

Literacy Legacy Fund



of Michigan

2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages

Dear Donors and Friends,

Although 2021 has provided both opportunities and challenges, we are pleased with what we could accomplish thanks to your support since our incorporation in 2009 as a non-profit.

In May, we became an Affiliate for a second Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, new in Marquette 49855. In June we held a first very successful fundraiser with Range Bank-Marquette to announce this program locally. We sincerely appreciate Range Bank's ongoing partnership.

We initiated *Bertha's Buddies* in February for Valentine's Day. This caring correspondence endeavor has been met with gratitude by those who received our personalized cards four times last year.

Several grants for which funds were allocated in 2020 were completed, but no new grants were initiated. We also gave our third Spotlight Award and continued our scholarship support.

We held our *third annual* fundraiser, *Literacy Lives*, in fall 2021, postponed from spring 2020. This successful event showcased the sponsors and business donors who contributed previously in 2020 and attracted new donors, event participants, and outstanding volunteers.

Since our inception, we have distributed \$58,600. In 2021 we provided \$1,000 to the Lowell Area Historical Museum for the Spotlight Award, \$500 to our Wayne State University scholarship, and \$1,700 to the Dollywood Foundation for the Marquette 49855 (\$1,400) and AuTrain-Onota (\$305) programs.

We value your contributions to LLF Michigan, financially as individuals, sponsors or businesses, or as volunteers. We invite you to donate *in honor or memory* of a loved one, specify support for one of our special projects if you wish, and share our work with others who are passionate about improving literacy. It is only with your gifts and our sponsors that we can continue to be a force for literacy improvement.

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.

The Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan is a section 501c3 charitable organization.

LITERACY LEGACY FUND

of Michigan

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2021 FINANCIAL DONORS

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

IN MEMORY OF

Jim & Gloria Christopherson from Caron Christopherson
 Joyce McGinnis from David McGinnis
 Marie L Constant from Patricia Smothermon

SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

2021 Spotlight Award to Lowell Area Historical Museum in Honor of Carolyn Jane Blough

The Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan recently selected Carolyn Jane Blough, Lowell, Michigan, as its **2021 Spotlight Award Recipient**.



Carolyn Jane Blough has spent her professional career as an educator for over 50 years. For several years she served as a reading consultant and Director of Reading for the Lowell Area Schools. She holds an M.A. from Western Michigan University.

Carolyn Jane has leadership experiences with non-profit groups at the local and state levels, including as a Past President of the Michigan Reading Association and as the MRA Annual Conference Chair for Local Arrangements for five years. She served the United Methodist Church Pre-school in various leadership positions for 47 years, including several years as President. She serves on the board of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. She and her family have provided considerable support for the Lowell Showboat through the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The showboat provides a well-known venue for national-recognized speakers and entertainers for the enjoyment of residents and visitors in southwestern Michigan. Carolyn Jane is a founding donor to LLF Michigan and a current board member.

FIRST Spotlight Award Recipient

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



Dr. Jacqueline Tilles served as an educator for 56 years, retiring in 2015 from Wayne State University where she was an Associate Professor of Reading, Language and Literature. Prior to WSU, she was on the faculty of Hunter College and previously served as a teacher in the Detroit Public Schools.

Dr. Tilles taught perspective and practicing teachers to understand a wide range of literature, especially works representing various ethnic groups, and to use instructional strategies to assist their students to appreciate and understand various genres and writers.

LLF Michigan donated \$2,500 annually from 2016 through 2018 to assist an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a teacher education program at **Wayne State University**. Since 2019, LLF Michigan continues to support this scholarship annually with LLF Michigan funds and donor contributions. Though May 2021, 11 students have received \$16,000 in scholarships.

Recipient W. Alsalmi writes: “I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor, and I am deeply appreciative of your support.”

Recipient Z. Al-Akashi writes: “Receiving this scholarship will allow me to focus more of my energy on completing my degree and paying more attention to my first year of teaching.”

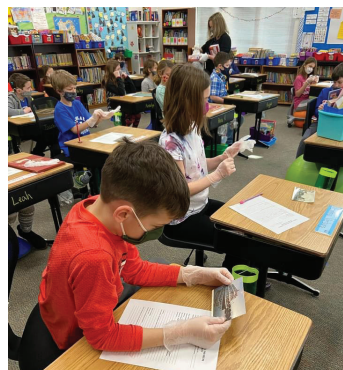
WSU VP, Development and Alumni Affairs S. Burns writes: “Your generosity strengthens Wayne State now and for generations to come. You exemplify the values of philanthropy, and we are grateful to you for your continued support.”

LITERACY LEGACY FUND MICHIGAN

2021 Evidence-Based Grants and Legacy Awards

This year grants not fully implemented in 2020 completed their grant objectives. Gathering safely is still a concern in 2021 so we made the difficult decision to suspend Evidence-Based Grants. However, we found new ways to support our mission to enhance literacy of all ages in Michigan! All the ways we carried out our mission can be found here in our Annual Report, on our website and our Facebook page.

