

REACH FOR THE STARS

HONORING MRS. CHRIS BENE



THE WOODLANDS • JANUARY 18, 2013



*Congratulations
Chris,
Thank you for your
Spirited support of
our
Children's education*

*From you friends,
The Connell Family*

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January 18, 2013

Dear Friend of the Huntington Foundation:

Thank you so much for attending the 20th annual Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education's "Reach for the Stars" gala!

The Foundation is proud to honor this year's "Spirit Award" recipient, Mrs. Chris Bene. We gather this evening at the elegant Woodlands to applaud Mrs. Bene's dedication to Huntington's schools. Please read the summary of Mrs. Bene's commitment to the Huntington School District in this evening's Journal. Thank you, for accepting this well-deserved recognition!

Among the numerous educational enhancements for the 2011-2012 school year, the Foundation funded the construction of a small "Cell Culture Laboratory" in the Science Research Class Room and Professional Poster Boards for Science Research competition at the High School, user licenses for WOWS Writing Tree kits for each of the Primary Schools and the inspirational and life changing experience known as the "Memory Project" that paired our High School Art Students with children across the globe who produced self-portraits from photographs received from children that have been orphaned, neglected or terrorized by war. Past Grants from the Foundation have included funding the creation of an Apple Video lab at Huntington High School, "Speak Up" workshops at Woodhull, raised beds for an outdoor garden and science exploration center at Jefferson Primary School, and a social studies program, "Finding My Way," by Cornell Cooperative Extension for second graders at Southdown Primary School.

Past Grants from the Foundation have included funding the creation of an Apple Video lab at Huntington High School, raised beds for an outdoor garden and science exploration center at Jefferson Primary School, and a social studies program, "Finding My Way," by Cornell Cooperative Extension for second graders at Southdown Primary School.

The Foundation would like to thank Ms. Singer's, Pre-AP Studio Art Class for submitting their artwork for the Journal's cover. Thank you to all the participants.

Sincerely,

The Huntington Foundation of Excellence for Education Board



Huntington Union Free School District
Board of Education

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

January 18, 2013

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education
PO Box 552
Huntington NY 11743

Dear Huntington Foundation,

As we gather this evening to celebrate and honor Christine Bene, I thank you on behalf of the Board of Education and the Administration. Without your endless work and year-round efforts, tonight's event would not be possible and Huntington School District's students would miss out on so much. Today, New York's public schools face unprecedented economic hurdles. The grants you award our educators help enrich, strengthen and enhance programs, better preparing our students for the challenges that lie ahead.

Special thanks to those merchants and community members who support Huntington Foundation's work by purchasing tickets, donating generous raffle and auction items and purchasing ads in this journal. Often during fiscally difficult times, support for non-profits tends to diminish. We are grateful for your investment in our children's future; as we dine and dance tonight, we all share the common goal of elevating our students to new heights through quality education.

As for tonight's Spirit Award recipient, Chris Bene: few words cannot adequately express our appreciation for what she has contributed both to the school district and to the Huntington community at large. It has been my joy and honor to know Chris and call her friend. She always puts children first, whether as PTA council president, school board trustee, Family Service League board member or through the foundation she established in her daughter's memory, to help students who heed the call to become nurses. And always, quietly behind the scenes, she and her husband Andy give generously of their time and resources whenever they are needed. We are so fortunate to have Chris Bene in our midst.

