

Board of Directors

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PAWS

Mission Statement

PAWS is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to enriching the educational experience of West Islip students and their teachers. PAWS generates resources through community support to promote, sponsor and enhance learning opportunities for the community's children.



Donations to PAWS may be stipulated in a Last Will and Testament or in any other legal bequest.

Monies raised by PAWS have no connection or impact on the school district's tax base or its budget.

PAWS is a 501(c)(3) association, incorporated under the laws of New York State.



PAWS began with an introduction at the September 2004 West Islip Country Fair. Directors and charter members started by making plans to bring current and former community members together in support of the community's children and their education. Initiated by former Superintendent Dr. Beth Virginia Blau, this private entity is governed by a Board of Directors and is separate and distinct from the school district.



PAWS

**Partners Advancing
West Islip Students**



Where Education Shines!

**P.O. BOX 67
WEST ISLIP, NY 11795**

www.wipaws.org



Membership & Donations



_____ Yes, I would like to join PAWS and receive information about efforts to support the student of West Islip and communications about future meetings and events.

_____ I would like to be contacted about active participation in PAWS.

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

Phone: _____

*Email Address: _____

**Required information for PAWS communication purposes.
PAWS does not share or sell your contact information.*

Donations Optional

_____ I would also like to help support the work of PAWS at the level indicated below.

_____ \$10	_____ \$500 (<i>Patron</i>)
_____ \$25	_____ \$750 (<i>Benefactor</i>)
_____ \$50	_____ \$1,000 (<i>Elite</i>)
_____ \$100	_____ \$ Other
_____ \$250	

Checks should be made payable to PAWS.
Please mail this page to:

PAWS
P.O. Box 67
West Islip, NY 11795

PAWS can also benefit from a tax deductible designation through the United Way Campaign. Please visit www.unitedway.org and help build a stronger community.

What is an Education Foundation?

Foundations for public schools have been around since the 1970s and the number are climbing. There is no central registry of public school foundations in the United States, but they are located in every state and best estimates put the number at over 3,000.

Community volunteers who serve on this non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation think outside the box for ways to assist the school district with needed money and services. Education foundations are able to apply for grant money, for instance, that school districts might not otherwise receive. In some districts, private funds keep various programs alive when declining tax revenues at state and/or local levels threaten to eliminate the lease "essential" ones.

In West Islip, PAWS holds several fundraising events during the year, including the popular Dinner-Dance Gala in the spring. During this usually sold-out event, one person is honored with the PAWS Outstanding Community Award and another is honored with the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. Additionally, local businesses donate gifts to be raffled. All proceeds benefit PAWS, which in turn, uses the money for grant awards given to the school community.

PAWS Grants

The PAWS Board of Directors examines all grant applications and makes its decisions based on the need for the program and/or supplies being requested. Each year the financial distribution plan is reevaluated, as is the criteria. Thus, requests rejected one year may be accepted the next. Please note that due to the overwhelming number of grant applications and the limited funds to be shared among the school buildings, PAWS encourages applicants to seek partial funding, thereby increasing the chances of at least obtaining a portion of the amount needed.

Some of the recent grant awards were:

- ~ *Fit-Trail Jogging Systems* ~
- ~ *CAD Workstations* ~
- ~ *SMART Document Cameras* ~
- ~ *Sound Systems* ~
- ~ *Flip Video Camcorders with Tripods and Flash Drives* ~
- ~ *Rock Climbing Wall* ~
- ~ *Follett eBooks* ~
- ~ *Baby Simulators* ~
- ~ *Recording Studio* ~

