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## **Benedictine Chosen by Staples Associate to Receive Grant**

**Easton, Md., July 13, 2015** -- Benedictine in Ridgely, Md., has been awarded a \$1,000 grant by the Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc., under a program that lets Staples' associates direct donations.

"We're grateful to the Staples Foundation and to Staples' local associate, Dorothy Knauss, for supporting Benedictine's and underwriting new state of the art technology for non-verbal children enrolled at our Ridgely campus. This grant will support the purchase of new assistive technology equipment that supports technology and learning by young people who demonstrate sensory and learning difficulties," explained Scott W. Evans, executive director of Benedictine.

"Technology is such an important tool when working with non-verbal students. It provides a voice to express wants and needs, affection, and engagement. It holds the focus and attention of students to allow them to participate in lessons that otherwise might be out of their reach. And it helps to make education, socialization, and recreation accessible by presenting the opportunities in interactive, fun, and easy to use formats," Evans explained.

The grant is part of a philanthropic initiative created by Staples Foundation, which allows Staples associates around the world to direct funding to non-profit organizations that are focused on education or job skills. The program, called *2 Million and Change*, encourages local community engagement by awarding larger grants to organizations where associates are highly engaged in volunteering or fundraising.

In 2014, Staples awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants to 1,056 local organizations in support of education and job skills programs, including tutoring for pediatric cancer patients, job skills development for individuals with disabilities, school supplies, mentoring and more.

"Staples Foundation is committed to encouraging associates around the globe to make a difference in their local communities and through *2 Million and Change* we enable them to directly support the programs where they personally see the greatest need," said Katy Dobbs, director of global community and giving for Staples, Inc.

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Benedictine is a nationally recognized educational institution that provides a living, learning and vocational training environment for 200 children and adults with special needs including intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. For more information about Benedictine visit [benschool.org](http://benschool.org) or call 410-634-2112.

Staples contributes to educational and job-related community efforts with a primary focus on disadvantaged youth, from literacy and mentoring to career skills development, through in-kind and monetary donations and grants from Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc. Through its community and giving efforts, Staples and Staples Foundation have helped more than 7,000 organizations in 26 countries. For more information, visit [www.staples.com/community](http://www.staples.com/community).



PhotoCaption: Benedictine students use a variety of communication devices, tablets and computers inside and outside the classroom at the Ridgely-based school for children and adults with developmental disabilities and autism. Funds awarded by the Staples Foundation will be used to purchase additional information technology.

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