



CLARENCE SCHOOLS ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION

*Excellence Through Opportunity*

July 1, 2014

Honorable Members  
Board of Directors  
Clarence Schools Enrichment Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 37  
Clarence, New York 14031

Dear Board Members:

It is with great pride and satisfaction that I present the first Annual Report to the Board of Directors of the Clarence Schools Enrichment Foundation, Inc. (CSEF). It is hard to believe that one year has passed since the CSEF was founded in the wake of the defeat of the Clarence Central School District (CCSD) Budget and the resulting elimination of fourteen (14) sports teams and forty (40) extra-curricular clubs. Together we embarked on an ambitious one-year Restoration Initiative to restore these teams and clubs to insure CCSD students continue to receive an excellent and well-rounded education. I want to thank each Board Member for your extraordinary commitment and hard work over the past year, as well as those parents, students, businesses, service organizations, PTOs, booster clubs and residents who volunteered their time and money to help make the CSEF one-year Restoration Initiative a huge success.

### **The 2013/14 Fiscal Year in Review**

The CSEF literally had to organize on the fly, with the urgency of meeting an August 7 2013 deadline to raise over \$34,000 to restore the Fall sports teams that were eliminated in the Clarence School Budget. A new seven-member Board of Directors was formed, corporation papers were filed, a PO Box opened, a bank and PAYPAL accounts were established, and a new website was created from scratch in the first two weeks of operation. Paperwork was filed to establish the CSEF as a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation and the CSEF Bylaws were written and adopted in subsequent weeks. A Finance Plan was developed to raise funds in phases corresponding with time deadlines to insure the viability of clubs and teams designated for restoration. The Finance Plan included a major donor program, a web-based 1,000 Family Challenge to encourage residents to donate the difference between their projected school tax bill if the May School Budget was approved and their actual school tax bill resulting from the adopted Alternative School Budget, several smaller fundraising events, email appeals through PTOs, booster clubs and youth sports leagues as well as old-fashioned face-to-face appeals with friends, family and neighbors. The CSEF Board was creative and persistent in its mission to fully restore the sports teams and clubs that were victims of the budget cuts.

The mission of the CSEF is *“To enhance the educational experiences of students in the Clarence Central School District by offering ancillary enrichment in the arts, sciences, math, technology, applied career skills and athletics.”* The CSEF's primary objective is *“To raise and invest funds that supplement state and local funding for public education in Clarence. Our Board of Directors works with education and business leaders of the community to assure that Foundation resources are used to promote excellence through opportunity”*. It is with this mission and objective in mind that the CSEF accomplished the following results for the 2013/14 fiscal year.

The CSEF raised a total of **\$162,302.27** during the 2013/14 fiscal year. CSEF expenses totaled **\$149,477.59**, leaving a fund balance of **\$12,824.68**.

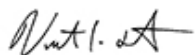
**Thirty-two (32) major donors** (donations over \$1,000) contributed nearly **\$98,000** or approximately 60% of the total funds raised. The average contribution from a major donor was **\$3,062.50**. **Four hundred fifty (450)** donations under \$1,000 represented over **\$64,000** or 40% of the total funds raised. The average donation in the under \$1,000 category was **\$142.89**. Money raised from small fundraisers is included in each category.

On the expense side, **\$144,228.46** or **88.9%** of revenues was designated for the one-year Restoration Initiative; **\$70,162.03** was designated to restore **fourteen (14) sports teams**, and **\$74,066.43** was designated to restore **thirty-four (34) extra-curricular clubs** – twenty (20) high school clubs and fourteen (14) middle school clubs as well as extended intramurals at the middle school and added back a community favorite – the Marching Band. We launched the first annual Community Carnival to create awareness (and in the process raised funds). **\$1,300 in scholarships** were awarded by CSEF to high school and middle school students in June of 2014. And operating expenses totaled just **\$3,949.13** for the year, representing only **2.4% of revenues!**

I think it is fair to say that the first year of operation for the CSEF was an enormous success. Over 1,400 students were positively impacted by the CSEF's Restoration Initiative and, as promised by the CCSD, all sports teams and clubs restored by the CSEF are fully funded in the 2014/15 School Budget. The CSEF has received its 501(c) 3 status from the Internal Revenue Service, applied for several grants to generate new sources of funding, and developed a scholarship program and a grant program to distribute funds in furtherance of the Foundation's stated mission and objective.

It is with great optimism that CSEF begins our second fiscal year, and we remain committed to be part of the solution to the ever-growing problem of funding public education in Clarence. Again, thank you to the CSEF Board and all those who worked tirelessly and gave so generously to make our first year a success.

Sincerely,



Victor A. Martucci  
President