

Reading Enrichment Program Receives Grant

The School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport, Inc. recently received an \$8,000 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation for its Reading Enrichment Program. Over 500 people volunteer with this program to read books on an ongoing basis throughout the year to students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade classes in the Bridgeport Public Schools. The grant is used to purchase the books that are read and then donated to the classroom libraries.

Volunteers enjoy interacting with the students and supporting their emerging literacy skills through the simple act of reading books aloud. The students look forward to having adults from outside the school read to them and share stories about their lives. One third grade girl thanked her reader with a note in which she said that the books contained new words she never knew. She also told her that she had taken one of the books home to read to her family, thus showing that the value of these read alouds reaches beyond the school and children in the classrooms.

The School Volunteer Organization has been working with the Bridgeport Public Schools for forty-three years to enrich and support the learning of the students through the involvement of volunteers from Bridgeport and surrounding communities. Volunteers serve as classroom readers, tutors or mentors. To learn more, please call 203-275-1120 or visit www.svabridgeport.org.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.