



**YARMOUTH  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

## **2020-2021 annual report**

# **a year like no other...**

In 2020-21, the Yarmouth Education Foundation (YEF) committed to continue its traditional fall and spring grants cycles while also providing assistance with a wide range of innovative projects stemming from pandemic-related needs. We believe that it was important to preserve our focus on innovation through the traditional grant schedule, while remaining flexible given the unique demands of this year. Throughout the year, we provided funding for projects that spanned a wide range of subjects which impacted every child in the Yarmouth school system.

## **supporting Yarmouth students since 2010**

The Yarmouth Education Foundation was formed in 2010 to enhance and grow the high quality of education in the Yarmouth School Department. Since then, YEF has awarded more than \$500,000 across the four schools, making a positive impact on thousands of students.

YEF raises money to fund innovative programs through donations, sponsorships, and annual fundraising events. Teacher and student grant applicants present their ideas to a Grants Advisory Committee comprised of community members, board members and educators. The Grants Advisory Committee uses the YEF mission as a guide to determine which grants are funded. With much excitement, there is a grants parade announcing the winners at each school.

## **our mission**

The Yarmouth Education Foundation is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the overall educational experience of students in the Yarmouth School Department. The Yarmouth Education Foundation promotes and enhances educational excellence by generating independent funding for innovative educational projects and initiatives that fall outside the standard budget and support the curriculum.

The Yarmouth Education Foundation:

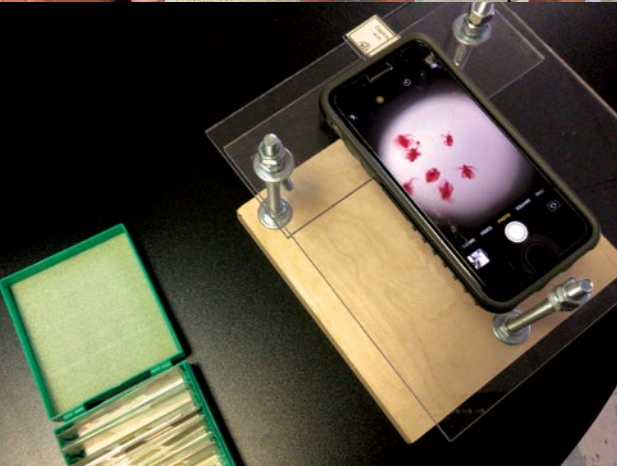
- Encourages teacher innovation and teaching excellence by providing funding opportunities for new initiatives.
- Provides financial support to help the Yarmouth School Department respond to emerging education needs.
- Develops a long-term relationship between the community and the schools.

## **financial statement**

Thanks to the support of donors and volunteers, YEF continued our mission of promoting and enhancing innovative education for Yarmouth students by awarding grants during the 2020 fiscal year totaling approximately \$45,000.

Revenue this year was \$81,719. The majority of this revenue, \$54,852, was generated through our Annual Fund campaign. The additional money was raised through our Corporate Sponsorship program (\$12,575) and our Clipper Honors program (\$14,140). YEF designates 75% of the prior fiscal year revenue to fund grants.

Operating expenses for the year totaled \$18,177, consisting of expenses to promote grant requests, develop the awareness of YEF's mission, maintain a donor database and general administration.



PHOTOS from top: 1. Project Olas connected YHS students with Guatemalan women, providing them with a rich cultural and language learning opportunity. 2. HMS Students share their work with artist Jill Pelto. 3. Every 7th grade student was able to engineer and build a personal microscope so they could continue this critical learning despite pandemic restrictions. 4. YHS students explore the rich culture and history of Black and African American people during a trip to Boston.

# 2020-21 grants

## SPANISH CONVERSATION IMMERSION

Grant applicants: Vicky Kahan with Arabella Solari, Jack Vigue, and Mary Psychogeos/YHS

YEF was thrilled to fund a unique world language opportunity for more than 50 students at Yarmouth High School. This grant connected Yarmouth students with Spanish-speaking women in Guatemala through Project Olas. "Olas Moms" are women living in Guatemala City who are trained to help Spanish students improve their language skills and cultural competence. Each week, students met virtually with their "Olas Mom" for Spanish conversations and a closer look at what life is like in Guatemala. These sessions were facilitated by a Yarmouth teacher, as well as a member of the Project Olas staff. This initiative provided students direct access to another culture in a creative and exciting way.

