



# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**MEQUON - THIENSVILLE  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Alexandra Ridgway  
President 2021-2023

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Dear Mequon-Thiensville Parents and Neighbors,

On behalf of the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation (MTEF) Board, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and commitment to our schools. Because of your continued support, the MTEF is close to reaching \$5 million in grants to the Mequon-Thiensville School District since its inception in 1998.

As a result of the financial and volunteer contributions we received this past year, the MTEF is awarding grants totaling \$122,300 for the 2022-23 school year. Please continue reading our Annual Report to see how these dollars will be used to advance technology, curriculum and professional development in our schools.

A strong collaborative effort is essential in supporting our schools, and I wish to acknowledge our MTEF Board of Directors for the expertise, time and resources they contribute to the Foundation. A sincere thank you to our ex-officio board member Jeridon Clark for his years of service, and warm welcome to Kevin Deering for his new representation in this important role. We also thank our outgoing faculty ex-officio member Kathy Connelly, and incoming member Nicole Brown for their service. I want to proudly recognize our professional partners; outgoing Executive Director Sue Birmingham, and Bookkeeper Andi Zimmerman for their years of dedicated work to sustain our mission. We look forward to continuing this legacy of success with our new Executive Director Dani Melgaard, and Bookkeeper Pat Kelly. Much appreciation is also given to our school district's staff and administrators for their partnership. Our board is also most grateful for the dozens of volunteers who help ensure success at our events.

The MTSD remains one of the most coveted school districts in Wisconsin. Our award-winning schools, outstanding enrichment programs, and strong community support all make this a premier environment for our children to thrive. Ongoing investment is crucial to continue the exceptional experience that we expect for our children. Please know that YOU can make a difference. Whether you choose to contribute financially, or by volunteering your time and talents, you help ensure a path of sustainable educational excellence for our students.

With appreciation,

Alexandra Ridgway  
President 2021-2023

**WORKING FOR**  
**EVERY SCHOOL,**  
**EVERY TEACHER,**  
**EVERY STUDENT!**

## INVESTING IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF EXCELLENCE

The Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation was incorporated in 1998 as a non-profit organization committed to advancing educational excellence. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, which operates independently yet in conjunction with the Mequon-Thiensville School District and Board of Education. The Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. The MTEF benefits all six schools in the MTSD, consisting of Donges Bay Elementary School, Oriole Lane Elementary School, Wilson Elementary School, Lake Shore Middle School, Steffen Middle School, and Homestead High School.

## MISSION

The Mission of the MTEF is to develop community-wide private financial support for the Mequon-Thiensville School District and, through grants, to help support continued excellence in education.

## GOALS

- To achieve a distinct, beneficial, and clearly understood role in the community.
- To collaborate with school district personnel and other school support groups to identify ways to maintain the educational excellence our children deserve.
- To seek and support creative ways to ensure the school district advances in technology, curriculum and personnel.
- To expand our parent, staff, and community donor base.

The Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation recognizes the challenging budget conditions within our school district and is committed to filling financial gaps to ensure continued educational excellence for ALL students. Financial support from community members like you is critical to the success of our students and schools.



## PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

4K playground equipment for all three of the district's elementary schools for our youngest explorers



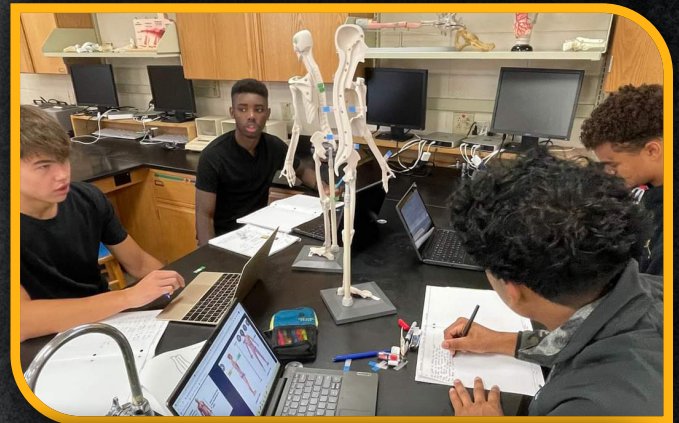
## SCIENCE EQUIPMENT

High quality Chemistry scales used for experiments by our middle school students in science classes



## STEM CURRICULUM

Invaluable high school STEM curriculum such as Human Body Systems



## SOCIAL STUDIES TECHNOLOGY

Virtual Reality Goggles and new RoboLab Expedition Apps that allow middle schoolers to explore the world virtually



It is important to recognize the major impact strong educators have on students. The annual MTEF Excellence in Education awards are given to educators who demonstrate exemplary leadership in the preparation of students for continued academic advancement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as in specialty areas.

