

# SOMERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## SEF Grant Stats

### SCHOOL YEAR

### GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

### AMOUNT FUNDED

2021-2022 and Fall 2022

17

Over \$45,000

Since 1994

450+

Over \$1.7 Million

### PRIMROSE ELEMENTARY

Principal **Katie Winter** and Teacher **Samantha Berg** received a grant to purchase “Scoop Chairs” for all classrooms. These chairs are portable and provide opportunities for flexible instruction groups and an alternative to sitting at a desk. They also allow social distancing when needed.

Teacher **Robin Gaudio**, along with SMS teacher **Randi Hauser**, received a grant for supplies to begin a multi-lingual literacy and connections program for Kindergarten and SMS French students. They will read books in both English and French and then do culminating activities together. The program is designed to introduce the Kindergarten students to French and increase reading proficiency for all.

### SOMERS INTERMEDIATE

SIS received its annual grant to help fund its Author’s Day celebration in honor of **Kay Staplin**, an SIS teacher for 34 years and an SEF founder. Please see details and photos on page 2

### SOMERS MIDDLE

Music Teacher **Rachel Malara** was awarded a grant to help expand the 7th grade ukulele instruction program, which SEF first supported in 2018. The new grant helped with the purchase of additional ukuleles plus tuners and storage.

### SOMERS HIGH

Teacher **Christine Brooks** received a grant to purchase a new laser cutter and etcher for fashion classes, so students are able to create their own buttons, do cutting work and etch leather. They can now also develop designs for jewelry and other accessories.

Teacher **Lauren Pizzolla** was awarded a grant to purchase desks with whiteboard tabletops and a variety of seating options for a mathematics classroom. Also included was a group activity whiteboard desk and a teacher whiteboard desk.

Teacher **Chris Pietris** was awarded a grant to purchase new equipment for data collection in chemistry and physics classes, replacing devices that were two decades old and not compatible with student laptops.

School Psychologist **Jennifer Pirraglia** received a grant to purchase decor, lighting and supplies for a transition support program classroom that will be effective and welcoming to students.

### \$7K in Senior Scholarships Awarded

SEF continued its tradition in 2022 of awarding scholarships to Somers High School graduating seniors for their achievements. More than 50 applications were received, giving our scholarship committee some tough decisions. Students did a great job describing what motivates them and what they have learned from their experiences in the community, on the athletic field and in the classroom. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000. Congratulations to all the recipients!

**Excel Award:** Given to a senior who has demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding, creative effort to reach graduation.

**Winner: Robert Moore**

**Maddy Manzella Memorial Award:** Named for the beloved SIS faculty member, this is given to a senior who has overcome challenges and obstacles to succeed in life.

**Winners: Emily Bernhard and Nicole Cassara**

**Citizenship Award:** Given to a senior who has demonstrated significant community service and leadership in Somers.

**Winner: Robert Moore**

### Jack Kearney Memorial

**Athletic Award:** Given to a senior who has shown the most dedication to improving over the years as an athlete and who has represented Somers well through sportsmanship and leadership.

**Winners: Emily Bernhard and Lily Mandel Mueller**

**Lynn Adams Memorial Community Award:** given to the senior who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service to the Somers community and the school district.

**Winner: Jesse Heller**







# Event Highlights



## Harlem Wizards Return: Always a Slam Dunk Event



After a two-year absence, SEF was very happy to bring back the cherished Harlem Wizards to Somers High School on May 13, 2022 for a record 23rd time. The world-famous team, known for its “trick hoops and alley-oops,” actually played two games that night against a spirited squad of Somers administrators, teachers, staff and students known as the Wiz-Busters. The more than 900 who attended the two games were thrilled with the slam dunks, zany antics and crazy contests the Wizards staged, along with the can-do teamwork of the Wiz-Busters to be competitive in the games. The final scores of the games (hint: the Wizards always win) was secondary to the fun time everyone had, not to mention the more than \$12,000 SEF raised through ticket and merchandise sales and concessions. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported this legendary event. Please mark your calendar for the 2023 game, which will be held on Friday, May 12!



## SEF Golf Outing Sets Records, Continues to be a Hole-in-One Hit



SEF raised more than \$20,000 at its 22nd annual golf outing, held June 13, 2022 at Anglebrook Golf Club in Lindlondale. A record sellout of 72 golfers played the exclusive, scenic course and enjoyed a lunch, reception, dinner, contests and prizes on a picture-perfect day. Thanks to the Anglebrook team and to all who participated. We appreciate our golfers’ generosity! Our 2023 outing is scheduled for June 12, again at Anglebrook. Golfers and sponsors are wanted!

Thanks also to all of our top sponsors for the 2022 outing, including Master Outing Sponsor Deloitte, Lunch Sponsor Mastercard, Cocktail Hour Sponsor Mount Kisco Dental Group, Beverage Coolers Sponsor Jilco Window, and Putting Green Sponsor Kearney Realty and Development, Double Tee and Green Sponsors Black Talon Security, Hirschen Singer & Epstein and Keane & Beane PC, Tee and Green Sponsors Bridgham Barr Orthodontics, Chicago Title Insurance, DeCicco & Sons Markets, Forbes Insurance, Jilco Window, Jim’s Driveway Paving & Sealing, PKF O’Connor Davies, Reich Reich & Reich PC and Somers Smiles and Boosters Joe Ceglia, Susan Hintze LMT & Dr. Louis Bisogni Chiropractor and Integrated Financial Partners.





