



GEEF recognizes Community Partners, Teachers

[Mary Paramore](#)

HBL Associate Editor

10/30/09



GEEF awarded 17 businesses and organizations with Collaborative Partnership awards. Accepting the awards were:

Front Row: John Cavanaugh, Johnson Controls; Pat Hogan, Harford Community College; Scott Walker, Hess Hotels Group; Bob Cooper, FRP Development Corporation; Liz Leoni-Monti, Freedom Federal Credit Union; Keisha Stevens, Custom Direct
 Second Row: Randall Bright, SAIC; Phil Logan, Slavie Federal Savings Bank; Dominick Dunnigan, Oak Contracting; Kevin Wiley, PNC Bank; Dr. Robert Tomback, HCPS Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland Superintendent of Schools; Bruce Lewis, Total Urgent Care; Warren Hamilton, J. Vinton Schafer & Sons

Missing: Richard Bock, Huntington Learning Center; Megan Lally, Master Graphics and Tina Mike, APG Federal Credit Union

Group, FRP Development Corporation, Freedom Federal Credit Union, Custom Direct, SAIC, Slavie Federal Savings Bank, Maryland Public Schools, Harford County Public Schools, Total Urgent Care, J. Vinton Schafer & Sons, Huntington Learning Center, Master Graphics and APG Federal Credit Union.

[The Greater Edgewood Education Foundation](#) (GEEF) recognized 17

businesses and organizations with Collaborative Partnership awards, with eight of those receiving special recognition for supporting the organization since its inception in 2004. Six Edgewood educators were also honored as Everyday Heroes.

More than 200 people attended GEEF's 5th Annual Gala Oct. 21 at the Richlin Ballroom, including Maryland State Schools Superintendent Nancy Grasmick and Harford County Public Schools Superintendent Robert Tomback.

Receiving Five Year Collaborative Partnership trophies were J. Vinton Schafer & Sons; Hess Hotels Group; Slavie Federal Savings Bank; Clarence's Taste of New Orleans; Harford County Public Schools; Constellation Energy; Huntington Learning Center and APG Federal Credit Union.

Collaborative Partnership awards went to Johnson Controls, Harford Community College, Hess Hotels

GEEF's Everyday Heroes Award recognizes one educator from each Edgewood area school who promotes exemplary dedication to the education of children and youth. Honored teachers receive a plaque and a \$100 grant to use for innovative programs in their classrooms.

Teachers receiving Everyday Heroes awards were Jeffrey Winfield, Edgewood High School; Brooke Smith, Edgewood Middle School; Kimberly Powers, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School; Kristen Burke, Edgewood Elementary School; Linda Dart, Deerfield Elementary School, and Grace Cooper, Abingdon Elementary School.

Giovanni's Restaurant and McCormick and Company also gave each Everyday Hero a gift, and Councilman Dion Guthrie presented each hero with a citation from the Harford County Council commending their efforts for the educational success of their students.

During the event, Bob Thomas, representing Harford County Executive David Craig, presented GEEF Executive Director Deb Merlock a proclamation commending the non-profit for its outstanding service to schools, students and parents in the greater Edgewood community.



GEEF's Everyday Heroes Award recognizes outstanding educators who promote exemplary dedication to the education of children and youth. Teachers were accompanied by their principals to the gala.

Front Row: Jeffrey Winfield, Edgewood High School; Brooke Smith, Edgewood Middle School; Kimberly Powers, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School; Kristen Burke, Edgewood Elementary School; Linda Dart, Deerfield Elementary School; Grace Cooper, Abingdon Elementary School

Back Row: Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools; Larissa Santos, Principal Edgewood High School; Lawrence Rudolph, Principal Edgewood Middle School; Gail Dunlap, Principal William Paca Old Post Rd Elem School; Greg Lane, Asst Principal Edgewood Elementary School; Kathy Burr, Principal Abingdon Elementary School; Dr Robert Tomback, HCPS Superintendent of Schools

About GEEF

The Greater Edgewood Education Foundation, Inc. is a partnership of diverse community members who strive to build community partnerships that will raise public awareness, pride and support for the quality of education in the Greater Edgewood Area Schools and enhance educational opportunities for its students. Its programs include:

College Pathways – a K-12 program designed to work with elementary and middle school students to prepare them for high school. The program strives to provide high school students motivation, academic and social support to graduate from high school and complete a program of post-secondary education. The Foundation's goal is to award every graduating student from Edgewood High School a scholarship to a postsecondary learning institution.

Teacher Incentive Program – a program designed to support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers. A mix of programs include recognition through the Everyday Heroes Award, a business

sponsored welcome back to school package, and school based mini grants that address innovative strategies to support parent involvement and raise student achievement.

SMILE Program – Students Modeling Interactive Leadership in Edgewood. Students attend a three day, two night leadership retreat designed to empower students with the skills to make positive choices, gain self-confidence and learn to understand how effective communication and peer support can enhance individual and group decision-making, the development of trust, and positive risk-taking. Each SMILE student develops a personal plan that outlines necessary steps to achieve their post secondary dreams. SMILE Alumni attend additional leadership retreats during the school year.