All recipients must demonstrate good communication and leadership skills, exhibit a willingness to become involved, share their teaching expertise with students and peers, incorporate innovative teaching methods, and have a positive impact on students.



Congratulations to the 2022 Excellence in Education Award recipients (from left to right): **Stefanie Myllymaki**, Oriole Lane Elementary School 5K Teacher (Elementary School Award), **Alexis Flores**, Steffen Middle School 6th & 7th Grade Teacher (Middle School Award), **Suzy Zellmann**, Homestead High School Research & Digital Learning Specialist (District Specialist Award) and **Joe Wu**, Homestead High School World Language Teacher (High School Award).



## TOTAL: \$122,300

### CURRICULUM

**\$97,400**

#### **ES PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (\$35,000)**

Supporting MTSD’s youngest learners, this grant purchases much-needed developmentally appropriate and supplementary playground equipment. This grant wraps up our commitment to providing all three elementary schools with new outdoor 4K & 5K exploratory equipment.

#### **MS SCIENCE EQUIPMENT (\$9,000)**

This grant funds the purchase of 28 chemistry scales to be used in middle school science classes. All students in middle school take science and will benefit from the use of these high-quality scales when conducting experiments. 14 scales will be supplied to both Lake Shore and Steffen during the first Trimester of 2022-23.

#### **HHS HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS (\$50,000)**

Interest in the Anatomy and Physiology course has grown significantly over the past few years with our high school students. This grant provides funds to purchase equipment such as skeleton models and clay for the new PLTW - Human Body Systems class. This important grant will support approximately 40% of all Homestead students with an enhanced curriculum and hands-on learning opportunities in science.

#### **HHS AEROSPACE ENGINEERING (\$3,400)**

This grant provides the necessary materials for the new PLTW - Aerospace Engineering class. The equipment funded consists of various model kits and sensors students will use throughout this course.

### PERSONNEL

**\$19,000**

#### **HHS WRITING LAB (\$15,000)**

Homestead High School English teachers continue to help students with an array of writing assignments—from outlines and research reports to college essays—our students are becoming stronger writers with the support of this grant.

#### **EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS (\$4,000)**

Educators who demonstrate exemplary leadership in the preparation of students for continued academic advancement at the elementary, middle and high school levels as well as a district specialist are awarded with this grant.

### TECHNOLOGY

**\$5,900**

#### **MS SOCIAL STUDIES TECHNOLOGY (\$5,900)**

In an effort to supplement a previous MTEF grant for Google Expedition Kits, this grant will enable the MTSD to purchase RobotLab VR Expedition apps to replace unsupported technology and make the Google Expedition goggles operational. Our middle school students will benefit from this grant with the ability to embark on virtual field trips to places such as Egypt to support their learning during social studies units.

## DONOR-DESIGNATED DONATIONS

### ROBIN & HOWARD SCHLEI INDEPENDENT STUDY PERSONNEL GRANT

Because of this generous donation, which helps underwrite independent study teacher-mentor stipends during the 2022-23 school year, more deserving students will be able to take an honors independent study class, which is a capstone course at Homestead.

Thank you Grants Advisory chair Chris Timm and committee Cindy Anderson, Debra Anderson, Kathy Blume, Jeridon Clark, Lauren Croix, Eric Ebert, David Gaskin, Chris Gray, Greg Hartwig, Alexandra Ridgway and Thadd Stankowski.

