



GPFPE

Grosse Pointe Foundation
for Public Education

SUMMER 2021

THE TORCH

gpfpe.org

GPFPE's Be the Beacon Benefit Raises Record Amount

GPFPE held its annual Be the Beacon Benefit on June 3, 2021 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The event brought in \$270,000, a record fundraising total for the organization. The GPFPE also launched its new SEED (Social Emotional Encouragement and Development) Initiative at the event, with \$94,000 being specifically raised for this new program, which will fund grants specifically targeting social and emotional growth, healing and connections, and other mental health programs. The remaining funds will support the GPFPE's biannual district-wide grants distribution. The SEED paddle raise included a tremendous lead gift of \$25,000 from the Boll and Mestdagh families.

JT Mestdagh, inspirational speaker and author, served as the event's honorary chair. Mestdagh, who grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms, is well known for overcoming health and learning struggles and was instrumental in bringing the Tattum F.A.S.T. reading program to the GPPSS. The GPFPE was pleased to be able to support the initial funding of the F.A.S.T. program, which is still in use today in the district.

The GPFPE is incredibly grateful to everyone who made the event so successful. From the honorary host committee and the corporate sponsors, to the auction donors and all who attended, participated in the auction and paddle



The Boll and Mestdagh families.

Photo courtesy of Renee Landuyt, Grosse Pointe News.

"It was wonderful to be able to gather on the beautiful lawn of the GP Yacht Club. We are grateful to our supporters and friends who came together to make this event a success and we look forward to putting these dollars to work directly in classrooms across the school district."

– Bob Bury, GPFPE President



Event co-chairs, Beth Moran and Kris Vande Vusse.



Newly appointed Deputy Superintendent Dr. Roy Bishop, Jr. and Latoya Bishop.

Photos courtesy of Erin DiLodovico.

raise or sent their regrets with gifts, the evening could not have happened without them all. Tremendous thanks also goes out to the benefit planning committee

and the GPFPE Board members and staff for all their efforts behind the success of the evening. (see pgs. 6-7 for more information and photos from the event)

A Letter From Our President

It's been quite some time since we've published *The Torch* and in that time our world has changed dramatically. But despite the uncertainty and turmoil, I am pleased to report that the GPFPE has remained steadfast in its commitment to support the students and teachers of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. In this edition, you will find reports on the more than \$65,000 in grants that have been awarded across the district in the past year, which would not have been possible without the continued generous and loyal support of our donors – people like you, who remain committed to our children, our schools and our community.

In June, we were finally able to celebrate our benefactors and beneficiaries in person at our Be the Beacon benefit. It was exhilarating to be together with our friends and supporters again and the enthusiasm led to our most successful fundraiser ever, grossing more than \$270,000, including \$94,000 specifically for our new SEED (Social Emotional Encouragement and Development) initiative. On behalf of our outstanding Board of Trustees, our many volunteers, and Karen Lawrence who keeps the GPFPE operating efficiently, know that we appreciate and deeply value your continued support and encouragement.

While our world has forever changed, our mission to bring our community together to fund extraordinary educational opportunities for our children has not. Many thanks to you for being a part of it.

Warm Regards,
Bob Bury

GPFPE Awarded \$25,000 Grant From the Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Funds

The GPFPE has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community

Foundation for Southeast Michigan; specifically, the fund for Grosse Pointe Community Assets.

The grant will provide resources to support students' journey to recovery and promote community healing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The GPFPE plans to dedicate the funds to its SEED (Social Emotional Encouragement and Development) Initiative, which will fund grants year-round for programs that support the social and emotional health of our students and our teachers in the district.

Endowed funds at the Community Foundation are designed to grow over time and provide funding in perpetuity for charitable causes

Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds

OF THE
Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

according to a donor's wishes. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation established endowment funds at the Community Foundation to provide support to issue areas that were important to Mr. Wilson during his lifetime: Caregiving, Design and Access, Youth Sports, and the Grosse Pointe community.

The GPFPE is so grateful to Mr. Wilson and his family for their dedication to the Grosse Pointe community and their focus on sustaining support through an endowment.

Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education Board and Committee Listing 2021

Board of Directors:

President
Robert Bury
Vice President
Christie Scoggin
Treasurer
Kiana Rose
Secretary
Beth Moran

GPFPE Board of Trustees:

Elizabeth Connors
John Danaher
Kathy Fisk
Pamela Flom
Jake Howlett
Caroline Marks
Robert Montgomery
Mary Beth Nicholson
Maria Quint
Cynthia Sohn
Jason Tinsley
Kris Vande Vusse
Brendan C. Walsh

Advisory Board:

Barbara Bierbusse
Jeff Broderick
Pat Burke
Cynthia Hempstead
Laura B. Huebner
Lorna G. Utley

*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.*

GPFPE Awards Biannual Grants

2020 Fall Grants

Awarded at the December 14, 2020 School Board Meeting

The first three grants were funded through the Lois J. Warden Fund that has been established for important elementary programs within the school system.

