



By Melissa Peace

A bevy of locals were recognized last week for their various accomplishments during the local education foundation's largest fund-raising event of the year, which brought in thousands of dollars for Point Pleasant students.

The Point Pleasant Foundation for Excellence hosted another successful Hall of Fame Awards and dinner event on Friday, despite the weakening economy, drawing over 300 guests to the Crystal Point Yacht Club.



According to Regina Foley, the foundation's president, the evening brought in approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000, which will be used for the organization's various district projects.

"It was a great night. We had a large attendance in spite of the economy," said Ms. Foley.

Guests, who paid \$50 to attend the event, which also included a dinner, were able to watch as several individuals were inducted into the Point Pleasant Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees were Robert "Bob" Dikun, class of 1975; Karen Mulhall, class of 1976; Richard "Rich" Soldo, class of 1985; Jason Nase, class of 1992 and community member Constance "Connie" Maas.

Each inductee was on hand to receive the kind words of praise and recognition in front of the large crowd of friends and family members.

The night also served as time to highlight 10 students in the district who were receiving \$500 leadership scholarships from the foundation.

"The scholarship isn't just all about grades. All 10 [students] are active in community service and leadership roles either in athletics or in their class," said Ms. Foley.

The awards dinner also recognized teachers from the district who were chosen by the principals of each school to be highlighted.

"All of the students and teachers receiving awards were guests of the foundation," pointed out Ms. Foley.

Several students from the district also used the hall of fame dinner to showcase a recently developed project in conjunction with the life skills class at Point Pleasant Boro High School.

Taught by Phyllis Thomson, the students of the life skills class have created their own school store, called "Around the Corner" where they sell school-oriented products, such as magnets, clothing and other products.

On Friday night, the students were on hand to set up shop and sell some of their inventory.

Last fall, Ms. Foley said the education foundation donated \$2,000 for seed money to begin the project, which has been flourishing ever since.

"They had order forms and people were ordering and buying a lot of the inventory. It was so nice," said Ms. Foley.

Other talented district students in attendance during the event were the high school's a capella show choir, which performed several songs to entertain guests.

"It was a feel-good, warm event," said Ms. Foley.

The foundation, which has been holding the event for several years, also hosted representatives from other towns who came to see how the Point Pleasant organization runs its hall of fame dinner.

"There were two representatives from Barnegat and Neptune who were sent to the event to fact find and learn about us," said Ms. Foley. "All in all it was a really nice event.

The Point Pleasant Foundation for Excellence in Education, in existence for over 12 years, has donated over \$300,000 to the Point Pleasant School District in the form of teacher grants, student leadership grants, student scholarships, new technologies and the most recent gift of the Project Adventure High Ropes course.