## MTEF CUMULATIVE GRANT AWARDS 1998-2022



- 41% TECHNOLOGY
- 30% CURRICULUM
- 27% PERSONNEL
- 2% EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

1998-2022

100% TOTAL: **\$4,944,742**

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Established in 2002, the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation's Endowment Fund was created with the goal of eventually providing an ongoing source of income for operating expenses and general funding purposes. The Fund was seeded with private donations and continues to grow through private contributions and investment growth. The goal was to grow the Endowment Fund to \$1 million, after which the Foundation may use earnings to support overall program objectives. Once the \$1 million fiscal year-end Endowment Fund balance was achieved, the MTEF board may withdraw up to 4% annually of the year-end fiscal balance. These distributions can continue so long as the fiscal year-end balance is at or above \$750,000. At fiscal year-end 2021 the Fund reached \$1 million. In an effort to fully fund designated grants for 2022-2023 the Foundation will use proceeds from the Fund to overcome a significant shortfall in private donations.



# FUNDRAISERS

**THE COLOR RUN** kicked off our 2021-22 fundraising efforts raising **\$19,900** thanks to generous sponsors and strong community support. Special thanks to our co-chairs **Connie Kittleson** and **Melissa Bleidorn** and team Sara Alexander, Sue Birmingham, Kathy Blume, Wendy Bushell, Stacy Crouther, Rachael Fellers, John Kittleson, Ellen Leeney, Jamie O'Connor, Vicky Patch, Gina Rich, Jen Sullivan, John Yang, Kristie Zach and Andi Zimmerman.



**THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN** direct mailing was sent to all MTEF donors as well as all Mequon-Thiensville residents in December. This critical component of our fundraising efforts generated just over **\$55,000**, from our supporters.

**THE FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION GIVEBACK EVENTS** organized by **Cindy Anderson**, raised more than **\$6,000** for the MTEF! Thank you to our community businesses for your support.

**THE STAFF APPRECIATION GRANT** in conjunction with National Teacher Appreciation Week, was a new way to recognize our amazing MTSD staff members while raising funds for grants. This event, which we hope to grow year-over-year, added **\$6,300** to our fundraising efforts. Thank you to coordinator **Becky Wudy** as well as Dani Melgaard, Alexandra Ridgway, Jen Sullivan and Andi Zimmerman, for making this new program possible. Congratulations to Lake Shore Teacher, Devika Werth for being chosen as the Staff Appreciation Grant raffle basket winner.



**THE OFF TO THE RACES** Kentucky Derby watch party held this Spring at Shully's in Thiensville rounded out our fundraising events for the year. The "Infield" featured acoustic music, a photobooth and fun tailgating games. The "Winner's Circle" featured festive decor, delicious hors d'ouvres and signature cocktails, viewing of the fastest two minutes in sports, a raffle, a silent auction and a short presentation from MTSD Superintendent, Dr. Joynt, MTEF President, Alexandra Ridgway and MTEF Emeritus Member, Kim Ebinger. Our students were definitely the winners with **\$65,000** raised for grants thanks to our generous sponsors, businesses and community members. Off to the Races would not have been possible without board liaisons **Dani Melgaard** and **Alexandra Ridgway** along with their dream team of Kathlyn Albert, Sara Alexander, Kim Angeli, Cindy Anderson, Andrea Bennett, Kathy Blume, Brian Brandenburg, Shana Brewer, Paul Buzzell, Kathy Connelly, Nina Darling, Karrie Fiorentini, Melissa Gehl, Lee Heinrich, Teresa Kennedy, Connie Kittleson, Becky Konya, Brian Konya, Kerry Meskin, Erin Oberndorfer, Nina Olson, Gretchen Reiland, Amanda Sherman, Ken Siegel, Judi Stadler, Jen Sullivan, Carolyn Timmis, Abby Wier, Chad Winterfield, Lexie Wirth, Becky Wudy and Andi Zimmerman.





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### Thank you, generous donors!

