



Press Release

MLFE Recaps 2007-08 Year *Awards \$27,000 in Grants, Funds 14 Programs EITC Participants Tripled, Donations Grow 86%*

Mt. Lebanon, PA – August 18, 2008 The Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education (MLFE) Board of Directors awarded an additional \$13,500 for seven new teacher educational programs and doubled the funding extended for two previously announced grants. During the 2007-08 school year, the Foundation awarded nearly \$27,000 for 14 educational programs and invested \$5,000 in its \$59,000 endowment with the Pittsburgh Foundation.

The majority of MLFE project grants are funded through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program, where a business may offset its corporate taxes dollar when it makes a financial commitment to a qualified educational improvement organization, like the MLFE. Businesses that participate in the EITC Program have the opportunity to reinvest 75-90% of their tax dollars to the local community.

“Due to a ground swell of community and business support, we were able to support programs impacting about 2,500 children, representing almost 50% of the total student population in Mt. Lebanon this school year alone,” stated Jackie Foor, MLFE Executive Director. “Two new EITC business participants, S Systems, Inc. and Paper Products, Inc., provided significant funding towards this year’s grant projects. Students also benefited by a 29% growth in MLFE membership, and a near doubling in donation dollars that included a generous \$1,000 contribution made by the Golden Living Center.”

The latest grants underwrite teacher training in the use of graphic calculators, new technology for gathering field and lab data in science classes, an international culture experience, a special environment for young children with special needs, enrichment opportunities in developing problem solving skills, a music ensemble with student ambassadors performing at senior citizen centers, and a lending resource for parents of children with reading challenges. Due to the volume and quality of applicants received by the foreign language department to study Chinese or Arabic via computer-based, long distance learning, the MLFE Board also voted to more than double it’s funding and expand the number of participating students for beginning this fall. The Chamber Orchestra project was also increased, offering students a second session with professional musicians.

EITC projects awarded include; **Japanese Festival**, High School; **Logic Games**, Jefferson Middle School; **Scientific Data Collection Handheld Devices**, High School; **Guitar Ensemble**, Mellon Middle School; and expansion of both the **Foreign Language Distance Learning** and **Chamber Music Instruction** at the High School. Four non-EITC projects, supported through MLFE’s general funds, are **Teacher Training** on the TI-Nspire graphing calculators, High School; **Cool Down Room**, Washington Elementary School; and **Reading Support Materials for Parents**, Markham Elementary School. Most of these programs and initiatives will begin in the upcoming fall semester, with many providing educational opportunities for years to come. A list of all grants is available at www.mlfe.org.

About MLFE *The Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education was founded in 1999 and is a donor advised endowment fund through the Pittsburgh Foundation. In establishing the independent Foundation, Mt. Lebanon joins more than 4,800 communities across the nation to raise private funds for public schools. MLFE is dedicated to raising both money for extraordinary learning projects and community support for public education. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$140,000, awarding 85 grants to teachers for innovative classroom projects. The mission of MLFE is to provide a permanent source of financial support to enable the Mt. Lebanon School District to expand and enhance learning opportunities for its students. Interested individuals, families and business and can learn more at www.mlfe.org*

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