

VIPS Volunteers Recognized by Senator John Kerry in Congressional Statement

Falmouth Volunteer Week

as read by Senator John Kerry in the Senate Session, March 23, 2009

"Mr. President, this week marks the "Celebrate Volunteers Week" at the Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools program (VIPS) in Falmouth, Massachusetts. I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank those that participate in the VIPS program which fosters interaction between the citizens of Falmouth and their public schools. Through this connection

the schools are empowered to enrich their curriculum and the community at large benefits from a greater participation in their children's future.



Photo by Liz McGonagle

Drew O'Brien of Senator Kerry's office (*center*) at the March 24th school committee meeting, presenting a copy of the Congressional Statement celebrating VIPS to Drawdè Geishecker, VIPS Secretary; Tracey Crago, VIPS Director; Rebecca Moffitt, Falmouth School Committee; and Lou Larrey, VIPS Board of Advisors.

The volunteers in this nonprofit organization log about 40,000 hours each year in support of the students, faculty, administration, and the community. This incredible effort is also supported by the business community in Falmouth that not only invests in VIPS events, but also supports employee participation.

By comprehensively involving all facets of the Falmouth community, VIPS enriches the lives of all involved.

They provide mentoring and tutoring programs aimed at raising children's self esteem and teach English as a second language. They have made school to business partnerships that enhance the educational experience of students by sharing resources with local businesses and bringing in guest speakers. Their innovative Cross Age Science Teaching Program matches junior high school volunteers to help elementary school students learn about electricity.

They provide mentoring and tutoring

VIPS has grown from its inception in 1982, when they only had a handful of volunteers, to a robust program with over 1,100 volunteers in all seven schools of Falmouth. When we think about improving our education system, what we need to remember is that community involvement can make a world of difference. When you get folks in the community to volunteer and become a part of the educational process, they become invested in the success of the students. That is what is happening in Falmouth. I congratulate all of the people who have helped make the Falmouth Volunteers In Public [Schools] a success and I commend the work that they do."