

Sheryl Parente

Sheryl first became involved with REF as I than Elementary's PTO liaison to the board. Sheryl and her husband Joe have three children, and in her own words, she volunteers “to help fuel the growth, evolution and vitality of an organization that [she] believes is an important component of what makes RTSD such an exceptional educational experience for our children.” The Parentes have been consistent and generous donors, and with her background in marketing, Sheryl has served as a tireless and creative leader on fundraising efforts. She chaired REF's annual benefit in 2013 and 2014, subsequently taking on the role of Development chair, helping craft our corporate sponsorship program, our fall appeal, and continuing her hands-on involvement in the annual benefit. The successful sold out event we hosted at Jaguar Land Rover Main Line last February, a drastically altered vision of our formal gala, was the result of a conversation Sheryl started several years back within the organization, and she deserves the credit for championing this revisioning of our signature event.

Sheryl continues to serve on the Development committee and is in her second year on the Grant Committee. In that capacity, Sheryl remains one of REF's most ardent ambassadors - encouraging parents, teachers and community members to bring their ideas to REF for consideration as grant proposals. As a board member, Sheryl consistently challenges our organization to step up where there is an opportunity. Sheryl calls herself "a person who likes to say 'yes'" and the board can attest to the countless times that response has moved us to be the innovators, risk-takers, and believers in Radnor's children our families, friends and community depend on us to be.

For her leadership, dedication and countless hours of service on behalf of Radnor students and our community, we honor Sheryl Parente as Radnor Educational Foundation's 2017 Exemplary Board Leader.

I am honored to receive this award...Seven years ago [when I said yes to joining the board]... I wanted to get involved because as far as I could tell, the Radnor Educational Foundation was making a difference and had the potential to truly distinguish our school district and the opportunities for our students.

On the Board I've held many roles... and I am so proud of how we've grown...because at the end of the day, it's all about our children. When they thrive, we thrive and REF is a nimble, lean

organization that funds opportunities that promote a vibrant and healthy Radnor School district and Community. For that I am very proud.

When you invest in REF, you are putting your faith in the hands of this board and it's committees. I will tell you...that you can be rest assured your investment – whether it be time, money or both, is in great hands. We have such an amazing board – loyally led by John Reilly...and to the rest of this board whom I have had a hand in bringing on - I truly thank you...for believing in me - when I called you and said that this organization made a difference and that you could help us make even more of a difference..andyou said yes.

There's so much more I love about this organization – like all the fund and friend raising events, the student board members and the student advised fund. Neighbors Helping Neighbors and an amazing marketing team that I believe has branded us in a way that is understandable and truly valued.

I am both humbled and grateful to receive this award but truly the recognition should go to everyone [involved with REF]. We are one community and we are all in this together! I may roll off this board in June but I will always be... working on behalf of this organization and our community, standing Radnor Proud!