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## DFEE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE: [www.dfee.net](http://www.dfee.net)

On September 18th, 2008 DFEE launched their new website. It is "a must see!" Visit the website [www.dfee.net](http://www.dfee.net) NOW and enter to win some awesome prizes by simply clicking on the **Drawings and Winnings** section located on the home page.

The website is a great way to immediately learn about all the spectacular things your Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence is doing. You can see your contributions at work by checking out the **Featured Programs** segment. And, there's an entire section dedicated to our Durango School District **9-R Employees** showcasing all the wonderful things they do for our students.

You can become one of the businesses/corporations, parents, individuals, or alumni who give to DFEE so these integral projects and programs for our children in the 9-R District can be funded. Read the stories about who is giving and why. If you choose, you can become the next Featured Supporter to be highlighted on our home page.

From skiing to golf, YOU definitely need to join DFEE in all of their fun and exciting fundraising activities! See when these are happening by looking under **Events**. Durango High School Alumni can now stay current with upcoming events and reunions by looking on our website too – an entire section of [www.dfee.net](http://www.dfee.net) is dedicated just to them.

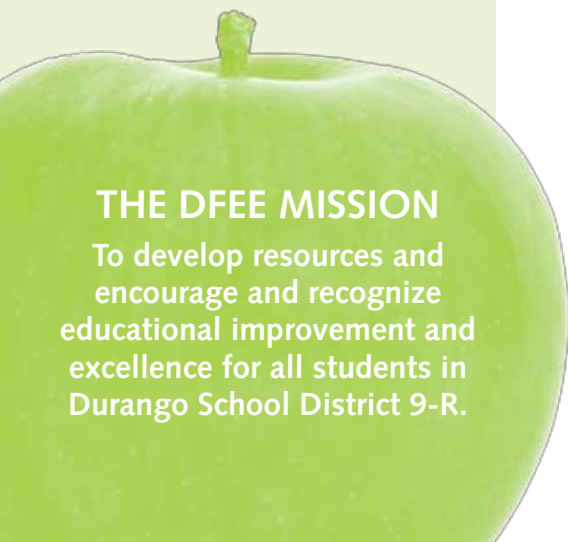
Learn about the many ways you can donate to your education foundation. This information is located under **A Case for Giving**. Now you can keep abreast of how close we are to meeting our \$2.5 Million goal for ensuring sustainability funds for our students for years to come. Making donations on-line can be done easily and quickly via our secured website.

To save money and encourage use of the new website, DFEE will now be offering our newsletter online with a printable version that can be downloaded to your personal computer. If you prefer to continue receiving a printed newsletter in the mail, simply call us or e-mail us at [jill@dfee.net](mailto:jill@dfee.net) and we'll keep you on our regular mailing list.

To ensure we have your correct e-mail address, please complete the form located in the **Contact Us** area, this way we will be able to send you a copy of the newsletter each time it is issued. Complete the form under **Volunteers** and join us today in making a positive difference in the lives of our students in the 9-R District!

## THE DFEE MISSION

To develop resources and encourage and recognize educational improvement and excellence for all students in Durango School District 9-R.





# Message

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DFEE HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence (DFEE) has selected Jill Hutcheson as its new Executive Director. Sandra Smith, who held the DFEE Executive Director position for the past 4 years, retired from DFEE on September 1st.

Ms. Hutcheson brings to the organization 15 years of educational experience, along with six years as a business owner. She has worked in the non-profit educational k-college arena in the roles of advisor, teacher, counselor, and assistant principal. During that time, she created numerous programs that significantly increased student retention and completion rates.

With her blended background in education and business, she brings to the table a profound understanding for the dire need to provide funding for projects and programs that fall outside the possibilities of our school district's budget. As an educator, her passion is to ensure that every student's educational and social-emotional needs are of the utmost importance.

Likewise, as a business owner, Hutcheson knows that the pulse of the schools is the foundational success for our community. Equally, our schools depend upon the community to support their success. This symbiotic relationship is what creates a robust economy and a thriving community.

