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**Subject** Happy Holidays!  
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As I was teaching yesterday, I paused because I heard a loud "Whoopeeee". I looked at my students and realized that none of them had uttered this cry of joy. Then I heard it again. It sounded distant- even several miles away. As I went through the rest of my day, the "Whoopeeee" had been forgotten. That is, until I received a call from Dan Roddewig. It seems that this cry of utter exhilaration was that of one Dave Sliktas, who had just found out that our foundation had been approved by the OCEO in Illinois to be the recipients of a **\$52,000** grant for our Meadow Street Park site. So, 'Whoopeeee'!!!! Many. many thanks to Dave who spent many hours researching and writing this grant. Many thanks as well to Dan who found out about this grant from Bob Turner. If you happen to see Bob, let him know how much you appreciate his efforts. Maybe he can find some more money for us. Now, maybe we have enough money to at least start our project this spring.

Our Hamburger Helper crew, Barb and Ann, has been busy as well writing the essay portion of the grant. My understanding is that we can not apply for this grant until February. So, many thanks, ladies.

Spread the news. Have a very Merry Christmas.  
Mark