



Dear Parents and Teachers of the Howards Grove School District,

The Howards Grove Education Foundation is working towards bringing an outstanding program called “**Challenge Day**” to our high school and middle school youth (grades 7-12). This program is geared towards helping youth who are often faced with many emotional challenges among their peers or other situations that can be difficult to understand or cope with. The program is filled with activities that have a way of opening ones eyes to see things in a new light, or as though they were walking in some one else’s shoes. This creates understanding, empathy, connection and hope. This program also teaches students, through experience, how to connect with others through the heart and to see what is possible among the students, therefore contributing to a healthier community as a whole.

Over 1 million students have attended this program nationally, and internationally. Oprah Winfrey is one of many who have done a documentary on “**Challenge Day**” due to its high success. Kids are hungry for what the program has to offer. It is common for students to come into the program being closed off, fearful, or not wanting to be there. But they leave with open hearts, hope, the willingness to make change, and not wanting the day to end. Sincere connections are often made with their peers, to those with whom they never connected with before, and even to those who once bullied them! This may sound too good to be true, but I hope you can take a moment to view the 3 short video’s below (especially part 2 and 3) to see for yourself what is possible. You will be pleasantly surprised, and it may even bring a tear or two.

Part 1: 4.5mins

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_YuGSOvQ58

***Part 2;** 6:23min.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2AJ7Vcxk3w>

***Part 3:** 5:49min.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yCPI7FFIJK>



“**Challenge Day**” website: <http://www.challengeday.org/challenge-day-program.php>

If this speaks to your heart, and you would like to see this program come to the HG schools, please help bring awareness to the community by having your son or daughter walk in the **Howards Grove Silver Dollar Day parade on July 20th**. We hope to have a minimum of 50 youth participants including parents and teachers.

**** Please Sign Up & Order T-Shirts before JUNE 28th****

Call or E-mail Becky for details 565-4534. (Challenge Day Supporter T-Shirts cost \$10.00 each)

www.rdeamico@tds.net

Our GOAL is to raise \$15,000 by October of 2013 through fundraisers, with the parade being the kickoff. This money will pay for 300 students to attend 1 of the 3 day program. If you are unable to attend the parade, but would like to make a monetary donation, please send to:

Howards Grove Education Foundation at:

403 N. Audubon Road

Howards Grove, WI 53083 Attn: Matt Harms - Treasure

Or contribute online at: <http://www.hgeducationfoundation.org/index.html>

Sincerely,

Becky DeAmico (Director/Activity Coordinator)
Howards Grove Education Foundation

**Challenging You
to  the Change**