For more information on Hutcheson's goals for DFEE, or to learn how you can support the organization and become a volunteer, contact Jill at 970-385-1491 or e-mail her at [jill@dfee.net](mailto:jill@dfee.net)

## FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES FROM DFEE

Sandra Smith, former Executive Director of the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence (DFEE) retired from the position on September 1st and feels that the timing is right for bringing on a new director.

"I am very proud of the progress that DFEE has made over the past 4 years," Smith said. "Together with a working and generous Board of Trustees and a supportive community, DFEE has been more visible in the community. The Durango community understands better the importance of having an education foundation to support our schools."

Over the past 4 years, DFEE has also increased the funding it provides to Durango School District 9-R to over \$100,000 per year.

Sandra extends her thanks to all those who have supported her efforts. On behalf of DFEE and our Board of Trustees, we thank Sandra for all of her hard work and commitment as Executive Director for DFEE.

# Why I Choose to Give

**PAT MURPHY**

LONG TIME DURANGO DEALER/  
OPERATOR OF PAT MURPHY MOTORS



We ask a lot from our schools and our educators. With the ever-increasing roles that they are asked to take on in preparing and raising our youth for adulthood, we don't always provide them with the necessary resources to do that job.

Just because we, as community members, don't have a direct role in the schools doesn't mean we aren't responsible for ensuring that the educational process is as good as it can be. This is why I choose to give to DFEE.



## 2.5 MILLION DOLLAR EDUCATION FUND DRIVE

DFEE must continue to grow in order to keep up with the increased educational, social and creative needs of our local students. Each year we receive many more funding requests than we can currently fund. This means that there are still many unmet needs to be fulfilled. For this reason, DFEE is just now launching a **\$2,500,000 Education Fund Drive** so that future generations of students can benefit from these much-needed programs and projects. This \$2,500,000 education fund will provide a steady stream of program income in addition to supporting the long-term sustainability of our important work at DFEE.

You can donate *any amount of your choice* electronically right on our new website at [www.DFEE.NET](http://www.DFEE.NET) or you can fill out the pledge form in this news letter and send it in to DFEE.

You can also become one of our **DFEE Traveling Board Sponsors** by donating a particular amount (see the investment opportunities chart below) and have your name engraved on this beautiful, huge walnut board donated by **The Jewelry Works** in Durango.

We invite you to take an exciting, ongoing ride, throughout our community with the TRAVELING BOARD of supporters...who knows where you'll end up...maybe at one of our local banks, or perhaps, one of our restaurants or maybe at a huge Fort Lewis function...and for sure you can be featured on our website too if you choose. The possibilities are endless.

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES CHART

**\$300,000**  
**3 Supporters @ \$100,000**  
You're name goes at the TOP of THE BOARD!

**\$300,000**  
**6 Supporters @ \$50,000**  
UNBELIEVABLE donation!

**\$500,000**  
**20 Supporters @ \$25,000**  
You ROCK!

**\$400,000**  
**40 Supporters @ \$10,000**  
You make a HUGE difference!

**\$1,000,000**  
**200 Supporters @ \$5,000**  
You're AWESOME!

Whichever option you choose, and wherever you may travel, your name is sure to make a hit because it means you just gave an absolutely awesome donation to DFEE which translates to **YOU CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS KIDS!**



### 2008/2009 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Bob Griffith — Vice President  
Mary El Emrich — Secretary  
Pat Murphy — Treasurer

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jill K. Hutcherson

### YOUR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

DFEE is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to building excellence within Durango School District 9-R. The foundation provides teachers and students a resource for funds for educational projects that fall outside the possibilities for funding by the School District 9-R budget.

201 E. 12th Street  
Durango, CO 81301  
970-385-1491  
[www.dfee.net](http://www.dfee.net)

*Thank You!*

*A special thanks to Chimera Communications for helping us develop our new look!*  
970.382.2647





## 100% IN!

In making the decision to introduce myself as the new DFEE Executive Director to each department at the Durango School District 9-R, I thought it would be best to start with the building where my office is located. In fact, it made perfect sense to initiate this process by speaking with my colleagues on the ground floor where my office resides. The 9-R District graciously houses me free of charge, which is absolutely wonderful. Thank you 9-R!