1. Dramatic Play Equipment (Kindergarten) Monteith (\$3,731) Submitted by Natalie Bruveris, Theresa Comilla and Diane Richards
2. All Hands on Deck (Grade 3) Mason (\$406) Submitted by Caitlin Haigh
3. Integrating Literacy into the Maire Makerspace (Grades K-4) Maire (\$750) Submitted by Michelle Kramer
4. Instrumental Music PPE (Grades 5-12) Parcels, Brownell, Pierce, North and South (\$2,400) Submitted by Tom Torrento
5. iPads to Interact with New Smart Board Software (Grades 5-8) Parcels, Brownell and Pierce (\$6,808) Submitted by Ashley Golitko
6. Hands on Art (Grades 5-8) Parcels (\$402) Submitted by Courtney Hughes
7. Chromebooks for Everyday Lessons and Growth (Post High School Students) Community School (\$3,179) Submitted by Ann Marie Bokatzian
8. Bring Out the Bass (Grades 5-12) Brownell, Parcels and North (\$8,000) Submitted by Tom Torrento
9. New Vibraphone (Grades 9-12) South (\$3,993) Submitted by Christopher Takis
10. Impairment Goggles (Grades 9-12) North (\$600) Submitted by Sean McCarroll

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THIS CYCLE = \$30,269



2021 Spring Grants

Awarded at the April 26, 2021 School Board Meeting

The first four grants were funded through the Lois J. Warden Fund that has been established for important elementary programs within the school system.

1. Early Childhood Hands-On (E.C.H.O.) Library and Resource Center (Preschool) Trombly Early Childhood Center (\$2,000) Submitted by Betina Davis and Cate Williams
2. Engaging Preschoolers in Movement (Preschool) Barnes (\$2,319) Submitted by Kelly Vess, Victoria Armenio, and Michelle Satler
3. Moving to the Beat of My Own Drum (Y5-Grade 4) Defer (\$2,775) Submitted by Courtney Kliman
4. Richard Elementary Playground Replacement (Y5-Grade 4) Richard (\$10,000) Submitted by Dr. John Kernan
5. Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine (Grade 5) Parcels (\$5,050) Submitted by Karen Gallagher, Kim Hool, Erica Stout-Kirck, Christine Porada and Nicholas Symonette
6. Harmony Directors to Help Retrain Ensemble Skills (Grades 5-12) Brownell, Pierce, Parcels, North and South (\$4,775) Submitted by Tom Torrento
7. iPad Cart and Twenty iPads (Grades 9-10) South (\$8,359) Submitted by Claire Sobolak
8. Peer to Peer Program Funds (Grades 9-12) North (\$500) Submitted by Kelly Osborne

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED THIS CYCLE = \$35,778

At the meeting GPFPE Vice-President Christie Scoggin also announced a new initiative for the GPFPE – funding grants focused on Social Emotional Encouragement and Development (SEED). The GPFPE has since launched fundraising for this specific category of grants at their Spring Benefit on June 3. Students, teachers and parents will be able to apply for grants year round for programs that support the social and emotional health of our students and our teachers in the district.



Thank You To Our Generous Supporters

Individual & Organization Gifts (Non-Gala)

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Mr. Ken Ackerman, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Alandt *
Mr. James Alibri
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Amato
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Armbruster
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bade
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Baruah
Mr. and Mrs. James Beardslee
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bennert *
Mr. and Mrs. James Bierbusse
Mr. and Mrs. A. James Bonahoom
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Brayton
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Broderick *
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bury *
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Button
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Christian
Mrs. Jane Cirona *
Dr. Jeff Clark and Dr. Laura Clark
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan *
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Cordes
Mr. and Mrs. David Cornillie
Dr. and Mrs. Marc Cullen
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Cullen
Mr. John Danaher
Dassault Systemes SolidWorks Corp *
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Denison
DeSeranno Foundation *
Dr. and Mrs. Michael B. Dib
Dr. and Mrs. Clark B. Dickson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Domzalski
Ms. Janice Donatelli
Mr. and Mrs. George Duffield
Ms. Elizabeth Echlin
Edsel and Eleanor Ford House
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Farley
Mr. and Mrs. Christian Fenton

