

“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.”

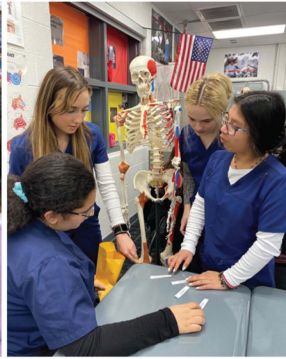
Helen Keller



LPS Education  
Foundation

Serving Livonia Public Schools

# 2021-2022 Annual Report



LPS Education Foundation

# Dear Friends,

In this 2022-23 school year, we celebrate the 18th year of the LPS Education Foundation. Since its beginning in 2004, the Foundation has been proud of the support it has provided to the students, parents, and staff of Livonia Public Schools.



This year marks our “return to normal” for Livonia Public Schools, following the pandemic. Some of our donors have struggled through the past two years, and many are still facing challenges related to the pandemic. The Foundation has been working with donors, progressing together, and there is hope in action.

In November, we once again held our Annual Luncheon. It was exhilarating to spend time with our donors and supporters from the community. Other events were held to support our programs, including the annual Bounce Back to School event and the popular Portraits on the Porch/At the Barn days. We introduced Star Awards, which honor staff across the district, and they were a big hit! We will continue to offer these as a way to recognize our staff members while supporting the Foundation.

Our Grant Program is in its 10th year. This past fall, we awarded 22 grants to LPS staff members, totaling \$41,722.86. In total, our Grant Program has awarded 184 grants for a total of \$334,421.28. LPS staff have the opportunity to apply for a grant that supports the curriculum, Shared Vision and other district initiatives. The work of the staff and the application of the grants truly benefit the students and district.

The Competitive Edge Program is a savings trust account that the Foundation offers to each incoming kindergarten student in the Livonia Public Schools District. Upon graduation from an LPS high school, enrolled students will receive a check from the Foundation that can be used at an accredited college, university or trade school. Since the debut of the program in 2008, we have set up savings accounts for 3,139 students. In 2023, we will have our fourth graduating class of Competitive Edge students. We couldn’t be more proud of this program and the benefits to its enrolled students.

We are glad to be resuming the life that we knew before the pandemic. Throughout our “return to normal,” we will continue to support our two major programs and continue to work with the district staff to address and meet changing needs that will help fulfill our Mission and our Core Values.

Liz Jarvis, President, LPS Education Foundation

# Our Mission



The mission of the Livonia Public Schools Education Foundation is to enlarge the resources available to the school district which will foster and expand educational opportunities for programs impacting students and to provide the opportunity for

LPS parents to begin planning for their student's post-secondary education.



The Foundation offers a powerful and effective vehicle for directing contributions to benefit public education in portions of Livonia and Westland, Michigan.



# Our Core Values

We will strive to directly impact student learning by:

- Putting resources into the classrooms
- Improving student achievement
- Providing financial resources for items the district cannot fund

We will strive to ensure integrity by:

- Using ethical fundraising techniques
- Maintaining sound financial practices

We will strive to provide the means to assist our students in their postgraduate education by:

- Establishing the opportunity to subsidize a college savings plan
- Providing educational savings plan information for parents and students

