



GPFPE

Grosse Pointe Foundation
for Public Education

FALL 2018

THE TORCH

gpfpe.org

GPFPE Receives Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Grant From the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund for Grosse Pointe Community Assets at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The grant will support the expansion of *The Leader in Me* program in Grosse Pointe elementary schools during the 2018-2019 school year and will positively impact more than 1,665 students by developing and teaching elementary students life skills such as leadership, responsibility, accountability, problem solving, adaptability, effective communication, and more.

The Leader in Me is currently fully utilized in three Grosse Pointe elementary schools and is rolling out to three more elementary schools this fall. The program utilizes Baldrige quality tools, FranklinCovey's The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, and several other educational best practices. *The Leader in Me* was specifically mentioned in the Grosse Pointe Public School System (GPPSS) Strategic Plan as a program that helped "create a culture of character building for students." According to Dr. Gary Niehaus, Superintendent, "GPPSS wants our students to think globally while acting locally. *The Leader in Me* program will provide the foundation for our



GPPSS students to be prepared for their future global endeavors."

The GPFPE is grateful for the generous donation from The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and for their continued support of GPPSS students and their future. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in our region. As a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations, the Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs in the seven counties of southeast Michigan. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community



Ralph C. Wilson Jr.
Legacy Funds
OF THE
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FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Foundation for Southeast Michigan honor Mr. Wilson's charitable legacy by supporting efforts across the region in caregiving, design & access, and youth sports, as well as for community assets in Mr. Wilson's home community of Grosse Pointe. For more information, please visit cfsem.org.

The GPFPE continues to seek financial support for *The Leader in Me* and many other impactful academic and educational enrichment programs. To make a gift please contact Karen Lawrence at Lawrenk@gpschools.org or at (313) 432-3058. You can also visit the GPFPE website at gpfpe.org for more information.

A Letter From Our President

It's my pleasure to share the latest edition of The Torch, the newsletter of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE). We hope you'll take a few moments to review this issue and learn about the GPFPE's latest efforts to enrich, engage, and inspire the future for our students and our community. As fall begins and another school year gets underway, we have much to be grateful for.

We look back on last April's Spring Gala to once again thank all the generous community members and corporate donors who helped make it an unprecedented success. We also take a look at some of our grants in action and recognize the tremendous volunteer efforts of the students who were recognized as part of our "Caught in the Act of Giving Back" initiative. Finally, we'll update you on the continued progress of our exciting program, *The Leader in Me*.

For further information about any of the GPFPE's activities, please visit our website at gpfpe.org, call our office at (313) 432-3058 or follow us on Facebook.

As always, thank you for helping us in Enriching, Engaging, Inspiring our Future.

Sincerely,
Bob Bury



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Make a gift to the GPFPE or join us as a volunteer. For more information, visit gpfpe.org or call us at (313) 432-3058.

Attention Seniors with IRAs

Are you 70 ½ years old or older? Do you need to take required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA?

Why not consider a direct charitable contribution from your IRA to the GPFPE using funds from your RMD?

It's essentially a tax deduction for the charitable contribution, even without itemization.

- For example, for someone in the 25% tax bracket, the after tax cost of a \$200 gift is only \$150.

Adjusted gross income is lowered, which

could result in:

- reduced amounts of Social Security taxed
- lower Medicare premiums paid
- reduced state income tax paid
- Remember your RMD must be distributed by December 31st each year, so start planning now!

2018 Caught in the Act of Giving Back

On May 21, 2018, the GPFPE recognized the winners of “Caught in the Act of Giving Back”. The award was founded by the GPFPE in 2015 to honor student volunteer projects within the district. Administrators from all GPPSS elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools were invited to submit entries based on their students’ commitment to volunteerism, giving back, and their impact on the community. With the generous support of the Anne R. Hudson Endowment Fund of the GPFPE, held at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, winning students were awarded \$250 to further advance their volunteer work.

Congratulations to the following award winners:

- **“Notes of Hope” refugee assistance, Maire Elementary, student leader - Lucy Gabel.** In addition to writing approximately 30 “Notes of Hope” to children in the Rohingya refugee camps in Myanmar, Lucy and her fifth-grade classmates raised \$420 to purchase food packs. Lucy’s mom was able to hand deliver the notes and the food packs (enough for over 42 families) in person on a recent visit to the refugee camp in Bangladesh.
- **“Hummingbird Fun Bags” NICU sibling support, Maire Elementary, student leader - Ellie Sahutske.** To help the siblings of extremely ill babies in the NICU, Ellie set up a Facebook page and a GoFundMe campaign which she shared with her Maire community, both Grosse Pointe High Schools and



Ford Motor Company. She raised \$1,800 and collected new crayons and coloring books, which she bundled together with notes of cheer to create 1,016 bags for NICU sibling support at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.

- **Gifts4Kids, Brownell Middle School, student leader - Sofia Guevera.** With the assistance of her fellow students at Brownell, as well as the Brownell National Junior Honor Society, Sofia was able to donate a large selection of books, games, and toys to Detroit’s Children’s Hospital and its patients in order to make the holidays special for those who might not have the resources.
- **#HudsyStrong Skate-A-Thon, Brownell Middle School, student leaders - M. Wysocki, M. Wysocki, Z. Crossley, O. Frye, L. Budeck, L. O’Halla, A. Applegate, K. Adams, and S. Krotche.** Students raised funds to help the son of two Brownell teachers who was undergoing cancer treatment. With the support of the Brownell National Junior Honor Society, students organized a skate-a-thon. Approximately 75 families came to support the Brown family and pen prayers and messages of hope. The



All photos courtesy of Karen Lawrence.

event raised \$1,335 for the family’s medical expenses.

