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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Over \$60,000 Granted to Schools by Millbrook Central School District Educational Foundation in 2006**

Millbrook, NY—The Millbrook Central School District Educational Foundation (MEF) is pleased to announce over \$60,000 in grants disbursed to the four Millbrook Central School District schools. The grants disbursed in 2006 reflect MEF's commitment to partner with the school district by investing in technology and professional development, while supplementing current academic programs.

For technology enhancements, the Millbrook Central School District received a total of \$21,500.00 in grants. At Elm Drive Elementary School, MEF provided air conditioning for the school media laboratory as high temperature and humidity caused the PCs to crash. A CO2 raceway system was funded for the Millbrook Middle School Technical Education Program. The raceway measures the speed of student-designed cars and displays the students' calculations digitally. Other technology for the middle school was a microscope camera, projector and supporting equipment that allow the teacher to share a microscopic view with the entire class to help students working with microscopes for the first time. Both the middle school and high school received six "SmartBoard" packages, a technology that enables a teacher to create lessons that engage students with different learning styles using graphics, sound and streaming video. Students can actively participate in the lesson because it is displayed on a large touch-sensitive white board.

Close to \$40,000.00 in MEF grants supported student-centered initiatives. Enrichment programs, community service and character education programs received \$30,000.00. Much of this funding focused on the unique opportunities offered by the opening of the new Millbrook High School building which allowed the creation of a middle school. The *School of Belonging* program was initiated at the middle school with funds from MEF to train teachers and implement student workshops year round to promote healthy decision making, conflict resolution and socially responsible behavior. At the high school, teachers attended the Northeast Regional Conference on High School Character Education (High School Transition Team attendance) and implemented Link Crew Program training and materials to promote an academic climate to match the quality building provided by our community in the new Millbrook High School.

Additionally, MEF gave \$10,000.00 in matching funds to allow our students to participate in Modified and Junior Varsity athletics. A limited year long plan funded by private donations was proposed by Millbrook Sports Boosters. MEF matched the first \$10,000 raised by the Boosters.

Students at Elm Drive and Alden Place Elementary Schools benefited by a program centered on a visit by Douglas Florian, a best-selling children's book author and illustrator. Both Odyssey of the Mind, an after school enrichment program which focuses on building teamwork and problem solving skills, and Junior Interact, an after school program designed to promote student volunteerism, were funded at Alden Place.

The grant cycle for 2007 MEF grants is currently underway as are the next round of fund-raising initiatives.

Formed in 2001, the Millbrook Central School District Educational Foundation (MEF) is a nonprofit, public foundation whose mission is to provide funding and support for Millbrook Central School District projects and programs that are not provided for within the normal budget process. MEF raises funds through generous private sector contributions, fundraising events and an annual appeal in order to enhance the educational experience of Millbrook Central School District students. It is the mission of the Millbrook Central School District to prepare students to deal effectively with the challenge of an ever-changing society by helping them to become humane critical thinkers, decision makers and problem solvers. For more information, please contact Lisa Wilson at 845-677-5099.

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