*Executive Board*



**Liz Jarvis**  
**President**



**Kellie Dummer**  
**Vice President**



**Ron Kulczycki**  
**Treasurer**



**Dianne Laura**  
**Corresponding Secretary**



**Lynda Scheel**  
**Recording Secretary**

**Bob Carris**  
**Controller**



**Donna Blauet**  
**Director**



**Colleen Burton**  
**Director**



**Robert Drzewicki**  
**Director**



**Lorna Durand**  
**Director**



**Stacey Grammatico**  
**Committee Member**



**Stacy Jenkins**  
**LPS Communications**



**Mark Johnson**  
**Director and BOE President**



**Randy Liepa**  
**Director**



**Dave MacFarland**  
**Director**



**Aubrey MacFarlane**  
**Director**



**Andrea Oquist**  
**LPS Superintendent**



**Jill Wozniak**  
**Superintendent's Assistant**



**Jay Young**  
**Director**



**Rachel Zuckerman**  
**Director**



**Laura Ulaszek**  
**Executive Director**

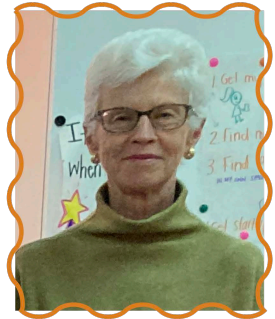
“The Livonia PTSA Council proudly supports the Livonia Education Foundation and its wonderful work in our district. Their goals align with ours in supporting Livonia students and staff at all Livonia Public Schools. The Livonia PTSA Council always promotes the efforts of the Foundation, including the fantastic Competitive Edge Program. All 22 Livonia PTA/PTSA units consistently share the Education Foundation events such as the Star Awards and the ever-popular Portraits on the Porch! The Livonia PTSA Council looks forward to our continued relationship with the Livonia Education Foundation and all its endeavors.” ~ Andrea Malenfant, LPTSAC President



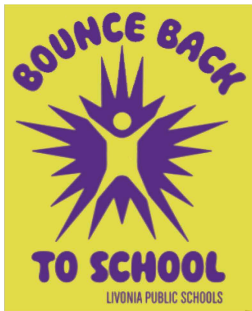
“Receiving the LPS Education Foundation grant has helped my students enhance their learning. The Foundation is fantastic because with its support, I can bring my ideas to life in my classes.”  
 ~ Michael Rais, Director of Bands/Orchestra/Guitar, Frost Middle School



“I was asked by a friend to join the grant committee a few years ago. It sounded wonderful reading grants and giving teachers much needed money for their classrooms. I had taught with some of these teachers in my 35 years in Livonia and some of my former students were now teaching there. I have to admit it was hard work reading, grading grants, and giving scores. But seeing their faces when they received their grants was priceless! My husband also taught in the district and we decided why not give money to the Foundation. What a great way to give back to the school district. We now make it an annual gift knowing how much we help teachers and students.” ~ Sue Ward



“As a Face Painter, I’ve worked MANY school fairs, and am so appreciative of the friendly atmosphere, attention to detail, and careful planning that takes place throughout the year to make sure this event is organized, safe and FUN for the kids. Working this event since 2012, I’ve seen how hard they work to continue to make it even better for all! What an awesome way to get the kids excited to transition back to school. As not just an entertainer, but a Livonia resident, and LPS mom, I’m grateful to have watched my own kids enjoy it through the years. My fellow artists and I are always treated with nothing but total consideration and kindness and look forward to many more years of Bounce Back Fun! Thank You LPS Education Foundation!!” ~ Kaci McCall (Mystical Rainbow Creations)



"We attended the Bounce Back to School for the first time in a few years. There was so much for the kids to do outside and great options for snacks and treats. Our 5th grader had a great time and our older daughter had fun getting some volunteer hours in with other high school students."

~ Chris and Jen Galatis, LPS parents



"Once I found out about the LPSEF and what it does to help support staff members in the district I started contributing right away. I was also fortunate enough to have received a couple of grants, so my contributions ended up coming back to me in the form of items for my classroom. This wouldn't have been possible without the LPSEF! I have not applied for a grant in a long time, but it's nice to know that my contributions are helping my colleagues who are looking for ways to enhance experiences for the children of LPS. Thank you LPSEF!" ~ John Farkas, science teacher,

