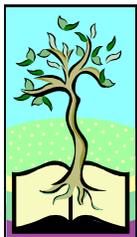


Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc.

Learning, Growing, Succeeding



For Immediate Release:
March 17, 2011

Contact: Ellen Gregory
gregorye@eht.k12.nj.us
(609) 646-8441, ext. 1017

Fourth Annual Fundraising Dinner Raises more than \$19,800 for EHTHS Performing Arts Center

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP —The February 26th *Grand Finale* surf and turf dinner and auction raised over \$19,800 for the Egg Harbor Township High School Performing Arts Center, including more than \$5,000 raised through Silent and Live Auction items donated by generous area businesses.

Presented by Shore Memorial Hospital and hosted by the *Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools*, the dinner was the culmination of a two-year effort by the *Community Partnership* to purchase a Concert Grand Piano for the yet-to-be-completed Performing Arts Center (PAC). To date more than \$44,300 has been raised for that initiative.

The PAC will serve as the focal point of the high school construction project, the stage for student performances and activities, and a resource generator for future educational, social and cultural events.

“Securing a top-quality instrument of this magnitude to the stage of our new Performing Arts Center will enhance not only our great Arts education programs for our students, but will enrich the opportunities for our entire community and help to generate additional funds for the district down the road,” said Lou DeScioli, president of the *Community Partnership*.

The fund-raising dinner, held at Greate Bay Country Club, included a special performance by “America’s Got Talent” Semi-finalist and prodigy/pianist Alexander Bui, a junior at Egg Harbor Township High School. Generous event sponsors included: **Shore Memorial Hospital, Cooper Levenson Attorneys at Law, Ocean City Home Bank, CHI Engineering, The Custard Hut, GJ MacNatt & Sons Environmental Specialists, Glenn Insurance Inc., Polistina & Associates, Walt’s Original Primo Pizza, CASA Payroll Services, AtlantiCare, Donovan Financial Group/UBS, Egg**

Harbor Township Band Boosters, Exclusive Jewelers, WiserLink Advertising and Public Relations and Olympic Studios.

Egg Harbor Township High School ranks in the top 10 percent of all New Jersey schools for Arts education, making it eligible to become a Model School in the Arts, which the New Jersey Arts Education (NJAE) Partnership uses to honor schools that successfully meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum

(more)

Funding for PAC at EHTHS – add one

Content Standards in visual and performing arts.

The New Jersey Model School in the Arts Project is a recognition program to identify model schools to serve as mentors for others. Schools selected for the prestigious award score in the top 10% teaching all four arts disciplines: dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. The award process begins with a research team visit to the school in February or March. During this visit a Model Schools in the Arts rubric is completed. The rubric includes the stated criteria, indicators of what to look for and space to report on the team's findings for each school. Participating schools receive feedback from the team on areas of strength as well as areas that might need improvement. A recognition event is held in June for the participating schools, which also kicks off the beginning of the mentoring process where designated schools must allow representatives from other schools to visit and observe and must be willing to present at state meetings and conferences.

“We are very excited about the NJAE research team's visit and demonstrating what sets our Performing Arts programs apart from others throughout the state,” said EHTHS Supervisor of Performing Arts Tom Weber. “Egg Harbor Township continues to provide overwhelming support for and recognizes the importance of Arts education for its student body. A concert grand piano for our new Performing Arts Center will complement our talented students in their many performances each year,” added Weber.

“I cannot think of a time in my 20 years in education where we have needed to pull together more as a community to support schools and each other. As superintendent and as a parent, I am so grateful that there are foundations, sponsors and individuals that believe in the power of our public schools and through their generosity and volunteerism support our programs, students and staff. The

Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools is a great example of what a great community is all about!” said Superintendent Dr. Scott McCartney.

A 501(c)(3) IRS-recognized public charity, the *Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc.* has raised more than \$146,000 since its inception in 2006 for the Township’s extra-curricular activities, technology, academic enhancement and capital projects. Naming Rights of district facilities and classrooms – **including the Performing Arts Center** -- are available through the *Community Partnership*. For more information, visit www.partners4ehtschools.org or contact Ellen Gregory at 646-8441, ext. 1017, or via email to gregorye@eht.k12.nj.us.

##