



kids in need *Connection*

MARCH 2008

Grants Program Awards More Than \$102,000 To Teachers Across Nation

Creative teachers are rewarded each year by the Kids In Need Foundation with grants to fund exceptional classroom projects. The Teacher Grants program, open to all kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers in the U.S., has awarded \$1 million in grants since the program began in 1997.

This year, more than \$102,000 is being distributed to 242 teachers in 39 states and the District of Columbia. The teachers receiving grants competed with more than 2,000 other teachers nationwide. Grant amounts are between \$100 and \$500.

Teacher Grants are offered through sponsoring corporations and education credit

unions that support the program through financial donations and back-to-school promotions. Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores and the Office Depot Foundation are national sponsors of the program. Other corporate sponsors are Fred Meyer, Rite-Aid, Publix, and Sav-On Office Supplies. The education credit union sponsors are Marion School Employees Federal Credit Union in Marion, Indiana, and Core-Plus Federal Credit Union in Norwich, Connecticut.

Dan Legg, chair of the Teacher Grants Committee, said the Committee "looks for high quality projects that convey information to students in new and interesting ways. We evaluate the grant requests according to certain criteria, but the pro-

posals that make us want to be in the classrooms participating in those projects are the ones that are invariably funded."

To make the good ideas funded by the Teacher Grants program available to other teachers, lesson plans of the projects are available on the Foundation Web site, www.kidsinneed.net.

Applications for the 2008 Kids In Need Teacher Grants will be available after July 15 and can be submitted online between July 15 and September 30.



Share This With The Teachers In Your Life!



Study Finds That:

"Good behavior in the classroom and adequacy of classroom supplies were the most consistent predictors of improvement in children's self-control and behavior. Furthermore, cross-level interactions suggested that good behavior in the classroom and supplies can boost resiliency by allowing children to overcome certain deficits at home." *Source: The Elementary School Journal, v105 n5 p461 May 2005*

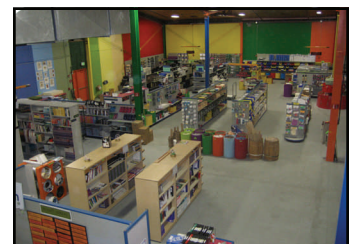
Contact Us

Kids In Need Foundation
3077 Kettering Blvd
Suite 114
Dayton, OH 45439
(P): 937-296-1230
(F): 937-296-1215
Toll Free: 877-296-1231
www.kidsinneed.net
info@kidsinneed.net

Resource Centers Celebrate Grand Re-Openings

Teacher's Treasures in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Ruth's Reusable Resources, in Portland, Maine, recently held Grand Opening events celebrating their new buildings. Both Centers are part of the Kids In Need National Network, and together expect to serve more than 15,000 teachers in 2008. Community support has been key to growth in both Centers. Congratulations!

Teacher's Treasures Board Chair Bill Douthit welcomes guests to the new location.



Bright colors and wide shopping aisles make visiting Ruth's Reusable Resources a highlight for many teachers.



Kids In Need Foundation Announces Independence From Founding Organization

The Board of Directors of the Kids In Need Foundation announces its separation from the School, Home, & Office Products Association (SHOPA). Founded in 1995, the Foundation provides free school supplies to 1.5 million children and 100,000 teachers each year.

“We leave SHOPA on a note of gratitude for their past support,” said Dave Smith, executive director of the Kids In Need Foundation. “The Foundation benefited enormously from SHOPA’s financial support and leadership. However, for several years now, Kids In Need

has relied solely on the financial and product contributions of corporations and individuals from within and outside the school supplies and office products industry. We have achieved a level of maturity that allows us to accomplish our mission better as an independent organization.”

In 2007, the Kids In Need Foundation distributed more than \$32 million worth of product to students and teachers through a national network of 24 Resource Centers and will serve its 10 millionth student during the 2007-2008 academic year.

In addition, the Foundation

conducts the Kids In Need Teacher Grants program, awarding more than \$100,000 each year to teachers. All certified kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers in the U.S. are eligible to apply.

“With the support of our corporate partners and our dedicated staff and volunteers, the Kids In Need Foundation will be serving children and teachers for many years to come,” said Smith. “We are enthusiastically looking forward to seizing new opportunities and forming additional partnerships with companies and individuals who care deeply about giving kids a better chance to succeed.”

