

# Petaluma Educational Foundation

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PEF Office: 200 Douglas Street,  
Petaluma, CA 94952

Congratulations Class of 2009 Scholarship Recipients  
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*Heading out as far afield and as close to home as Princeton, L.A. Stanford and Cal Poly, U.C. San Diego, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State, Humboldt, Berkeley and beyond, outstanding graduates from each of Petaluma's public, private and continuation high schools were awarded a substantial \$178,000 in some 220 individual awards at the annual Petaluma Educational Foundation Scholarship Reception ceremony held at the Petaluma Sheraton Hotel, this May.*

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Petaluma's city-wide class of 2009 high school graduates is set to blaze a vibrant trail of creative ingenuity and academic accomplishment in Fall college admissions throughout the United States.

*"Scholarships are an incredible part of what we do at Petaluma Educational Foundation,"* said Executive Director of PEF, Janet Ramatici, speaking to a capacity crowd of Petaluma grads and their families, gathered in the Sheraton Grand Ballroom. *"These awards substantially kick-start college careers while providing our very generous donors with a way to give back to the community."*

New on the extensive scholarship award roster for 2009 was a \$500 Petaluma Area Veterinarian Scholarship, presented by Dr. Matthew Carter.

*"This is the first year that a group of Petaluma veterinarians has come together to award a scholarship to a local student planning to study for a career in animal sciences,"* said Dr. Carter. First recipient of the new Veterinarian Scholarship was St. Vincent de Paul High School grad Bennett Schalich, who plans to study animal sciences at Cal Poly.

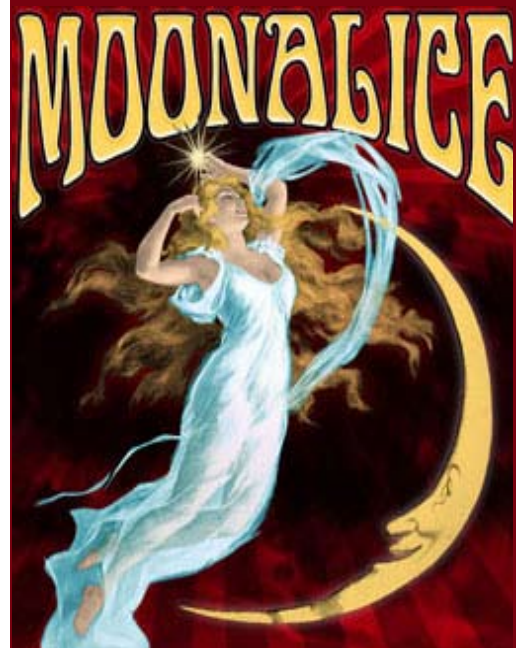
ATHLETA, Marlene Freetly in memory of Harvey Freetly, Rotary Club of Petaluma in memory of Harvey Freetly, and Alan J. Pounds were also

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## Scholarships Continued 2009 Award Recipients

new scholarships for PEF awards this year.

Six ATHLETA Scholarships were awarded to female students who excelled in sports and academics. Recipients were: Maria Fischer and Kathryn Thomas of Petaluma High School, Catherine Hitchcock, Melanie Mitchell and Megan Rabbitt of St. Vincent de Paul High School and Alexandra Woodbridge of Casa Grande High School.

Three recipients of the Petaluma Wildlife Museum Scholarship were PHS students Casey Kehoe, Hayden Richter and Kathryn Pounds. *"Without the Wildlife Museum, I would not be on the path I have chosen to take for college,"* said Kehoe.

Memorial scholarships were amongst the most moving of awards presented this year, as scholarship donors remembered late and much-loved family members and honored their memories with financial support for college-bound grads most deserving through specific criteria.

Fifty separate Scholarships are administered through PEF - open to graduates of all seven Petaluma high-schools. Applications will be available in late fall for 2010 graduates.

*"The donors of the 50 PEF Scholarships are an incredible group of individuals who really make a difference in the lives of 220 recipients and their families. Each donor established certain criteria for the award and provides the funds through endowments or direct donations. Our volunteer Scholarship Selection committee reads every application that is submitted and are constantly amazed and impressed by the accomplishments of the Petaluma graduates,"* said Katy Verke, Scholarship Program Manager for PEF.

*"The annual PEF scholarships are a perfect example of what makes Petaluma such a great place to live,"* said Ken Dennett, Board Member and former President of PEF.

[Click Here to Watch What the Class of 2009 had to say about PEF Scholarships!](#)

*Photography for this June issue of PEF e-News courtesy of Todd Cary, Aristephotography*



# Spotlight on Barbara's Bakery Garden Grants for 2009

If the Nation's First Lady were to pay a visit to any one of a variety of Petaluma schools, she would be met with a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience in how to make the most of a number of flourishing teaching gardens.

For First Lady, Michelle Obama famously planted fruit and vegetable seedlings in the new White House Garden this Spring, assisted by a group of Fifth Graders from a Washington D.C School.

And thanks to generous, on-going annual PEF grants funded by community-minded, Petaluma-based Barbara's Bakery, numerous schools throughout the city are already well under way with a 'White House' trail of sustainable, healthy lifestyle lessons being learned in a wide range of well-established teaching gardens.

"We're delighted to support so many school gardens here in Petaluma," says spokesperson for Barbara's Bakery, Jacquie Perlmutter, pictured here with students at Grant Elementary School Learning Garden.

The goal at Grant is to enrich math, plant science and health education curriculums through 'green' use of the Learning Garden.



Hear Jacquie from Barbara's Bakery talk with Grant School Teacher, Julia Megna

*As with the White House Garden, 600 pounds of last year's excess seasonal produce from St. Vincent de Paul High School's innovative PEF/Barbara's Bakery funded Victory Garden was donated to Petaluma Bounty and the Petaluma Ecumenical Project. The school's kitchen coordinator utilizes produce to involve young gardeners in cooking classes. Latin class students have designed labels with scientific names of plants and the Art department is designing T-shirts for the Garden Club. Theology teachers plan to utilize the garden for thoughtful meditation for faculty and students.*



*"Without the financial support of grants from Barbara's Bakery through PEF, the creation and ongoing development of our wonderful mission garden would have been an impossibility,"*

Jay Bushey, Upper Grade Teacher, Bernard Eldredge Elementary School, Petaluma



The 2008/2009 garden grants represent year nine in a generous, 10-year \$50,000 commitment by Barbara's Bakery via PEF. Schools which have benefitted are: Bernard Eldredge, Casa Grande HS, CG Native Plant Nursery, Grant, Mary Collins, McNear, Penngrove, Petaluma JH, Petaluma HS, St. Vincents HS, Two Rock, Valley Vista and Wilson.

## Bernard Eldredge Elementary Mission Garden

Bernard Eldredge Elementary School's perfectly contained learning garden is based on the Spanish Mission gardens of early California. Native plants and grapevines thrive throughout the year on a sustainable drip system, as students learn which plants, fruits and vegetables thrive in this environment. This year's PEF grant funded by Barbara's Bakery will provide funding for a Redwood Tree Fairy Ring and an orchard of fruit trees.