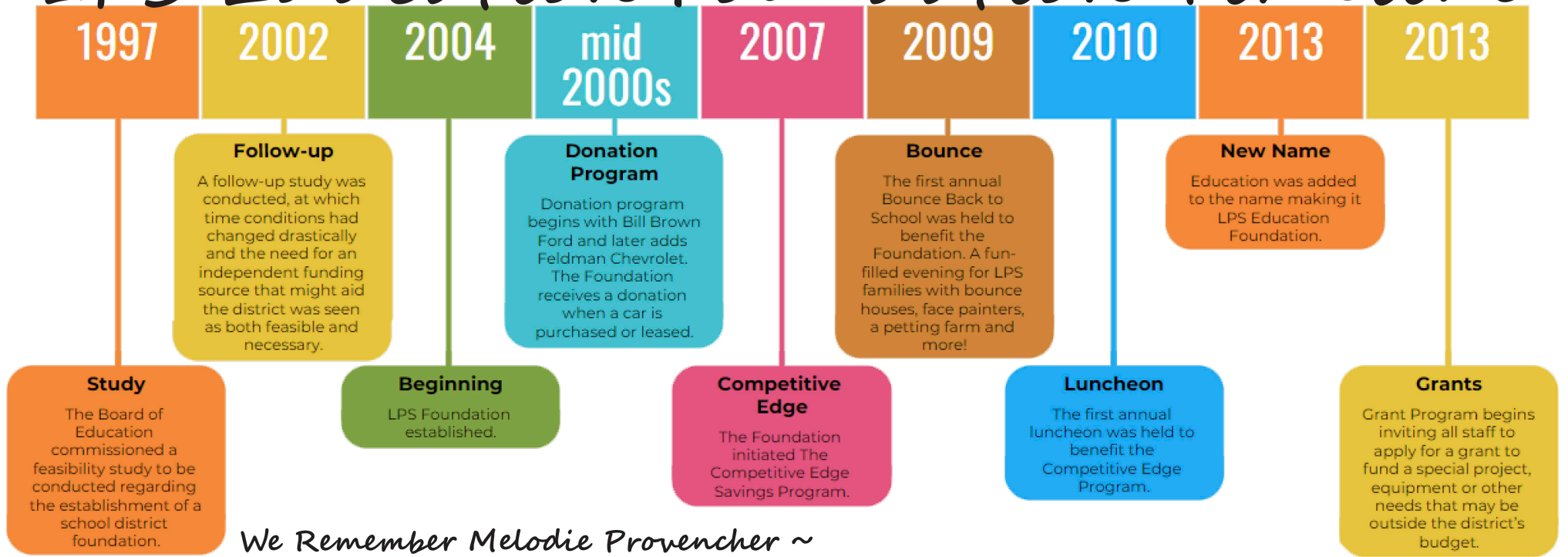
Holmes Middle School

"It is a privilege to be the Cooper Upper Elementary School representative for the LPS Education Foundation along with my Cooper partners, Michelle Stackpoole and Robin Della Mora. Our staff members generously contribute to the program, and many have received resources from grants. The Foundation has provided books, supplies, devices, headphones, math manipulatives, Idea Factory and STEM materials ... so many items that have supported and enriched the educational experiences of our precious students. I am so proud to be a teacher in Livonia Public Schools where the investment in and devotion to our children is our highest priority. Thanks to the LPS Education Foundation for partnering in that mission."

~ Kitty Yost, 5th grade teacher, Cooper



# LPS Education Foundation Timeline



## We Remember Melodie Provencher ~

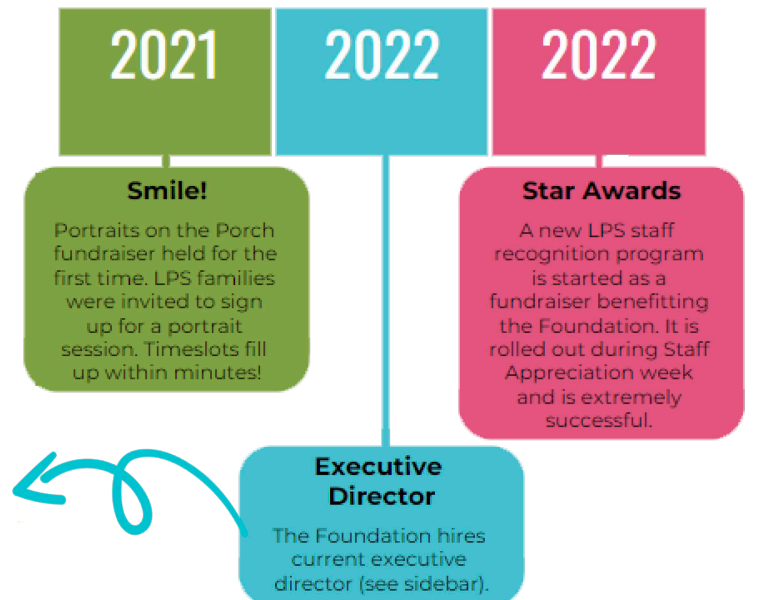
We lost a very special person on March 31, 2022. Melodie Provencher retired from full time teaching with Livonia Public Schools and then joined the LPS Education Foundation. In recent years, she stepped back into the role of music teacher when the need arose to fill that valuable position at Johnson Upper Elementary. With the Foundation, Melodie served on the executive board as the recording secretary, chair of the Grant Program, co-chair of the Champions Program and she served on numerous committees. Melodie is greatly missed. She was loved by so many!



