

## **ROSWELL WOMAN'S CLUB EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2007**

The Roswell Woman's Club allocates fifty per cent of the proceeds from its fund-raising efforts to educational concerns in North Fulton County. The following is an overview of the impact in our Roswell community of the funding RWC has provided through the Education Committee. The dollar amounts reflect figures from 1978. The human interest, special projects information includes just the past 5 years.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. Since 1978 RWC has donated approximately \$700,000 to Educational Scholarships and Special Projects. Scholarships honor academic achievement and community service as well as provide the principal means for many high school graduates and adult women re-entering the educational process to afford college. The Special Projects are chosen through Grant requests from North Fulton teachers and, in addition, many educational non-profits in the Roswell area.
2. Since 2000, RWC has awarded 230 scholarships. 45 were financial - need based. 10 scholarships provided the means for employees of the Child Development Center to earn their "Child Development Associate" certification. 5 adult women went on to college or graduate school through the generosity of RWC.
3. The Fulton Education Foundation provides funding for innovative and exceptional ideas from Fulton Co. public school teachers. Since 2000 RWC has donated close to \$190,000 to this Foundation to implement grant requests from the North Fulton public schools. Grant requests from local non-profits such as The Cottage School, Star House, and The Chattahoochee Nature Center total about \$37,000.

### **SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT INFORMATION**

1. The 10 teachers from the Child Development Association completed a 120 hour certification process which not only improved their early childhood education skills but allowed them to meet the professional requirements of the State of Georgia and made them eligible for a salary increase. The Director of CDA says that a wonderful consequence of RWC support is that her staff has great pride in its work and has pulled together as a team as they help each other through the certification process.
2. RWC has followed the 5 adult women scholarship recipients throughout their educational process and for four of them has provided funding for more than one year. One student started at Perimeter with RWC help but could only continue as she earned her expenses. RWC provided funding for 4 years and this student recently graduated from Kennesaw State University.

An adult woman (4 young children, husband employed by Independence High School, she employed by Habitat for Humanity, and the family living in a Roswell Habitat home) had a dream of earning a Masters Degree in Social Work so she could better impact her work in Roswell. RWC and the Leitaleaf Foundation have made it possible for this student to graduate in December, 2007.

3. Scholarships given to non-traditional students not only totally amaze them that they have been honored in such a way but often provide the self-esteem boost to complete their education. A Cottage School graduate who received our scholarship is at Kennesaw and also works for The Cottage School as an admissions assistant. Through financial help and mentoring, this student has the goal to graduate in Organizational Communications and to continue working at TCS.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS INFORMATION**

1. Since 2001 RWC has provided Star House with funding for workbooks and supplies as well as making it possible for a summer camp for their students. Star House tutors children during the school year but also bridges the summer vacation with an excellent tutoring camp as well.

2. RWC has provided funding for The Cottage School special projects since 2003. One specific success is the Project Work program. This is a summer program to introduce "at risk" students to various careers and most importantly to provide the opportunity to learn the skills required for those careers. An additional plus is the impact on self-esteem and the opportunity for social skills support. As an example of Project Work, students have learned computer programs such as Quicken, Microsoft Office, internet searches, and budgeting.

3. The Chattahoochee Nature Center received RWC funding to create a 5 Senses Skunk Trunk and the Grey Bat Trunk which are available to all schools in North Fulton. These trunks include teacher lesson plans, comprehensive information about North Fulton wildlife, bio-specimens of talons, feathers, skins, eyes etc. and a very hands on Science experience.

4. The Teen Parenting and Day Care Program at Independence High School was told in 2007 that it must find it own funding to continue. RWC has made it possible for this program to remain in place. The program provides day care for the teen moms so they may continue high school and graduates from 5 to 10 teen moms each year. The program also provides a pre-natal support group and a parenting education support system.

5. The Teaching Museum North in partnership with The Chattahoochee Nature Center received funding in 2007 to provide every public school third grader (1170 students) in the City of Roswell the opportunity to attend Pond Study/Wetland Ecology Workshops at the Nature Center. The programs include pond samplings to determine water quality and life cycle studies as well as investigation of wetlands in relation to watersheds and the wetlands organisms.

6. In 2007 Roswell High School received RWC funding to address the high rate (24%) of freshman students who fail at least one class - primarily Biology and/or Algebra 1. A program has been developed to train student and adult volunteers who will then tutor these students during the lunch hour. Funding covers the cost of curriculum development, activity materials and workshops for volunteers, faculty advisors and business partners.