## ANTIRACISM AND BIAS TRAININGS

Grant applicants: Sarah Harrington with Amy Bongard, Justine Carlisle, Meghan Casey, Vicky Kahan, Amelia Kostin, Marita O'Neill, John Russell, and Leila Tati-Pambou/YHS

This YEF grant provided professional development opportunities for Yarmouth High School staff – and students – that focused on antiracism and confronting bias. The grant funded several opportunities to work with a nationally-recognized group of educators that stressed the importance of letting Black people, Indigenous People, and People of Color lead antiracism work, especially in school districts with little diversity. These added learning opportunities built on the work of the Yarmouth School Department's Equity Task Force and its work with Maine Intercultural Communication Consultants and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine.

## ART MEETS SCIENCE

Grant applicants: Morgan Cuthbert with the 7th Grade Science Team/HMS

YEF was thrilled to bring working artist and climate scientist Jill Pelto back to Harrison Middle School. She believes communicating about climate change is vital in helping more people understand how the world and their own community will look in the future. Pelto spent years studying glaciers in Antarctica and the northwestern United States. From there, she developed an innovative classroom curriculum that combines artwork with scientific data. Her lessons integrate art, science, language arts, and math – offering something for every kind of learner. Jill Pelto inspired learners at Yarmouth Elementary School in the Covid Spring of 2020, and this latest grant impacted every 7th grade student at HMS.

## BLACK STUDENT UNION LEARNING TRIP TO BOSTON

Grant applicants: Justine Carlisle with Leila Tati-Pambou and Lerman Weiss / YHS

YEF was pleased to fund a learning trip to Boston for the Yarmouth High School Black Student Union. The trip was dedicated to exploring African American and Black history and culture. It was an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions of the Black community, as well as to look back at New England history from the perspective of a person of color. The Black Student Union was formed at YHS in October of 2020.



Students at YES are able to enjoy a mask break while socially distancing in the outdoor classrooms funded by YEF.

## STORY CHAMPS

Grant applicant: Jenny DiRusso/Rowe & YES

Yarmouth educators looked for innovative ways to connect with special needs students during the pandemic. Story Champs is a language intervention program that helped teach students the skills needed for age-appropriate speaking, reading, and writing skills. It also helped students who receive language-based intervention services such as speech/language, special education, or English Language Learner instruction. Story Champs utilizes stories and activities that are available for both remote and in-person learning.

## INNOVATION FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

Grant applicants: Amy Finnen and Kelly McFarland/Rowe School

COVID necessitated new ideas about things we take for granted... like seating! YEF funded stadium chairs for every kindergarten and first grade student. These chairs are easy to carry and easy to clean. They can be used inside and outside, and they even have a fun pocket to hold favorite books. YEF also funded fidget and sensory toys for our youngest learners as well.

## MOBY MAX FOR 6TH GRADE

Grant applicants: Zach Callahan with Jen Laberge and Ragan Bartlett/HMS

The innovative Moby Max math instruction program assisted with hybrid and remote learning. This was helpful in situations where students were in different places – both physically and with regards to the curriculum – and it acted as a bridge to connect students to current content and practice problems.

## MICROSCOPIC ENGINEERING

Grant applicants: Morgan Cuthbert with Tate Gale, Janice Medenica, and Michelle Raber/HMS

Seventh grade students use classroom microscopes to study life science and explore things they can't see with the normal eye. Students would normally share microscopes, but last year, that presented a challenge. Thanks to this YEF grant, students were able to engineer and build their own digital microscope. This project allowed every student in the classroom and at home to have their own microscope when needed.