- **Willow Strong Girls and Strong Boys, North High School, student leaders – WILLOW (20 North student leaders).** The goal of this project was to help students at the elementary level develop stronger self-esteem, improve social skills, increase physical activity, and reduce bullying. High School leaders involved fifth graders from Monteith, Poupard, Mason, and Ferry. According to Principal Kate Murray, this project “upholds many of the district’s and North’s goals. It builds bridges across schools, fosters relationships, increases students’ skills and makes kids excited about school!”

Annual Spring Gala, April 14, 2018

Thank you to all who attended, participated in the auction, raffle or wine pull, and/or sent their regrets with gifts

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Photo courtesy of Erin DiLodovico.



Photo courtesy of Erin DiLodovico.

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Three More Schools Join *The Leader in Me*

Adapted from a Grosse Pointe News article by Mary Anne Brush

Kerby, Mason, and Trombly elementary schools are next in line to begin the process of becoming a *The Leader in Me* school thanks to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education's (GPFPE) five-year fundraising campaign. The program kicked off for the new schools in August with three full days of training for all staff, two in the 7 Habits and one in launching leadership.

With Poupard, Ferry, and Defer already on board, and Maire, Monteith, and Richard slated next year, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is on target for adopting Leader in Me in all elementary schools in a "One GP" approach.

What distinguishes *The Leader in Me* from other character-based education programs is it invests in teachers "as human beings," said Sara Delgado, Principal at Kerby Elementary School. "It takes them through the training for their own personal lives. I think it's a lot easier to apply something to your students when you've gone through it for yourself versus, 'here's the workbook.' ... I think that's why *The Leader in Me* is really taking off in the way that it has because it invests in the people first as educators because they personalize it and then apply it."

In Mason Principal Roy Bishop's view, the program fits in with Mason's existing mission "to be a learner, be a leader and be kind."

"It's not new, it's not an add-on; it's simply taking what we already do and giving students ownership over their

learning and allowing them to be leaders in our community," he said. "It's our job to make sure we're producing great global citizens, (preparing them for) middle school, high school, college, the real world. Those certain skills you need to handle any situation that is thrown at you is really what we are doing here. It all starts here at the ground level."

For Walt Fitzpatrick, principal at Trombly, the training in the 7 Habits — what he calls the core of the program

— "created a mind shift for me on what the program is about. ... What I came away with first was it's more about us as leaders and as models for the kids than as something we do for or with the kids."

Fitzpatrick has been with the district for 24 years and is looking forward to this year's implementation of *The Leader in Me* at Trombly.

"It's going to be exciting and it'll be a journey, but we're going to take it together."

The Leader in Me Donors

2017 Annual Spring Gala Attendees *

2018 Annual Spring Gala Attendees *

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Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the

Community Foundation for Southeast

Michigan

* A portion of all tickets sales were directed to *The Leader in Me* campaign

Meet our New Board Members



Pamela Flom

Pamela has a long history of volunteering in Grosse Pointe. She served as the president of the Mothers' Club of Grosse Pointe South, the Brownell PTO and The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods. She is a member of Tau Beta Association and a sustaining member of The Junior League of Detroit. Pamela graduated from Iowa State University and was awarded an MBA from Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, DePaul University. Pamela and her husband, Bill, have been married for 30 years and reside in Grosse Pointe Farms. Their three daughters attended Grosse Pointe Public Schools.



Kristen Vande Vusse

Kristen retired from teaching kindergarten at Maire Elementary School in 2017. Prior to that, she taught in Detroit Public Schools for eight years and Grosse Pointe Public Schools for 13 years. Kristen received her teaching degree from Calvin College, and her master's in early childhood education from Wayne State University. She and her husband, Bruce, recently celebrated 45 years of marriage. All four of their children attended Grosse Pointe Public Schools. Besides spending time with her family, Kristen enjoys reading, tennis, and sailing.

2018 Spring Grants Awarded

- Science Olympiad Team (Grades 3-5) Ferry (\$500)
- Middle School Robotics Program (Grades 6-8) Parcels (\$1,200)
- GPN "Cool Down Space" and GPS "Chill Room" (Grades 9-12) North and South (\$1,000 each for a total of \$2,000)
- AVID Career and College Readiness (Grades 9-12) North and South (\$8,700)
- Wireless Probes for Science Department Chromebooks (Grades 9-12), South (\$3,945)
- Explore Learning Gizmos (Grades 6-8), Brownell (\$2,850)
- 3D Printers for the Art Department (Grade 6-8), Parcels and Pierce (\$5,443)
- Graphing Calculators (Grades 7-8), Pierce (\$5,110)
- Grosse Pointe Learning Network (Grades Pre-K to 12) All Schools (\$1,000)

**TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED
THIS CYCLE: \$30,748**

Save the date!

GPFPE Annual Spring Gala
"Be the Beacon"
Saturday, April 13, 2019 | Grosse Pointe Yacht Club



389 St. Clair Avenue
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*Enriching, Engaging,
Inspiring Our Future*

Photos courtesy of Lisa Vreede.



GPFPE

Grosse Pointe Foundation
for Public Education

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education brings our community together to fund extraordinary educational opportunities for our children.

Our Guiding Values

We strive to demonstrate the following in all that we do:

Collaboration: We search out and develop partnerships to better serve our students and community.

Responsibility: We pledge to be accountable to our partners, donors, volunteers and the students we serve.

Innovation: We strive to be forward thinking and inclusive.

Impact: We enhance our school system, our greater community and as a result, our world.

Empowerment: We fund programs that help each student realize his or her full potential.

gpfpe.org