

August 2017

FOUNDATION NEWS



Partnering with the community to enhance educational opportunities for Durand Area Schools students.

FOUNDATION PROVIDES OVER \$16,000 FOR DURAND KIDS IN 2016-17

Durand Area Schools Educational Foundation just completed its third and greatest year of operation. Since achieving non-profit status in 2014, the Foundation has distributed nearly \$25,000 toward programs that enhance the education of students in Durand. Over \$16,000 was dispersed during the 2016-17 school year. Programs and projects that received funding include:

Prize Box for Positive Behavior, Robert Kerr School
Behavior Incentives, Middle School
Service Learning Blanket Project, High School
Robotics Team Shelving Project, High School
Youth Advisory Council, Middle School
Conference for Yearbook Staff, High School
Youth Basketball First Aid Kits & Memberships,
Middle School*

Appledore Tall Ship Field Trip, Robert Kerr School**
Competitive Cheer Tumbling Training, High School*

Knitting Supplies for Community Service Project,
Middle School

Chick Incubation Project, Bertha Neal School
Reading Night Supplies, Robert Kerr School
Girls on the Run Registration Fees, Robert Kerr School*

Great Lakes Science Center Field Trip, Middle School
Kerr Cares Program, Robert Kerr School

Mobile I-Max Theatre Curriculum Reinforcement,
Bertha Neal School

Summer Volleyball Camp, Grades 4-8*
UM Team Camp: Volleyball, High School*
SVSU Team Camp: Girls Basketball, High School*
Cheer Camp, High School*

Title I Attendance Incentives Program, Robert Kerr School
Art Room Microphone Headset System, High School
Family Career and Consumer Leaders of America
National Conference, High School
Kindness Crew Program, Middle School
Light Boxes for Art Program, Middle School



Durand Middle School Students at The Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland

*Programs that are marked with a single asterisk were funded in part or entirely from the Marjorie Smith Fund for Girls' Athletics. Ms. Smith, a Durand graduate and strong proponent of athletic programs for girls, passed away in 2016. Her generous donation to the Foundation is restricted to selected skill building programs for young women.

**The Tall Ship Field Trip was funded by the Doris M. Kiacz Memorial Fund. Mrs. Kiacz was a long time teacher and principal in the district.

Donations can be sent to Durand Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 124 • Durand, MI 48429
Please specify if you wish your donation to be for the endowment or for programs.

100 WOMEN SUPPORT EDUCATION

Seven energetic women launched a local chapter of 100 Women Who Care in the Durand area in early 2016. The organization focuses on the collective impact that women can make in their communities. Each member pledges to donate \$100 twice a year to a local nonprofit organization. The group met for the first time last September. Jan Harper, Foundation Chair, and representatives from two other charities gave presentations to the group. Following the presentations, the members cast ballots for their favorite nonprofit organization.

Durand Area Schools Educational Foundation was selected by the group to receive the group donation. The gift was doubly significant as an anonymous donor had pledged \$10,000 to the Foundation endowment fund if matching money could be raised before the end of 2016. The donations from 100 Women helped meet the match and secured the additional donation.

Information about 100 Women of the Greater Durand Area can be found at www.100womenwhocare-durand.org.



Durand Educational Foundation receives check from 100 Women Who Care

WHICH CAME FIRST?

Youngsters at Bertha Neal School will undoubtedly answer the age old question by stating that the egg came first. Thanks to a donation from the Educational Foundation, an egg incubator was purchased for the early education classroom. The incubator was filled with eggs and each day the children studied the development of the embryo by viewing cards that showed what was happening inside the eggs. On the twenty-first day, the children excitedly watched the little chicks hatch. Multiple classrooms shared this exciting experience. Because the incubator can be used again, the purchase will become part of an annual learning experience.

In case you still aren't convinced which came first, we can provide a bit more evidence. The eggs were donated by a local farmer. We suspect that hens had something to do with the donation but have no actual proof at this time.



HANDLED WITH CARE

Nearly everyone has read stories about charities that spend so much on administration that little money actually goes to the charitable cause. Durand Educational Foundation would like to assure donors that the money given to the Foundation goes to enrich education for students attending Durand Area Schools. Donations are awarded as grants to teachers and volunteers that work with local students, funding activities such as field trips, leadership skill building and other educational activities. See the list of programs that the Foundation funded on page one.

According to Better Business Bureau a nonprofit that spends less than 25% of its budget on overhead is given an A grade. Last year the Foundation spent 4.2% of its budget on overhead and 95.8% on programs and contributions to an endowment or long term funding plan. Primary foundation expenses include post office box rental fees, state and federal filing fees, and postage and supplies for communicating with donors and potential donors.

