

# CCF NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Spring/Summer 2013

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CROCKETT COMMUNITY, NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

## Community Focus - John Swett Education Foundation



*The John Swett Education Foundation uses innovative means to help fund local school programs jeopardized by budget shortfalls. (Photo credit: JSEF.)*

By Chris Goehe and Robert Muzinich

Every year California schools face an uphill battle for funding to keep essential programs alive, and to provide basic classroom supplies with ever-diminishing budgets. Founded in 2006 by Beverly Hill, the **John Swett Education Foundation (JSEF)** has been providing assistance to John Swett Unified School District (JSUSD) students and teachers alike, working to help fill the funding gaps wherever they can. By supporting classroom needs and programs that promote academic achievement, personal growth and the health of JSUSD students, the JSEF has been making a real difference. From paying for extra training for math and Spanish teachers, to teaming up with Rodeo Hills PTA and funding a field trip to the Academy of Science for kindergarten and first grade students, to providing scholarship aid to John Swett High School students, the JSEF makes special things happen. In 2012, JSEF gave \$15,518 to fund teacher requests, \$2,050 for student activities, \$5,400 to JSUSD for technology upgrades, and \$1,250 for student scholarships.

JSEF president Marianne Clark believes that getting people to care about education and become involved is very important to help make our schools a success. Fundraising for education can be challenging, and JSEF has been very creative in partnering with outside organizations. Besides regularly applying for matching funds from the Crockett Community Foundation, JSEF has been successful with *Donors Choose*, a website for teachers who have classroom needs. Like the more familiar *Kickstarter* fundraising site, *Donors Choose* allows individuals to donate small amounts for a specific project identified by a local teacher. JSEF has started several campaigns with seed money that reached the full dollar amounts to fund featured projects. Some of the money raised has been used to provide six computers used to conduct the summer school program at JSUSD, and has also funded a professional presentation at Rodeo Hills about eating healthfully and nutritionally. Visit [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org) to support your teacher's project.

While the group employs many different fundraising activities over the years, it is the annual JSEF prom for grown-ups slated for each November that people remember the most. The prom is a great evening of fun

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## Message from the President

I have been putting off writing this column for the same two reasons that I finally sat down to do it: my two children are endless distractions, both joyful and frustrating ones. I push myself to work on this newsletter, however, to get the word out about the Crockett Community Foundation. I would like more people to know about its purpose and its many accomplishments. The more people who know about the Foundation, and are thereby moved to participate and to support it, the better our community becomes. I have seen this exchange happen many times in the short 7½ years I have been here in Crockett, and I see the benefits for my own children as well as the ones I've grown to know and love here.

CCF provides local nonprofit organizations with a means of increasing- often doubling- their fundraising abilities. Someone volunteering as Treasurer recently remarked to me that her small organization has enough money in the bank to "breathe," since they have started participating in CCF's fundraising assistance program. "We are no longer just scraping by each month, but are in fact broadening our already ambitious slate of community activities," she told me. This is a success story for our whole community.

These next few months will be filled with change and activity. The CCF board elections in June will result in three board members who will serve a 3 ½ year term. The Crockett Community Pool will open at the end of the month, which heralds to me the beginning of summer. There is a lengthy (but by no means complete) list of summer events on the back page of this newsletter for us all to look forward to. Many of these events are free or low cost due to Foundation support, so get out there and dance! Even the weather is cooperating with this idea of fun-loving behavior, encouraging flowers to bloom and allowing people to go about their daily business in shorts and skirts.

A great way to celebrate our unique and fun-loving community is to get involved- not just attending an event but by volunteering. A list of local nonprofits is available at the CCF office; you will be sure to find an organization that fits your interests. I wish you an enriching and wonder-filled summer.

Erin Mullen-Brosnan, CCF President

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CCF News Editor and Designer:  
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Content and assistance for this issue generously provided by Chris Goehe, Aime Maricich, Dolores Morales, Erin Mullen-Brosnan, Robert Muzinich and Jeanne Owens.

### CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 155  
Crockett, CA 94525  
Tel: 510-787-9708  
Fax: 510-787-1346

Email: [info@crockettcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@crockettcommunityfoundation.org)

Website: [www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org)



## New Deck at Old Homestead

A recent grant of \$41,000 from the Crockett Community Foundation allowed the Carquinez Women's Club to renovate the deck behind the historic landmark building. "The deck is now structurally sound, and we are very thankful to the Foundation for that," says Women's Club member Cherie Bellecci. The deck is often a selling point for renting the venue. The Women's Club maintains the property using fees from the renting out of the Old Homestead for weddings and other receptions. The Old Homestead is booked through almost every weekend this summer, so the new deck will not only be sturdy and safe, but also well used! (Photo credit: Erin Mullen-Brosnan.)



# CCF Board Approves Grants for New Community Projects

**JUNE 2012: Fundraising Assistance** - John Swett Athletic Boosters Dinner Dance, \$1,000 to match \$1,365.53; Crockett Women's Association Pampered Chef \$481.37 to match \$481.37; CREEC Spring Plant Sale \$1,000 to match \$1,169.48; Crockett Swim Team Pizza Card Sales \$1,000 to match \$2,780; Crockett Swim Team See's Candy Sales \$902.25 to match \$902.25; Carquinez Model Railroad Society Town Wide Yard Sale and Show \$1,000 to match 1,623.00. **Microgrants** - Crockett Recreation Merchandiser for Pool \$1,000. **Grants** - Crockett Recreation - Community Entertainment \$9,300; Crockett Bocce League - Bocce Court Improvements \$9,650; Crockett Chamber of Commerce - Sugartown Festival \$6,000; Port Costa Conservation Society - School Sprinklers \$60,000.

**AUGUST 2012: Fundraising Assistance** - CREEC Summer Plant Sale \$935.34 to match \$935.34; Lion's Pasta Feed \$1,000 to match \$1903.93; Boy Scouts Fish Fry \$1,000 to match \$4,011.75. **Microgrants** - Crockett Museum and Historical Society: Digitize Publications \$1,000.

**SEPTEMBER 2012: Fundraising Assistance** - Carquinez 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Promotion Party \$1,000 to match \$1,290; Port Costa Conservation Society Sugar Town Festival Booth \$173 to match \$173. **Microgrants** - Carquinez Middle School Challenge Day \$1,000.

**OCTOBER 2012: Fundraising Assistance** - CREEC Fall Plant Sale \$857.18 to match \$857.18; Crockett Improvement Association Paint Out \$1,000 to match \$1,374.42; Crockett Lion's Club Community BBQ \$1,000 to match \$1,187.

**NOVEMBER 2012: Fundraising Assistance** - Crockett Firefighters Spaghetti Dinner \$1,000 to match \$2,214.11; Carquinez Model Railroad Society Train Show \$803 to match \$803; Port Costa Conservation Society Art Show \$1,000 to match \$6,000.60. **Microgrants** - Crockett Firefighters Christmas Decorating \$1,000.

**DECEMBER 2012: Fundraising Assistance** - Crockett Swim Team Pancake Breakfast \$940.01 to match \$940.01; St. Marks Church Spaghetti Dinner \$1,000 to match \$1,844.87; John Swett Band Boosters Candy Sales \$1,000 to match \$2,444.55; John Swett Education Foundation Giving Campaign \$1,000 to match \$1,259.56; Carquinez Women's Club Celebrating the Silver Screen \$1,000 to match \$14,665.78. **Grants** - Crockett Community Services District Architectural Design for Memorial Hall \$15,000; Carquinez Women's Association Old Homestead Deck \$41,000.

**JANUARY 2013: Fundraising Assistance** - Carquinez Model Railroad Train Show \$585 to match \$585.

**FEBRUARY 2013: Fundraising Assistance** - Crockett Boy Scouts Mexican Dinner \$1,000 to match 2,294.78; John Swett Education Foundation Get Lucky Prom \$1,000 to match 5,015.74; Crockett Museum and Historical Society Night at the Museum \$1,000 to match \$1,287.89; Crockett Quilters Quilt Raffle \$1,000 to match \$1,927.59; Zampa Memorial Bridge Crab Feed \$1,000 to match \$6,075.

**MARCH 2013: Fundraising Assistance** - Crockett Bass Club Crab Feed \$1,000 to match \$4,735.83; John Swett Band Boosters Stadium Echoes \$1,000 to match \$1,965.65.

