

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southington Education Foundation

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**SOUTHINGTON EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

*Instilling a love of learning.*

The Southington Education Foundation will award DePaolo Middle School teacher Betty Swist a grant at its upcoming Grant Reception for her *Whisperphones for the Improvement of Language and Literacy* proposal.

The Whisperphones grant will impact students in grades 6, 7 and 8 as all will have access to Whisperphones, which are acoustic feedback devices that provide students the ability to improve their listening, speech and reading skills. Students speak into a mouthpiece and their voice is be channeled directly into their ears via headpieces, thus enabling the child to hear his or her own voice clearly and loudly.

“This project is geared towards using auditory feedback devices to enhance language learning and literacy for all students who struggle with reading and communication,” noted Swist in her grant application. “Overall, these devices will be an essential tool to build confidence in those students who struggle to communicate openly in the classroom setting, and enhance their ability to read proficiently.”

The Southington Education Foundation will award nearly \$6,000 in grant funding to five different teachers at its June 12 Grant Reception at Kennedy Middle School at 4 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the six programs being funded during this round of grants. Other schools receiving

grants are South End, Plantsville, Kelley and Derynoski Elementary Schools and Kennedy Middle School.

With the SEF grant money, Swist will purchase 24 Whisperphones, she said.

To date, the Southington Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$100,000 to Southington Public Schools, which have all benefited from the SEF's mission to instill a love of learning in students. To support the SEF, please like our Facebook page, visit [www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org](http://www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org) or consider joining the organization's Board At Large.