

Literacy Legacy Fund



of Michigan

2020
ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages

Dear Donors and Friends,

The Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan (LLF Michigan) remains strong thanks to your personal gifts and belief in our mission. Donors state-wide, local sponsors and the business community allowed LLF Michigan to fund seven projects/grants and two named scholarships at Michigan universities. Through 2020, LLF Michigan has distributed approximately \$53,900 throughout Michigan.

Some grant recipients were creative during the 2020 pandemic by implementing their grants virtually. Others are poised for implementation in 2021. Our two planned local fundraisers were canceled but plans are underway for exciting events in 2021. Our sponsor assistance is being carried into the new year.

We are excited with the development of two special projects for 2021 that will touch new audiences. Please visit our website and follow us on Facebook to learn of current activities.

The Board recognizes that none of this activity would happen without LLF Michigan's generous donors, dedicated partners, sponsors, businesses who contribute in various ways, and magnificent volunteers over the past years. As always, we will need and appreciate your loyal assistance going forward if we are to continue to respond meaningfully to the array of literacy needs in Michigan.

We invite you to share your passion for LLF Michigan with friends, relatives and colleagues so that we can have a maximum positive impact on our Michigan communities. As a reminder, contributions in honor or in memory of a relative, friend or colleague are gifts that truly keep on giving. We value your past and future support for a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages.

With appreciation,

LLF Michigan Board of Directors

Our Mission: To support the improvement of a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages through the distribution of charitable funds to enhance literacy-related efforts. Visit us at www.literacylegacyfund.org.

Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan is a Section 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

LITERACY LEGACY FUND of Michigan

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2020 FINANCIAL DONORS

Mimi Andary (S)
Anonymous (S)
Phyllis A. Aurich (LC)
David & Cathy Bammert (S)
Dr. Mary A. Bigler (S)
Carolyn Jane Blough (LC)
Michael & Toni Blough (S)
Dr. Kenneth L. Carlson (S)
Linda Cork (S)
Sophia D'Agostino (S)
Nancy Dermody (S)
Susan & Rem De Jong (S)
Larry De Voogd (S)
Lucy Dewitt (S)
Dr. Patricia A. Edwards (S)
Nancy & Greg Fierstine (S)
Gwendolyn Graham (G)
Sherry Henderson (G)
Karen Kimar Johnson (S)
Gloria J. La Pointe (G)
David R. Mc Ginnis (S)
Marquette County Steelworkers Coalition (LC)
Kerri Moccio (S)
Betty Hilbert O'Brien (S)
Barbara Ojibway (G)
Betty Anne Rowlands (G)
Jane Ryan (S)
Dr. Nancy E. (Wiseman) Seminoff (LC)
Patricia Smothermon (S)
Dr. N. Suzanne Standerford (S)
Dr. Jacqueline Tilles (G)
Melinda Vokal (D)
Sue Whitney (S)

(Legend: Silver up to \$100; Gold up to \$250; Diamond up to \$500; Platinum up to \$1,000; Legacy Circle above \$1,000)

Please see next page for more donor information

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)
IN HONOR OF
IN MEMORY OF

- Marie Constant Presented by: Patricia Smothermon
Ward Dewitt Presented by: Lucy De Witt
George Mac Donald Presented by: Nancy Seminoff
Brian Robert O’Donnell Presented by: Phyllis Aurich
. Presented by: Gwendolyn Graham

SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

**Eastern Michigan University Department of Teacher Education
Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Mary Bigler**

A \$1,000 scholarship, initially awarded for the fall 2020, is to assist an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a teacher education program at Eastern Michigan University.



Dr. Mary Bigler is an award-winning professor in the Department of Teacher Education at Eastern Michigan University where she teaches undergraduate and graduate literacy courses. She has been teaching, speaking, writing, and inspiring for more than forty years.

From pre-school teacher to college professor, in classrooms and lecture halls throughout the United States, Africa and Europe, Mary has spent her life promoting literacy, advocating for children and celebrating the joys of teaching, learning and leading.

