

Montgomery County's J.P. Mascaro & Sons Pledges \$10 Million for Area Education Programs



The renovation of the baseball field at Methacton High School has been financed by J.P. Mascaro and Sons of Audubon. The company pledged \$10 million Thursday for educational programs in Montgomery County schools. Thursday, September 25, 2014. Adrianna Hoff—The Times Herald

NORRISTOWN >> J. P. Mascaro and Sons, a solid waste removal company with headquarters in Audubon, announced Wednesday a pledge of \$10 million to fund educational programs, scholarships, and grants for students and teachers in area schools over the next five years.

"My father and company founder, Joseph P. Mascaro, a man of limited education himself, was a strong proponent of education in others. He firmly believed a well-rounded education to be the key to individual and societal development," said company President Pat Mascaro in a release. "Our company has been actively involved in this segment of the community for many years, and we are happy to be in a position to increase our level of participation."

The \$10 million pledge will almost double the \$6 million the company has already donated to schools in recent years. The programs range from environmental education tours of the company's waste treatment plant to the Respect Program, which offers interac-

tive assemblies to students focusing on respect of parents, teachers, the community, and the environment.

Bill Fox, an attorney for Mascaro, said the environmental tours have become so popular that Mascaro purchased a school bus to accommodate the 3,000 to 4,000 students who visit the plant each year. The tours not only serve as environmental field trips for elementary schools, but also as a destination for Montgomery County Community College students looking for research opportunities.

Respect for the environment, Fox said, is also one of the valuable payoffs of the Respect Program, which has reached more than 300,000 students in public, private, and parochial schools. Schools in Mascaro service areas can apply to have the program visit their schools with fun activities designed to impress upon students the importance of respect for a thriving community.

"It's fun and the kids like it," Fox said. "It's not a boring assembly. The children

participate in contests where they draw environmental posters to win prizes. It ends with kids having a greater respect for the environment and an understanding of the importance of recycling and reusing waste."

Recently the program has expanded to Morris County, N.J., after Mascaro won a contract to service the area.

Lindsay Mascaro Ptaszenski, director of education and community relations for Mascaro, cited the programs as win-wins for the community and the company.

"Nothing but good comes from such initiatives, whether at the school or community level, and my job is to make sure our company maximizes its support of beneficial educational initiatives," said Ptaszenski in a release.

"Our company's continuing commitment to the educational sector has also had a positive business benefit as well," Ptaszenski continued, "with Mascaro now providing waste-related services to a growing number of schools and educational institutions."

In addition to educational initiatives that impact the classroom directly, the company has funded several capital improvement projects for local schools, including donations to Visitation BVM in Lower Providence and the complete renovation of Methacton High School's baseball field into Robert Childress Memorial Field.

For students, parents and teachers interested in finding out more about Mascaro's educational programming, visit the "Education" section of the company's website, www.jpmascaro.com.