## LPS Education Foundation Welcomed New Executive Director

In January 2022, the Foundation welcomed Laura Ulaszek as the new Executive Director. Laura attended Livonia Public Schools from preschool through 12th grade and graduated from Stevenson High School. She holds a bachelor of arts in journalism from Michigan State University.

Laura and her husband, Mike, along with their three children, Andrew, Nathan and Hannah, live in Livonia. To the Foundation, Laura brings experience in marketing and public relations, typesetting and graphic design, fundraising and more, but mostly importantly, she brings a passion for Livonia Public Schools. Laura has been very active in PTAs and was the PTSA President at Franklin High School from 2018-2021. She is on the Livonia PTSA Council which oversees the 22 local PTA and PTSA units. Laura is also part of the LPS Athletic Council and is currently serving on the District's Vision Forward Team.

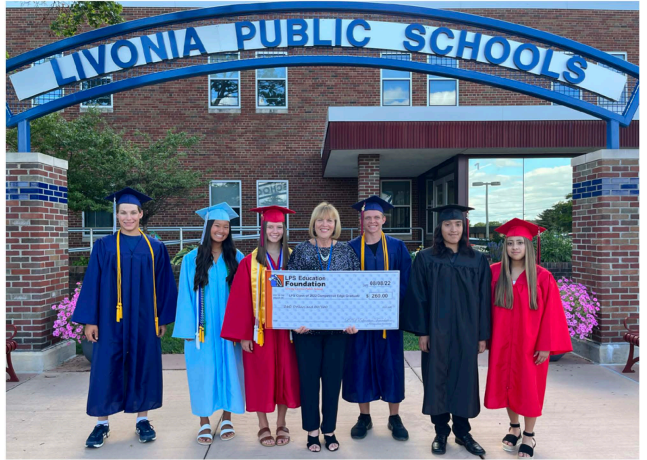




# Competitive Edge Savings Program



A goal of the Livonia Public Schools Education Foundation is to provide a unique opportunity for LPS parents to begin planning for their



children's post-secondary education early on, and help set aside money for their future educational expenses.

The Competitive Edge Savings Program, which was established in 2008, offers families of LPS kindergarten students the opportunity to enroll in this free program. The Foundation will designate them as beneficiaries of the Foundation's educational savings account. The Foundation contributes seed money and those funds grow throughout the student's



LPS educational career. Upon graduation from an LPS high school, the funds may be used for any accredited post-secondary education or skills training program.

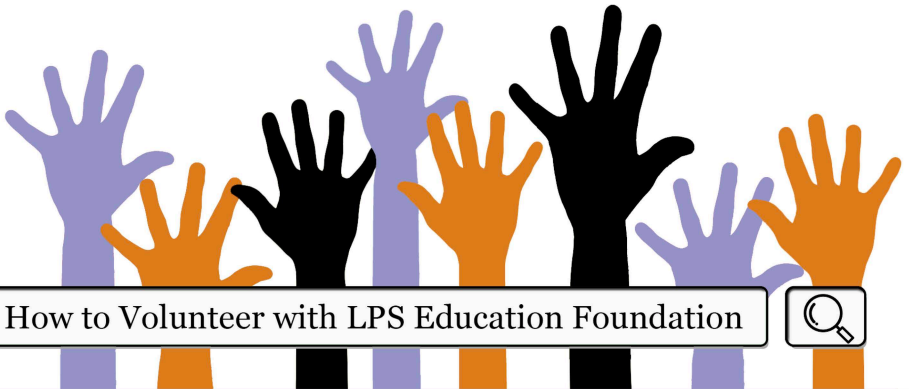


Not only does this program provide a great service to LPS students and their families, the Foundation also sees this as an added benefit to attract and retain families in the community. This unique program can help maintain the vibrance of our community and consequently, each family it attracts brings state funding to the school district, meeting the foundation’s mission “to enlarge the resources available to the school district which will foster and expand educational opportunities.”



It truly can provide a “competitive edge” over surrounding communities.

