



# LPS Education Foundation

Serving Livonia Public Schools



## Annual Report 2024



# Dear Friends,

In this 2024-2025 school year, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the LPS Education Foundation. Since its beginning in 2004, the Foundation has been proud of the support it has provided to the students, parents, and staff of Livonia Public Schools.

This has been an exciting year for the Foundation, as we continued to host fun and family-friendly events which support our LPS community centered programs. The Foundation is thrilled to help bring engaging and novel experiences to LPS classrooms, funded by our Grant Program. Likewise, the Foundation had the privilege of issuing scholarship checks to LPS graduates who were enrolled in our Competitive Edge Savings Program when they were kindergarteners. We couldn't be more proud of this program and the benefits awarded to its enrolled students.



As always, the Foundation is grateful for the support of the LPS community and our donors. Together, we work to address and meet changing needs that will help fulfill our Mission and our Core Values. We

recognize that a community which supports and enhances public education is one which provides a sound future for its children. There is no work which is more important, and together with our community partners, we are dedicated to our mutual commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Jarvis".

Liz Jarvis, President, LPS Education Foundation



## Our Mission

The mission of the Livonia Public Schools Education Foundation is to enlarge the resources available to the school district which will foster and expand educational opportunities for programs impacting students by building effective collaborations.

The Foundation offers a powerful and effective vehicle for directing contributions to benefit public education in portions of Livonia and Westland, Michigan.

## Our Core Values

We will strive to directly impact student learning by:

- ♦ Putting resources into the classrooms
- ♦ Improving student achievement
- ♦ Providing financial resources for supplementary items not supplied by the district

We will strive to ensure integrity by:

- ♦ Using ethical fundraising techniques
- ♦ Maintaining sound financial practices

We will strive to provide the means to assist our students in their postgraduate education by:

- ♦ Establishing the opportunity to subsidize a savings plan
- ♦ Providing educational savings plan information for parents and students



# LPSEF Board of Directors



**Liz Jarvis**  
President



**Karen Bradford**  
BOE President



**Robert Drzewicki**



**Stacey Grammatico**



**Kellie Dummer**  
Vice President



**Teresa Giunta**  
Superintendent's  
Assistant



**Stacy Jenkins**  
LPS Communications



**Mark Johnson**  
BOE Vice President



**Becky Drzewicki**  
Treasurer



**Dave MacFarland**



**Char Baringhaus**  
Corresponding Secretary



**Latricia Miles**



**Laura Ulaszek**  
Executive Director



**Bob Carris**  
Controller



**Andrea Oquist**  
LPS Superintendent

*Executive Board*



# Along with our own fundraisers and events, the LPSEF Board of Directors and committee members participate in many community events!



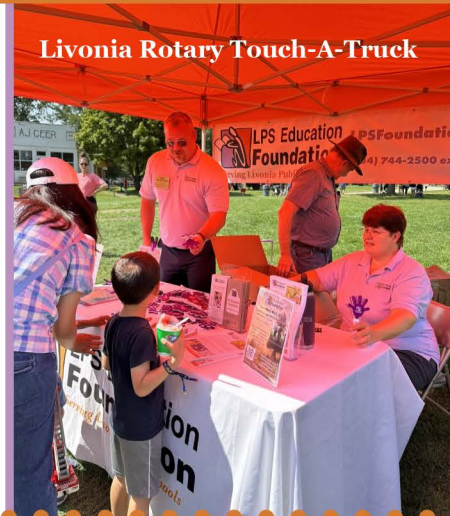
Livonia Police Department Passport to Safety



Livonia PTSA Council Chili Cook-Off



LPS Parent Fair



Livonia Rotary Touch-A-Truck



Livonia Holiday Parade



Cemetery Walk with Livonia Historical Society



Portillo's ribbon cutting where the Foundation was presented with a \$5,000 check





# Golfers Come Out to Support LPSEF at 2nd Annual Outing

In the summer of 2024, the Foundation held its Second Annual Golf Outing and it was again a huge success! The shotgun start outing was held at Livonia's Fox Creek followed by lunch at the onsite restaurant, Coach's Corner. We teed up perfect weather! The basket raffle as well as a 50/50 raffle were both hits. Golfers were awarded for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin as well as prizes for first and second place foursomes. In total, we raised almost \$18,000 for the Foundation's programs.

We are very excited to host our  
Third Annual Outing on July 19, 2025!  
Save the date & watch for more info soon.

