

Co-Chair's Message

In February of 2007, the CORSE Foundation will mark a year since the creation of the organization by a group of dedicated parents and educators that seek to improve the education and lives of our students with special needs and their families. Much has been accomplished in a year through the efforts of many individuals both in "tangible" results, and equally important the acquired "intangible" rewards that fuel the passion and commitment behind this endeavor.

As Co-Chairs, we are pleased to share with you the accomplishments that have taken place over the past year. These accomplishments will enrich the experiences and lives of our students, educators, and parents in Scituate. However, it is the "intangible" rewards that provide us with the motivation and energy to commit daily to the work of the Foundation. We are inspired and profoundly grate-

ful for the remarkable generosity of all those individuals, organizations, and businesses who have donated their resources, time, energy and expertise to this effort. More often than not, when a request was made on behalf of the Foundation, individuals and businesses gave, and then gave more. These actions broadly reflect that we are a community that embodies compassion, caring, generosity, and a sense of responsibility to improve the lives of those who experience greater challenges than we ourselves may face. As Co-Chairs we feel privileged, and it is our reward, to be in a position to witness the creation of a true "community" that supports our children with special needs and their families.

We begin this year with a renewed sense of energy and purpose to continue the mission of the Foundation, to

support the children and families with greatest needs here in our community. Goals for 2007 have already been established and planning has begun. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Board and members for all of your many contributions. We seek your continued commitment and participation in our "Community of Resources" as we look forward to 2007. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

CORSE Co-Chairs

Tracy Johnston

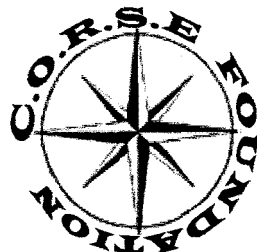
Marynell Henry

2007-2008 Board Membership

The nomination process for the 2007-2008 Board of Directors is complete. Below is a current list of Board Members:

- Tracy Johnston - Co-Chair
- Marynell Henry - Co-Chair
- Peggy Dwyer - Secretary
- Donna Krell - Treasurer

- Elaine Bleckley
- Sheila Chaisson
- Cindy Crimmins
- Lorraine Devin
- Suzanne Erwin
- Judy Norton
- Jennifer O'Neill
- Erin Partridge
- Jennifer Roche



*Scituate Community
Of Resources for
Special Education*

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2006 Accomplishments

As stakeholders in the Foundation, members should feel proud of the results of this past year. We would like to share with you some of the highlights of these accomplishments:

- A current membership list of 171 participants
- Twelve (12) fundraising initiatives that resulted in a profit of \$31,000
- Established the Philanthropic Program Initiative Committee, charged with seeking additional outside funding and resources to support supplemental programming. In 2006, \$3,350 was donated.
- Through fundraising and community events, enhanced the support and community “connectedness” for our families of children with special needs.
- Successful and innovative collaboration with Scituate Public Schools administration, School Committee, SEPAC, Recreation and other groups that interface with

the special education community.

- Completed a parent assessment in September of 2006, providing information on parent needs regarding enhanced and supplemental services by grade level.
- First Grant cycle in October of 2006 that resulted in the approval of 9 Grants: Awards addressed a wide variety of supplemental needs including social skills programming, professional development, books, equipment, music therapy, and parent informational resources and training.
- In January of 2007, launched two pilot enrichment programs in collaboration with the Early Childhood Center (focused on social skills) and Scituate Recreation.
- Creation of the CORSE Foundation website, www.corsefoundation.org



Community Gathering to Celebrate the Holidays

On December 16th 2006, the C.O.R.S.E. Foundation held its first Holiday Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Over 25 families joined together to celebrate the season while enjoying a pancake breakfast, artisan fair, bake sale, arts and crafts for the kids, and the most anticipated moment, a visit from the big guy himself, Santa! While the kids danced to the holiday music or decorated cookies in the craft room, the moms and dads had an opportunity to pick up gifts from local artisans including; Sand Dollar Designs, Girls Graphics, Arbonne, D&D Photography, Tupperware and Hand Painted Accessories. Our own board member Cindy Crimmins offered a bake table with delectable holiday treats and scrumptious gingerbread houses to get people in the spirit of the season.