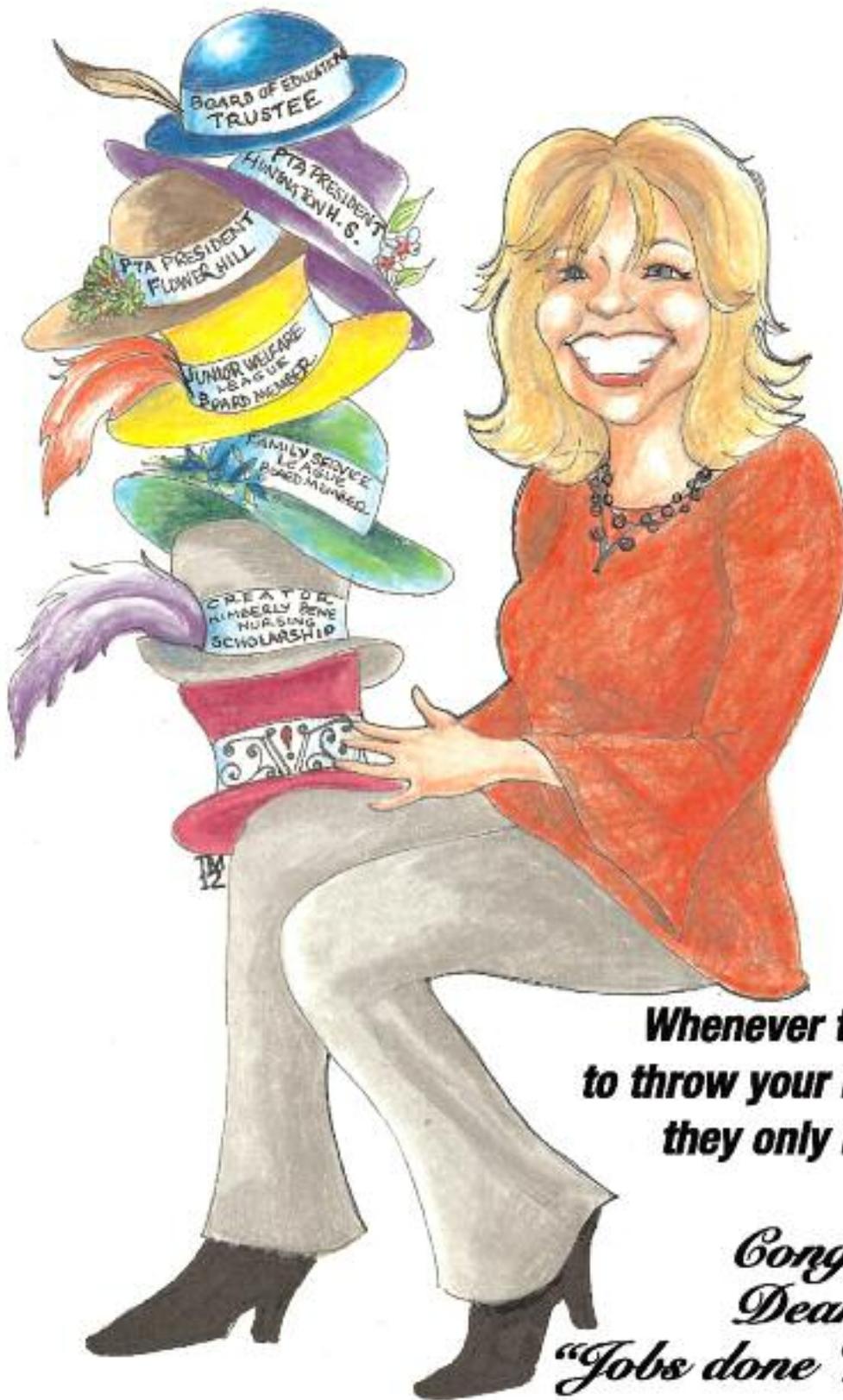
When we join together for the common cause of improving education for our students, we all benefit. Thank you again to the Foundation for making this magical evening possible.

Again, thank you to the Foundation for making this evening possible. Enjoy!

Warm Regards,

Emily Rogan

President, Board of Education



**Whenever they asked you
to throw your hat in the ring,
they only had to ask you
"Which one?"**
*Congratulations
Dear Friend to
"Jobs done Very well!"*



2013 Reach for the Stars Honoree

CHRIS BENE



At this year's gala, the Foundation is honoring former PTA president and Huntington School Board member Christine Bene with the group's Spirit Award in recognition of her exceptional volunteer efforts over the years to provide the young people of the community with a first-rate academic and co-curricular experience.

Mrs. Bene was elected in May 2008 to serve a three-year term on the Huntington School Board. She has lived in Huntington with her husband Andrew for nearly 39 years. The couple sent three children to the school district.

Prior to her election as a trustee, Mrs. Bene was a member of the district's PTA Council for six years, serving the last two as its president. She has served on a variety of district committees and on the Lowndes Avenue Task Force. She has also participated on five different shared decision-making teams.

In addition to extensively volunteering with the district, Mrs. Bene been a longtime Family Service League board member and is active with her family's Kimberly Bene Foundation, which provides nursing scholarships to graduating seniors.

"We are, once again, looking forward to an enjoyable event at which an individual who has done so much for the Huntington school community through the years will be recognized and honored," Superintendent James W. Polansky said. "Congratulations and thanks go out to Chris Bene, and thank you to the HFEE organization for all that those involved have done to coordinate the event and for everything they continue to do for our students and staff!"

