



NEWS & EVENTS

THE CASE FOR PRESCHOOL

An Opportunity for Growth

"For many children, preschool is their first experience in a structured setting with teachers and groups of children. It's an opportunity to learn to share, follow instructions, and begin the foundation for learning that will occur in elementary school."

greatschools.org

Powerful Gains

"A robust body of research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool programs have better health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes than those who do not participate. The gains are particularly powerful for children from low-income families and those at risk for academic failure who, on average, start kindergarten 12 to 14 months behind their peers in pre-literacy and language skills."

"From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development" (2000) Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development

Long-term Benefits

"Pre-k produces other long-term benefits such as reduced placement in special education, lower grade retention and higher graduation rates. These outcomes make not only a difference in students' success in school; they also have an economic impact on schools and communities across the country."

"Framing the Future" (2011) Center for Public Education



Four-year-old Crosby with his preschool teacher, Donnie George. Crosby takes a whiff of pickle juice while learning about the sense of smell.

One Family's Story

Crosby wants to be a firefighter when he grows up, but his mom, Shyle, understands he has much to learn and experience before grabbing a hose and racing to a fire.

Knowing her young son to be social and inquisitive, Shyle wanted to enroll him in preschool, but it wasn't feasible for the family to afford two or three years of schooling and they didn't qualify for federal or state programs.

Shyle's cousin told her about preschool scholarships through the Grand Haven Schools Foundation, so she applied. "We qualified, and that's why I sent him," Shyle said. "Otherwise, I really wouldn't have sent him...because, you know, it's tough to make choices about what you pay for and to have the money to do it."

Shyle told the Grand Haven Schools Foundation that Crosby is thriving in his preschool classroom, an experience he almost was unable to enjoy. "He came in knowing absolutely nothing. He could say some colors, but he didn't know shapes. He didn't know numbers or letters. Within the school year, he could count to 20," Shyle said. "It's amazing... In his room, we have his name up on the wall, and he can point to each letter and say which letter it is and spell his name. He didn't know any of that. He didn't know a single letter."

(continued on page 2)

GHSF is dedicated to providing Tri-Cities three- and four-year-olds with critical early learning opportunities to help ensure kindergarten readiness.

Looking Ahead to the 2016 GHHS Hall of Fame



All smiles at the 2014 Hall of Fame.

Planning is in full swing for the 2016 Grand Haven High School Hall of Fame!

This biennial event honors the achievements of GHHS graduates and those who have served our school district. “The program has become very meaningful to our community since its establishment in 2008,” said foundation president, Jay Greer. “Our residents, schools, and businesses all realize the importance of recognizing

our graduates’ accomplishments and providing role models for generations of students to come.”

Proceeds from the event support Grand Haven Schools Foundation’s strategic mission of providing kindergarten readiness opportunities for low-income families in the Tri-Cities. If you or your business would like to learn more about how to become an event sponsor, please contact Lana Jacobson at (616) 844-2291.

The Hall of Fame event provides invaluable development opportunities for businesses. In 2014, over 80 business leaders were among the 225 guests present for this enjoyable and meaningful celebration of success. The 2016 induction dinner will be held on November 5 at the Spring Lake Country Club.

One Family’s Story continued from page 1

Shyle stressed that Crosby hasn’t just learned crucial information that will help him be successful in kindergarten, but also social skills, like learning to win and lose, sharing with other children, gaining independence, and building trust.

“I couldn’t imagine sending him to kindergarten without this. I absolutely couldn’t imagine what that would be like socially to go into a classroom environment blind,” she said. Having seen the effects of a preschool education on Crosby, Shyle has urged other parents to consider applying for scholarships for their children.

“I really am very thankful for the [Grand Haven Schools] Foundation and for having this opportunity because I know I wouldn’t have sent him [to preschool] last year, and I don’t think I would have sent him this year,” Shyle told us. “The fact that people will invest in the education of kids that aren’t theirs is really cool... Kids are everybody’s future.”

She said while preschool “feels like an extra” for Crosby, it really isn’t. “It’s a necessary part of his development.”

The Grand Haven School Foundation couldn’t agree more.

A Lasting Legacy



GHHSF’s ability to help preschool-age children in the Tri-Cities is being bolstered by a major bequest to its endowment from the estate

of Lynne Sherwood. The late philanthropist was a donor and strong supporter of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation for many years. Lana Jacobson, Development Officer for GHHSF, expressed her extreme gratitude for this gift and said, “We are extremely honored to receive this bequest. Lynne recognized the importance of our mission and strategic focus and was committed to helping us ensure that all children, regardless of family income, have access to quality preschool. This gift extends the foundation’s commitment to provide preschool scholarships and to help support program quality.”

Sherwood, best known for the strong impact she made on so many nonprofits and organizations over the years, passed away on January 10, 2016. She was a 1959 graduate and valedictorian of Grand Haven High School. She was also a GHHS Hall of Fame inductee. Lynne held degrees from Stanford University and Harvard University and, following a distinguished career with Goldman Sachs, served in various management roles for JSJ Corporation in Grand Haven. She was its chairman from 2005 to 2011.

