

# GEF helps kids, families through pandemic

The pandemic created some unusual challenges for Groton educators and students, but the Groton Education Foundation was there to help.

The GEF made more than \$23,000 in grants during the past two years to support initiatives ranging from outdoor classrooms to distance learning and even access to healthy food that was reduced when schools closed.

The GEF gave Children First Groton \$3,000 in seed money for a program that provided 450 meals weekly to Groton kids and their families.

“The children were at home,” learning remotely, said Susan Corrice of Children First Groton. “You can’t do that on an empty stomach.”

Corrice said some people were in tears, they were so grateful for the help at a time when access to food was difficult. The program also provided hygiene products, masks and even books for children to read.

Other GEF grants during 2020 and 2021:

## **Groton Middle School Student Council**

\$476 for an outdoor classroom.

## **Mary Morrisson/Charles Barnum Elementary Schools**

\$509 to buy 13 ukuleles that diversity kids’ musical experiences.

## **Riverfront Children’s Center**

\$5,000 for computer equipment for STEM training and coding.

## **Fitch Senior High School Culinary Program**

\$4,400 for trips to the Yellow Farmhouse in Stonington, where students learned about food, farming and sustainability.

## **Bill Memorial Library**

\$2,198 for a new sound system and camcorder for virtual and outdoor programs.

## **Fitch High School Music Program**

\$4,506 for technology labs, including capacity for hybrid learning.

## **Mystic River Magnet School**

\$3,360 to extend the Core 5 reading program to grades 3-5.

## ***Save the date! GEF art auction is Sept. 24***

Join us at the Groton Elks Lodge from 6-10 for an enjoyable evening of entertainment, small bites and a live and silent auction featuring the work of local artists.

Silent auction items will be on display at the Groton Public

Library starting Sept. 1, with an opportunity to bid online.

The night will also include a drawing for a handmade queen-size quilt. Tickets are \$10 for a book of 10.

Admission on Sept. 24 is \$20. All proceeds benefit the GEF and its mission to support innovative educational programming for the Groton community.

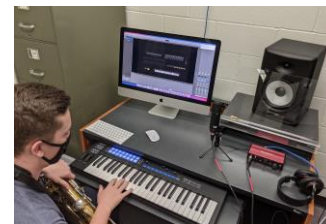


A queen-size quilt will be raffled during the auction. Get tickets at Bill Memorial Library or from GEF board members.



Families picked up meals provided by Children First Groton, above, at the Senior Center. At left, kids enjoy the meals. The Groton Education Foundation provided seed money that helped the program gain additional funding.

A GEF grant provided funds for a music technology lab at Fitch Senior High School. Students can record, mix and even compose music.



Students in the Fitch High School culinary program visited the Yellow Farmhouse in Stonington, thanks to a GEF grant. The trip gave them an opportunity to learn about food and also to get outside, move around and work together, says teacher Scott Post.

Elementary school kids get a chance to explore music in a new way – by playing ukuleles purchased with a GEF grant.



Musicians use a new sound system – thanks to a GEF grant – during a program at Bill Memorial Library. “It’s a night-and-day improvement over what we had,” says Library Director Wendy Connal.

For more information or to apply for a grant, go to [www.grotonschools.org/gef](http://www.grotonschools.org/gef).