Welcome!

Meet The New Director of Development

The Foundation welcomes our newest staff member, Wayne Burton. A native of Indiana, Wayne earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Indianapolis. He also completed the course work for a Masters in Public Administration at the University of Cincinnati.

Prior to joining the Foundation staff, Wayne worked in fundraising and development at several organizations in Ohio and Indiana, including the

Boys Scouts of America and the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

In addition to his non-profit career, Wayne served for 28 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, retiring from the military in 1999 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

A certified fund raising executive (CFRE) and recipient of the Competent Toastmaster Award, Wayne is a past president of the Association of Fund

Raising Executives, Greater Cincinnati Chapter. For two years he was an adjunct professor at Northern Kentucky University, teaching classes about fundraising. He is a co-founder of the Greater Cincinnati Planned Giving Council and an elder in his church.

Wayne and his wife, Kathy Hunt, reside in Lebanon, Ohio. He has a grown daughter who lives in Boston.

ArtSkills To Add Kids In Need Logo To Product Packaging

ArtSkills, manufacturer of arts and craft supplies and school supplies, has announced the placement of the Kids In Need logo on their product packaging.

"We are very proud to be a part of Kids In Need" said Brad Demsky, vice president of sales. "We feel great that we can help build awareness

of the Kids In Need Foundation. Hopefully other companies will follow with support and include the Kids In Need logo on their packaging as well." Brad currently serves on the Kids In Need Foundation's Board of Directors and serves as chair of the Fundraising Committee.

ArtSkills has been an active

financial supporter and product donor by providing an assortment of arts and crafts items to the Resource Center Network.

For more information about sponsorships including KINF logo placement, contact us at info@kidsinneed.net.



Cynopsis Foundation To Honor Kids In Need In 2008

The Kids In Need Foundation has again been named as a recipient of funds from the Cynopsis Foundation's Charity Dinner and Auction.

The Cynopsis Foundation, Inc., was formed in 2007 by Cynthia and John Turner. Cynthia is the president/CEO of Cynopsis Media, a televi-

sion industry trade publication company in Connecticut .

"The children who will benefit represent our collective legacy, and it's incumbent upon us to help them in any way we can" said co-founders Cynthia and John Turner.

In 2007, the Kids In Need Foundation and EarthEcho were the first recipients of donations from the newly formed Cynopsis Foundation.

Thanks to Cynthia and John for their continued support!



Second Semester Supplies Key To End-Of-Year Success

Did you know that the average teacher spends between \$500 and \$1000 of their own money on classroom supplies each year? While reaching into their own pockets can help fill the void, their efforts alone are rarely enough to meet the needs of their students-especially when the majority of students are from families struggling to make ends meet.

Many of the 13 million children living at or below the poverty level continue into the second semester lacking the necessary supplies to fully participate in classroom activities. But poverty does not only mean a lack of money; it means a lack of opportunities and resources, too. Without the right tools to complete important projects, students will end their aca-

demic year feeling disappointed, left behind, and insecure about their futures.

Please join the Kids In Need Foundation in helping students most in need finish the school year in a positive, successful way by contacting us at 937-296-1230 or info@kidsinneed.net.



Financial Contributions are accepted securely online via major credit card or PayPal.



Bulletin Board

Dixon Ticonderoga Company recently announced the promotion of Donald Currie to CEO. Don serves on the Kids In Need Foundation's Board of Directors and also as chair of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee. Congratulations!



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3077 Kettering Blvd
 Ste 114
 Dayton, OH 45439
 Phone: 937-296-1230
 Fax: 937-296-1215
 E-mail: info@kidsinneed.net
 Web: www.kidsinneed.net

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 Wayne Burton, Director of Development
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New!
 Receive your copy of the kids in need connection by email!
 Contact Jen Lehman at jenl@kidsinneed.net to sign up!

2008 Foundation Gala

Save The Date!



The Kids In Need Foundation Gala will be held **Thursday, September 11 at The Depot in Minneapolis, MN.**

Watch your inbox and stay tuned to www.kidsinneed.net for further details!

THANK YOU to the following companies and individuals who have made product, in-kind services, or financial donations to the Kids In Need Foundation between January 1 and February 29, 2008:

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 Mr. James A. Beitz
 Mr. Timothy Brabender
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