

Helena Education Foundation
Great Ideas Grant Recipients
Fall 2007*

1. Lunch Bunch Program (\$1992)

School: Warren School **Teacher Recipient:** Helen Fee

Sponsor: *The Independent Record*

The Lunch Bunch Program is a unique opportunity for caring community members from Youth Connections to build the 40 developmental assets with students at Warren School. Community members will mentor students in specific grades during lunch, identifying activities such as sports, art projects, fly tying, and other games, enhancing the social skills curriculum and building a better school community. Funds will provide materials and supplies for these activities.

2. Little Husky Learners (\$500)

School: Four Georgians School **Teacher Recipient:** Maria Goebel

Sponsor: Mountain West Office Solutions

This exciting project will bring the classroom home to the children and their families and build the home-school connection. Funds will pay packets to go home weekly with students, including notes from teachers, copy of reading materials, flashcards and game suggestions and a book to read with families sole for reading pleasure, and will help with rewards and celebration materials.

3. Lewis & Clark Caverns (\$3,000)

School: Capital High School **Teacher Recipient:** Debra Stiles

Sponsor: Student Assistance Foundation

All CHS freshmen will have the opportunity to experience what they studied all year as they tour the Lewis & Clark Caverns and adjacent Nature Loop trail, engage in outdoor recreation, collecting information, apply identification and classification skills, learn about Native American medicinal plants and other activities in the area. The project takes learning out of the classroom and into the greater Montana neighborhood and will include all freshman teachers and parent volunteers.

4. A Million Words (\$2987)

School: CR Anderson Middle School **Teacher Recipient:** Phyllis Dorrington

Sponsor: Western States Insurance

Using audio books purchased with this grant money, more than 100 students currently reading below grade level will be encouraged to read and listen to popular teenage books formerly inaccessible to them because of their skill level. They will learn to select, monitor and assess their reading progress as they learn that indeed, one millions words is a priceless experience!

5. Second Grade Supper Club (\$1000)

School: Central School **Teacher Recipient:** Jamie Stubblefield

Sponsor: Northrop Grumman

Once students have confidence, they can learn anything! This grant builds on that idea, providing funding for a monthly meeting where students do something different from anyone else in school. They will prepare their own meals, learn to order out, learn lifelong skills such as good manners and table etiquette - all while enhancing development of character, community and respect in the classroom. Parents will help during these monthly lunches and students will celebrate a year of learning with lunch at the Montana Club!

6. Picture This! (\$2000)

School: Central School **Teacher Recipient:** Susan Gunn

Sponsor: New West Health Services

Severely disabled children will assume the roles of class historians and video journalists using child-proof, child-friendly digital cameras, a camcorder and peer mentors, to help ease their communication difficulties and increase interactions with others. They will also create an on-going digital portfolio that will go with them throughout their school careers. This wonderful project will not only expand communication but will increase interaction between special needs students and their peers.

7. A Tale of Two Churches (\$910)

School: Helena High School **Teacher Recipient:** Jim Schulz

Sponsor: Sandy Mac's Distributing

St. Paul's Methodist Church and the Cathedral of St. Helena, both built on bedrock and a stone's throw apart, were subjected to an earthquake in 1935. One collapsed, the other was virtually undamaged. Using grant funds, students will engage in constructing and testing models to discover the answer to the Tale of Two Churches!

8. Green Group (\$2,200)

School: Helena High School **Teacher Recipient:** Jill Van Alstyne and Kathy Ericksen

Sponsor: Mountain West Bank

Funding for this unique cross curricular project will help Helena High's new Green Group create a student speaker bureau for any grade level classroom and community groups on environmental issues such "On Thin Ice" (melting glaciers), "An Ocean of . . . Lotion" (ocean pollution), "We're Full of It" (landfills); expand the school recycling program; and help reduce plastic usage by supplying filtered drinking water for re-usable bottles to be sold at the school.

*** Grants are named after major donors to the Helena Education Foundation. The amounts of the grants do not reflect the contribution of the donor.**