Fidelity Charitable
FIRST
FIRST in Michigan *
Mr. Joe Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Jef Fisk
Mr. William Fleming and Ms. Laura Sanom
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Flom
Mr. and Mrs. William Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gafa
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gaspar
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Griffith
Grosse Pointe Education Association
Mr. Stanley Harr and Ms. Laura Bartell
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Hartman
Mr. and Mrs. Mark High
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hodges
Mrs. Sandy Honer
Ms. Roseanne Horne
Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC *
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Howell
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy H. Howlett
Mr. and Mrs. Lew Hryhorczuk
Mr. Gilbert Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Huebner *
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Huebner *
Mr. and Mrs. John Huntington, Jr. *
Dr. and Mrs. Ted Jeffries
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kaiser
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kalmink
Mr. and Mrs. John Kamm
Ms. Shirley Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kesteloot
Mr. Kevin Killebrew and Ms. Cathy Champion
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kurtz
Mr. Alger P. LaHood and Dr. Marquita Bedway
Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Lawrence
Dr. and Mrs. John Leverenz
Mr. and Mrs. Don Lindow

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Littmann
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Mager, Jr.
Ms. Nora Markijohn
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marks
Mrs. Anne Maters
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McEnroe *
Mr. Patrick G. McKeever
Ms. Kelley McLean
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Milne
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery
Ms. Tricia Mooney
Mr. and Mrs. John Moran
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moran *
Mr. and Mrs. William Moseley
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Navetta
Mr. and Mrs. David Nicholson
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Nicholson *
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Nicholson *
Dr. Gary Niehaus and Dr. Paige Niehaus *
Mr. Mike O'Bryan and Mrs. Karen Sullivan
Mr. Theodore Oldham
Mrs. Cynthia Oleksiak
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Paglino
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phardel
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Portwood
Mr. and Mrs. David Quint *
Dr. Craig A. Reickert and Dr. Eileen Reickert *
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Richards
Mr. Arthur Roberts
Mrs. Mary Roby
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rose *
Mr. Michael Rozny and Ms. Laurie Ann Coplin
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ryan *
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Salot
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sancya
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schaber



Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Schaden
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Schroeder
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Selvaggio
 Elizabeth, Allen and Warren Shelden Fund *
 Ms. Margaret Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard W. Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. John Sohn
 Mr. and Mrs. Greg Solecki
 Ms. Caroline Sottrel
 Ms. Martha J. Speer
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary S. Spezia
 Ms. Kelly Stark
 Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Strickler
 Mr. Anestis Teftsis and Ms. Margaret Weertz
 Mr. Jason Tinsley
 Dr. Nadia Tremonti
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trost
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Turner
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Van Tol *
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Vande Vusse
 Mr. Chace Wakefield
 Mr. Gail Warden *
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Warnick, Jr.
 *Circle of Excellence

In Memory of

John Alibri
 Joan Armbruster

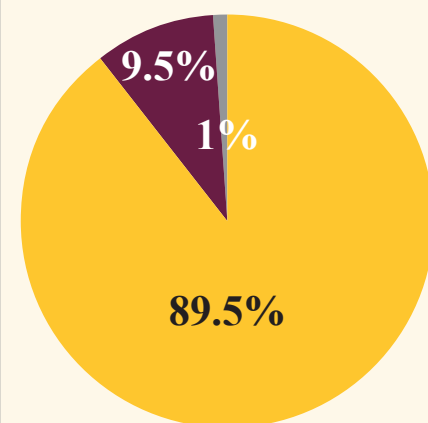
Cornelia Brooks
 Patrick Byrne
 Margaret Churray
 Marlene Cooper
 Julie Webb Corbett
 Elizabeth Kurczewski
 Ada Marotzke
 Bruce Maters
 Nancy Muller
 Lillian L. Phillips
 Mark T. Phipps
 Jennie Pruchniewski
 Kevin Roberts
 Patrick Scoggin
 Noel Smith
 Tina Tinsley
 Lois J Warden

In Honor of

Cindy and Jeff Broderick
 Kathy Fisk
 Walter Fitzpatrick
 Neal Gross
 Bill Mogk
 Christie Scoggin
 Meghan Smith



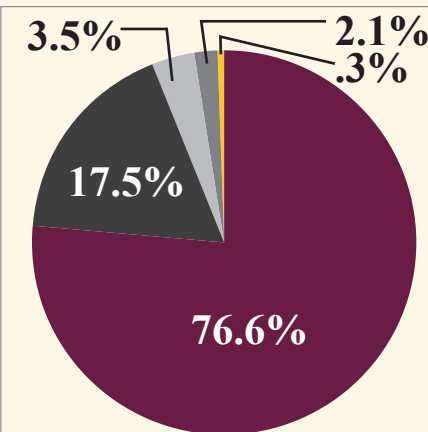
2020 Annual Report



Revenue

1/1/2020-12/31/2020

- Donations
- Special Events
- Investment Income



Expenses

1/1/2020-12/31/2020

- Grants
- Administrative
- Business Expenses
- Advertising and Promotional
- Special Events

Please consider recognizing that special teacher, administrator or staff member, graduating senior, or school program with an

In Honor Of
 gift to the GPFPE.



