



Lake of the Woods Lions Club Awards Grants to 12 Orange County Teachers

December 6, 2013



The recipients of the 2013 Lake of the Woods (LOW) Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grants program were honored at a dinner on December 5 at the LOW Clubhouse. Pictured, left to right, are: Kathryn Clemmer, Stephanie Devine (OCHS Senior and BRVGS student), Nora Coleman, Katherine Hogsten, Madeline Salustri (LOW Lions Club TIG Committee Chairman), Sharon Mohrmann, Betsy Hamilton, Amy Fitch, Sharon Hutchinson-Kreiter, Carol Hunter, Melanie Lyon, and Ann Marie Fickes. Not pictured: Natalie McMahan, Michelle Strauss and Jennifer Ortman.

The Lake of the Woods' (LOW) Lions Club has announced the names of 12 recipients of its fourth annual Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG) program. The educators were selected from among 25 Orange County Public School teachers who submitted applications.

The recipients represent seven of Orange County's nine schools and the Head Start program. The grants, totaling \$2652.75, will support a range of lessons and programs related to science, technology, music, language arts, social-emotional growth, and robotics. Ten grants, totaling \$2249, were supported by the LOW Lions Club TIG committee. Two of the grants, totaling \$403.75, were funded by the LOW Lions Club Sight Committee.

“Reading all 25 grants was both productive and inspiring,” said Madeline Salustri, the LOW Lions Club TIG Committee Chair. “All applicants should be congratulated for their efforts to build a stronger education community.”

“Teachers appreciate the support organizations like the Lake of the Woods Lion’s Club offer,” said Carol Hunter, Coordinator for Gifted and ESoL Programs with Orange County Public Schools. “The grants not only provide funds for additional classroom resources, they also validate the importance of innovative instruction in the 21st century.”

“The Lake of Woods Lions Club continues to serve as a leader in promoting innovative teaching in Orange County,” said Orange County School Superintendent Bob Grimesey. “I can not understate our gratitude to the Lions for their generosity and their inspiration.”

The Lions’ Club established the TIG program in 2010 to support teacher-produced lessons or programs that increase student achievement, support the Virginia Standards of Learning, promote tolerance and/or exhibit new technology in the classroom. Grants range up to \$250 and they are awarded to teachers in clustered grade levels, including pre-K through 2nd grade, grades 3-5, middle school grades and the high school level.

This year’s recipients were recognized during the LOW Lions Club’s meeting on December 5, 2013 at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse. The teachers and their grants are as follows:

- **Nora Coleman**, Orange County High School, \$199 to implement a *Stress Relief* program for high school students;
- **Natalie McMahan**, Orange County High School, \$139 for a Kindle HD Fire to support reading instruction for sight-impaired students;
- **Shannon Hutchinson-Kreiter**, Locust Grove Middle School, \$264.75 for a Interactive Pulse Boom Chair to support learning for students with auditory and visual impairments;
- **Amy Fitch**, Prospect Heights Middle School, \$250 to purchase materials for *First Tech Challenge*;
- **Betsy Hamilton**, Prospect Heights Middle School, \$250 to support *Revision: Getting the Big Picture*, a language arts instructional program;
- **Sharon Mohrmann**, Orange Elementary School, \$250 to support *Kid Pan Ally*, a week-long language arts, social studies and music program;
- **Michelle Strauss**, Orange Elementary School, \$250 for *Adopt a Stream*, an environmental science program;
- **Kathy Hogsten**, Gordon-Barbour Elementary School, \$50 for *Fish*, an ongoing hands-on science project for elementary school students;
- **Kathryn Clemmer**, Lightfoot Elementary School, \$250 for supplies needed for her *Light Footprints: Gardening In School unit*, an ongoing science program that links classroom studies to the environment;
- **Melanie Lyon**, Locust Grove Primary School, \$250 for *Integrating the Kindle Fire into Learning*;
- **Jennifer Orman**, Locust Grove Primary School, \$250 for *Tablets to Encourage Learning*; and

- **Ann Marie Fickes**, Orange County Head Start, \$250 for *Caring for Our Animals*, science and character development instruction.

The LOW Lions Club works in partnership with the Orange County Education Foundation to promote the TIG program among public school teachers. Inspired by the success of the Lions Club program, the Foundation established a second TIG program to benefit teachers at Germanna Community College and Grymes Memorial School as well as public school teachers.

The Foundation will issue a call for the next set of TIG applications in January. Orange County teachers whose applications were not funded by the LOW Lions TIG program may be resubmitted for consideration in the Foundation grant program. Those grants will be awarded in April, 2014.

Individuals or groups interested in supporting the LOW Lions Club's TIG program may mail checks to: Lake of the Woods Lions Club Teacher Innovation Grant Program, P.O. Box 605, Locust Grove, VA, 22508. Individuals or groups interested in supporting the Orange County Education Foundation's TIG program may contact Matt Benefield, Treasurer, at 540-661-4550 or at mbenefield@ocss-va.org.

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Further information may be obtained by contacting Carol Hunter, Coordinator of Gifted and ESOL Programs, Orange County Public Schools, at (540) 661-4550.