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# Avon Education Foundation fundraiser this weekend

## Four-year-old group aims to raise money for community initiatives

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By Christopher Neely

AVON-BY-THE-SEA – This weekend, a local third-party fundraising group will host an annual fundraiser with the aim of supporting community initiatives.

“Rock the Dock,” the Avon-By-The-Sea Education Foundation’s fundraiser, will kick off at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 16 at the newly-finished Avon Marina Building. Proceeds from the event will benefit the four-year-old education foundation and, in turn, promote educational programs and projects in the school community.

This year, the foundation plans to build off their already successful programs, such as adult education workshops, high school scholarships, elementary music and dance instruction and collaborations with other entities like the Avon Public Library.

According to the foundation’s vice president, Tess Nielsen, the mission of the foundation is not to only support the children’s learning environment at the elementary school, but to reach all of the residents in the borough.

“We clearly support Avon Elementary school, but the mission is much broader. Our goal is to promote educational enrichment for the entire community,” Ms. Nielsen said. “The choice of hosting the event at the New Avon Marina highlights the Foundation’s mission to promote town-wide learning and culture.”

Each year, the foundation takes aim at three main categories of philosophy; school enrichment, adult summer programming and technology equipment. Last year, a portion of proceeds from the event were used to install a new sound system for the municipal building.

This year, the foundation is applying for educational grants to supplement the implementation of specialized music, arts and science equipment to the elementary school.

On May 29, the foundation also plans to announce the recipient of their \$1,000 high school scholarship.

According to Mrs. Nielsen, those who come out to the event on Saturday evening will enjoy a wide selection of hors d’oeuvres, desserts, wine, beer and mixed drinks. Live musical entertainment will be provided by the Dingo Duo and Girls Gone Acoustic.

There will also be a 50/50 cash raffle and an Avon-By-The-Sea seasonal beach badge giveaway.

“This is a moment to celebrate the generosity of the entire community in pursuing our mission to develop enrichment opportunities in arts, culture, sports and continuing education for all the residents of the Avon,” Mrs. Nielsen said.

Tickets to the event cost \$75 per person and can be purchased by calling 732-925-4974, or online at [www.avonbytheseafoundation.org](http://www.avonbytheseafoundation.org).

While tickets will be available at the door, purchasing tickets in advance is suggested as space is limited.

## Photos

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The Avon Education Foundation will host its “Rock the Dock” fundraiser on Saturday, May 16 at the newly finished Avon Marina Building. The event is the biggest fundraiser for the third-party funding organization that aims to support community-wide initiatives. *Photo courtesy TESS NIELSEN*

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