

Literacy Legacy Fund



of Michigan

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages

Dear Donors and Friends,

Amazing things happen when people work together. We value your contributions that impact local communities and areas throughout the state as we implement our mission*.

New in 2022 is our partnership with Northern Michigan University's Center for Rural Health to support the National Rural Health Essay Contest with participation by high school students across Upper Michigan. Also, in November we launched a book gifting program to small public libraries and school libraries rather than soliciting giving to LLF Michigan.

LLF Michigan continues to support a scholarship for Wayne State University students in a graduate or undergraduate program in teacher education. With a combination of LLF Michigan funds, including direct donor contributions to WSU, \$18,000 has been awarded to 12 students through spring 2022.

We expanded support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library throughout Marquette and Alger Counties, with five sites now providing a free book monthly to children under five years old. "I know Dolly Parton, she sends me a book in the mail – I love her! I love her books!" exuded one boy who saw our poster encouraging parents to register their children. Encouraging children under five years old to read regularly does make a difference in their future success.

Our Legacy Grant to the Lowell Area Historical Museum continues annually. This immersion program includes all third-grade classes in the district and has received regional recognition also.

The Bertha's Buddies correspondence project touches the lives of those adults who may receive scant correspondence. Cards are sent throughout the state three times per year with a special message.

Through funds raised by Range Bank's Banking on Literacy fundraising event, a social media campaign, your individual gifts, and local sponsorships, amazing projects are being implemented. Please consider giving in honor or in memory of someone special in your life.

With gratitude,

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 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

LITERACY LEGACY FUND

of Michigan

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2022 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 HONOR OF

Everett & Ryatt O'Donnell.....from Gwendolyn Graham

IN MEMORY OF

Marie Constant from Patricia Smothermon
 Stephanie Grenke.....from Sandra Grenke
 Matt Whitney.....from Susan Whitney

SPOTLIGHT AWARD

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

Dr. Tilles' love of reading started before she was old enough to go to school. In order to fulfill her desire of learning to read, she had to change schools more than once at age five. Persistence paid off, she never let go of her Mama's promise that in school they will teach you to read. That promise was so powerful that it provided a foundation for her life - a foundation that continues to this very day. Dr. Tilles became an elementary school reading teacher, a middle school English teacher, and an Associate Professor of English Education, Reading, Language, and Literature at Wayne State University. *Pictured at right.*



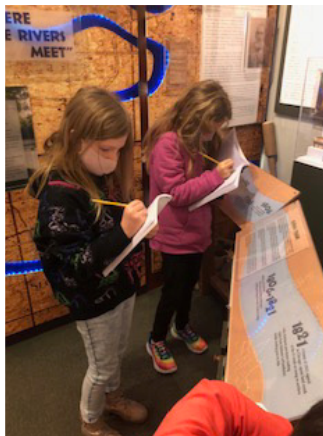
Recipient Caroline Howey is a senior working on an undergraduate degree in the Elementary Teacher Education Program-Mathematics Major and has a strong interest in urban education.

Since 2016, this scholarship has assisted twelve students to receive financial assistance. Through spring 2022 a total of \$18,000 in scholarships has been awarded by donors and LLF Michigan combined.

LEGACY GRANT

Lowell Area Historical Museum Immersion Program

The Museum was awarded a consecutive Legacy Grant for the "Museum Immersion" program. The program includes all third grade classes in the Lowell Area School District. Objectives met by the program: 1) Support, expand and supplement social studies curriculum through direct exposure to historical artifacts, exhibits, techniques and interaction with local historians; 2) Connect learning in classroom to the local community; 3) Model methods of historical research and writing through student driven activities during their time in the museum with guidance of historians. This program has been very successful and consistently made adjustments to in-person learning with the supplementation of videos and activity ideas. LLF Michigan has provided financial support for three years.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Giving Tuesday

As part of Giving Tuesday, the Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan donated a special new release hardcover copy of *The First Notes: The Story of Do, Re, Mi* by authors Julie Andrews and daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton to libraries in Marquette and Alger Counties. It tells the story of how notes were named so others could learn and share. Do-Re-Me is a song that many people know from *The Sound of Music*. Through this book, children and adults learn about music and the history behind written music. Literacy and music use reading, writing, speaking, and listening which this book illustrates.

