

October 15, 1007

**FUTURE MSAD 3 RAISES \$250,000 TO MATCH UNITY FOUNDATION
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER GOAL SURPASSED**

Additional gifts to be used to establish an endowment

UNITY, ME - It took just 497 days for FUTURE MSAD 3 to raise \$250,000 to meet a challenge grant provided by the Unity Foundation and to exceed the campaign goal for the performing arts center in the new Mount View school under construction in Thorndike.

On May 31, 2006 FUTURE MSAD 3 launched a capital campaign for the 300-seat performing arts center with the announcement of a \$250,000 challenge grant made by Unity Foundation Chairman and CEO, Larry Sterrs. On Wednesday, October 10th, the countdown to \$250,000 was completed when campaign officials received a handful of gifts ranging from \$25 to \$2,500.

The Unity Foundation made the naming gift in honor of their founders, Bert G. and Coral B. Clifford, and provided a dollar match for every dollar raised for the campaign, up to \$250,000. Bert G. and Coral B. Clifford have been long time supporters of SAD 3, economic development and the education of the youth of the State of Maine.

At an announcement held at the Unity Foundation office on October 15th, FUTURE MSAD 3 board chairman Steve Bennett said, "Thanks to the overwhelming response by contributors to the campaign, we have met the Unity Foundation challenge grant and exceeded the \$575,000 goal." The current campaign total stands at \$632,000. "We fully expect that amount to increase over the next two years as donors continue to contribute naming gifts for seats in the new performing arts center," Bennett added.

According to Bennett, the generosity of the Unity Foundation set the standard for the capital campaign. "The Unity Foundation's support gave us a tremendous amount of momentum and provided a compelling incentive for individuals, business owners, and

foundations to support the new Performing Arts Center that will benefit MSAD 3 students and residents in the 11 surrounding communities.”

In August, the FUTURE MSAD 3 board of directors voted to establish an endowment to support the Performing Arts Center with remaining funds after the final expenses for the facility have been covered.

“So while we have achieved the Unity Foundation challenge grant,” Bennett explained, “we are continuing the named seat campaign, and those gifts will help to establish an endowed fund that will support the new performing arts center for decades to come.”

Also on hand for the announcement were Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs Laurie Osgood of Belfast, President of UniTel and a 1980 Mount View graduate, and Rod McElroy of Unity, a former MSAD 3 Superintendent, Mount View High School Principal, and Guidance Councilor.

Osgood and McElroy both expressed their appreciation to campaign contributors for embracing the project.

“So many people have waited so long for this much-needed new school,” Osgood said, “and the Performing Arts Center will be part of the heart-and-soul of the new Mount View. It will be a high quality venue for students to sing, to act, play their instruments – and much more,” Osgood added.

“We are so grateful to the 340 donors who have contributed to make the Performing Arts Center a reality. Thanks to the generous support of individuals, families, businesses, foundations, clubs and organizations – we are here today to say ‘you’ve made a dream come true’ for so many,” Osgood said.

Construction of the new school got underway this past March, and is expected to be complete by mid-2009. Construction photos can be viewed online at www.msad3.org.

FUTURE MSAD 3 / Mt. View Performing Arts Center Campaign

FACTS

Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs: Laurie Osgood and Rod McElroy

Laurie Osgood lives in Belfast and is President of UniTel and a Mount View alumna, Class of 1980. **Rod McElroy** of Unity is a former MSAD 3 Superintendent, Mt. View High School Principal, and Guidance Councilor.

The campaign is funding a performing arts center in the new Pre-K to 12 Mount View School now under construction in Thorndike. Donor contributions are funding the electrical infrastructure, theatrical sound and lighting, acoustical design, a thrust stage and curtains, cat walk, control booth, and mezzanine, transforming the basic auditorium in the state-funded construction plan, into a true performing arts center.

Campaign goal: \$575,000 **Unity Foundation challenge grant: \$250,000**

Number of days to reach challenge: 497 – May 31, 2006 to October 10, 2007

Amount raised to date: \$632,000 (and counting) Contributions will continue to come in for named seats.

Endowment: Due to the overwhelming response by donors, funds remaining after construction will be used to establish an endowment to support the center for decades to come.

Total number of contributors: 340 (and counting) Contributions will continue to come in from donors who want to name seats in the new performing arts center.

Named seat campaign: 110 seats named; 184 seats remaining

Number of grants received: 12
Unity Foundation - \$250,000
Bank of America - \$50,000
MBNA Foundation - \$50,000
USDA Rural Development - \$30,000
UniTel - \$30,000
Oak Grove School Foundation (2) - \$5,500
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation - \$5,000
Maine Community Foundation (2) - \$2,500
Mattina R. Proctor Foundation - \$2,500
UniKids Care Club - \$500