Over the past decade the Huntington Foundation has presented its Spirit Award to Michelle Marino, Barbara Cutrone, John J. Finello, Doris Quintilian, Vicki Mingin, Beverly Wayne, Lou Giani, the district's nursing staff, Eunice Marchi and Joan Fretz.



What Is the Huntington Foundation?

The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education is a not-for-profit (501(c) (3) organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of education in the Huntington Union Free School District. A copy of the Foundation's annual report may be obtained upon request from Huntington Foundation, or the office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271.

Why Was Huntington Foundation Created?

It was formed 20 years ago to create opportunities for our children that the school budget could not provide. At that time, the district, like many others, struggled with failed budgets and disgruntled taxpayers. The parents who started the Foundation believed that they could match the resources of the greater community with the creativity of the district teaching staff with some wonderful results. Over the years, the Foundation has received public recognition for its accomplishments from Suffolk County Legislator Jon Cooper as well as Assemblyman James Conte.

How Does All this Work?

The Huntington Foundation has awarded more than \$850,000 since its inception in 1993 through two grant channels, both invitations for teachers and administrators to apply. The Foundation also supports Greenkill and Field Trip funds, and, in 1999, a Millennium Fund, which was established for financial growth.

Mini-Grants provide special projects money for classroom activities that go beyond the core curriculum, such as unique computer software, a wildlife garden, or a disability awareness workshop. These financial requests are as high as \$1,000.

Reach for the Star Grants fuel grade and school-wide initiatives that have a broad impact or grand vision of education. These grants have provided seed money for the development of a Huntington Heritage Museum, computers for an entirely new course in visual arts, and a one-year pilot program in partnership with the Queens College Center for Environmental Teaching and Research at Caumsett State Park that is now a permanent part of the primary-school curriculum. Reach for the Stars Grants usually exceed \$1,000 and have been as high as \$11,000.

The Field Trip Fund, established in 1999, is designed to assure that no student misses an educationally enriching trip due to financial need.

The Greenkill Fund was established in 1996 to provide scholarships for students who cannot afford the full cost of participating in our top-ranked environmental program, the culminating activity to the sixth-grade science curriculum. The three-day program, presented at the Greenkill YMCA Camp in the Catskill Mountains, provides environmental workshops and activities that give students hands-on knowledge as well as experience in responsibility and independence.

The Millennium Fund, underwritten by a \$10,000 anonymous donation received at the end of 1999, is intended to provide the Foundation with "an on-going source of funding." The donor has instructed board members to invest the money in securities or other financial instruments so the fund will grow over time, and, when it reaches a target level, be used to contribute a significant amount of support to activities. According to the plan, 50% of the annual profit of the fund will be used to sponsor Foundation programs and 50% will be reinvested.

How Does the Huntington Foundation Raise Money?

Huntington Foundation currently holds one fundraiser each year and accepts donations at any time:

Reach for the Stars Gala: A district-wide grand evening event with wonderful basket offerings from our parents and the larger community. An opportunity to celebrate what we all want, excellence in education, and the event features the presentation of the Huntington Foundation Spirit Award as well as entertainment.

Donations: Donations can be sent directly to the Huntington Foundation, PO Box 552, Huntington, NY 11743, at any time. Individuals who give to the United Way through payroll deductions can also direct a portion of their gift to the Foundation via our Greenkill and/or Field Trip Funds, agency code 026811. Companies that provide charitable matching programs may also be able to contribute since the Foundation is a non-profit organization. Please inquire – we can easily help you set it up. Questions, Call any of our officers.

Why Get Involved with the Huntington Foundation?

EVERYONE WINS! The Foundation raises funds that increase educational opportunities for students and supports staff development for teachers.

How Can You Reach Us?

Go the Huntington District website at www.hufsd.edu or our website at www.hfeeonline.net or feel free to contact any officer directly:

Event Coordinator:

Laurene Napurano, 631-988-0949

VP Grants Administration:

Sheri-Lewis Taylor, 631-423-0514

VP Marketing:

Janice Kimchy, 631-424-6092 and Denise Stieve, 631-425-2693

Treasurer:

Karann Pashkin, 631-423-6472

A FEW OF THE GRANTS THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE BENEFITTED FROM



JEFFERSON PRIMARY SCHOOL- SMART BOARD



JEFFERSON 2ND GRADE VEGETABLE AND HERB GARDEN



SOUTHDOWN 2ND GRADE FINDING MY WAY CORNELL EXTENSION MAPS, CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY

Thanks to the Huntington Foundation for their generous gift which has enhanced my teaching so very much. My kids applauded when I told them of the grant.