## MATH MANIPULATIVES FOR REMOTE LEARNERS

Grant applicants: Katie Caron, Aimee Davis, and Laura Wetmore / Rowe & YES

Some of our incredible educators were in uncharted territory as fully-remote teachers this school year. They quickly realized students needed math tools in their hands to help enhance learning at home. The remote math program is very thorough, but the learning is all digital. YEF funded math items such as base 10 blocks, snap cubes, write and wipe clocks, and more.

## CLASSROOM MICROPHONES

Grant applicant: Elke Tate/YES

YEF provided wireless microphones and voice amplifiers for Yarmouth Elementary School teachers. These lightweight devices helped project teacher voices through masks and over construction noise. These are a proven tool to help students distinguish sounds, tune out distractions, and concentrate on what's happening in class. These microphones benefited all students but are especially helpful to English Language Learners and students with ADHD, learning challenges, or hearing difficulty.

## MOVING WITH MATH

Grant applicant: Lauren Scribner/YES

Providing extra math help in a remote setting can be especially challenging, so YEF launched the innovative Moving with Math program for grades 2-4. Moving with Math includes specialized printed and virtual materials. It includes individual math tool kits that could be brought home on remote learning days. This allowed educators to meet special education academic needs across various platforms.

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Grant applicants: Dr. Dolloff & school principals/K-12

This fall 2020 grant funded outdoor classroom space for our entire school community, impacting every student in the Yarmouth School Department. Large tents and awnings were erected outside all school buildings, and hemlock tree stumps and folding chairs were purchased for seating. These outdoor spaces allowed for mask breaks, lunch breaks, and an innovative classroom setting for students K-12.

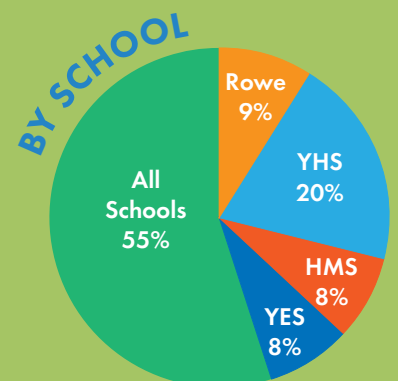
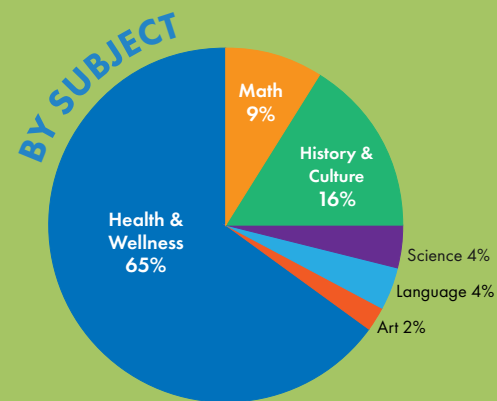
# clipper honors

Our Clipper Honors Program provides an opportunity for parents or caregivers to thank, honor or congratulate an educator, administrator, bus driver or any school employee through a donation to YEF. With a donation of \$25 or more, YEF will also include a gift for the recipient. This year, YEF included gift certificates to local Yarmouth businesses, Clayton's Cafe and Thoroughfare.

# \$14,140

## raised this year!

## grant distribution



## the YEF annual fund... \$54,000+ raised!

Although the pandemic prevented YEF from holding our signature fundraising event, the Blue Jean Ball, the Yarmouth school community showed us an incredible amount of support through our Annual Fund appeal, helping us raise over \$54,000! It is thanks to the generosity of our supporters that we are able to continue our work now and into the future.

More information about donating to YEF can be found at [YarmouthEducationFoundation.org](http://YarmouthEducationFoundation.org).

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-21 DONORS

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2020-21

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Ally Olson  
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Meg Swift  
Craig Wolff

\*Board Member as of January 2021

\*\*Board Member until January 2021

YEF Admin: Kelly Anderson  
Web/Email Volunteer: Sarah Strait

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Shawna Chigro-Rogers  
Nisha Dearborn\*  
Laura Elder  
Katie Estabrook  
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\*Beginning Spring 2021

\*\*Ending Fall 2020

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**mainestreet**  
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