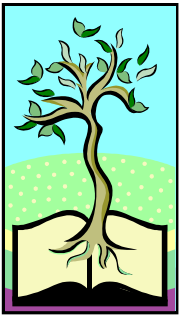


Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc.
Learning, Growing, Succeeding



For Immediate Release
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**Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc.
To Receive \$2,500 Donation from E.H.T. Elks Lodge**

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ – The Egg Harbor Township Elks Lodge #2563 donated \$2,500 to the Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc. on Thursday in support of a new initiative to institute a curriculum-based pilot program with Atlantic Riding Center for the Handicapped (A.R.C.H.). The program will pair at-risk and special needs students of Egg Harbor Township.

Still in the planning stages, the “*Leg Up Program*,” will bring the two special needs groups together over a 15-week period. The pilot program, developed by A.R.C.H. Executive Director Sue Adams and funded in part by a \$5,000 Ocean City Home Charitable Foundation grant and a \$1,000 grant from Foster Karney Charitable Foundation, will first introduce and familiarize the at-risk youth with A.R.C.H.’s program while strengthening their life skills including respect, positive attitude, honesty, courage, integrity, punctuality, and sportsmanship. Skills will be taught in the A.R.C.H. classroom and practiced using the horses in real-life situations. “Becoming familiar and comfortable with the horses readies the at-risk students for assisting the 12 special education students that will join the A.R.C.H. program for the remaining 12 weeks of the program,” said Adams. The curriculum will focus on Math, Writing, Science, Barn Management, and Therapeutic Horseback riding. While the special education students are learning through auditory, visual and hands-on techniques, the at-risk students will be implementing their newly-acquired life skills serving as mentors and role models while gaining self esteem, self confidence and self worth not always achieved in a traditional classroom setting.

“At-risk students are students who are not experiencing success in school, who exhibit low self-esteem and are ‘at risk’ of dropping out,” said Bruce Singer, supervisor of special education for Egg Harbor Township. “Effective programs like the proposed “*Leg Up*” *Pilot Program* will

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Elks Donation – add one

help at-risk students improve their low self-esteem while providing a supportive system in which they can begin to have positive experiences,” Singer added.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) is a charitable organization dedicated to being a positive force in the community by providing services both monetarily and socially to handicapped children -- building character and leadership in youth, servicing veterans, and providing scholarships. “I’m delighted to know that through the efforts of the Elks our special children will be enjoying an activity that others take for granted,” said Rita Wangenstein, exalted ruler of the E.H.T. Elks Lodge.

The Egg Harbor Township School District is the largest school district in Atlantic County. During the 2005-2006 school year, approximately 7,800 students were enrolled in the district, which is made up of six elementary schools, one high school and one alternative high school.

The newly formed Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools is a 501(c)(3) IRS-recognized public charity. Its mission is to secure state, federal and private funding through grants and tax-deductible annual fund gifts, naming opportunities, and other projects to supplement the funding needs of the Egg Harbor Township School District.

The total cost of the one-year *Leg Up Program* is approximately \$17,000, and will require an additional \$8,000 before it can be instituted in the Egg Harbor Township School District. The Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc. is currently seeking the additional funds needed to assist the district in implementing the program. For more information on the *Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc.*, naming opportunities, or the annual fund, please call Ellen Gregory at (609) 646-8441, ext. 1017, or email gregorye@eht.k12.nj.us.

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Pictured from left to right are: Rita Wangenstein, E.H.T. Elks Lodge exalted ruler; E.H.T. sixth grader Thomas Quattrocci; Hank (horse and resident of Atlantic Riding Center for the Handicapped); Kathryn Atzrott, director of special services for Egg Harbor Township Schools; Marty Brennan, E.H.T. Elks Lodge handicap chairman. Back row: Sue Adams, executive director of A.R.C.H.; and Ellen Gregory, executive director of the Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc.

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