




LPS Education Foundation

Serving Livonia Public Schools

2023 Annual Report



**“As you grow older, you will discover
that you have two hands —
one for helping yourself,
the other for helping others.”
— Audrey Hepburn**

Dear Friends,

In this 2023-2024 school year, we celebrate the 19th year of the LPS Education Foundation. Since its beginning in 2004, the Foundation has been proud of the support it has been able to provide to the students, parents, and staff of Livonia Public Schools.



This year, we once again held our Annual Luncheon at St. Mary's Cultural Center. We enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with our donors and supporters from the community. Other events held to support our programs include the annual Bounce Back to School event and the Portraits on the Porch/at the Barn days. We continued the popular Star Awards through which parents and others may honor staff across the district. We will continue to offer these awards as a way to recognize our staff members while supporting the Foundation.

Our Grant Program is in its 11th year. This past fall, we awarded 32 grants to LPS staff members, totaling \$50,005. You can read more about it in later pages of this report!

The Competitive Edge Program is a savings trust account the Foundation offers. Each kindergarten student in the Livonia Public Schools District is invited to enroll in the program. Since the debut of the program in 2008, we have set up savings accounts for approximately 3,400 students. This year, we will have our fifth graduating class of Competitive Edge program members. We couldn't be more proud of this program and the benefits to its enrolled students.

We are glad to have you with us, as we continue to support our two major programs and to work with the district staff to address and meet changing needs that will help fulfill our Mission and our Core Values.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Jarvis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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 by building effective

collaborations.

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 supplementary items not supplied by the district

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 savings plan
- ◆ Providing educational savings plan information for parents and students

Executive Board



Liz Jarvis
President



Kellie Dummer
Vice President



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Lynda Scheel
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Lorna Durand
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Stacy Grammatico
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LPS Communications



Mark Johnson
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BOE Vice President



Ron Kulezycki
Director



Randy Liepa
Director



Dave MacFarland
Director



Latricia Miles
Director



Andrea Oquist
LPS Superintendent



Teresa Giunta
Superintendent's
Assistant



Jay Young
Director



Laura Ulaszek
Executive Director

Golfers Tee It Up and Support LPSEF

This past summer, the Foundation held its First Annual Golf Outing and it was a huge success! The shotgun start outing was held at



Livonia's Fox Creek followed by lunch at the onsite restaurant, Coach's Corner. The sold-out event had 132 golfers and many more who came just for lunch. The weather was perfect! We had a basket raffle as well



as a 50/50 raffle. Golfers were awarded for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin as well as prizes for first- and second-place foursomes. In total, we raised just over \$22,000 for the Foundation's



programs. We are very excited to host our second annual outing on July 13, 2024!

The outing was such a success due to these wonderful sponsors along with the hole sponsors!



Annual Golf Outing

Presenting Sponsor

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Secondary Sponsors



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Clear the List



This past fall, right after the start of the school year, the LPS Education Foundation was honored to “Clear the List” of some wonderful Livonia Public Schools educators! Teachers were sent an email announcement and the first 50 to fill out a Google Form and submit their Amazon Wish List were gifted up to \$100 worth of items on their list. We had a tremendous response – the limit was reached in 20 minutes! Teachers were asked to take pictures and send them to the Foundation. You can see a video compilation of these photographs by scanning the QR code.

Thank you to our donors who helped make this possible!

Scan to see video



Livonia Cemetery Walk Fundraiser

Also in the fall, in conjunction with the Livonia Historical Society, LPSEF held a historic walk at the Livonia Center Cemetery. Attendees were escorted through the cemetery where actors portrayed some of Livonia’s early residents who are buried there. The next walk will be October 6, 2024.



Board Members Volunteer Their Time to Serve a District They Love!

Lorna Durand

I was invited to join the LPS Education Foundation in 2012 by Dr. Randy Liepa, former superintendent, after my retirement in 2010. I had worked on two projects that benefitted both the district and the Foundation in 2011.

During my tenure in the district of over 35+ years, I enjoyed the roles of learning specialist, helping teacher consultant, resource room teacher, homebound teacher, elementary principal, and Director of Student Services. My commitment to the community, the district, the staff, and students was strong and continues to be strong even after my retirement.

The Foundation has given me many opportunities to use existing skills as well as develop new skills. I have participated in many committees and programs: grants, retirees, fundraising, sustainability/succession planning, recruitment, Champions, and Competitive Edge. In addition, I had the honor of being president of the Foundation for two years.