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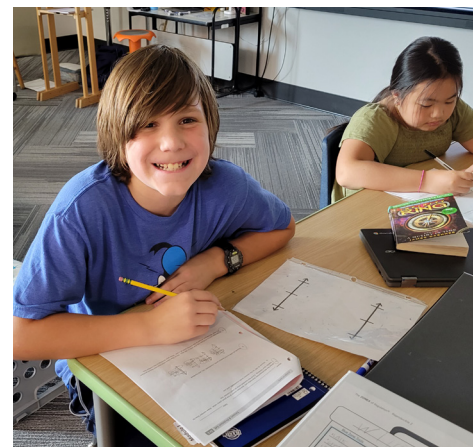
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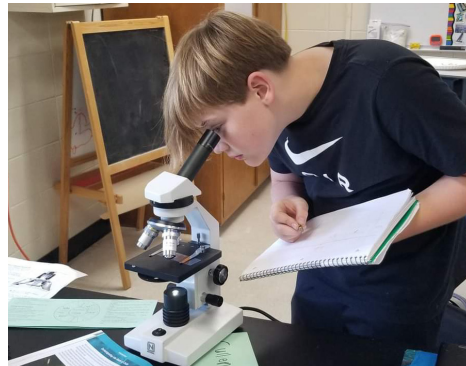
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Ozaukee Country Club  
Ozaukee County Sheriff  
Ozaukee Ice Center  
Ozaukee Skateland  
The Paley Tennis Center  
Parkview Dads' Club  
John Patek, String Teacher  
The Piano Loft  
Pizza Man  
Port Washington State Bank of  
Thiensville - Ron Knaus  
Quintessa Medical Spa  
Refresh Aesthetic Center



River Club of Mequon  
Riveredge Nature Center  
Rivoli Theatre  
Robert's Frozen Custard

Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park  
Rocky Rococo Restaurants  
The Rosenberberg Family  
Sahale Ale Works  
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
Screaming Tuna  
Sendik's Food Market  
Shoot the Moon Photography  
Shully's Cuisine and Events  
SMB Landscape Contractors  
Sobelman's Pub N Grill Northshore  
Sport Clinic Physical Therapy  
St. Paul Fish Co Mequon  
The Steerage Dining Saloon



Steffen Middle School - Deborah Anderson  
Stilt House  
Subway  
Supercuts of Mequon / Signature Two  
Company  
Sweet Old Bill LLC  
Andrea Taylor, Mary Kay Beauty  
Consultant  
Thiensville Fire Department  
The Thirsty Duck  
Tobin Jewelers  
Tres Jolie Solace Salon and Spa  
Trinity Academy of Irish Dance  
Twisted Willow  
Umansky Motor Cars  
Visual Image Photography  
Wasaukee Plant Market  
Washington House Inn  
Welke's Milwaukee Florist  
Wilson Elementary - Joey Sulsberger  
Zen Paws Pet Grooming  
Zoological Society of Milwaukee

## HONORARIUMS

In honor of Akram Khan, for his service on the MTSD Board of Education  
Mequon-Thiensville Area Council PTO

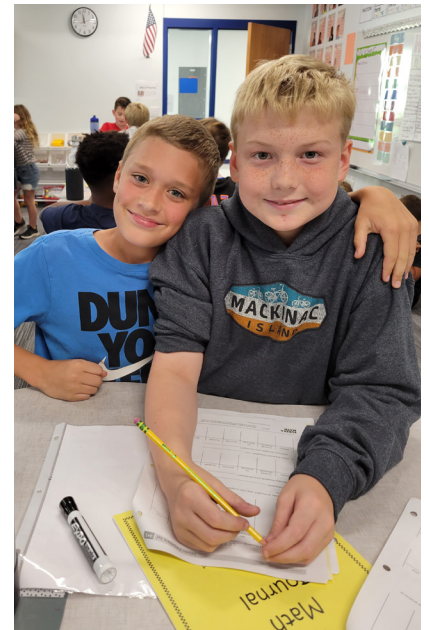
In honor of Susan Gattoni  
Rick and Patty Gattoni

In honor of Katherine R. Nowak  
Rick and Patty Gattoni

In honor of Katie Nowak and Susan Gattoni  
Rick and Patty Gattoni

In honor of Chris Schultz, for her service on the MTSD Board of Education  
Mequon-Thiensville Area Council PTO

Thank you M-T voters, Coalition members, MTSD staff members and MTEF  
Wendy Francour





