

## *What is MEF?*

**The Moreland Educational Foundation (MEF) is a group of volunteer parents, administrators, and local citizens that make-up a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting quality education programs at all six Moreland Schools. MEF was founded in 1993 in response to a state budget crisis much like the current crisis today. MEF works closely with the district and individual schools to provide financial support where needed to maintain educational excellence. To date the Moreland Education Foundation has donated over \$1,500,000 to Moreland's 6 California Distinguished Schools! Please visit our website at [www.MEFhome.org](http://www.MEFhome.org).**

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**What do MEF donations support?** – The MEF 2011 Annual Fund Drive raised \$178,000 and Music in Moreland an MEF sub-group raised \$35,000 for music directly. This was almost 25% more than we raised last year with an average donation of \$210! MEF provided the following funding to the 2011-12 school year: a music teacher for our exceptional 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Instrumental Music Program, a computer technician to support classroom and school site technology, salaries for 5 middle school electives at MMS & EDS, this year's JiJi license at each school site, 3 school wide assemblies presented by Lawrence Hall of Science at Anderson, Baker, Country Lane, EDS and Payne, and 5 new computers for each of our 6 schools. Go to [www.MEFhome.org](http://www.MEFhome.org) to see what the MEF Fund Drive is supporting.

In past years MEF has provided support for lowered class sizes in K-3, libraries, technology, after school sports, teacher training and funds for innovative math, language and art curriculums. In addition, MEF annually gives small grants to individual schools and programs that apply for needed funding. To learn more about the small grant program go to: [www.mefhome.org](http://www.mefhome.org).

**Public school is supposed to be free. Why do I have to pay?** - The reality is that funding for public schools in California is not enough, especially now with the California budget crisis. Moreland School District has faced over \$5 Million in cuts over the last three years and we are facing more cuts. There is no waste to cut from the budget and classrooms are being directly affected. For our children to be competitive with students across the state, country and the globe, we must invest in their schools now.

**Why are both H&SC and MEF raising money for the schools?** - Both organizations provide vital support for our schools. MEF raises money to fund essential enrichment school programs and resources, and to pay salaries of the teachers to teach those programs across the district. The H&SC or PTO, funds site-specific needs like field trips, computers, playground equipment, special events and teacher grants. H&SC or PTO funds cannot be used to pay teachers' salaries at individual schools.

**How much should I give to MEF?** - During our donation drive held in the spring, MEF asks every family to consider giving \$250 per child enrolled in the school district. Families who may be able to give

significantly more are encouraged to do so. We know that money is tight right now and every donation supports our kids. Many families that cannot donate give their time and that is priceless. Did you know that Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos and Palo Alto ask for \$350-\$800 per student? Moreland is starting to sound like a deal. ;-)

We also have installment options on our website.

**What if I already give to Music In Moreland or Sports In Moreland?** If you have a child in music or sports we encourage you to donate to the MiM as MEF will have to pay for one teacher each year in the foreseeable future due to the budget cuts. If we do not have enough money for this teacher the district will have to cut 1/3 of the program. There is no extra money right now. We encourage you to give to both drives because they support different things. The 2012 MEF Fund Drive asks for \$250 per student and 15% or \$37.50 of that will go towards music, the remaining \$212.50 will go towards our other goals. For Sports in Moreland about \$20 of the \$250 will go towards after school sports.

**What about the Parcel Tax I have heard about?** Our community passed an eight year parcel tax in 2009. The district receives about \$1,000,000 per year through this program. Each year the school board votes on how to use the parcel tax money based on the criteria set forth in the parcel tax. In previous years the parcel tax has been allocated to fund librarians, performing arts teachers, class size reduction in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and math curriculum. Use of the Parcel Tax funds can change from year to year. If the school board chooses, the funds may also be used to attract and retain qualified teachers, maintain high-quality science, reading & math programs, including classroom technology and learning materials, keep class sizes small and to keep school libraries open and accessible to students.

**What about the Measure K Bond that passed in 2010?** This bond will continue to improve the buildings and classrooms that house our students. Projects include installing solar panels on all of our school sites to decrease the use of general fund money. Bond money cannot be used to pay salaries, which is the biggest part of a district's budget. Go to [www.moreland.org](http://www.moreland.org) for more info.

**What is MEF's administrative overhead?** - Our overhead is about 5%. All of our board and representative positions are volunteer positions. Thanks to the hard work of our parents and volunteers, MEF is able to run the fund raising events and the organization at a very low cost.

**How is company matching of donations handled?** - Company matches to personal contributions to charitable organizations allow you to increase your contribution to MEF by simply making a request. Employees of firms offering matching must initiate the request, often by completing a special form. Forms are typically available through your company HR department or on your company web site. The **MEF Federal Tax ID# is 77-0339357** our United Way ID is: 100953. Contact our Corporate Matching Coordinator Laurel Balyeat at [corpmatch@mefhome.org](mailto:corpmatch@mefhome.org) for more information

**What are some of MEF's fundraisers and events I should look forward to?**

**September:** Small Grants Program Opens

**October:** Pumpkin Patch

**December:** Christmas Tree Fundraiser

**March:** MEF Annual Drive

**May:** Shopping Month

**June & July:** Summer School – Registration opens March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012: [www.MEFhome.org](http://www.MEFhome.org)

**How do I join or become a part of MEF?** If you are a Moreland parent or live in the Moreland community, you are already a part of MEF. Whether you can help just a little or a lot, all volunteers are welcome and GREATLY appreciated! Please consider volunteering with MEF, we need your help. If you are interested please email our president at [president@mefhome.org](mailto:president@mefhome.org), or talk to any MEF board member.