

Pair of Coventry teachers receive grants for school supplies

Julie Lima-Boyle and Tiffany Risch use the internet to get new materials for their high school classrooms

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COVENTRY — Two teachers at Coventry High School were able to receive funding from various donors to bring new teaching techniques to their classrooms.

English teacher Julie Lima-Boyle and science teacher Tiffany Risch both applied to DonorsChoose.org in hopes of receiving funding towards educational projects.

The non-profit organization gives people the opportunity to donate money towards public school teachers' materials.

Boyle explained that she heard about the website through her experiences as 2012 RI Teacher of the Year. She said she donated to other teachers and decided she should send a request herself.

"The funding supports projects the teachers would like to do in the classroom but they can't find money for," she said. "I went on and posted a project to get electronic readers for my classroom."

Once the project is posted on the website, various people, educators or companies donate money toward projects they feel are worthwhile.

Boyle said she received the last shipment of E-readers yesterday from the website and she is beginning to write thank you notes to all the donors.

She said she teaches a twelfth grade honors class and a basic literature class alongside

a special education teacher. She said the E-readers will be used as primary textbooks for her students.

"I'm so excited," she said. "I've wanted to do this for a couple of years. I've been writing grants and have never received funding so when I found out I received the money from DonorsChoose.org, it was wonderful."

She said Hasbro donated \$2,500 towards her project and altogether she received \$3,400. With that money, Boyle was able to purchase 18 E-readers.

"Even though I need a few more I'm a lot further than I was last year," she said. "I have 22 students in one class

and 19 in the other."

She explained that this year, until she receives more readers, she will have students use them in class and sign them out if they need to use them at home.

She said she will be using her own money to purchase more contemporary literature for the students to read. Luckily, literature that is more than 100 years old, such as Shakespeare's plays, can be taken from free websites.

Boyle said she is excited to see how the E-readers benefit the autistic students she has.

"I researched information



Julie Lima-Boyle



Tiffany Risch

Supplies on the way for pair

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on the E-readers and students with autism and I know it helps the students,” she said. “It may make it easier for them because the way they visually process information, they are either light sensitive or have trouble seeing shadows; sometimes the printed page is more difficult to read.”

Risch, who spent time with renowned oceanographer Robert Ballard in 2012 aboard his exploration vessel, said she first heard about the website from a teacher during her visit to the Naval Academy in Maryland.

She said this year the high school started an oceanography class, of which she is the teacher.

Through donations from the DonorsChoose.org website, Risch was able to receive \$800 towards her class. With the money she said she bought a book titled “Seasick: Educating Students About the Global Ocean in Crisis.”

She said the book covers topics that pertain to the curriculum of the class. She said she’ll have her students read and annotate the book. Risch said the new goal at the school is to increase literacy in the classroom, so using this book will cover current issues and reach the goal.

Like Lima-Boyle, Risch was touched by the support.

“I was shocked and I couldn’t believe that there are people out there that really care to donate and help kids and teachers achieve their dreams and goals to get resources to use in the classroom,” she said.