The Arlington Education Foundation was formed in 2002 by a small group of local citizens who had been searching for ways to get more community members actively involved in supporting Arlington Public Schools. They learned that one of the most effective ways to accomplish this goal was to form a qualified, nonprofit education foundation. When the Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) was formed, it very quickly grew into a partnership of individuals and organizations who are passionate about public education and the students, faculty and staff of Arlington Public Schools. AEF became the pathway for ideas, leadership and inspiration to be converted into financial support targeted for selected projects and programs within our schools.

Our first project was a hallmark effort to complete the construction and furnishing of the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Arlington High School. We committed to raising the $2.5 million dollars needed to accomplish this goal. Through the tremendous contributions of many local individuals and grants funded by various organizations, the Byrnes Performing Arts Center was opened in 2007.

While we were still celebrating the success of this initial endeavor, we began to turn our attention to the future of AEF. Through the years we have sought opportunities to enhance experiences in the areas of careers, citizenship, health and fitness, academics, mentoring, fine arts and interpersonal skills. We have hosted popular fundraising events including a visit by well-known local gardening expert Cisco and a number of annual wine tasting events. Although any fundraising event requires commitment and hard work, we’ve been able to have a lot of fun in the process.

Since then we have raised and distributed over $225,000; funding dynamic, impactful, leading edge projects ranging from technology enhancements to music programs; from library books to sewing machines. Our enthusiastic efforts continue to inspire teachers and students to reach beyond the everyday opportunities presented by our publicly funded system. As active participants, we celebrate the success of our students, faculty and staff and enjoy making a meaningful impact on the quality of their experiences. We would like to invite you to become a part of this legacy of support.

AEF is comprised of an all-volunteer Board of Directors, and we welcome your interest in serving on the board or on one of our committees. We are a diverse group bringing together a variety of backgrounds, interests, expertise and abilities. The most important requirement is a willingness to serve and a passion for possibilities.

Ultimately, our mission is to raise and disburse funds for projects and programs in the Arlington Public Schools. We invite you to support our mission by attending our annual Spring Fundraiser. We will be hosting a breakfast this coming May with the goal of fully funding our current project, which is outfitting two fabrication laboratories consisting of two Makerbot Replicator 3D printers and two Epilog Laser Cutter and Engraving Systems. You will have the opportunity to hear from previous grant winners and see demonstrations along with a powerful address from a keynote speaker. At our last event we were privileged to hear from Ben Ballew, the leadership advisor at Arlington High School. He inspired all of us with his message of servant leadership and how that concept is changing the student culture at Arlington...
High. We are so fortunate to have many gifted leaders teaching our children – they are our future. Come see for yourself! Watch for more information to come.