Sherwood’s gift to GHHSF will increase annual giving by approximately \$40,000 and will greatly impact children in our community for generations to come.

Art for a Cause



The final setup before hundreds of guests arrived for the 2015 Art at the Yard event.

On October 24, 2015, twenty artists came together to showcase their talents and help support the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. This first-time event, called Art at the Yard, was sponsored by the Tri-Cities Kiwanis and hosted by Baker Lumber in their spectacular new warehouse.

Artwork of various forms, media, styles, and sizes was displayed amid bins of colorful, aromatic lumber. The artists were present to discuss their pieces, and ten percent of the proceeds from art sales was donated to GHSF to further our mission.

We are so grateful to the hundreds of community members who turned out for this fun-filled evening and to all who gave of their time and resources. In particular, we would like to recognize and thank the event chairs: Maggie Bandstra, Nada Edson, and Megan Doss; the artists: Martha Alexander, Maggie Bandstra, Lee Brown, Barbara Carlson, Tory Casey, Marlan Cotner, Adam Dahlstrom, Nada Edson, Cat Jackson, Derek Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Jon McDonald, Chris Protas, Irene Sipe, Randy Smith, Magda Smolenska, Sean Sterzer, Mary Sundstrom, Ed Traub, and Al Vermeulen; Tri-Cities Kiwanis and Baker Lumber. Their kindness and generosity will help support our efforts to make preschool accessible for all of our community's children.

GHSF has been named the beneficiary of a second annual Art at the Yard event on Saturday, October 22, 2016. We hope you'll attend!

Besides... It's Fun!



Kate Augustyn,
Director of Preschool
Programming at
GHAPS

"What do you like best about preschool?" I asked a group of 4-year-olds one day. They replied: "I love to play with my friends!" "I love to sing and listen to stories!" "I love to draw and paint!" "I love to learn things!"

Preschool is fun for children and allows them to be creative in their learning and to investigate the world around them. It's also a wonderful way to prepare them for kindergarten and help them become lifelong learners.

Kindergarten teachers say they can tell the difference between those children who have been to preschool and those who have not. Children who have been to preschool are better prepared academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally. Preschool gives kids the extra boost they need to be ready for the day-to-day rigors of school. It helps them learn the basic student behaviors and social skills that will make them successful in the classroom and throughout their lives. For many children from low-income families, preschool provides a level playing field with children who may have had more experiences and exposure to larger and richer vocabularies.

For a child, preschool is fun. For parents and teachers, preschool should be the first step our children take in learning to be successful as they grow and develop into productive and thriving community members.

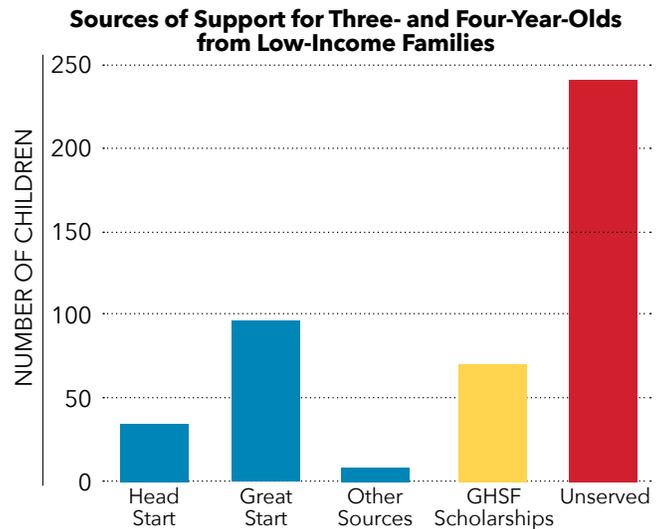


We wish a joyful summer to all teachers, administrators, and staff, and we congratulate this year's Excellence in Service Award winners.

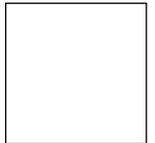
Tri-Cities Children in Need of Preschool Assistance

Based upon 2015-2016 free and reduced lunch count data from Grand Haven Area Public Schools and Spring Lake Public Schools, GHSF estimates that approximately 450 children from low-income families are unable to afford quality preschool.

While some are helped by federal or state programs, inadequate funding leaves more than 300 children without support. GHSF is helping to fill the gap. We awarded 70 preschool scholarships for the 2015-2016 school year and \$14,000 in additional funding for program support. Please help us make preschool accessible for all of our community's children.



PO Box 272
Grand Haven, MI 49417



Leadership Team

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- Jay Greer – President
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- Melinda Linebaugh – Treasurer
- Lana Jacobson – Development Officer and Chair of the Emeritus Board

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- Jake Hogeboom
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- Anne McLaughlin

Contact

(616) 850-5066
www.ghsf.org

GHSF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Tri-Cities three- and four-year-olds with critical early learning opportunities to help ensure kindergarten readiness. Its endowment fund is held at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