*The outing was a success due to  
these wonderful sponsors and  
the hole sponsors!*



*2nd Annual Golf Outing*

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### Presenting Sponsor



### Secondary Sponsors

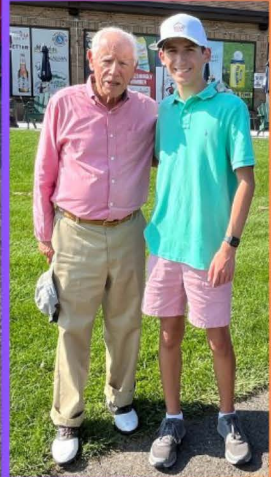


### Elementary Sponsors



- Alloush
- Anonymous Donor
- BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
- Black Label Tavern
- Bottles N' Stuff
- Brass Mug
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Buscemis
- Busch's Market
- Carl's Golfland
- Churchill High School
- Coach's Corner
- Dairy Queen
- First Watch
- Fox Creek
- Franklin High School
- Golden Gifts
- Great Lakes Ace  
(Ann Arbor Trail, Westland)
- Green Lantern Pizza
- Hudson Cafe
- Kodets True Value
- Las Palapas
- Little Green Apple Hallmark
- Looney Baker
- Luigi's
- Merri Bowl
- Mid-Joy Party Store
- Oak Lanes
- One Under
- Pan Pan
- Phoenix Theaters
- Pie Collective
- Pro Sports
- Raj Palace
- Red Olive
- Senate Livonia
- Senate Plymouth
- Sheesh
- Stevenson High School
- Thomas's Family Dining
- Trader Joe's
- Urban Air
- White Water Express
- Car Wash
- Wine Castle
- Woodland Lanes
- LPSEF Board Members







# Grants Awarded to LPS Staff Due to Generous Donations

The LPS Education Foundation Grant Program is in its 12th year and has distributed a total of 248 grants equaling \$434,426.96 to LPS staff. Each year, staff is invited to apply for a Foundation grant. Their proposals demonstrate how the grant would support the district curriculum, the LPS Shared Vision and Collective Commitments, district climate goals, and other focus areas. The Grant Program is able to fund a special project, equipment or other needs that may be outside the district's budget.

A committee composed of retired teachers and administrators reviews the applications and selects which proposals will be funded. For the 2024-25 school year, there were 62 proposals submitted with approximately \$104,835 in requests. In the fall of 2024, the committee delivered 32 grants to 42 staff members at 15 different schools totaling \$50,000. For more info about these grants, visit our website.



1. Nicole Graziano, Emerson Middle; 2. Julie Adams, Holmes Middle; 3. Kelly Brown, Buchanan Elementary; 4. Colleen Birmingham and Jennifer Cousino, Frost Middle; 5. Tara Daraskavich, Riley Upper Elementary; 6. Rebecca Dubie and Andrea Gohl, Churchill High; 7. Ryan Krueger, Hayes Elementary; 8. Lisa Cleveland, Liz Brisch (not pictured), and Sarah Hurley, Webster Elementary; 9. Brian Jensen, Frost Middle; 10. Kellie Stark, Coolidge Elementary; 11. Matt Van Ham, Churchill High; 12. David Zyczynski and Meghan Templeton, Webster Elementary



# This was all possible because of our wonderful donors!



13. John Farkas, Holmes Middle; 14. Laura King, Emerson Middle; 15. Tracy Lutz, Frost Middle; 16. Jackie McPherson, Coolidge Elementary; 17. Brittany Moore, Cleveland Elementary;

18. Rebecca Dadswell, Rosedale Elementary; 19. Stephanie Scroggins, Webster Elementary; 20. Paige Demaree, Rachel Banks Dzikowski, Mallory McLean, Tyra Burley (not pictured), Cooper Upper Elementary; 21. Shelly Cox and Mary Kay Hussey, Hayes Elementary; 22. Nicole Geverink, Buchanan Elementary; 23. Karen Danke, Riley Upper Elementary; 24. April Smalley, Webster Elementary; 25. Alena Pascoe, Grant Elementary; 26. Kaila Woodhall, Riley Upper Elementary; 27. Jennifer Lamb, Stevenson High; 28. Amy Munday, Garfield Community Schools; 29. Heather Lewis and Samantha Caswell, Hayes Elementary; 30. Martha Ware, Stevenson High; 31. Susan Sutherland, Holmes Middle; 32. Tara Hillary, Rosedale Elementary



# Competitive Edge Savings Program

A goal of the Livonia Public Schools Education Foundation is to provide a unique opportunity for LPS parents to begin planning for their children's post-secondary education early on and help set aside money for their future educational expenses.

