



Dear Weston Neighbors,

The Weston Education Foundation (WEF) thanks our many donors who have supported our work over the past 27 years. With your help, WEF has raised nearly \$1,000,000 for numerous innovative and creative educational projects throughout our schools and town.

During our 2020-2021 fiscal year, WEF awarded grants that addressed several pressing educational needs, including:

- **Wellness Skills grant:** In April, WEF funded the final installment of a three-year grant for the district to expand its emotional wellness skills program into the upper grades. As Superintendent Lisa Wolak explained, “This grant was instrumental in helping us train key staff members in the DBT STEPS-A curriculum that we have embedded in our health curriculum at the middle and high schools. The training has also provided useful ongoing professional development for our school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists.”
- **Diverse Books grant:** In September 2020, WEF funds purchased books by diverse authors for high school English classes to use. These texts answered our students’ requests for more diverse perspectives and enabled teachers to offer new units promoting justice and inclusion, while also teaching critical thinking, writing, and communication skills.
- **Sustainable Weston grant:** Sustainable Weston used this grant to hire student interns in the summer of 2021 to help Weston earn Silver Certification from Sustainable CT. As part of its adherence to equity principles, the committee fulfilled its goal to create a diverse and inclusive intern group this year.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020–2021

- Our new Racial Justice Education Fund raised \$8,240 in its first year. We are currently working to identify meaningful projects for this fund to support.
- WEF awarded its annual David Trigaux Innovation Award to all of the teachers in our district. The Award recognized the flexible, innovative, and thoughtful steps our teachers took to give our students the best education possible under extremely challenging circumstances.
- To further recognize our teachers’ extraordinary efforts during 2020-2021, WEF sponsored a safe and family-friendly walkathon in June 2021 called “Weston Walks.” The brainchild of WHS student Keona Patel, the self-directed walkathon generated over 100 donations, totaling \$6,000 for future school-based grants.

For more information and to DONATE, visit www.westoneducationfoundation.org or mail your tax-deductible contribution to WEF, P.O. Box 1093, Weston, CT 06883

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