



## **RECORD YEAR FOR SERF "ACE" AWARDS**

by Dawn Solowey  
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Families in Sudbury and Lincoln have contributed record amounts to the Sudbury Education Resource Fund (SERF) to honor teachers and administrators with "ACE", or "Appreciation of Champions in Education", awards.

SERF has raised almost \$6,000 in "ACE" awards so far this school year, exceeding last year's totals for the entire school year. This record is especially significant because SERF usually sees the largest spike in ACE awards at the end of the school year.

For Teacher Appreciation week alone, SERF raised over \$4,000 from families who gave ninety-one ACE awards honoring eighty K-12 educators. "SERF has been gratified to see a huge number of ACE awards coming in, and has been particularly pleased to see that more than half of the donations came from families who were new donors to SERF," says SERF Co-President Debbie Pullen. "We anticipate even more awards at the end of the school year, when families are looking for a meaningful gift to thank a teacher for a successful year."

This is how a SERF ACE award works: A family makes a donation, in honor of a teacher, to SERF, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding student enrichment and curriculum enhancement projects in K-12 classrooms in the Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) and Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS). The honored educator receives a certificate announcing that a donation has been made to SERF in his or her name as a "Champion in Education." SERF gives notice of the awards to each school's principal, who often will in turn announce the awards to the school's faculty and staff.



Sudbury parent Nicole Arpiarian gave an ACE award in honor of her daughter's first grade teacher, Christine Fearey. "I know Ms. Fearey will always hold a special place in our daughter's early school memories and I am glad that the ACE award can show her that she does make a difference, that she is appreciated and that she really is gold," Arpiarian says. "What a great way to recognize an outstanding teacher while also giving back to our children," she notes.

"Families are attracted to ACE awards as a way of making a tangible contribution to the classroom at a time of dramatic budget cuts," says Pullen. "They are also seeking a thoughtful and unique gift to recognize the teachers who are there every day for their kids," she says. ACE awards are also convenient for busy parents, since they can be ordered on-line in a matter of minutes.

Also this school year, SERF has awarded a record of more than \$68,000 in grant funds to educators at SPS and LSRHS.

To give a SERF ACE award to honor a teacher as the school year comes to an end, visit

<http://www.serfsudbury.org/donate.html>.