The individuals, community members, and businesses that I have met over my tenure on the Board of Directors have made an impact on my life and family. The wide range of skills, experiences, and commitment to the community and district that our board and committee members possess certainly encourages staff and community members to support and participate in Foundation initiatives and activities. I am thankful for the time that I have been able to participate with the LPS Education Foundation.



Robb Drzewicki

Being a father of two school-aged children (Riley and Holmes students), there's no question why I'd be a part of the LPS Education Foundation. I'm just doing my part to ensure that our district remains the best place for every single one of our students.

From the Competitive Edge Savings Program to our amazing staff grants, everything the Foundation does has an impact on students throughout the district.





Ron Kulczycki

Reward yourself ...

As a board member of the LPS Education Foundation, I am blessed with the knowledge that I am helping and promoting Livonia Public Schools to assist teachers in their important task of educating our children, and helping students in our programs financially, to enter the real world after high school.

As one person, I cannot accomplish much, but as part of the LPS Education Foundation's well-organized team, we are able to accomplish a lot – see our website to see the many things our Foundation is doing for our teachers and students.

I must emphasize, joining this team is personally rewarding.

Stacey Grammatico

Joining the LPS Education Foundation was an easy choice for me.

I have several ties to LPS: attended elementary school through high school and my children did the same; I worked 30 years as an elementary school teacher; and I have lived in Livonia for 50+ years. Volunteering on the board just made sense for me.

I am so proud of the work the Foundation does to support the students and teachers. My own children missed out on the Competitive Edge program, but I feel it is a great advantage to get parents thinking about education beyond the traditional K-12. Being a part of the grant committee is my favorite part. Reading and scoring the grants sent in by educators/staff across our district is exciting. They want to bring something more to the students!

I know how much out-of-pocket money is spent on their classrooms yearly; it's nice to help support them with their ideas.

When I started attending meetings, I was impressed with the individuals who were on the board of directors. They continue to shine as they do so much good for our district. It's a good fit for me. I can support LPS in this new role.

Latricia Miles

Initially, what drew me to want to know more about the LPSEF, was information that I saw posted in one of the LPS PTSA social media groups related to the Competitive Edge program. Upon looking at the LPSEF website, I wanted to know more as the information piqued my interest. Upon reaching out, Kellie Dummer (vice president) invited me to join a future board meeting and I am so excited that I did. While I still consider myself "new" to the group, I have learned so much from this group and the many great things that the group does for our children. I have never met such a sincere group of individuals that truly have the kids' best interest at the forefront. The LPSEF has been extremely welcoming and open to growing the Foundation beyond where we are today. I am extremely excited to be a part of this group.

Dave MacFarland

When the opportunity to join the board of directors at the LPSEF presented itself, it was an easy "YES" for me for several reasons:

1. The mission of enhancing the student experience and supporting teachers is something I feel passionate about.
2. I've got two young children that will eventually be LPS students. It's paramount to me that the district continues to be one of the best in the area for them. The Foundation allows me to be a small part in achieving that.
3. Both my parents were LPS teachers then administrators. I always admired their dedication to the cause. Although I didn't follow in their footsteps professionally, the Foundation has given me an avenue to continue their legacy in a meaningful way.

Want to join us? See info on last page.



Record Number of Grants Awarded to LPS Staff



The LPS Education Foundation Grant Program is in its 11th year and has distributed a total of 216 grants equaling \$384,426.28 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

2023, the committee delivered 32 grants to 34 staff members at 17 different schools totaling \$50,005.



This was all possible because of our wonderful donors!



**Robin Della Mora, Cooper
Headphones**



**Sandy Crociata,
Johnson, Ukeleles**



**Karen Ling, Adult Ed
News subscriptions for
adult learners**



**Kelly Seiter, Coolidge
One Room School House
Enhancement**



**Jen Wichmann, Cleveland
"Code and Go Robot Mouse"**



**Amy Rand, Liz Brisch, and
Stephanie Yassine,
Coolidge, Calming Room**



**Lindsey Kruger,
Kennedy
Gelli Plates**



**Tracey Lutz,
Frost
Cephalopods**



**Nick Rapson, Churchill
Esports League & Devices**



**Erica Sharp, Stevenson
Flexible Seating**



**Michael Rais, Frost
Music Supplements**

Grant Committee Members Volunteer Time for Good Reasons

Kathy Donagranti — Grant Committee Chairperson

I retired from LPS in January 2015 after 46 years with the district as a teacher of visually impaired, teacher consultant, principal at Perrinville Early Childhood Center, and finally Director of Special Education. After a

couple of months in Florida, I returned to my new life in Michigan and had lunch with my friend (and former boss), Lorna Durand. By the end of that meeting, I had agreed to join the Foundation Grant Committee!

