

The Exchange Club of Beaver Dam

2009 Friends of Education

It is through the Exchange Club of Beaver Dam's commitment to "exchange" information and ideas that members become advocates for the district and students. This commitment is illustrated through the numerous projects and programs the club supports and the impact they have on students.

Their Youth of the Month program recognizes outstanding Beaver Dam High School seniors for their service, citizenship, and academic achievement. One of the Youth of the Month recipients is then selected as the Youth of the Year, which qualifies them for district recognition and a scholarship. One former award recipient wrote, "The award helped to solidify in me the importance of hard work and dedication to school." Another recipient said the Exchange Club of Beaver Dam "encourages students to keep making a difference in their community and the lives of others." The Club's Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (A.C.E.) Project recognizes high school students who have made a dramatic change in their attitude and performance during their high school years, which has enabled the students to overcome adversities and prepare for graduation. It provides recognition for students who are often overlooked for their accomplishments and it serves as a powerful example to all students that hard work and perseverance really do pay. A nominator wrote, "The Exchange Club has a long history of community service and has long held the view that all youth can achieve great things. They continue to search for meaningful and innovative ways to empower the youth of today and tomorrow."

Citizenship is also an important aspect of the Exchange Club of Beaver Dam and this is evident through the variety of Americanism projects they sponsor. The Club worked with students to install "Freedom Shrines", which is a collection of foundations of democracy documents that are used by social study classes to illustrate American history. They also purchase and install flags in classrooms and distribute small flags to children for the annual Memorial Day Parade.

In addition, The Exchange Club of Beaver Dam promotes child abuse prevention and strives for a safe community for both students and adults. The Club was instrumental in establishing a People Against a Violent Environment (PAVE) facility in Beaver Dam and they are an annual supporter. They also partner with a number of other community organizations and projects, such as Klossner's Kids, the High School Thanksgiving Food Drive, Habitat for Humanity, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.