We make a diligent effort not to spend a lot of money to secure donations. We will never promise a t-shirt or a cookbook for a donation. Any donation, regardless of size, goes to our mission, not to pay for a t-shirt. We are proud that we attempt to reach out to donors only one time per year. Of course we love it when people send a check without being asked but we know reminders are important. If our information comes at an inconvenient time, please set our envelope aside and use it when the time is right. Whenever you donate, please be assured that your gift will be handled with care and will help improve educational opportunities for Durand students.

VISIT US ONLINE

Durand Educational Foundation has the most current information posted on the school district website at www.durand.k12.mi.us. Look under the Foundation tab for the following:

- List of Donors, Memorial Donations and Honorary Donations
- Current Grant Recipients
- Grant Information (guidelines & forms)
- IRS Documentation & Charitable Solicitation License
- Foundation Bylaws and Policies
- Distinguished Alumni Information
- Upcoming Events

MICHAEL WATKINS AND TOM FUJA NAMED 2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Durand Area Schools Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of Michael Watkins, class of 1995, and Tom Fuja, class of 1977, as distinguished alumni for 2017. The candidates were selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates nominated by their peers.



Capt. Michael Watkins,
USMC

Captain Michael Watkins was nominated for his dedicated service to the country as a member of United States Marine Corps. Watkins enlisted in the Marines upon graduation from high school. He was commissioned as an officer in 2005 after earning a Bachelor's degree. As a pilot, he accrued over 1200 flight hours, including 1000 hours in the EA6B Prowler. Watkins served as an IMEF Special Operations Instructor as well as completing tours of duty

in Afghanistan and Iraq. He earned a Master's degree and has received numerous awards and commendations that rounded out his honorable and distinguished career.



Dr. Thomas Fuja, PhD.

Tom Fuja is a Professor and the Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where he teaches classes and conducts research into ways to make digital communication systems more reliable, including ways to improve the sound and image quality in cell phones, military communication systems and TV broadcasts. Prof. Fuja has also served as the

Program Director for Communications Research at the U.S. National Science Foundation and as a consultant to companies such as Apple, AT&T, and Vizio in patent infringement cases, testifying in U.S. District Court and at the International Trade Commission in Washington DC. Prof. Fuja graduated from DAHS in 1977 and from the University of Michigan in 1981. He received his PhD from Cornell University in 1987.

SPECIAL FUND ACCOUNTS

Durand Educational Foundation currently has two special fund accounts, The Doris M. Kiacz Fund and the Marjorie Smith Fund for Girls' Athletics. Each of these funds was established with an initial contribution of \$10,000 or more. Special funds such as these allow the donor to determine specifically how the money or interest from the money will be used. For example, the family of Doris Kiacz asked that their donation be endowed and the interest used annually for an educational field trip. As such, the Kiacz Fund is a perpetual fund, creating a lasting legacy in memory of the donor.

Marjorie Smith created a fund which was to be used exclusively for athletic skill-building for girls. In her estate planning, Ms. Smith also stipulated additional money would be added to the fund upon her death. The Smith fund is not endowed so the monies will be used for her intended purposes until they are exhausted.

Donors who may be considering a special donor fund are asked to contact Jan Harper at 989.288.3275 to discuss the possibilities.

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

An endowment is an investment fund that is created to help insure that an organization stays in existence for the long term. An endowment is actually similar to investment portfolios or savings accounts that families use to provide for financial stability. While households prepare for things like a breadwinner being out of work or high cost unexpected expenses, a nonprofit needs to prepare for economic conditions when donors have less ability to give.

In 2015 the Board of Durand Educational Foundation determined that it was important for the organization to help meet local educational needs regardless of the economy. Several generous donors helped make it possible to start an endowment. Annual interest from the Foundation Endowment currently provides funding for 6-8 grants. Donations in any amount can be specified for the endowment.

FOUNDATION DONORS (Gifts received July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

Thank you to our donors.

If we missed you, we apologize. Please contact us immediately at durandeducationfdn@gmail.com so we can add your name to the list of people who willingly support education in Durand.

Acker Agency, Inc.
Michael & Janet Adair
Frank & Sandy Ackerman
Don & Sandee Babka
Courtney A. Baker
Kitty Bennett
Betty Benson
Blackmore Rowe Agency
Matt & Sandy Blight
Kathleen Boike-Foster
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Paul & Bonnie Rearick
Dale Simmons
Marie Semple
David Lee Streeter
Irene Sworthwood
Walt Widder
Fred Wilson
William & Margaret Zick

Honorary Donations

Pam Corwin
Durand Middle School Staff
Dr. John V. Koczman
Cassandra Maynard
Tim & Kathy Shaw
Sprague & Johnson Grandchildren