Dr. Bigler is a past president of the Michigan Reading Association and is the author of the highly-acclaimed book *Mary Bigler’s Lessons Learned*. She holds the prestigious Distinguished Teaching Award from Eastern Michigan University and the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association.

**Wayne State University College of Education Scholarship in
Honor of Dr. Jacqueline Tilles**

In 2016, LLF Michigan initiated a scholarship fund honoring Dr. Tilles to assist an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a teacher education program at Wayne State University. Dr. Tilles is described as a “teacher’s” teacher, and has helped her students to understand literature

and how to engage students to appreciate a wide range of works, especially literature representing various backgrounds, genre, and ethnic groups.

Since 2016 we have continued to fund the scholarship for a total of \$8,500. LLF Michigan's donations and other donor contributions directly received by WSU have assisted eight students to further their educational studies for a total of \$14,000.



Nancy Van Hulle, a master's degree candidate in Health & Physical Education is the 2020 recipient.

LITERACY LEGACY FUND MICHIGAN 2020 AWARDED GRANTS

To date, LLF Michigan has distributed over \$53,940 in literacy enhancing grants. We truly are grateful for all your support to enhance Michigan literacy of all ages!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program in which a free book is mailed monthly to children (from birth to 5 years of age) who are registered for the program. These are high-quality books that are chosen by experts in the education and writing fields and are based on the child's age. The program was started in February 2020 at the AuTrain-Onota Public Schools. Special Project Award will cover approximately 15 eligible children annually.



Japhet Schools Visiting Artist Series. This grant funding is to help launch the Japhet School Visiting Artist Series (JSVAS). The very first biannual event will host author, Bonnie J. Kilburn, Jr. and will showcase her book, *Just Imagine*. These events will embellish the current curriculum and offer a pathway for new experiential learning beyond traditional class time in the arts, humanities, sciences and math. This program aims to strengthen the outreach of Japhet School within the community at-large. A desire to build community and a voice to engage intergenerational learning is the key. Amount awarded \$800.00. Program implementation is currently on hold.



Lowell Area Historical Museum Immersion Program. The Museum was awarded a third consecutive grant for the “Museum Immersion” program for implementation in the 2019-2020 academic year. The program was provided to all third grade classes in the Lowell Area School District. Due to the Covid-19 shut down the museum staff worked with the schools to present the



programming virtually through recorded videos teachers shared with students. Activities were developed so students could use them at home to further supplement the program. Amount awarded \$1,000.00 as a Legacy Award. Implementation was completed virtually and very well-received by the schools.

Remain in Touch – Connecting Incarcerated Parents/Grandparents With Families. Remain in Touch is a literacy program for the children of incarcerated parents/grandparents in Leelanau and Benzie Counties. The organization offers incarcerated parents/grandparents the opportunity to select a free, new book and record it aloud for each of their children, ages 0-12 years. The recordings and books are sent to the individual child, allowing the parents and children to stay connected and bridge the gap that exists during the time of their incarceration. The program benefits the child, the incarcerated parent and community. This grant assisted with program expansion for teens in Benzie County. Amount awarded \$500.00. Implementation is delayed until summer/fall of 2021 when volunteers are allowed to visit jails.

Marquette Maritime Museum – Reprint *Marquette Shipwrecks* Book. The Marquette Maritime Museum’s grant provided funds to reprint Fred Stonehouse’s book, *Marquette Shipwrecks* and create educational activities based on the book. The updated book and corresponding educational activities will be made available to all teachers who participate in the Museum’s field trip program. Educational activities based on the book will be used in classrooms before and after the field trip, at the Museum during field trips, and for Museum guests. Amount awarded \$1,000.00

En Nuestra Lengua Literacy and Culture Project (ENL). ENL Literacy & Culture Project grant provided funds to purchase 10 Chrome Books. The project is a FREE Saturday literacy intervention program and has

been in operation since 2010. ENL successfully brings together Pre-K to 5th grade English-language learning students, their parents, local volunteers, and educators to counteract the significant academic achievement gap in this underserved language-learning community surrounding Ann Arbor, MI. ENL operates on a 25 – week academic year schedule, 2.5 – 3 hours each Saturday plus daily in-home assignments. Amount awarded \$1,340.00 This program was implemented successfully with some modifications.