The Competitive Edge Savings Program, which was established in 2008, offers families of LPS kindergarten students the opportunity to enroll in this free program. The Foundation will designate them as beneficiaries of the Foundation's educational savings account. The Foundation contributes seed money and

those funds grow throughout the student's LPS educational career. Upon graduation from an LPS high school, the funds may be used for any accredited post-secondary education or skills training program. Not only does this program provide a great service to LPS students and their families, the Foundation also sees this as an added benefit to attract and retain families in the community. This unique program can help maintain the vibrance of our community and consequently, each family it attracts brings state funding to the school district, meeting the Foundation's mission "to enlarge the resources available to the school district which will foster and expand educational opportunities."

It truly can provide a "competitive edge" over surrounding communities.

Donations for this program have come from local businesses, institutions, PTAs/PTSAs, parents, employees, retired employees, community members, and through fundraisers. If you are interested in being a donor to the Competitive Edge Savings program, please contact us.



## Bounce Back to School

Every August, the Foundation hosts a Bounce Back to School event for the Livonia Public Schools community. There are inflatables, pony rides, a petting zoo, face painters, balloon twisters, a DJ, concessions and more! It is such a great way to welcome the students and families back to school! High school volunteers help us run the events. We seek sponsors to help us fund this event which allows us to offer all this fun for only \$5 per student and very low priced concessions. If you would like to be a 2025 sponsor, please see our contact info on the last page of this report.



Join us this year on Thursday, August 14  
from 5-8 p.m. at Riley Upper Elementary School





At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, the LPS Education Foundation was again honored to “Clear the List” of some wonderful Livonia Public Schools educators! Teachers were sent an email announcement and the first 65 to fill out a Google Form and submit their Amazon Wish List were gifted up to \$100 worth of items on their list. This time, the Clear the List event was made possible by a community grant that the Foundation received from Portillo’s at their grand opening ceremony.

Teachers were asked to take pictures and/or videos and send them to the Foundation. You can see a compilation of these photographs and videos by scanning the QR code.

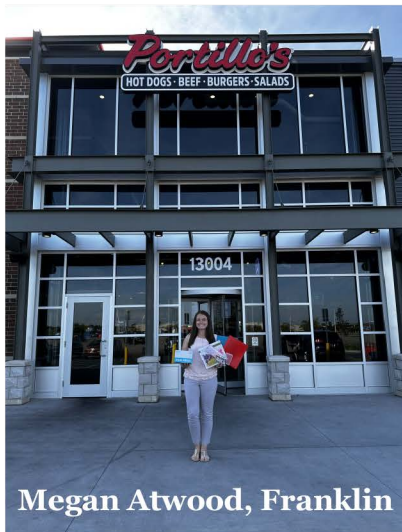
*Thank you to Portillo's and our other donors who helped make this possible!*



Scan to see video



**Jennifer Grna's students, Randolph**



**Megan Atwood, Franklin**



**Emma Della Mora, Hayes**



**Paige Young's students, Webster**



**Victoria Estes' students, Cooper**



# Foundation Introduces New Event to Benefit Competitive Edge

In January 2025, the Foundation hosted a new event, Dollars for Scholars, to benefit the Competitive Edge Savings program (more info on program on page 8). This new format replaced the annual luncheon that had been held in November every year.

The event included dinner and cash bar, a keynote speaker, raffles, a wine pull, a DJ and more! The annual Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to our very own Superintendent Andrea Oquist.



LPSEF Board of Directors members at the event



Mrs. Oquist and Dave MacFarland, LPSEF director and alumni chairperson



**Keynote Speaker**  
Maria Dismondy,  
author, publisher and  
speaker who writes  
books that encourage  
and inspire.





**LPS Education Foundation**  
Serving Livonia Public Schools

## DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Benefitting the Competitive Edge Savings Program

### Thank you to our sponsors



**Schoolcraft College**



**AlphaUSA**



**FORESITE DESIGN, INC.**



Guests were asked to bring a new or gently used book to donate to Making Spirits Bright, Ms. Dismondy's Metro Detroit Book Bank

Lights and Entertainment provided by:  
Rock Out Entertainment/  
Wayne Kinney





# Champions continue to help raise money for the Foundation

The Foundation is extremely lucky to have staff members in most of the schools who act as liaisons between their buildings and LPSEF. These individuals, our “Champions,” share information regarding the Foundation’s activities such as the Grant Program, the Competitive Edge Savings Program, the back-to-school activity, the annual dinner, and more. The Champions continues to help generate and maintain financial support for the grant program. All funds donated from LPS staff members via payroll deductions go to the grant program. Money donated by LPS staff goes back to LPS staff!