Donations for this program have come from local businesses, institutions, PTAs/PTSAs, parents, employees, retired employees, community members, and through fundraisers. If you are interested in being a donor to the Competitive Edge program, please email us at [lpfoundation@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:lpfoundation@livoniapublicschools.org).



How to Volunteer with LPS Education Foundation



**We’d love to have you join our team of wonderful volunteers! Please scan QR code or use link below to fill out this short form.**  
<https://bit.ly/LPSEFVolunteer>



# Grant Program Continues to Thrive in LPS



Rebecca Parise and James Miller, ESAPs at Cooper Upper Elementary, with LPSEF Grant Committee and Board Members. This grant is for sensory stations to be created in common areas of Cooper.

The LPS Education Foundation Grant Program is in its tenth year and has distributed 184 grants totaling \$334,421.28 to LPS staff. Each year staff is invited to apply for a Foundation grant. Their proposals demonstrate how the grant would support the district curriculum, the LPS Shared Vision and Collective Commitments, district climate goals, and other focus areas. The Grant Program is able to fund a special project, equipment or other needs that may be outside the district's budget.

A committee composed of retired teachers and administrators reviews the applications and selects which proposals will be funded. In the fall of 2022, the committee delivered 22 grants to 29 staff members at 15 different schools totaling \$41,722.86. This was all possible because of wonderful donors like you!



Kelsey Morris, 2nd grade teacher at Hayes Elementary, with LPSEF Board Members. This grant requested funds for Raz-Kids to help increase reading proficiency.



Lisa Tanner, Sandra Benson, Shayna Gruenewald and Michelle Adams, 2nd grade teachers at Buchanan Elementary, with LPSEF Grant Committee and Board Members. This grant was to fund Vocabulary A-Z Curriculum.

Jan Bice (EST), Carrienne Braun (Title 1), Jennifer Clay (Psychologist, not pictured) and Amy Wehner (EST), Randolph Elementary. This grant requested funds to purchase i-Ready instructional licenses for at-risk students.



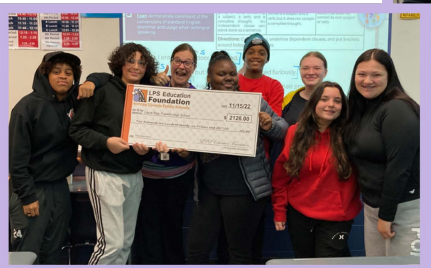
Russ Keberly, teacher at Holmes Middle School with Principal Roger Opsommer and LPSEF Grant Committee and Board Members. This grant will fund three digital cameras for Holmes yearbook class.



Laura Rea, teacher at Franklin High School, with students. This grant will fund technology to produce weekly school news broadcasts.



Jenni Lamb, ELA/Drama teacher at Stevenson High School with LPSEF Grant Committee members. Grant is for Bracket-Based Learning for Drama.



## LPS Staff Serve as Liaisons for the Foundation

A district Champions Program was created to act as a liaison for the Foundation with each building and/or department. Each Champion shares information regarding the Foundation's activities such as the Grant Program, the Competitive Edge Program, the Back-to-School activity, the Foundation's Annual Luncheon, and more. The Champions Program continues to help generate and maintain financial support for the Grant Program.

# Funding Sources

Currently, donations have been received from the following sources:

- Individual Donors
  - Retirees
  - Employees
  - District Residents
  - Alumni
  - Memorials
  - Trusts
- Corporate Sponsors
- Fundraising Events
- Honorary Donations



*Portraits at the Barn*



*Annual Luncheon*

# Financial Statement

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

<b>Begin assets</b>	<b>\$1,355,154.27</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$58,309.12</b>
<b>Net Interest &amp; Investment</b>	<b>(151,555.08)</b>
<b>Fundraising Events (Net):</b>	<b>26,902.58</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$(66,343.38)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Competitive Edge Programs</b>	<b>\$13,325.00</b>
<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>31,088.21</b>
<b>Management and Operations</b>	<b>36,476.80</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Decrease in Assets</b>	<b>\$(147,233.39)</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Total Assets (End of Year)</b>	<b>\$1,207,921.18</b>



# LPS Education Foundation

Serving Livonia Public Schools



15125 Farmington Rd. Livonia, MI 48154  
A 501(c) (3) Organization  
February 2023  
[www.lpsfoundation.org](http://www.lpsfoundation.org)