## MEMORIALS

In memory of Dr. Thomas Joynt, father of Matt Joynt

Shelley Burns

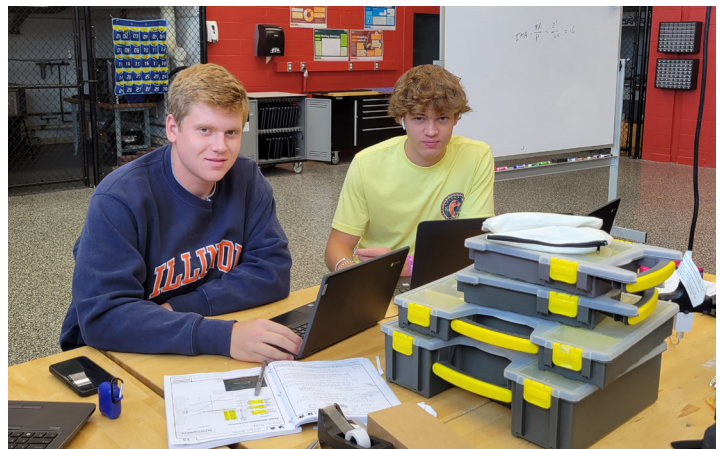
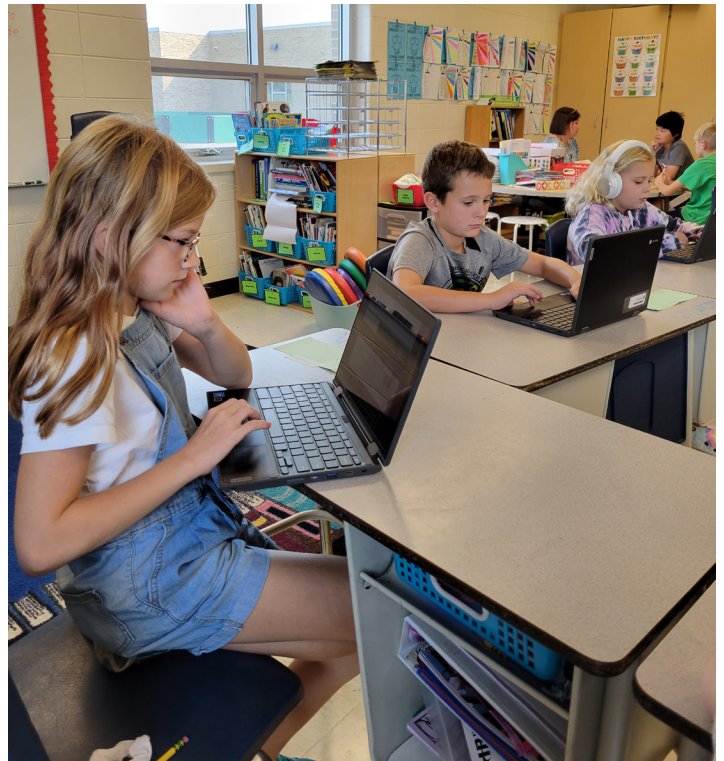
Ben and Ellen Mandelman

Mike and Andi Zimmerman

In memory of Manorama Patel

Ankur Patel

When you honor or memorialize a friend or loved one by making a donation to the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation, a notification of your contribution (without disclosing the amount of your gift) will be sent to the person or family being honored or memorialized by your gift.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 259,092	\$ 321,159
Pledges receivable	–	3,175
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>259,092</b>	<b>324,334</b>
<b>INTEREST IN ASSETS HELD BY THE GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION</b>		
	977,763	1,064,806
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,236,855</b>	<b>\$ 1,389,140</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Payable to Mequon-Thiensville School District	\$ 176,025	\$ 188,737
Accrued expenses	1,925	1,087
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>177,950</b>	<b>189,824</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restriction	750,291	861,473
With donor restriction	308,614	337,843
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,058,905</b>	<b>1,199,316</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,236,855</b>	<b>\$ 1,389,140</b>

## 2021-2022

**PRESIDENT:** Alexandra Ridgway

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Kathy Blume

**TREASURER:** Chris Timm

**SECRETARY:** Kerry Meskin

**EX-OFFICIO:** Jeridon Clark  
Kathy Connelly

**DIRECTORS:** Sara Alexander  
Cindy Anderson  
Shana Brewer  
Stacy Crouther  
Chris Doughty  
David Gaskin  
Melissa Gehl  
Greg Hartwig  
Connie Kittleson  
Traci Kurtin  
Ellen Leeney  
Thadd Stankowski  
Jen Sullivan

**EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Nancy Anderson  
Sandy Custer  
Kim Ebinger  
Tanja Felton  
Karl Hertz  
Karol Hitt  
Sheri A. Kanyer  
Mary Kellner  
Laura Leszczynski  
Diana Levy  
Eric S. Malicky, M.D.  
Quinn W. Martin  
Tom Price  
Jack Rooney  
Kris Rozran  
Bryan Sadoff  
Robin Schlei  
Marcia Schwager  
Andi Zimmerman

