



RTHS Education Foundation

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2009

Mark Your Calendar

- **30 Men Who Cook**
September 19, 2009
Rochelle Country Club
- **Grants Awarded**
May 2009

The RTHS Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

We provide long term, self-sustaining financial programs to enrich, enhance and supplement educational opportunities beyond limits of normal tax support for all students.

Teenaged Boys Reading for Pleasure



Three RTHS Students show off their Playaway MP3 audio-books to Board Members Duncan (left), O'Rorke and Thompson.

Over the past few years Ann Marie Jinkins, Director of the RTHS Library Media Center (LMC) has recognized an underserved population: male teenaged pleasure readers. "I applied for a grant that would enable me to offer them the experience of reading a book with the MP3 technology they employ to listen to music," she said.

Called Playaways, Jinkins ordered MP3 players

preloaded with audio-book titles. "They don't involve downloading or computers, don't involve keeping track of dozens of CDs. That makes them very easy to use," she said. "When our kids borrow a Playaway from the LMC, all they have to do is plug in their earbuds and begin listening."

Jinkins said each Playaway contains an entire book, up to 80 hours of listening content. Along

with it comes a hardbound copy of the book, giving the kids the option of reading the printed word, listening to the story being read to them, or doing both. "The later has proven very useful for challenged readers and English language learners."

Jinkins used grant money and funding from the RTHS Education Foundation to build her Playaway collection to 35 titles.

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Independent Living Students Learn to Create Meals

Independent Living is a special class offered at Rochelle Township High School. The students in this class learn how to be self-sufficient in today's society. Skills they study include shopping, managing finances, doing laundry, meal preparation and personal health. "The students get to practice baking and cooking on Fridays. They plan the meal, do all of the shopping, make the recipes, set the table and enjoy a homemade dish," explained Anne Risen,

former RTHS Special Education teacher. In 2006 the RTHS Education Foundation supplied funds for the purchase of a kitchen range. "We think it is important to fund projects for all students," commented Board Member Sharon Duncan. "Every grant application is evaluated and awards are carefully monitored. We want every penny raised to go back to the classrooms. It is a great opportunity to help students learn!" she added.



Students and teachers work on making and baking morning muffins.

Technology Another Focus of the Education Foundation

Technology is everywhere at RTHS. There are computers in classrooms and in designated computer labs. An interactive whiteboard is found in the library classroom; students with special needs have laptops that contain reading software. Science labs are outfitted with a complete, portable laptop station so that students can conduct extensive scientific experiments. Tracy Lloyd, Social Science teacher recently received an Educa-

tion Foundation grant for multi-media projectors. "The incorporation of modern technology in the classroom will help to make history more current. The multi-media projector can take the old and give it a modern spin by making history come alive with technology."

The RTHS Education Foundation has funded several technology related grants in recent years. "We feel that RTHS students need plenty of opportunities to work with current technology," commented Amy Hayden, Board Member. The RTHS Education Foundation supports programs that extend and enhance the traditional curriculum.

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30 Men Who Cook

30 Men Who Cook started in September 2007 when the Education Foundation was looking for a new approach to fundraising. Hoping to engage people from all different age groups and interests they developed 30 Men Who Cook with the help of community organizations in the



Join us at the Rochelle Country Club in September!

DeKalb area. "This event is a fabulous night out. Not only is it an easy way to contribute to the Education Foundation it is a treat to sample dishes from our top male chefs in the community," commented Becky Rogers, Board President. This year's

event promises to be better than ever. "We really listen to feedback and are planning some improvements for the event," Rogers added. Look for more information to be distributed soon. Who will win the first place honors in each category? You will have to attend 30 Men Who Cook 2009 to find out!