



### **GEF Celebrates \$200,000 Goal by Granting One-Time Special Grant**

*by Barbara Cashman*

The GEF Arts Endowment was launched in 2004 for the purpose of bringing quality arts programming to the Granby community. Raising \$200,000 in a struggling economy proved difficult, but the GEF persevered by holding Arts fundraisers each year. Over the last six years, the GEF has hosted: Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin and Friends, the Connecticut Ballet, Cliff Eberhardt, and the Theatre Division of the Hartt School. In 2008, the GEF, working with Connecticut Ballet, produced *The Nutcracker*, an enormous undertaking which gave 140 local children the opportunity to perform alongside professional dancers in this timeless classic.

Most recently, local son, acclaimed songwriter and performer Fred Wilhelm, and friends Lori McKenna, Catie Curtis, and Mark Erelli, performed to benefit the Arts Endowment in a showcase that thrilled the audience and music critics alike, and ultimately pushed the Arts Endowment over the \$200,000 goal.

**What did these performances all have in common? Not only did they raise the awareness of Arts programming in Granby, but they all utilized the auditorium and sound system of Granby Memorial High School Auditorium.**

It was with this in mind that members of the GEF Grants Committee met with Bill Morgan of the GMHS Music Department, Michael Morgan, drama club director, and Janet Spatcher, drama club assistant director to discuss Ms. Spatcher's **grant proposal for the funds to purchase a Wireless Microphone System for the stage.**

The proposed sound system is comprised of several elements, the first being a sound "board" or mixer which allows sound control by a technician and adjustments during a performance. Body microphones, transmitters, receivers, a distribution system, a power conditioner, case, snake, and hanging microphones complete the package, which has a retail value of over \$20,000.

The GMHS representatives offered several compelling reasons for this proposal. First, the new equipment would be compatible with existing facilities. Second, rental cost for this equipment (which the Drama Club must pay each year) averages \$1,000, and the equipment is often worn and of poor quality, which results in poor sound delivery to the audience. Third, GMHS was able to secure several competitive quotes and rebates which resulted in a significant savings over retail value. Fourth, the auditorium is a very busy venue. "Other than the Drama Club, countless school functions, community groups, town events, visiting performers...are among the users," wrote Ms. Spatcher. "Additional beneficiaries of this sound system will be the countless attendees of performances and functions who will now be able to properly hear performances and presentations."

For these many reasons, and in recognition of the countless instances where the GMHS facility has provided benefit to the town of Granby, **the GEF Community Grants Committee and Board voted to grant \$12,516 for the purchase of the wireless microphone system.**

To learn more about this grant, the GEF Community Grants Program, and the variety of Arts events that have taken place for the benefit of the Granby community and the GEF Arts Endowment, please visit [www.granbyeducationfoundation.org](http://www.granbyeducationfoundation.org).