



TEACHERS HONORED WITH SERF "ACE" AWARDS

by Dawn Solowey

Teachers give so much of themselves to their students every day, and parents and students are often left wondering how to thank them, especially as the annual Teacher Appreciation Week approaches on May 3-7, 2010. Does that beloved teacher really need another coffee mug or paperweight?

This school year, many families have honored teachers and administrators in grades K-12 with an "ACE" - or Appreciation of Champions in Education -- award from the Sudbury Educational Resource Fund (SERF). SERF is 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).

This is how a SERF ACE award works: A family makes a donation to SERF in honor of a teacher. The honored educator receives a frame-ready 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. "It is wonderful to be recognized by the parent community for our hard work and dedication to our students," says Jeanmarie Skahan, a fourth grade teacher at Haynes Elementary School who was honored with an ACE award this year.

"Teachers are thrilled to receive ACE Awards," says Debbie Pullen, Co-President of SERF. "An ACE award is a great way to recognize a teacher, specialist, or administrator who has guided or inspired your child." This school year alone, SERF has awarded over \$65,000 in grant funds to educators at SPS and



LSRHS. "The ACE award is especially meaningful to educators because the monetary donation goes to fund grants to K-12 teachers to make possible exciting new projects in their classrooms," Pullen notes.

"ACE awards are a win-win, because they give parents a way to honor excellent teachers, and the donations help both teachers and students by funding innovation into the classroom at a time of budget cuts and economic uncertainty," says Anne Hincks, a SERF board member who chairs the ACE award program.

While SERF accepts ACE awards all year long, they are especially popular during Teacher Appreciation Week and as a thank you gift at the end of the school year. Awards can be given by individual students or families, or by an entire class. To give a SERF ACE award for Teacher Appreciation Week, or any time, visit <http://www.serfsudbury.org/donate.html>.