

Award Winning Desk Donated to SoRo School

The White River Partnership (WRP) recently visited the temporary classrooms at the South Royalton school to deliver a beautiful hand-made desk to art teacher Gaylynn Huyghebaert.

The highly unusual donation resulted from a fundraiser raffle conducted by the WRP, made possible by the generosity of Art Stacy of Sharon who made and donated the oak desk, and also by an unidentified individual who won the desk in the raffle but donated it to the school.

Added to Stacy's original design upon delivery was a small plaque that read, "Handmade by Art Stacy of Sharon, Vt. and donated to the South Royalton School by the White River Partnership, February 25, 2012."

The desk was designed and handmade by Stacy, who is a member of the Partnership. Stacy entered the desk in the 2008 Vermont Fine Furniture Competition, where it won an award in the very competitive Custom Furniture division.

The design of the desk was based on a camp cottage at Oak Bluffs, Mass. and was intended to house a computer. It also has all sorts of secrets, which should delight the schoolkids.

For instance, the Gothic windows on the second story conceal a tambour door that, when opened, reveals the monitor. A section of the porch roof slides out and becomes level for the



South Royalton art teacher Gaylynn Huyghebaert (left), woodworker Art Stacy (middle) and WRP director Mary Russ (far right).

keyboard; and the first story windows conceal drawers that hold the printer and CPU.

"When I gave the desk to the Partnership to use as an auction or raffle item, I never imagined it would end up at a local school, and I couldn't be happier," said Stacy. According to WRP Executive Director Mary Russ, the person who won the raffle then requested that the desk be given to one of the schools devastated by post-Irene flooding.

"We have a strong relationship with South Royalton and Gaylynn in particular through our tree planting program," Russ explained, "plus the kids are still in temporary classrooms due to the flooding. It is a perfect fit."

Russ, Stacy and members of the WRP board of directors delivered the desk to the school. Art teacher Huyghebaert said the school is "very thankful to the White River Partnership and Mr. Stacy. I know the kids will just love it."

The WRP, which is located in South Royalton, is a community-based, nonprofit organization working to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed. It holds similar raffle fundraisers frequently, board member Ron Rhodes explained:

"Right now we are selling a set of women's golf clubs that somebody donated."

The person who won the original raffle is a WRP member who has been active with the school and helping with flood clean-up in South Royalton.

He's been told, Rhodes said, that a piece like this would sell for a minimum of \$2000 to \$2500.



This fanciful and fabulous desk hand-made by woodworker Art Stacy is now in the classroom of art teacher Gaylenn Huyghebaert. It was donated to the school by the White River Partnership. (Provided)