Marquette Regional History Center – Two Semesters Fee Waiver.

Marquette Regional History Center has received a follow-up grant to waive research & workshop fees for NMU students the fall & spring semesters 2020-2021. Research can be conducted in person or virtually and covers a wide range of topics, such as English, History, Health and more. Amount awarded \$1,000.00. Implementation has been limited but is ongoing in 2021.

Some of the above grants are still in the process of being implemented due to the shut down in various areas of Michigan. However, the shutdown didn't deter most of our grant recipients from finding many creative ways to implement their grants!

Amounts allocated in 2020: \$6,140 (plus Spotlight Awards listed separately on another page).

Funding Categories & Descriptions:

JumpStart Incentive Grant – For launching or supporting a new or existing worthy project; evidence-based and usually for 12 months.

Legacy Award – For funding projects demonstrating potential for long-term impact; implementation over a 18-24 month period. Usually based on successful Jumpstart Financial Incentive Grants.

Special Project – For supporting a unique activity or event; does not require evidence-based reporting; has future grant potential.

Spotlight – Given periodically in recognition for having a significant impact and/or deemed to be worthy of high praise and emulation by others.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy (Wiseman) Seminoff, Ed.D. (Chair)
Phyllis A. Aurich, B.S. (Secretary)
Gloria J. La Pointe, B.S., CPA (Treasurer)
Carolyn Jane Blough, M.A. (Development: Donor Solicitation)

2020 ADVISORY GROUP

Sophia D'Agostino, Ph.D.; Adam Berger, Ph.D.; David Bammert, M.A.; Roxanne Daust, B.S.; Kenneth J. Helinski, Ed.S.; Angela Hentkowski, J.D., LL.M.; Gloria J. La Pointe, B.S., CPA; Kerri Moccio, M.S.; Barbara Ojibway, Ed.S.; Kori Tossava, M.A.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Gloria J. La Pointe, Nancy (Wiseman) Seminoff, Teresa Van Zalen

ANNUAL BUSINESS SPONSORS



2020 FUNDRAISING EVENT SPONSORS

Bell Financial • Flagstar Bank
*Mark Aho Financial Advisors • *Range Bank
Steward & Sheridan • *Upper Peninsula Health Plan
*Upper Peninsula Health System-Marquette

FUNDRAISING PLANNING TEAM

Phyllis Aurich • Adam Berger
Roxanne Daust • Angela Hentkowski
Nancy Seminoff

FUNDRAISING EVENT RAFFLE DONORS & SERVICES

The following Marquette County businesses, firms and individuals provided items or committed services (+) for 2020 events that were canceled due to Covid-19. These items will be used at 2021 events. We appreciate their commitment and assistance! Please join us to support them locally.

+ Barrel + Beam • Culver's • *Dominos Marquette •
Douglas Miller *EveryDay Wines • Jandron's Fine Jewelry •
Jill Leonard State Farm • Kentucky Fried Chicken • Landmark Inn •
Marez-Z-Doats • Michigan Made • + Outlanders • *Portside Inn • Red Lobster •
Saykly's The Candy Store • *Select Realty - Andi Goresky & Pat Olson •
*Snowbound Books • *Tadych's Econo Foods • Thill & Sons Fish House •
*Thomas Theatre Group • Tomie de Paola/Whitebird, Inc •
*Vierling Restaurant & Marquette Harbor Brewery • + Vinyl Reception •
Yooper Shirts • Young's Brakes •

***Providing support for three consecutive years. We sincerely appreciate their loyalty!**