*Clady Zahradnik
100 Grade, Woodhull*



WOODBULL 4TH GRADE SMART BOARD

The students are so focused every time I use the SMART Board. Thanks again!

*Clady Zahradnik
100 Grade, Woodhull*



HHS - VIDEO DEPARTMENT IMACS

Thank you for helping us to enhance the video lab and the educational process. We are grateful for your continued support and generosity.

Mrs. Heather Struss



FLOWER HILL PRIMARY FROM CHICKEN TO EGG



PARTIAL GRANT FOR RENOVATION OF HHS WEIGHT ROOM



HHS - A/P HISTORY CLASS IMAC



TRIATHALON CLUB AT HHS TRIATHALON GRANT



HHS - BIOLOGY CLASS COMING TO LIFE - SMART BOARD

Children love to express themselves and when they are 7 & 8 the more they can use their creativity and imagination, the better the experience. Thank you for helping us "spark" the interest of young children in the Huntington School District.

Maryann Daly, The Search Program



HHS - ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

A FEW OF THE GRANTS THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE BENEFITTED FROM



**WASHINGTON PRIMARY
3RD GRADE -
JEOPARDY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Washington Primary School gives thanks to the Huntington Foundation for the generous grant they have awarded us.

The grant has brought the outside world a little closer to our students...Our former maps were very old and out of date. Our new maps have been put to great use and have become an integral tool in our academic program.

The visual aspect of learning cannot be underestimated.

Washington Primary School



**WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
MAPS AND GLOBES**



**HHS - A/P ART CLASS
ANATOMICAL MODELS**



**WOODHULL & JACK ARRAMS -
GREENKILL FIELD TRIP FUND**

Greenkill is exceptional and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation throughout the years.

It is a very valuable learning trip from the bus ride throughout the 4 day program.

Every second is invaluable, and it is a memory for all the 6th grade students that last a lifetime.

Dr. Keith Meyers & Ms. Allison VanVance



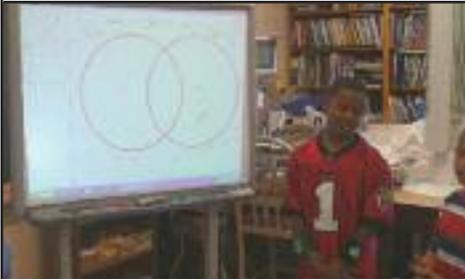
**HHS -
STUDIO IN FASHION DESIGN**



**HUNTINGTON SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
MICROSCOPES**



**JEFFERSON PRIMARY -
MUSIC CLASS
NOTEWORTHY CARPET**



**JEFFERSON PRIMARY
2ND GRADE -
SMART BOARD**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Huntington Foundation for all their help and support. It is my hope that this exposure to technology will allow students to become computer literate at an early age. It has enhanced their learning experience.

*THOMAS
ESL at Jefferson Primary*



**WOODHULL
DOCUMENT CAMERA**



**HUNTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS
SCIENCE CONNECTION**



**HHS - ART DEPARTMENT
PRINTMAKING**

I am overjoyed by the Board's decision! I want to thank the board for your personal support and interest in the "Printing Across Curriculum" Star Grant. With your grant the corner stone for learning and enhancing each student's creative process has been set in place.

*Robert Fuller
Art Department at HHS*

A FEW OF THE GRANTS THAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE BENEFITTED FROM

Having technology at my fingertips has changed the way I teach. The lessons I teach are meeting the needs of many different types of learners. A picture or video clip is worth a thousand words... I am grateful to the folks at the Huntington Foundations...
 Ms. Nugent, 7th Grade Science



FINLEY 7TH GRADE SCIENCE - SMART ROOMS

...this has allowed the 7th grade to integrate technology directly into the classroom and gave the 7th grade teachers the freedom to try many new approaches. Our 'Dream' of having technology in the science department became reality because of the Huntington Foundation.
 Ms. Nugent, 7th Grade Science



PRIMARY SCHOOLS MAB SCIENCE PROGRAM



HHS- CREW TEAM



HHS- MARCHING BAND

The Woodstock Exchange Program was a great experience. Everyone took part and learned a great deal... Being able to live in a different community with kids your own age was really eye opening... When it was our turn to host the exchange program the Huntington HS students were jumping at the chance to bouse their new friends.
 The Vermont Exchange Program