Being a part of the Foundation Grant Committee was rewarding from the first meeting! Waiting for proposals to arrive, reviewing them, making decisions and recommendations and then those great visits to schools! Walking in with those oversized checks and surprising staff members (and students) was memorable!

For the last couple of years, I have been the committee chairperson, and working with the great members of the committee has been rewarding!



Christy Deskovitz, student assistance provider, Frost Middle School. This grant requested funding for DEIB student voice field trips.



Megan Grammatico, music, Roosevelt Elementary. Grant requested funds to purchase supplies for a music classroom.

Bev Bydlowski

I think being on the Grant Committee of the LPS Education Foundation is a very important commitment that I have been happy to be a part of for over ten years. Reading and scoring the grants has allowed me to keep abreast of the current trends in education as well as seeing what teachers and

staff feel are important components that they wish to incorporate into their work with their students. The grants ask for materials and even experiences that are not funded by the district but are sought because they will enhance the existing curriculum and provide supplemental learning opportunities that students might not normally get to experience. I commend all teachers who take time out of their very busy schedules to write a grant and wish that we had unlimited resources to fulfill all of their wants and needs.

I was lucky to work in Livonia for 19 years, 17 of those years as a Student Assistance Family Education Specialist (SAFE)/ESAP and two as a classroom teacher. I worked at Grant, Hoover, Webster, McKinley, Cooper and Garfield.

Debbie Koch

Livonia Public School's staff members have great ideas and often spend a lot of their own money to get the materials they need/want. The grant process offers them an opportunity to share their innovative ideas and request financial support. I love to hear the staff's enthusiasm as I read through the grant proposals. All requests have to be supported by current research to convince the committee that the grant is worthwhile. The committee spends a great deal of time looking at the stated research sites to make sure that they

match the proposal and will benefit students. Grants also need to include information about how the proposal will help meet academic goals while supporting the district's vision and collective commitments.

While the committee would love to fully fund all grants, we must prioritize the ones that most completely meet the established criteria. As a team, we share our opinion of each aspect of each grant. We collaborate well and hold discussions until we agree on the score/merits of each grant. I love being part of this process and helping to fund as many grants as possible for our staff members. Once grants are funded and implemented, it is awesome to see them in action in our schools!

I taught special education in Livonia Public Schools for 38 years (from 1976-2014). I was always in a self-contained, cross-categorical classroom (any type of disability could be in my classroom). I taught kindergarten and first grade special education students at Kennedy, Tyler, McKinley and Buchanan Elementary Schools.



Ernie Terry

(Not pictured)

During my employment with the Livonia Public Schools, I had the privilege of serving as principal of Hayes and Nankin Mills Elementary Schools. I retired from the district in June 2010. I enjoy being a member of the LPS Education Foundation Grant Committee because it keeps me connected to both LPS and to education.

Reading and reviewing grant requests keeps me informed about new and innovative teaching strategies and materials. I know the money being awarded by the Foundation is having a direct impact on student achievement. This funding is an invaluable resource.

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 contact us.



LPS Staff Serve as Liaisons for LPSEF



The Foundation is fortunate to have staff members in most of the schools who act as liaisons to LPSEF. These individuals, who we call Champions, share information regarding the Foundation’s activities such as the grant program, the Competitive Edge Savings Program, the back-to-school activity, the annual luncheon, and more. The Champions continues to help generate and maintain financial support for the grant program.

Every year, the Foundation offers incentives for Champions to win a monetary prize for their school. The categories are: greatest percentage of increase of contributors per capita from previous year and the largest dollar amount of contributions per capita. If possible, an additional award may be presented. The 2023-24 winners are pictured above.

Thank you to our Champions for all you do!

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 on the Porch



Golf Outing



Annual Luncheon

To learn more about supporting the Foundation, please see the next page with ways to connect with us!

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Begin assets	\$1,207,921.18
Revenue	
Contributions	\$56,691.84
Net Interest & Investment	84,842.69
Fundraising Events (Net):	<u>49,150.10</u>
Total Revenue	\$190,684.63
Expenses	
Competitive Edge Programs	\$20,609.00
Grant Program	41,722.86
Management and Operations	<u>53,662.87</u>
Increase in Assets	<u>\$74,689.90</u>
Total Assets (End of Year)	<u>\$1,282,611.08</u>



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**LPS Education
Foundation**

Serving Livonia Public Schools

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>





15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154

A 501(c) (3) organization

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www.lpsfoundation.org