## Primrose and SIS Students Win Big With WizFit Challenge in Second Year

In Spring 2022, the SEF once again teamed up with the Harlem Wizards to bring the “WizFit Challenge” to Primrose and SIS students.

The challenge, first introduced in Spring 2021 when the pandemic prevented the traditional in-person basketball game, was designed to build students’ fitness and character while also serving as a fundraiser. Wizards Star “King Arthur” met with the students in-person and challenged them to watch a series of six interactive videos to help them get fit while being coached on character. Character topics are Wellness, Imagination, Zero Hate, Fun, Inspiration and Teamwork (WIZFIT).



More than 400 students participated and received a bracelet and certificate just for registering. Meanwhile, their parents were provided software for creating a personalized web page for donations to help the students



get motivated and achieve their goals. More than \$28,000 was raised, of which SEF received a graduated percentage.

The program ended with an online graduation and celebration featuring basketball tricks and a dance party. SEF wishes to thank everyone for their generous support. We plan to run the program again this spring.

## Author's Day at SIS: SEF Proud to Sponsor!

Somers Intermediate School hosted its annual Author's Day celebration on May 20, 2022. SEF was pleased to again help sponsor this event. Although it was again held virtually, both the authors and the students still had a great time and learned a lot from each other as they discussed how characters, stories and books are created.



## SEF Participates in Multiple School and Community Events Throughout Fall 2022

SEF was pleased to actively participate in many key events in the schools and throughout town last fall, including Celebrate Somers at Somers Towne Center on September 18, the SIS 50th Birthday Party on October 21, Holiday Happiness at Primrose School on November 5 and the Somers Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony on November 11. Additionally, SEF attended all nine Open House Nights in the SCSD, speaking at six events and having a table at all.



At many of these events, SEF sold golf shirts, magnets and blankets, as well as disseminated information and discussed our history and mission with many parents and residents. Several folks also offered to join our family as volunteers and we are grateful! We look forward to another full schedule of events in 2023.



## Gala and Hall of Fame Update

SEF has been proud to host an annual Gala for 20 years during which we induct deserving individuals (and sometimes groups) into our Hall of Fame for their efforts in making a difference in the lives of Somers' children. Due to the pandemic, we had to cancel this celebration multiple times. We had also selected three outstanding individuals for Hall of Fame induction, including longtime community leader and SEF board member Jeff Feldman, Somers High School teacher and Student Council advisor Doreen Stoecker and longtime town coach and Boy Scout leader Dominic Veltri. We are determined to honor these folks and celebrate our organization in 2023. Stay tuned for future announcements!

## SEF Delivers Autumn Treats to District

On October 11, 2022, SEF was pleased to provide apple cider, donuts and apples to all SCSD employees during their Professional Learning Day. The treats were delivered to all buildings as a small token of our appreciation for the incredible dedication, workload and professionalism everyone has demonstrated throughout the pandemic and every day since then. Thank you!



## GiveButter Campaigns Yield More Than \$4K

Since 2020, SEF, like many organizations, has looked at other ways to fundraise to allow us to continue awarding grants and scholarships. We launched a fundraising campaign in conjunction with “Giving Tuesday” in November 2020 and have done so each year since. Cumulatively, we have raised more than \$4,000, which has gone directly toward our grant and scholarship-awarding capabilities. We thank everyone who has generously supported this effort to help sustain SEF and our mission during these continued difficult times for all.

## SEF Blankets for Sale

Just in time for winter, SEF has cozy, fleece blankets for sale! They are 50”x 60” and come in black or red with the SEF logo stitched in white. They are \$35 each and includes local delivery. Makes a great gift! Email us at [info@sefny.org](mailto:info@sefny.org) to order.



## Several Other Opportunities to Support Us

SEF offers many ways to support the work that we do! One is to attend our Community Events---see our calendar below! Another is through membership. Several levels of tax-deductible membership are offered. To see them and enroll, please visit [www.sefny.org/donations/](http://www.sefny.org/donations/). Finally, you can support us when you shop on Amazon as SEF is enrolled in the Amazon Smile program. Log on to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and you can designate us as your beneficiary charity!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Peter Dawson  
Tom Garrity  
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## ANNUAL SAVE-THE-DATES

April-May 2023: WizFit Challenge

May 12th, 2023: Harlem Wizards Game

June 12th, 2023: Anglebrook Golf Outing

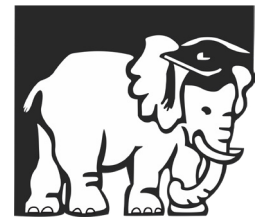
September, 2023: SEF at PES, SIS, SMS & SHS  
Open Houses

November, 2023: Giving Tuesday

**Other events will be scheduled.  
Please check our website for details!**

## AFFILIATES

Jennifer Azimi  
Janet Holmes  
Rose Rotunno



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