HHS - SOCIAL STUDIES VERMONT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



WASHINGTON PRIMARY LETS PRESENT STAR GRANT



JACK ABRAMS - 6TH GRADE CLASS SMART BOARD



HHS- VIEW THE WORLD IN HD



HHS- APPLE ITOUCH

Workshops

will be developed that will enhance skills including learning about personal presence, how to project your voice, how to focus on a subject, how to become a valuable member of a group presentation

DISTRICT WIDE - 6TH GRADE SPEAK UP STAR GRANT



SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SENETEO INTERACTIVE RESPONSE



FLOWER HILL WIRELESS AIRLINER

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education - Star Grant History

MPEE's STAR Grant provides funding, in excess of \$1,000, for educational initiatives that impact a grade(s), department(s) or/and school(s), such as learning activities, workshops, and materials that are not funded by the school budget. Grants are NOT specifically for electronics and equipment, but for all innovative educational projects!

School Name	Project Awarded	School Year	Applicant	Details for Use of Grant
Flower Hill	• Home Chicken to Egg	2008-2009	Tacey Nicholas	SEABOZ Dept - all primary schools to benefit from this interactive starbook workshop.
	-- Tell me a Tale (if grant approved for use at a school)	2007-2008	Mary Ann Daly	
Jefferson	-- Tell me a Tale (if grant approved for use at a school)	2007-2008	Mary Ann Daly	SEABOZ Dept - all primary schools to benefit from this interactive starbook workshop.
	• Smart Board	2007-2008	Brian Foster	2nd grade
Southdown	• Senetec Interactive Response	2010-2011	J. Lobo DePere Gerran	Provides a direct connection between teacher and students, a two-refer feedback to the level of understanding of material, highly interactive lesson that includes a menu for each student in the class, a central response and rewards software.
	-- Tell me a Tale (if grant approved for use at a school)	2007-2008	Mary Ann Daly	
Washington	• Let's Present	2010-2011	Ms. White	School shared projector laptop and flip camera to enhance student/teacher research projects, theater and musical productions.
	-- Tell me a Tale (if grant approved for use at a school)	2007-2008	Mary Ann Daly	SEABOZ Dept - all primary schools to benefit from this interactive starbook workshop.
Woodhull	• Maps and Globes	2007-2008	Georganna White	Maps and globes for the primary school
	• Speak Up	2010-2011	Ms. Daly	Workshops for the development of personal presence, voice projection, and group presentation. Sessions will be exercises and lessons teaching students to become fortified with the ability to speak up in a more confident manner.
Jack Abrams	• Smart Board	2007-2008	Christina Anderson / Newick	
Finley	• Cell Culture Lab	2011-2012	Lynn Newby	Contributed a small lab at back of the science research classroom where students can perform experiments with cell culture.
	• Apple Touch	2010-2011	Mr. Krummstaecher & Craig McKee	Purchase of 30 Apple iPod Touch data devices and an iMac Computer used to provide a platform for a multitude of educational programs. A room for both the English and Science classrooms.
	• View the World in HD	2010-2011	Heather Swan	A high-end video camera to help students explore/enhance school wide projects, filming of newscast and other school video projects.
	• 21st Century Electives	2008-2009	Heather Swan	Funded 1/3rd of total cost for 18 monitors for the Water department
	• Portable Computer	2008-2009	Bernadette Wash	Portable computer for college advisor
	• Local History Digital Preservation	2008-2009	James Grober	Invest for APH history class
	• Renovation of Weight Room	2008-2009	George McCorty	Funded a portion of the overall grant. Primarily funded by the Booster Club.
	• Crew Team	2008-2009	Mark Jensen	Monies towards a trailer needed by the Crew Team
	• Portable Computer	2007-2008	Jacqueline Leonard	Portable computer for special ed speech department
	• Printmaking	2007-2008	Robert Putzer	Print making for the Art Department
	• Lifeskills	2007-2008	Patrick Asson	Kitchen for special ed classroom
	• Smart Cart	2007-2008	Patrick Asson	Sink for special ed classroom
HHS	• Coming to Life	2007-2008	Andrew Heughebaert	Smart board for biology class
		2007-2008	Lynn Pyciocha	