With only a little over a week left, children anxiously waited to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. Before Santa went back to the North Pole he had the honor of picking our raffle winners for the Ipod, boy’s bike, and American Girl Doll. Unfortunately there could only be three winners, but Santa promised the children he would do his best to fill all the children’s requests.

Of course what is a pancake breakfast without the pancakes? We have Billy Johnston to thank for flipping over 200 pancakes, and Jennifer O’Neill and Marynell Henry for chairing this event. We would also like to thank all of our members who volunteered for this fundraiser, the Girl Scouts, St.

Luke’s Episcopal Church, Joe Norton and the PTO’s for allowing us to sell raffle tickets at their holiday fairs. This was truly a wonderful event for our families to come together and celebrate the holiday season!



Would you like to volunteer for a CORSE Fundraiser?

Please check off which events you are interested and provide us with your contact information. Tear off this form and sent it to PO Box 512, N. Scituate MA 02060 or email us at corsefoundation@comcast.net

- Tag Sale, March 10th Walk the CORSE for Kids, October 13th
- Gala and Auction, May 12th
- General Volunteer (mailings, phone calls, administrative work, etc.)

Contact Information

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Fruits of Nine Months of Labors of Love are Born

The Scituate C.O.R.S.E Foundation was formed in February 2006 to raise funds to augment and enhance programs and resources for students with special needs in Scituate. With the energetic and determined leadership of co-chairs Tracy Johnston and Marynell Henry, a Board was formed, mission statement composed, 501 (c)3 charity status applied for and obtained, partnerships developed with the Scituate Public School and Recreation departments, and parent needs assessments developed. The assessments were conducted and analyzed to determine how the dollars raised could best meet the needs of the students who would most benefit from them. There has been a whole lot of passion and drive behind the formation of this Foundation, and like toddlers learning to walk, conquering uncharted territory with excitement, enthusiasm and pride.

The format for submitting grants was developed by a Grant Committee, and Board members attended Faculty and P.T.O. meetings to spread the word about the funding that would be available through the Foundation and the steps to take to apply for it. For several weeks in October 2006, Board members reviewed grant proposals and rated them by the criteria developed by Foundation co-chairs Johnston and Henry.

Reviewing the grants was a very exciting process as it became clear that the need for certain programs and resources was very real. We were also impressed with the ranges of ages and needs represented throughout the grant applica-

tion pool. From Early Childhood, right on through High School, requests were made for programs and resources that would supplement what the Scituate Public Schools had in place already.

A music therapy program and a pilot after school social skills program for young children at the Early Childhood Center were among the grants approved by the Board. Augmentative communication systems for a classroom developed for children with moderate to severe special needs was also endorsed. In addition to funding that will directly impact children, grants for professional development were approved. When teachers and specialists are learning, and having their beliefs and values confirmed and validated, there is no question that students benefit. Likewise, because students are a part of families, when parents have information and support, everybody wins. That was the rationale for approving a grant to fund the development of a Website for the Parent Advisory Counsel. Books about disabilities for each elementary school will be purchased with C.O.R.S.E. funds and will enrich the lives of children with and without special needs. High school students with special needs will now have access to new computers as a result of a grant funded by the Foundation. C.O.R.S.E. also helped sponsor a workshop series on learning disabilities for parents and teachers presented by experts in the field from the Landmark School in Hingham (see page4).

Wampatuck principal Deborah Donovan wrote the following about the

grant she received that enabled 8 staff members to participate in a day of professional development with expert Carolyn Thomlinson on the topic of Differentiated Instruction:

“This never would have been possible without the financial support of C.O.R.S.E. ...The opportunity to attend this full day workshop...will give our team theoretical underpinnings, research, practical strategies to implement best practices and also networking opportunities...The greatest rewards in education are the results we see when all children meet success in inclusive environments. Your generous support has given us inspiration and encouragement to continue to provide the best education possible for all students.”