Lowell Area Historical Museum Immersion Program 2020-2021 The Museum was awarded a second consecutive \$1,000 Legacy Award for the “Museum Immersion” program. The program provided all third-grade students in three buildings, a total of 11 classrooms, 275 students, and 11 teachers, to participate with the museum in this unique program. Only two



of the classrooms were able to visit in person due to the Covid shutdown, but museum staff worked with schools to present programming virtually through recorded videos. Activities were completed in the classrooms, and materials were brought to the schools by the museum staff.

Objectives met: *Support, expand and supplement social studies curriculum through direct exposure to historical artifacts, exhibits, techniques and interaction with local historians. * Connect learning in the classroom to the local community. * Model methods of historical research and writing through student-driven activities with the guidance of historians.

Marquette Maritime Museum – Reprint *Marquette Shipwrecks* Book
The Marquette Maritime Museum’s grant provided funds to reprint Fred Stonehouse’s book, *Marquette Shipwrecks*. The updated book is available to all teachers who participate in the Museum’s field trip program and is for sale. Amount awarded \$1,000.

Objectives met: Reprinted an updated version of *Marquette Shipwrecks* * Created educational activities based on the book to be used in classrooms before and after field trips, at the Museum during field trips, and for Museum guests. * Scheduled field trips and prepared activities based on *Marquette Shipwrecks*.

Marquette Regional History Center - Metadata Literacy for Digitizing Historical Documents. Marquette Regional History Center received a JumpStart Incentive Grant in 2019 to preserve priceless local history documents in the John M. Longyear Research Library for future generations. This remarkable archival collection of documents and photos was left to MRHC by the family of John Munro Longyear (1850-1922). Longyear was a successful land investor, lifelong history enthusiast, and an avid photographer who took pictures as he traveled throughout the Upper Peninsula, within the United States, and around the world. The \$2,000 grant, initially allocated as a matching grant for other funds, assisted in training NMU students and interested community members to write metadata and create digital objects from physical documents. An intern made considerable progress in 2021 to digitize documents following initial involvement by dedicated volunteers. Work on this project continues as there is no “end date.”

Marquette Regional History Center - Fee Waiver. The Marquette Regional History Center received a second grant to waive research and workshop fees for NMU students for 2020-2021. Over 300 students conducted research in person or virtually from departments such as history, sociology, international studies, outdoor recreation, anthropology, and English.

Funding Categories & Descriptions: JumpStart Incentive Grant – For launching or supporting a new or existing worthwhile project. **Legacy Award** – For funding

projects demonstrating potential for long-term impact; implementation over a 18-24 month period. Usually based on successful JumpStart Incentive Grants.

Special Projects – 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.

LLF Michigan Special Projects



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library - Marquette 49855 was launched in May 2021. LLF Michigan is both the Affiliate (non-profit organization) for this program *and* the Local Champion, handling the registrations, publicity, and fundraising activities. Since May the Marquette 49855 program has registered 95 children. This is the second program for which LLF Michigan is the Affiliate, having launched its first program in 2020 with AuTrain-Onota Public Schools.

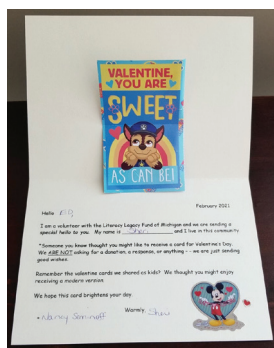
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program in which a child receives a free age-appropriate book addressed and mailed to that child each

month. Children ages birth to five years old in Marquette 49855 are eligible. Participants must be registered by a parent, grandparent, or loving adult through LLF Michigan. There is no cost, obligation, or income requirements for the child's family. As the local affiliate, LLF Michigan funds the program costs through the Dollywood Foundation.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading.

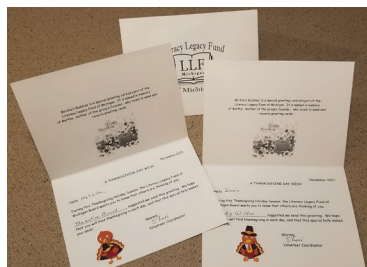
Today this program spans five countries and gifts over 1.9 million books each month. We are proud to collaborate on funding for this book gifting program and we are grateful for your donations.





Bertha's Buddies - Bertha's Buddies was launched by the Board in February 2021. This program was created in memory of Bertha Wiseman, mother of the LLF Michigan founder. Bertha loved to send cards to those who were often alone. In the past year, a total of 124 cards were sent during the 4 mailings. Mailings were sent in February for Valentine's Day (with an individual valentine in each LLF Michigan card- (27

cards); March for St. Patrick's Day (36 cards); July 4th celebration (18 cards); November for Thanksgiving Day remembrance (42 cards). Pictured are the first Valentine's Day card and Thanksgiving Day cards mailed for this program.