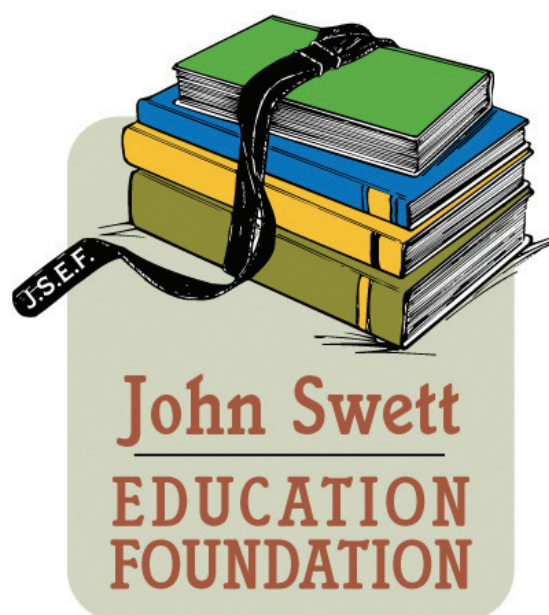
**APRIL 2013: Microgrants** - John Swett Drama Department Musical \$1,000; Crockett Community Services District Bridgehead Maintenance \$1,000; Crockett Improvement Association Downtown Plaza Maintenance \$1,000.

A big THANK YOU to all our community volunteers who put together so many great projects and events to benefit our towns! For more information about grant application procedures, please visit the CCF website at [www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org).

## Community Focus - JSEF update (Cont'd from page one)

for everyone with dinner, decorations, raffle prizes and dancing, but it is also very hard work and takes a lot of volunteer time to pull it off each year. Smaller JSEF fundraisers in the past have included E-Waste drives and the JSEF lemonade stand at the Sugartown Festival (coming up Sunday, July 21). Last year board member Kathy Kearns created the idea of an Annual Giving Campaign, designed to encourage JSUSD parents to give a little bit each year towards education in their children's district. Packets were created and sent home with school kids so parents could donate any amount they could afford. The money raised supported all four schools in the district: Rodeo Hills Elementary School, Carquinez Middle School, John Swett High School, and Willow Alternative School.

The all-volunteer JSEF board currently consists of Jennifer Butler, Marianne Clark, Christina Currington, Billie Davis, Paul Davis, Kathy Kearns, Marla Parada, Virginia Silver-Rimbach and Tracy Weber. The board meets the third Monday of each month at the Carquinez Middle School Library at 6:30 pm. Board President Marianne Clark encourages the public to attend and give ideas on how JSEF can continue to foster education in our district. One of JSEF's goals is to have a representative from each of the four schools in the district join the JSEF board as regular members, while another goal is to retain a college counselor for the high school seniors. Please visit [www.johnswettef.org](http://www.johnswettef.org) to learn more, to volunteer and to donate.



Crockett Community Foundation  
P.O. Box 155  
Crockett, CA 94525

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## Upcoming Crockett and Port Costa Events\*

**May 17:** Boy Scout Fish Fry at the Crockett Scout Hall

**May 18:** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk of Honor (supporting the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley and Crockett's Memorial Hall) across the Al Zampa Memorial Bridge.

**May 25:** Crockett Pool Opens to the Public

**May 27:** Memorial Day Celebration at the Crockett Museum & Free Concert (Generation Gap Band at Rithet Park)

**June 15:** Lion's Club Pasta Feed

**July 4:** Community BBQ & Free Concert (Beatles tribute band The Sun Kings, with food for sale) at Crockett Community Center

**July 6:** Carquinez Toy Train Operators Museum Train Show on Loring Avenue

**July 21:** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sugartown Festival on Rolph Avenue

**August 4:** Port Costa Car Show & BBQ at Port Costa School

**August 18:** Free Concert (The Unauthorized Rolling Stones) at Crockett Community Center

**September 8:** Lion's Club Community BBQ at the Crockett Scout Hall

**September 22:** Free Concert (The Cheeseballs) at Crockett Community Center

\*This is not a complete list. Go to <http://www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org/blog/calendar>, the Community Calendar, for more information on our great local happenings, or email [crockett94525@aol.com](mailto:crockett94525@aol.com) to submit events.