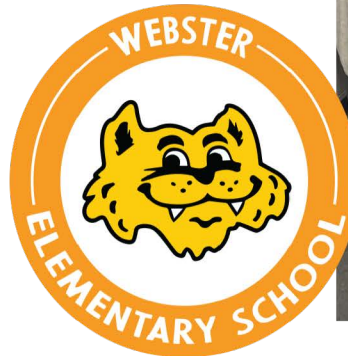
Every year, the Foundation offers incentives for Champions to win a monetary prize for their school. The categories are: greatest percentage of increase of contributors per capita from previous year and the largest dollar amount of contributions per capita. If possible, an additional award may be presented. The 2024-25 winners are pictured here.

*Thank you to our Champions for all you do!*



Johnson Upper Elementary School: largest dollar amount of contributions. Pictured here are (left to right) Principal Tom Traub, Assistant Principal Kim Samouelian, and LPSEF Champion John Santi.

Webster Elementary School: greatest percentage of increased contributors from last year. Pictured here are (left to right) Paige Young, Principal Laurisa Burke, Steven Pascoe and Natalie Wahl



Churchill High School: maintaining and increasing the large number of their staff contributing to the Foundation. Pictured here are Cindy Roberts and Principal Kristen Quesada





# Funding Sources

Currently, donations have been received from the following sources:

- ♦ Individual Donors
  - Retirees
  - Employees
  - District Residents
  - Alumni
  - Memorials
  - Trusts
- ♦ Corporate Sponsors
- ♦ Fundraising Events
- ♦ Honorary Donations

*To learn more about supporting the Foundation, please see the next page with ways to connect with us!*

*Portraits for the Season*



*Golf Outing*



*Bounce Back to School*

*Dollars for Scholars*

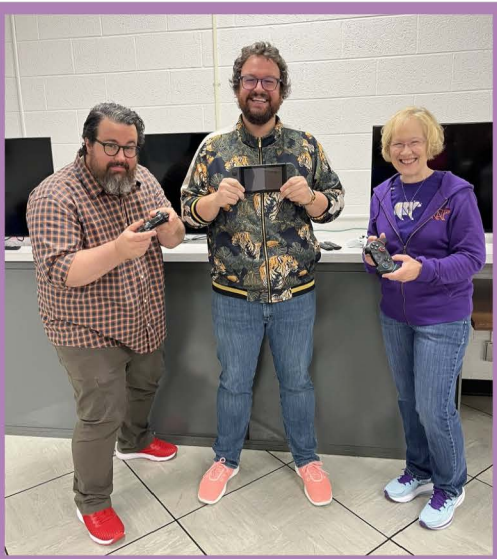


## Financial Statement

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024*

<b>Begin assets</b>	\$1,282,611.08
<b>Revenue</b>	
Contributions	\$43,691.84
Net Interest & Investment	143,110.56
Fundraising Events (Net):	<u>69,430.65</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$256,366.39
<b>Expenses</b>	
Competitive Edge Programs	\$23,240.00
Grant Program	56,485.71
Management and Operations	<u>52,745.86</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$132,471.57
<b>Increase in Assets</b>	<u>\$123,894.82</u>
<b>Total Assets (End of Year)</b>	\$1,406,505.90

Matt Nahan and Natalie McLaughlin from Community Financial Credit Union, one of our corporate



donors, visit grant recipient Nick Rapson (center) at Churchill High School



**Connect  
with us.**

**Website: [lpsfoundation.org](https://lpsfoundation.org)**

**Email: [lpsfoundation@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:lpsfoundation@livoniapublicschools.org)**

**Phone: 734-744-2500, ext. 42150**

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**LPS Education  
Foundation**

**Serving Livonia Public Schools**

**If you love our mission and the work we do  
inspires you, join one of our committees!  
We'd love to have you as part of our team  
of wonderful volunteers!**

**Please scan QR code or use link  
below to fill out this short form.**

**<https://bit.ly/LPSEFVolunteer>**





