

# School gets help with finances

By Skaneateles Journal staff report Posted Wednesday, December 02, 2009

As most people have to do more with less, one organization aims to help local schools secure more funding.

The Skaneateles Education Foundation was launched to help the Skaneateles Central School District meet its increasing demands by supplementing funds collected from taxes.

The foundation allows individuals, philanthropists, corporations and others to donate to the schools. The foundation's mission statement is to solicit and manage contributions meant to enhance student education.

The organization's mission is to raise money and provide grants that will enrich the education provided at Skaneateles Central Schools. Members aim to use the foundation to support programs, initiatives and academic disciplines for all grade levels in hopes of broadening students' education.

The organization also will support those students who cannot afford additional costs associated with their education.

"As a community, we must provide the very best education possible for our children," board member Jean Graham said. "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."

Foundation member Bill Danaher, who graduated from Skaneateles, said the concept of foundations devoted to assisting education is new to the area but something other communities across the country have used.

"We have seen how powerful a foundation can be and the impact on the quality of education can be significant," Danaher said.

The foundation's board of directors consists of 20 members from the community.

Dick Kokosa will serve as foundation president, and Sharon Magee will serve as the board's executive director.

"We are fortunate to have several retired educators, business persons, community volunteers and alumni serving and committed to the mission," Kokosa said. "Many of our directors have children and/or grandchildren who graduated from (Skaneateles schools) or are currently attending the school district."

Foundation leaders plan to mail letters and brochures to area households, asking for support.

“As we grow and provide grants, we will provide our donors with significant feedback on the impact of their gifts,” Kokosa said.

For more information, call 291-2212 or visit the Web site [www.skaneedfoundation.org](http://www.skaneedfoundation.org).

## BOARD MEMBERS

The following is the list of members on the board of directors:

Chris Bailey  
Patti Carey  
Kevin Daley  
Bill Danaher  
Cate Davis  
Gary Gerst  
Jean Graham  
Sue Keefe  
Wendy Kopley  
Dick Kokosa  
Judy Krieger  
Daniel Labeille  
Sharon Magee  
Miki Mahood  
Jim Moore  
Ellen Pirro  
Penny Pitman  
David Sheppard  
Peter Swartz  
Julie Torrey  
Stacey Van Slyke

Also, Skaneateles School District Superintendent Phil D'Angelo will serve as liaison to the district.