)	ERIN COLFAX (MHS)	DONNA GELEGONYA* (MHS)	LAURIE LANDERS (TJ)	JOSEPHINE NOONE (AH)	ROCHELLE SEMEL (WD)
TERRY ALLAN* (NP)	BEVERLY CORONA (LLC)	STEVE GELLER (MHS)	FRANCES LASCARI (WD)	MICHAEL NUZZO (MHS)	SERGE SHIMKOVITCH (MHS)
TRACY ALLEN (MHS)	ANITA CREWS* (FMS)	ANN GEORGE* (FMS)	CYNTHIA LAUDADIO* (MHS)	MARILYN O'CONNOR* (MHS)	KENNETH SITARIK (MHS)
WILKIA ALMONTE (FMS)	SALLY CURTISS (TJ)	CHRISTINA GEORGE (TJ)	FRANCESCA LAVIGNA (WD)	SHARON O'CONNOR* (FMS)	CHRISTINA SKROD (AH)
SHANI ARNETTE* (TJ)	GAIL DALE* (TJ)	DAVID GIDICH (WD)	PHYLLIS LEAVY (HC)	KATHLEEN O'DONNELL* (MHS)	MAUREEN SLUK (LLC)
KENNETH ARNTZEN (MHS)	MATTHEW DALY (FMS)	KAREN GILL (LLC)	JANET LEESON (FMS)	JOANNE OLIVIER (MHS)	JEANETTE SOMMER (NP)
JOHN BABULA (TJ)	ANTHONY DANESE* (MHS)	WENDY GILSON* (NP)	JAN LESLIE (MHS)	AHLAM OMAR* (MHS)	TRUDY SPECHT (WD)
HAE IN BACK* (TJ)	SHEILA DARWIN (FMS)	PAUL GLENN* (NP)	DOUGLAS LIEUX (MHS)	ANA ORTIZ* (NP)	STACY SPENCER* (MHS)
MICHELLE BALDASSARI (NP)	RONALD DAVENPORT* (MHS)	LARRY GONSKY* (FMS)	PENNY LIGUORI* (FMS)	RICKY OSBORNE (FMS)	DENISE STIERCH* (FMS)
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JENNIFER BAXTER (TJ)	JILL DEMARK (FMS)	BARBARA GYORFY (NP)	ROBERT LUISI (MHS)	LIANE PAUL (WD)	GLADYS TATE (MHS)
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JAMES BOOTHBY (MHS)	HELEEN DUNBAR (MHS)	REBECCA HITCHCOCK (WD)	BRAD MURULLO* (TJ)	CYNTHIA PURCELL* (FMS)	NICOLE TULLI (NP)
JEAN BOWERS (AH)	SUSAN DUNCAN (LLC)	KENNETH HITCHNER (FMS)	PATRICIA MATTOS* (MHS)	GERALDINE REILLY (WD)	MARILYN UNDERHILL (NP)
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KIMBERLY BRUNO* (SX)	MERCY FERRER (HC)	JOY JENKINS* (FMS)	GABRIELLE MEYER* (TJ)	NICOLE ROSSO (NP)	DAWN WALLACE* (WD)
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CHRISTINE CAREY (AH)	VICTORIA FORTNA* (HC)	CHRISTOPHER KENNY* (MHS)	JEAN-MARIE MOLINARO (FMS)	HEATHER RUSSINO* (TJ)	SHELLEY WEITZ* (NP)
SUSAN CAREY (FMS)	JAMES FOSTER* (NP)	JOAN KENNY* (TJ)	SCOTT MONTAGUE* (FMS)	MICHAEL RUSO* (MHS)	JANICE WHITCOMB (AV)
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* Honored more than once
** In Memory Of

276 staff members of the Morris School District were honored during the holiday season through the MEF Teacher Tribute program. Each teacher and staff member received a colorful certificate with a personalized note from the donor. Many of those certificates are decorating classrooms and offices now, reminders that the honorees' hard work and dedication are much appreciated. The MEF gratefully acknowledges the \$5,980 that was donated during the Holiday Teacher Tribute program. The money will be put to good use, funding future grants in MSD classrooms.

Holiday 2007 Teacher Tribute Contributors

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Honor Special People. . .
Send them Flowers!



May is Teacher Appreciation month, and it is a great time to say "thank you" to the special people in your child's life. The **Morris Educational Foundation's Teacher Tribute Program** is the perfect way to do it! With your donation, a flower will be delivered to your honoree. Please remember principals, counselors, assistants, custodians, librarians, nurses, conductors, bus drivers, secretaries, and of course, teachers. **Everyone loves flowers!**

Deadline for donations (to send a flower) is May 19. **Please enclose a 3½" by 5" message (per teacher) with this form, which will be attached to the flower.**

2008 Spring Teacher Tribute Program

___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$10 ___\$5 (minimum per honoree ___\$ Other

In ___ honor of *or* In ___ memory of:

Teacher or staff member: _____

School: _____

(Please list additional honorees on a separate sheet of paper.)

FROM:

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Donations to the Morris Educational Foundation are tax-deductible.

Make checks payable to: Morris Educational Foundation

Mail form and check to:

The Morris Educational Foundation/Teacher Tribute
Post Office Box 1224
Morristown, NJ 07962-1224

PLEASE DO NOT SEND TO YOUR SCHOOL

Questions can be directed to MEF@MSDk12.net