“Your generous support has given us inspiration and encouragement to continue to provide the best possible education for all students”

In just 9 months, a Foundation was developed and born. On October 26th the fruits of labor, labors of love, were realized when approximately \$16,000 was allocated to benefit children, parents, and professionals in the Scituate community. ***And we are just getting started!***

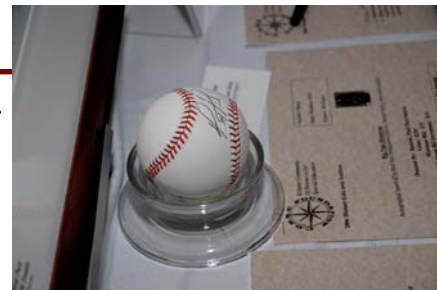
Cindy Crimmins

“Save the Date”

The 2nd annual Gala event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 12th at Scituate Country Club**. The event will include a silent and live auction along with dinner and music. Auction items will include sporting event tickets and memorabilia, evening entertainment packages and boating excursions. If you would like to participate in this worthy event by donating auction items, volunteering or purchasing a ticket, please contact our email address at corsefoundation@comcast.net.

Our next fundraiser will be a **"Next to New" Sale on March 10** 8am-3pm, at Scituate High School. If you have any high quality condition, "like-new" items that you would like to donate for the event, we'd love to have them. We're selling all types of things: toys, household items, yard items, clothing, etc. - so do not throw anything out or go to Good Will yet! We can use them! To donate call Tracy Johnston at 781-545-7736.

Walk the C.O.R.S.E. for Kids will be held on **October 13th**, 2pm at Saint Mary's Parish Center. Enjoy a beautiful 2 mile walk along the coastline with a family event following.





*Scituate Community
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**SCITUATE COMMUNITY OF RESOURCES
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Tracy Johnston
Marynell Henry
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North Scituate, Massachusetts 02060

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or

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Website: www.corsefoundation.org

Email: corsefoundation@comcast.net

The Scituate C.O.R.S.E. Foundation (Community of Resources for Special Education), a non-profit organization, was established in February 2006 by a group of dedicated parents and educators to raise funds to enhance and provide the highest quality educational experience so that students with special needs can reach their full potential. Through a variety of fundraising events and activities, the Foundation is able to allocate grants for a wide range of supplemental resources that will benefit students, parents and educators within our community.

CORSE Foundation Grants at Work: Supporting Our Children with Language Based Learning Disabilities

In October, the CORSE Foundation awarded partial funding for a grant that provided parent education and professional development in the area of Language-based learning disabilities (LBLD) at a significantly reduced registration fee. LBLD refers to a spectrum of difficulties related to the understanding and use of both spoken and written language. LBLD results from biological differences in the way an individual's brain functions. The number and severity of difficulties individuals with LBLD experience vary widely. According to the current federal definition, a specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language. Specific learning disabilities include: dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia, auditory processing disorder, and visual processing disorder.

These learning challenges present great stress for children and families whose children struggle with academics. Language Based Learning Disabilities affect many families. In order to support

parents and educators who work with these bright, often gifted and talented children, a one-day program was designed. There are very few resources on the South Shore to support this population of students and their families. The Landmark School was selected to provide the one-day training program. We worked with Landmark Outreach to select training classes for parents and educators of the elementary, middle and high school levels. We were very fortunate that 7 of the Landmark School's most talented and experienced faculty taught these courses. The courses were provided here in Scituate at St. Mary's of the Nativity Parish Center on November 4, 2006 so local families and educators would have an opportunity to attend. Over 100 parents and educators from 17 South Shore communities attended the workshops. The CORSE Foundation received some very positive feedback from workshop attendees.

"Great energy and enthusiasm. Probably the most experienced authority on this subject that I may ever meet. Awesome

handouts. I wish I could have videotaped the session. I'm so glad I participated"

"Thank you; you have just empowered me as a parent to work in partnership with the school."

"Extremely knowledgeable and informative. I would love to have her come and speak to the teachers and administrators in our school district. The presenter covered a tremendous amount of information. This is an excellent workshop for teachers, administrators and parents."

There were tears of joy and much enthusiasm that we were able to provide such training for our families and educators in Scituate. Our mission was to provide workshops to parents and educators so we can positively affect the education of our children with LBLD's so that they may succeed in school and in life.

Lorraine Devin