Be The Beacon Benefit

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

Cindy and Amer Aboukasm
James Alibri *
Lynn and Paul Alandt
Ellen Dennehy Allen and Bob Allen
Patti and Jim Anderson *
Pat and Gebran Anton *
Darrene and Bill Baer *
Suzanne and Dave Babcock
Lisa and Sandy Baruah
Linda and Pete Beauregard *
Suzy and Chip Berschback
Mary Berschback
Barbara and Jim Bierbusse
Latoya and Roy Bishop
Tracy and Doug Blatt *
Marlene and John Boll *
Alicia Bonahoom *
Karen French and Dan Bowen
Cindy and Jeff Broderick
Anne and David Brumbaugh
Maureen and Jim Bur
Mary Ann and Bob Bury *
Elizabeth and Brian Connors
Cathy and Jeff Cornell
Martha and Tony Cimmarrusti
John Danaher
Sally and Jon Dean
Nancy and Mike Dib
Erin and Steve DiLodovico
Sara and Chris Dirkse
Diane and Doug Dossin
Stuart Dow
Elizabeth Echlin
Rebecca Fannon
Grace and Chris Fenton *
Charlie Fisher
Kathy and Jef Fisk
Pamela and Bill Flom

Cynthia and Edsel Ford II
Jane and Bill Fox
Sonja and Mark Franchett
Jenny and Ken Fruehauf *
Lisa and Chuck Gabel *
Judy Gafa
Lisa Mower Gandelot and Jon Gandelot
Nancy Gandelot
Melissa and Pete Gargasoulas
Michele and Michael Giorgio *
Patsy and Ed Gotfredson
Sarah and Bill Gough
Mary and Tristan Guevara
Elizabeth and David Hamm
Tammy and Joe Haney
Heather and Dan Hanneman
Sarah and Dan Hartley
Grace and Richard Herbert
Verlona and Joseph Herd
Sandy Honer
Laura and Keith Howell
Mary and Jake Howlett
Laura and Peter Huebner
Liz and Ned Johnson
Angela and Chuck Kennedy
Shirley Kennedy
Prudence and Richard Klimisch
Annie and Walid Korkmaz
Shelley and Bill Krieg
Lynn and Harry Kurtz
Mary and Ron Lamparter *
Karen Lawrence
Cathy and Chris Lee
Melissa and Dennis Levasseur
Cathy and John Leverenz
Victoria Liggett *
Betty and Chuck Loher
Michelle and Joe Louisell

Connie and Matthew Lucchese *
Caroline and Michael Marks
Kathy and Gary Marowske *
Donna and David Martin *
Chad Matthews
Melisa and Dan McEnroe
Patrick McKeever, Sr.
Susan and Patrick McKeever, Jr.
Patty and Patrick McKee
Mary Messina
Cathy and Bill Mestdagh, Jr. *
J T Mestdagh - Honorary Host
Kris and Jim Mestdagh *
Ruth and Bill Mestdagh
Paula and Marty Monforton
Pam and Bob Montgomery
Beth and Joe Moran
Lindsay and Matthew Moroun *
Nora Moroun *
Kate and Colin Murray
Debbie and Gregory Nelson *
Mary Beth and Jim Nicholson
Stephanie and Tim Nicholson
Paige and Gary Niehaus
Liz and John Nyquist
Beline and Tony Obeid *
Michelle and Parag Parikh
Fiona and Michael Parker
Kristi and Jim Penman
Jennifer and Rick Perry
Marcia Pollard
Maria and Dave Quint
Eileen and Craig Reickert
Marie Boyle Reinman and Tim Reinman
Virginia Rice *
Libby and Aaron Robinson
Mary Roby
Kiana and Bob Rose



All photos courtesy of Erin DiLodovico.

June 3, 2021



All photos courtesy of Erin DiLodovico.