LLF MICHIGAN Fundraising Projects

Banking on Literacy – Our first annual



Banking on Literacy event in partnership with Range Bank launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Marquette 49855. With the

support of many community authors and artists, this fundraiser at the bank's Marquette headquarters served as both a friend-raiser and fundraiser.



Participated with the U.P. Publishers and Authors (UPPAA) - At the invitation of the UPPAA, LLF Michigan hosted a table at their fall book sale: a) to share LLF Michigan's mission, b) to promote Dolly Parton's Imagination Library participation, and c) to raise funds through the sale of antiquarian and vintage books and magazines.



Third Annual Literacy Lives - Back by popular request, this fundraiser was held at the Barrel+Beam in Marquette Township. We are grateful for the support of community sponsors, attendees, and volunteers who look forward to this enjoyable outing that supports our annual grants, special projects, and spotlight awards. New this year were photo opportunities with a life-like Dolly Parton cutout and a skittles game to win even more prizes.



906 Giving Tuesday - Participated in a Giving Tuesday event to raise funds for the two DPILs we support in the U.P.

Savings Card Project – LLF Michigan raises funds to support our literacy-related grants and projects. In its second year, the cards provide discounts for 12 months at various businesses, including four in Munising, four in Ishpeming, two in Negaunee, and six in Marquette. The card's purchaser enjoys a different value option at each venue.

Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan				Ishpeming			
SAVINGS CARD LITERACY LEGACY FUND OF MICHIGAN Supporting a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages.				10% OFF Hourly Rate 486-8000 1011 N. Road			
10% OFF All food and drink 104 E. Munising Ave.				FREE Cup of Coffee with Purchase of a full meal 200 E. Division St.			
10% OFF Any Item 202 E. Superior St.				10% OFF Order of \$15+ 1075 Country Lane			
10% OFF Any Item 202 E. Superior St.				10% OFF Purchase of regular priced merchandise 901 Lakeshore Drive			
10% OFF Any Item 202 E. Superior St.				10% OFF any entree 305 Iron St.			
10% OFF Any Item 202 E. Superior St.				10% OFF any entree 305 Iron St.			
10% OFF Any Item 202 E. Superior St.				10% OFF any entree 305 Iron St.			

Additional Appointments: Board & Advisory Group



Board Member at Large: Bonnie Kilburn received a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Michigan University and a Master of Arts from Michigan State University. She has a diverse background as an educator, business owner and author. Bonnie's many ventures include instructor at the University of Hawaii, owner of Bon's Bon Bons, a homemade candy store, a stint with Lifetouch Studios, real estate sales, and recently retired after 34 years as an insurance agent. She self-published *Just Imagine*, a children's book with stories of diversity, acceptance and respect.

The Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan's mission perfectly aligns with Bonnie's vision for children everywhere, which is that the ability to read is crucial and our actions to facilitate this learning process are part of our legacy.



Advisory Group Member: Eric Paad, inspired by the needs of his daughter, Dorothy, founded a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Caregiver Incentive Project, in 2019. Eric holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Aeronautics and minor in Aviation Business Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Eric's business acumen, and understanding of nonprofits and their missions will prove helpful.



WATCH FOR THESE EVENTS IN 2022

- *Banking on Literacy*
June date to be announced
- *Read Between the Wines*
fall date to be announced

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy (Wiseman) Seminoff, Ed.D. (Chair & President)
Phyllis A. Aurich, B.S. (Secretary)
Gloria J. La Pointe, B.S., CPA (Treasurer)
Carolyn Jane Blough, M.A. (Development: Donor Solicitation)
Bonnie Kilburn, M.A. (Member-at-Large)

2021 ADVISORY GROUP

David Bammert, M.A., Roxanne Daust, B.S, Angela Hentkowski, J.D., LLM,
Eric Paad B.S., Kori Tossava, M.A.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Volunteer Coordinators & Administrative Assistants

Clara Braden (Web Research), Katie Helmer (DPIL 49855 Data Clerk),
Sheri Radtki (Bertha's Buddies correspondence),
Bryan Tyner (AuTrain-Onota Main Coordinator),
Teresa VanZalen (Board Assistant)

FUNDRAISING PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Phyllis Aurich, Clara Braden, Roxanne Daust, Angela Hentkowski,
Karen Kimar Johnson, Lori Mahoski, Nancy Seminoff, Hanna Westra
And numerous individuals who provided considerable time
and expertise at various events

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORT

Dollywood Foundation
Get Fresh Communications
Grow & Lead, Community and Youth Development
U.P. Publishers & Authors (UPPAA)

THANK YOU FOR ASSISTANCE, TIME AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE IN SUPPORT OF LLF MICHIGAN ACTIVITIES

Tony Beres, La Dolce Video and Design
Brian Maki, Computer Technician
Pam Hunsaker, Dollywood Foundation Regional Director

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with the Community Foundation of Marquette County

NOTE: Our Fundraising Business Donors and Services List can be found on our website on the Events & News page. We're honored to have a long list and we are grateful for all our Financial & Marketing Sponsors, Business Donors, and Service Providers!

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