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New Foundation Created to Benefit Education

Skaneateles, New York - In Skaneateles as in the United States (and indeed most of the world) there is a shared belief that education is the single most important key to the success of an individual and that educated individuals are the major element needed to produce and/or sustain a thriving and successful society and world. Our educational system has largely relied on the collection of taxes to support education - and yet it is becoming increasingly evident that support from public sources is not likely to be sufficient to create and operate the schools of the future. Nationally and in New York State, schools are faced with increasing demands and decreasing resources.

With the creation of the Skaneateles Education Foundation, Skaneateles has joined a growing number of creative communities in the United States that seek different funding sources to supplement funds (not to supplant funds) collected from taxes. This allows individuals, philanthropists, corporations and others the opportunity to put their donations in a place that gets to the heart of what many believe is the key to the foundation of our country: our schools.

The organization's mission is to raise money and provide grants that will enrich the education received at Skaneateles Central Schools. Curricula, programs and initiatives supported by the Foundation, spanning all academic disciplines and grade levels, will serve to deepen and broaden the education of children in the community. Grants will also be given to support students who often cannot afford the extra costs associated with their education.

"As a community, we must provide the very best education possible for our children," said Board member Jean Graham. "These young people are the future of this community, this region, the country. They may be called upon to discover cures, solve problems, broker peace or build industry. Their education in this community will be a foundation for all their possibilities."

There are currently over 4000 foundations supporting public education districts across the country. "The concept of a local education foundation is new to this area, but has been very successful in other areas of the nation," said Bill Danaher, alumnus of SCS and Foundation Board member. "We have seen how powerful a foundation can be and the impact on the quality of education can be significant."

The Foundation's Board of Directors is comprised of 20 members of the community. "We are fortunate to have several retired educators, business persons, community volunteers and alumni serving and committed to the mission," said Foundation President Dick Kokosa. "Many of our Directors have children and/or grandchildren who graduated from SCS or are currently attending the school district."

Serving on the Foundation's Board of Directors are Chris Bailey, Patti Carey, Kevin Daley, Bill Danaher, Cate Davis, Gary Gerst, Jean Graham, Sue Keefe, Wendy Kopley, Dick Kokosa, Judy Krieger, Daniel Labeille, Miki Mahood, Jim Moore, Ellen Pirro, Penny Pitman, David Sheppard, Peter Swartz, Julie Torrey and Stacey Van Slyke. Phil D'Angelo, Superintendent of SCS serves as liaison to the district and Sharon Magee is the Executive Director.

The Foundation will be mailing a letter and brochure to most households in the district, asking for their support. A website will be available – skanedfoundation.org – to provide more information and be a resource for potential and current donors. "As we grow and provide grants, we will provide our donors will significant feedback on the impact of their gift," said Kokosa.

The Skaneateles Education Foundation is established to solicit and manage charitable contributions and bequests for the benefit of student education. Its principal purpose and goal is to supplement, though not supplant, state and local public funding. Its efforts are solely directed at enhancing the quality of education, by strengthening the curriculum and expanding the resources available to students and faculty in the Skaneateles Central School District. Through its partnership with the community, the Foundation endeavors to enrich the educational experience of every student.

For more information, contact the Foundation at 315-291-2212 or online at skanedfoundation.org.

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