Always knew you would be recognized for the caring and dedication you put into every undertaking. Love Roe & Donald

*Congratulations Chris! You are very deserving.
– Sarah Acton*

*Congratulations on being this year's HFEE Honoree!
We thank you for all you have done for our schools and our community.
– The DiaGiamcomo Family*

*Congratulations Chris and Thank You!
– William Brennan and Patricia Jordan*

*Chris, 14 years ago we met.
You told me not to fret we would do it together, and we did!
Congratulations! Love, Ann*

*Chris, 14 years ago we met. You told me not to fret we would do it together, and we did!
Congratulations! Love, Anne*

Congratulations Chris! It has been a pleasure working with you. Barbara Cutrone

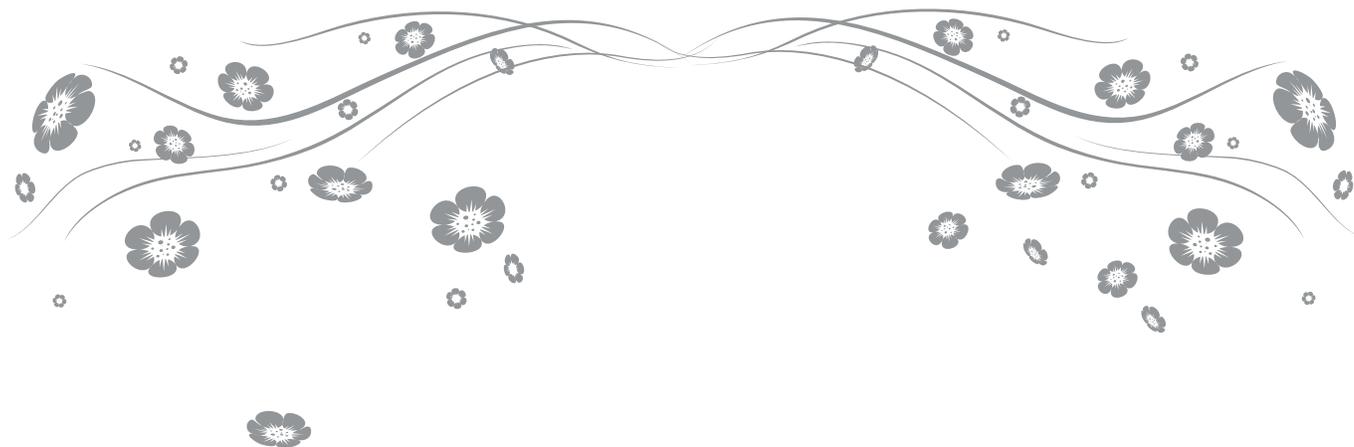
*Chris, Thank you for your commitment to Huntington Schools and our community.
You are so deserving of this honor. Congratulations! – Guy and Linda Guido*

To Chris Bene Who has Always Been a Star! – Andrea & Peter Klein

*Thank You To Chris Bene, A Woman Of Intelligence, Style And Substance, Who Has
Worked Tirelessly For Our Students In Huntington. – Mary Ann & Frank Scalia*

*You have always set the bar for excellence, congratulations on your award.
– Marilyn & Don Proferes*

*We would like to congratulate & honor Mrs. Chris Bene as
past President of the Junior Welfare League/Huntington. Thanks for your service.
– Julie LaBella & Alice Marie Rorke, Past Presidents JWL Huntington*



Congratulations Mom!

We are all very Proud!

Love,

Andy Sr., Brooke, Andy Jr. & Bryan



A T T H

Associated Teachers of Huntington

The Associated Teachers of Huntington gratefully acknowledge the lifetime of service of Chris Bene to our district and community.



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*We'd like to thank our good friend
Christine Bene
for her many years of dedicated service.*

Richard J. & Maureen Rouse



Elizabeth A. Perlstein, DPT

Peter Yeager, MSPT

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Thank you to
CHRIS BENÉ
for her spirit and her dedication
to the Huntington community
and
congratulations on being awarded the
Spirit Award
by the
Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

From the Staff and Board of
Family Service League

Huntington



SEPTA

(Special Education PTA)

2012-2013 Board
Congratulates
Mrs. Chris Bene

SEPTA SUPPORTS
THE HUNTINGTON FOUNDATION
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Those who can, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer.