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Sue Birmingham

**BOOKKEEPER:** Andi Zimmerman

## 2022-2023

**PRESIDENT:** Alexandra Ridgway

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Kathy Blume

**TREASURER:** Chris Timm

**SECRETARY:** Kerry Meskin

**EX-OFFICIO:** Nicole Brown  
Kevin Deering

**DIRECTORS:** Kerri Adams  
Sara Alexander  
Cindy Anderson  
Shana Brewer  
Stacy Crouther  
Chris Doughty  
David Gaskin  
Melissa Gehl  
Greg Hartwig  
Mikhail Palatnik  
Rachel Rutland  
Thadd Stankowski  
Jennifer Stanley  
Jen Sullivan

**EMERITUS MEMBERS:** Nancy Anderson  
Sandy Custer  
Kim Ebinger  
Tanja Felton  
Karl Hertz  
Karol Hitt  
Sheri Kanyer  
Mary Kellner  
Connie Kittleson  
Ellen Leeney  
Diana Levy  
Eric S. Malicky, M.D.  
Quinn W. Martin  
Tom Price  
Jack Rooney  
Kris Rozran  
Bryan Sadoff  
Robin Schlei  
Marcia Schwager  
Andi Zimmerman

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Dani Melgaard

**BOOKKEEPER:** Patrick Kelly

## 2021-2022 EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Kathlyn Albert	Abigail Kolda
Sara Alexander	Becky Konya
Cindy Anderson	Brian Konya
Kim Angeli	Patricia Lane
Mark Baden	Ellen Leeney
Libby Baranko	Dani Melgaard
Peter Bartsch	Kerry Meskin
Marie Bautista	Erin Oberndorfer
Andrea Bennett	Jamie O'Connor
Sue Birmingham	Paul Oestreich
Melissa Bleidorn	Beth Ohde
Kathy Blume	Nina Olson
Brian Brandenburg	Vicky Patch
Shana Brewer	Gretchen Reiland
Wendy Bushell	Gina Rich
Paul Buzzell	Cory Richter
Kirsten Coenen	Alexandra Ridgway
Kathy Connelly	Chris Schultz
Stacy Crouther	Amanda Sherman
Nina Darling	Ken Siegel
Rachael Fellers	Julie Smallwood
Karrie Fiorentini	Erika Spitz
Wendy Francour	Judi Stadler
Melissa Gehl	Jen Sullivan
Lee Heinrich	Carolyn Timmis
John Hinson	Ryan Vest
Wanda Hodge	Amanda Vetter
May Hsu	Abby Wier
Matt Joynt	Chad Winterfield
Teresa Kennedy	Lexie Wirth
Wendy Kennedy	Becky Wudy
Akram Khan	John Yang
Connie Kittleson	Kristie Zach
John Kittleson	Andi Zimmerman
Spencer Koenig	Melina Zompolas

And MANY  
student volunteers



2022-2023  
Upcoming Events

- Annual Giving Campaign  
November 2022 - April 2023
- Off to the Races Derby Bash  
Saturday, May 6, 2023  
Shully's Watermark & Eastlawn



# SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

There are many meaningful ways for our community to get involved.

## GIVE

Donate to our Annual Giving Campaign, honor or memorialize someone special with a gift to the Foundation or make a donation to a deserving MTSD staff member with our Staff Appreciation Grant in May.

## PARTNER

Businesses and families, consider being a financial sponsor for an MTEF fundraising event, partner with us on a Friends of the Foundation Giveback, or provide an in-kind donation of an item or service for one of our fundraisers or auctions.

## PARTICIPATE

Attend MTEF events, participate in Giveback fundraisers and join PTO/PTSO meetings to hear about upcoming MTEF events and fundraising opportunities.

## VOLUNTEER

Join an MTEF fundraising committee, give your time to help during one of our events, engage your older students to volunteer for the MTEF and earn merit hours and build community goodwill by volunteering as a team with friends, family and co-workers.

## CONNECT

Be a part of our online community with our monthly newsletter, email updates for events, on social channels, and help us share the great work the MTEF does to support our district schools, students and staff.

