

East Palo Alto educators receive grants

Kids Foundation gives money for educational projects

From props for a schoolwide Renaissance fair to dance and drumming instruction, 43 East Palo Alto educators have received grants from the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation this year.

The grants, in increments of about \$350, come to a total of \$13,000 so far this school year. The foundation, which began in 1994, is a nonprofit corporation with board members from East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Stanford.

The group funds other tax-exempt organizations who work di-

rectly with children from East Palo Alto, including the Ravenswood school district, private schools and youth organizations.

This spring, Father Gerad Flynn, a teacher at St. Elizabeth Seton School in Palo Alto, received \$350 to buy wood, pipe, rope and other materials for sets and props for a schoolwide Renaissance Faire, part of the school's living history program.

Menlo Oaks fifth-grade teacher Marlene Davis received \$350 for social studies books on Native Americans. Graciela Ybarra, edu-

cational coordinator at Families in Transition received \$350 for a laminating machine for a children's book project. Ravenswood bilingual resource teacher Ann Tregoning got \$174 to help set up a resource library for teachers to help limited English-speaking students. Shule Mandela Academy received \$350 to buy educational board games and electronic games along with other indoor recreational equipment for students to use when it rains.

Green Oaks second-grade teacher Juliette Steadman can use her \$345 grant to buy recording equipment to create books on tape in Spanish and English. The foundation also contributed funding for a field trip to Carmel missions, math and geography software, watercolor paint sets for an Impressionist

art project, and a school uniform fund.

"One of the things that we've noticed is that teachers are using our funds to make other resources go farther," said EPAK Foundation president Jacqueline Stewart. For example, a Ronald McNair teacher got CPR mannequins donated from Lockheed and a grant from EPAK for workbooks and disposable lungs to teach the whole school CPR with only \$350.

"Books are still our number one request," Stewart said. "What we're seeing is requests for books so that kids can take them home and read with their parents."

The foundation has three deadlines each year for grant applications: Sept. 29, Dec. 29 and March 29. ■

—Elizabeth Darling