Best of Luck and Continued Support
to the
Huntington Foundation
for your

Reach for the Stars Gala



SUSAN A. BERLAND
Councilwoman

Town of Huntington
100 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743
sberland@huntingtonny.gov | (631) 351-3173



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
CHRIS BENE
ON THIS WELL DESERVED HONOR!**

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO HFEE FOR ALL
THAT YOU DO FOR HUNTINGTON'S
SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS!**

**Jim Polansky
Joe Giani
Ken Card
Sam Gergis**

*Glen A. Suarez, ESQ.,
Congratulates the HFEE 2013*

"Spirit Award"

Recipient Mrs. Chris Bene

Glen A. Suarez, P.C.

Attorney at Law

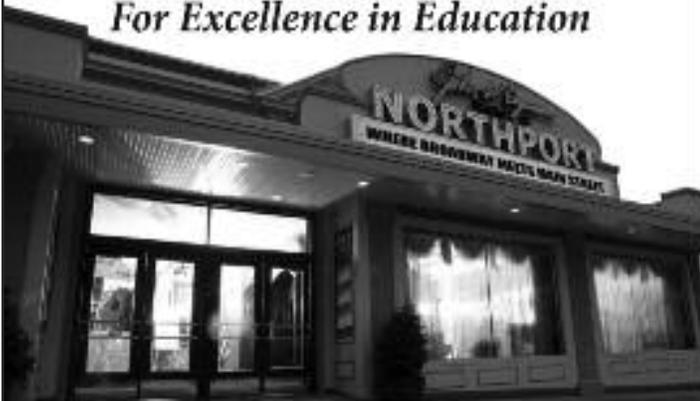
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*The Huntington High School
PTSA 2012-2013
would like to Gratefully Acknowledge
and Congratulate
Mrs Chris Bene
for her outstanding and
unwavering dedication to
the Huntington Community.
We salute you as Past PTA President
(Woodhull, Flower Hill and
Huntington Intermediate)
PTA Council President,
School Board Member, and
Tireless Volunteer!
(1999-2011)*

Southdown Primary PTA



We congratulate Mrs. Chris Benet on receiving this year's "Spirit Award" and thank you for all your support for our students, teachers and schools! Your contributions have made a real difference to our community!

Those who can, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer.



Cosmetic Dentist - Huntington
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Huntington, NY 11743
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Congratulations

Chris Bene

for your commitment to our schools and
the children who attend them

and our thanks to

You and Your Family

for generously sharing your service and
love of rowing with the Crew Team
in Andy's skills & the spirit of "Kimbo"



Deborah and Marc Jensen Dee and Andy Kitzen



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The 2013 Spirt Award

Mrs. Chris Bene

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**Our Congratulations to
Mrs. Chris Bene
on this much deserved honor!**



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**Congratulations Chris!
Thank you for all you've
done for our kids!
With sincere gratitude,
The Maggio Family**



*Congratulations
to Chris Bene
from the Palacios Family*



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Attorney

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Appreciation is a wonderful thing.
It makes what is excellent in others
belong to us as well. ~Voltaire



Congratulations Mom!

You represent what it really means to "giving back" to the community. You make every moment something to celebrate.

You truly are an inspiration to ALL.

*Love & Kisses, Brooke, Bryan, Andy,
Madison and Bond*

CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS,
ON BEING HONORED BY THE
HUNTINGTON FOUNDATION
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —
YOUR DEDICATION TO THE STUDENTS
AND
COMMUNITY OF HUNTINGTON
HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXEMPLARY.
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MORE THAN YOU FOR ALL YOU
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*The Principals and
District Directors
would like to
congratulate
Chris Bene
on her
“Spirit Award”
D.S.P.A.*

*Chris Bene
Congratulations
on your
“Spirit Award”
Honor*

Georgia Deren McCarthy

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*The Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education
would like to thank The Woodlands for their generosity.*

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"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne frank



Chris –

You are an *inspiration* to us all.
The *dedication* and *love* that you
have given to this school district
is *extraordinary*

With love –

The Ryan Family





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*Congratulations Chris and thank
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dedication and devotion to the
Huntington School District.
As a Board of Ed trustee,
PTA President and parent,
you are the shining definition
of "volunteer"!*

*The Huntington Council of PTA's
Bari Fehrs
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*Chris,
You teach us all by example
what true service and
philanthropy mean.
You stand up for those who
can't stand up for themselves.
Congratulations on a
well-deserved honor.
With love,
The Rogans*

The world is hugged
by the faithful
arms of volunteers.

~Terri Guillemets

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