Recipients included 5 public and 5 rural school libraries in Marquette and Alger Counties:

Public and School Public Libraries

- + Negaunee Public Library
- + Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library
- + Forsyth Township Public Library
- + Munising School Public Library
- + Peter White Public Library

Rural School Libraries

- + Powell Township School Library
- + Superior Central School Library
- + AuTrain-Onota Public Schools Library
- + Burt Township School Library
- + Wells Township School Library



Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health

In celebration of this year's National Rural Health Day, recognized on November 17th, the NMU Center for Rural Health and the Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan partnered to extend an opportunity to all high school seniors who attend school in the Upper Peninsula. High School seniors who are either college or university bound in Fall 2023 and intend to pursue a healthcare career are invited to participate in the essay contest. The essay question: Identify two ways that college and university students can contribute to efforts in any of the five key areas of social determinants of health.

Winners were selected in each of the Eastern, Central and Western regions of the Upper Peninsula. In each area the first-place winner receives \$500, the second-place winner receives \$250, and the third-place winner receives \$100. The winners are: East - Kiarie Williams, Sault Ste. Marie; Central - Madison Couillard, Rapid River; West - Meghan Hemmer, Houghton.

Learn more about the NMU Center for Rural Health at:
www.nmu.edu/ruralhealth

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sites and numbers of children served are increasing. This book gifting program provides a child from birth to his/her 5th birthday with an age-appropriate book in the mail monthly. The AuTrain-Onota Public Schools was our first program and received their first book in the June 2020 mailing. In 2021, we launched the program in Marquette 49855 as both its Group Affiliate and Local Champion (for direct parent contact).



Since our initial DPIL program, we have added Local Champions in Ishpeming Public Schools No.1 (Marquette County), and Munising Public Schools and Burt Township School (Alger County).

Statistics have shown that from the time a child is born, reading out loud is a positive influence. As the child grows, daily reading will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process. In fact, reading, listening, and vocabulary are critically important to a child's lifelong achievement.

FUNDRAISERS

Banking on Literacy

For a second year, Range Bank and LLF Michigan partnered to celebrate Banking On Literacy in June 2022. Attendees interacted with local authors and artists and could purchase books and art. The annual event, held at Range Bank, benefited Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Marquette 49855.



Social Media Campaign

This social media campaign was held during March Is Reading Month/Week of the Young Child in April to assist with supporting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library monthly book gifting program. This campaign raised funds for the Marquette 49855 site, the largest of the programs for which LLF Michigan is the Group Affiliate and Local Champion also.

APPOINTMENT: BOARD & ADVISORY GROUP

Lyndsay Carey has degrees from Oakland University, Cornerstone University in Education and Leadership, and Pacific Oaks College in Early Childhood with Trauma Specialization. She has experience as an educator in early childhood, elementary and higher education, experience as an administrator, and as an advocate for young children. Lyndsay is the Upper Peninsula Member-at-Large for the Governing Board of the Michigan Association of Education of Young Children. We welcomed Lyndsay to the LLF Michigan Board in 2023.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Gloria J. LaPointe, CPA, Eric Paad, B.S.,
Nancy (Wiseman) Seminoff, Ed.D.

VOLUNTEERS & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

Brett Hanson, Katie Helmer (Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Data Clerks)
Nikki Loehr, Teresa VanZalen (Board Assistants)
Karen Kimar Johnson (Assist w/minutes),

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR SUPPORT

Brian Maki, Computer Technician
Grow & Lead: Community and Youth Development
Pam Hunsaker, Senior Regional Director, The Dollywood Foundation
Marquette-Alger RESA
Elise Bur, Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health
Range Bank - Marquette

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