

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christmas came early to three Hopewell Valley residents as they were the winners in the 50/50 raffle sponsored by the Recreation Foundation of Hopewell Valley for the Turf's Up! project. The Recreation Foundation sold \$11,000 worth of tickets resulting in prize money of \$5,500 "This is so exciting," exclaimed Lauri Rossi, the first place winner of the raffle.

The Turf's Up! project is off to a great start. In addition to the raffle, the Foundation also held its annual fundraiser, the Fall Ball, with over 200 community members in attendance. "This was the largest attendance to date," explained Fall Ball Chairwoman Cynthia Wiley. Between the Fall Ball dinner, auction and 50/50 raffle, close to \$50,000 has been raised. "I think this response demonstrates the support in our community for a turf field," Wiley said.

The Recreation Foundation's Turf's Up! is the next step in building athletic fields for the youth in Hopewell Valley. The multi-purpose turf field at Hopewell Valley Central High School will be used for field hockey, soccer, football, lacrosse and the High School's marching band. "This project is a logical follow-up to our last project which built natural grass fields in back of Timberlane," explained Sheryl Stone, Trustee for the Foundation. "The Athletic Fields of Timberlane couldn't completely solve our field shortage, especially when rain or drought takes natural grass fields out of play," she said.

Hopewell Valley Central High School is one of the few high schools in Mercer County without a turf field. The Regional School District has unanimously passed a resolution supporting this turf field project sponsored by the Recreation Foundation. In addition, the Recreation Foundation has provided \$100,000 of the estimated \$850,000 cost for the first phase – the turf. The next two phases will include raising \$350,000 each for bleachers and lights.

Displaying their winning checks are (L to R) Pam Wilson, Lauri Rossi, and Ned Fletcher.