I had the great pleasure of meeting and giving my first presentation about DFEE to the 9-R Facilities Department. WOW! What a wonderful and highly receptive group of people, not to mention very dedicated and hardworking. These are the folks that make sure we have heat, lights, and facilities that work. They are also the ones who make sure we have cleared roads and parking lots in the winter. Thank you so much for all you do to keep our school district running safely and smoothly!

**Everyone in the Facilities Dept. IS supporting DFEE monetarily! It's not what you give-it's that you give! On behalf of DFEE, we thank you for your support and contribution!**

After sharing the facts about DFEE and having a great discussion about what we do and where the funding goes, I kindly asked if they would be open to contributing money to the foundation via our 9-R Payroll Deduction Plan. I shared with them that is not how much you give, it's that you give.

EVERYONE in this department is supporting DFEE monetarily. They are 100% in on supporting their education foundation! On behalf of DFEE's Board of Trustees and myself, we wholeheartedly thank you! You are making, yet, another positive difference not only in our school district but in our community as well.

In the upcoming months, you will see and read on our website ([www.dfee.net](http://www.dfee.net)) who these Facility folks are and why they choose to give. I am now in the process of scheduling to meet with the other departments on my floor and then work my way upstairs and out the door to the meet all of the other employees in our district.

*\*Not all of the contributors were able to be in the picture.*

## Did you know?

Did you know there are approximately 4,800 education foundations nationwide?

Do you know why there are so many of them "popping up" all over the country? Shrinking tax revenues, budget cuts, a shift of state and national funds to the poorest school districts are fueling the needs for school foundations. The needs in our own Durango School District 9-R reflects this national trend.

According to the National School Foundation Association, schools in America are faced with increasing demands and diminished resources. Support from public sources is not likely to be sufficient to provide the resources necessary to meet ever rising educational needs. Thus, school districts across the nation are turning to education foundations. That's why DFEE is here to assist.

DFEE is YOUR education foundation.



## Why I Choose to Give

ANGEL TRACY

TECHNOLOGY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
DURANGO SCHOOL DISTRICT 9-R



As a single mother of two I feel it is very important to give more than you receive. I believe very strongly in Karma. I don't have much, but what I do have, I hope someone else can benefit from. I have a 9 year old that attends Riverview Elementary School. I feel that as a parent, and as an employee of the Durango's 9-R School District, it's important to support the programs that people lean on the most.

When I first started working in the school district I heard about a program through DFEE that would help parents in need with school supplies for their children. I thought it would be really great to help out with those types of things. All I have is \$5.00 a month to give but over the course of the year that's enough money to help buy two kids school supplies. If everyone gave \$5.00 a month the possibilities would be endless.

# Make your donation today!

**Please select how you would like to support DFEE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ General DFEE Contribution for Children's Impact Fund **and/or**  
\_\_\_\_\_ In Support of the 2.5 Million Dollar Education Fund Drive

Please acknowledge my gift in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge my gift in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please keep my contribution anonymous and DO NOT list my name on any materials.

**Would you like to make a one-time donation or a monthly pledge?**

\_\_\_\_\_ One Time Payment

\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly recurring — 6 month

\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly recurring — 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly recurring — Annual ongoing

Amount to donate: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25, \$50, \$100, \$200, \$250, \$500, \$1000, Other)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa, MC, AMEX, Discover)

Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digits on back of your card \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your pledge sheet (with your check, made payable to DFEE, if applicable) to:  
Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence 201 E. 12th St., Durango, CO 81301





# Durango Foundation

FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

201 East 12th Street, Durango, CO 81301

*A tradition of quality since 1967*



*DFEE would like to whole-heartedly thank Basin Printing and Imaging for sponsoring the entire mailing of this newsletter. Basin Printing and Imaging is located in Durango, CO at 1437 E. 2nd. Ave., 81301. They can be reached at 970-247-5212 or visit their website at [www.basinprinting.com](http://www.basinprinting.com).*

*Thank You!*