

SERF "ACE" AWARDS TO HONOR TEACHERS AT THE HOLIDAYS

'Tis the season to honor teachers with holiday ACE Awards from the Sudbury Education Resource Fund (SERF).

To give an "Appreciation of Champions in Education" (ACE) Award, a family or classroom makes a donation to SERF in honor of a teacher. The honored teacher receives a certificate announcing that the donor has made a donation to SERF in the teacher's name as a "Champion in Education." SERF notifies each school's principal, and the superintendent, of the award recipients and publicizes the honored teachers' names town-wide.

The funds generated from ACE Awards go directly back into the classrooms. SERF, a non-profit organization founded in 1991, uses the donations to fund student enrichment and curriculum enhancement projects in K-12 classrooms in the Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) and Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS). So far this school year, SERF has approved over \$40,000 in grant funding for the schools.

Many teachers report that they view ACE Awards as an expression of appreciation for their hard work in nurturing children every day. "Teaching is a challenging career choice," notes Nixon fourth grade teacher Deana Miller. "Receiving an ACE Award is an honor because it truly makes me feel appreciated for what I do," she says.

Teachers also report that they view the ACE Award as an important affirmation that families truly value the education of their children. Nixon fourth grade teacher Jeff Kotkin says, "I value the ACE award because it is one of the most tangible ways for parents to show that they value the education their children receive, which encourages more creative and enriching experiences in the classroom." Many teachers also value the fact that the funds donated to SERF for an ACE Award go directly to benefit the schools.

Many families choose to honor a specialist who has touched their children's lives. "Receiving the ACE Award was one of the highlights of my year!" says Nathanael Erde, the SPS Orchestra Director. "The ACE Award is a wonderful reminder that my work as a teacher is valued and appreciated by the community."

ACE Awards are attractive to families who wish to help schools that are struggling with budget cuts and to give teachers something meaningful and lasting. ACE Awards also align well with the Sudbury Public Schools' gift policy for teachers, which suggests the giving of gifts that benefit the entire classroom, such as donations to SERF, in lieu of personal gifts to teachers and administrators.

To give a SERF ACE Award as a holiday gift, visit www.serfsudbury.org.