

Alanson Communicates Community Spirit

The Alanson Public Schools Improvement Team, consisting of parents, administrators, teachers, community members, and school board members, responded to the community's request for greater communication



between the school and the community by creating a plan to purchase and install an electronic message center. The group fundraised for over a year to reach the nearly \$40,000 cost of the sign, including a \$4,700 grant from the Community Foundation's Community Endowment and Youth Funds. The final report submitted at the conclusion of the project explains that "the messaging center was an essential piece in showing the commitment of the school and the community to each other," and that the Community Foundation's financial support was more than dollars: "the grant gave a sense of validity that inspired the final push for donations, grants, and municipalities' approvals that ultimately allowed the project to happen."

The community really came together around this project, collecting dollars from the Vocational Technology program, garage sales, ebay sales, ice cream socials, and over 25 generous donations from local businesses and individuals. "The Messaging Center has been a boost to morale in the school and in the community it is a sense of pride for all...It really has become a focal point in the community for all to see and cheer."