Cat and Rick Ruffner *
 Brittany and Gregg Russell
 Carly Russell
 Elaine and Jack Ryan
 Donna and Brian Satterfield
 Linda and Greg Schaden
 Christie Scoggin
 Theresa and Anthony Selvaggio
 Cynthia and John Sohn
 Karen and Bill Stefani
 Lori Stefek
 Diane and Ron Strickler
 Karen Sullivan
 Patti Theros
 Jason Tinsley
 Mary and Richard Trost
 Jamie and Doug Turnbull
 Lois Valente
 Kris and Bruce Vande Vusse
 Kristen Van Pelt
 Cheryl and Paul VanTol
 Lisa and Marc Vreede *

Kelly and Brendan Walsh
 Gail Warden *
 Margaret Weertz
 Barb and Rick Widener
 Lynne and Brian Williams
 Colleen Worden
 Pamela and William Yates *
 Mina and Dimitri Zhuk
 Marsha Chaffins and Chris Zingas
**Honorary Host Committee*

Auction Donors

Atwater Brewery
 Beyond Juice
 Marlene and John Boll
 Mary Ann Bury
 Eastern Market Experience
 Pamela and Bill Flom
 Ford House
 Fox-2 Ryan Ermanni
 Grosse Pointe Yacht Club
 Ara Howrani
 Angela and Chuck Kennedy

Karen Lawrence
 Motown Bistro
 Kris, Jim and JT Mestdagh
 Mary Beth Nicholson
 Pewabic Pottery
 Cynthia Sohn
 Kris and Bruce Vande Vusse
 Cheryl and Paul VanTol

In-Kind Donors

Erin DiLodovico
 Betsy and Tom Enders
 Trader Joe's

Special Thanks To

Student Trio:

Isabelle Adams, Bill Beardslee and Anna Jarboe

Beth Walsh Sahutske and service dog, Tuka

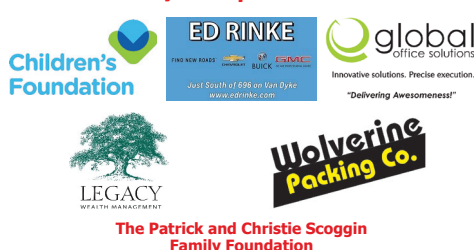
Grosse Pointe Public School

Technology Department:

Chris Stanley, PJ Veltri, Corey Webster and Iosua Petruc

Thank You to our 2021 Corporate Sponsors

Gold Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

Peter Basso Associates Inc.
 Cam's BP at Mack and Rivard
 Chartwells
 Domzalski Ciaramitaro Insurance Agency
 Higbie Maxon Agney Realtors
 Nova Environmental, Inc.
 Brittany and Gregg Russell
 Signature Endodontics
 State Farm Insurance
 -Thomas Mazzola Agency
 Summit Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
 Lorna and Jud Utley



GPFPE Annual Benefit
"Be the Beacon"

Diamond Sponsor

**Edward T. & Ellen K. Dryer
 Charitable Foundation**

Platinum Sponsors



Beth and Joe Moran

Silver Sponsors



Kris and Bruce Vande Vusse

Program Sponsors A.H. Peters Funeral Home • Detroit Thrive Training System • Ehresman Associates, Inc. • Marshall Landscaping Co.

Thursday, June 3, 2021 GPFPE

Additional sponsors post-deadline: Auxilio Services, Inc., BMY Environmental Services, Miller Canfield

Fundraising for GPFPE Endowment Fund to Honor George McMullen

Inspired by the late Grosse Pointe community leader and philanthropist George McMullen, an anonymous donor kicked off a fundraising campaign to the GPFPE endowment fund with a \$5,000 gift. The gift has already inspired more of its kind, including a \$2,500 gift from McMullen's sister, Alex McCann, and the total currently raised has grown to more than \$11,000.

The GPFPE currently has an endowment of \$360,000, held at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, which professionally manages the funds of thousands of organizations. The GPFPE endowment is an integral part of the organization's larger multi-pronged approach and overall comprehensive annual effort.

The GPFPE is honored to be among those



organizations George chose to support during his lifetime. George was always present at our annual fundraiser, served on the event committee and was often an enthusiastic bidder at the evening's auction. The donors, who prefer to remain unnamed, knew that George valued education and Grosse Pointe's public school system and was committed to ensuring the continued excellence of our schools and community in perpetuity.

The GPFPE honored McMullen at the annual benefit on June 3rd.. The event's auction, which he always enjoyed, was dedicated to his memory.

The GPFPE invites those who wish to honor George's memory to consider a gift to the GPFPE Endowment Fund. For further information, please visit gpfpe.org or contact Karen Lawrence at (313) 432-3058.



GPFPE
Grosse Pointe Foundation
for Public Education