



News & Events

 Summer 2022

President's Pen



Collaboration, commitment, and results are three words that best summarize the current state of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF). Our Board has grown recently with the addition of four new members, increasing our breadth and depth of expertise, which will be leveraged to propel the organization forward. I wish you could witness the incredible energy during our

8:00 a.m. board meetings. Working with this talented group is inspiring and holds much promise for the future!

We have established new, and nurtured many existing, connections throughout the Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS) district and community at large. We are in the middle of long-term strategic planning, which has helped to strengthen our mission, and has uncovered new opportunities to support students throughout the community. We can't wait to share more on this topic soon.

During the first six months of this year, we have been able to support six new kindergarten through fourth grade initiatives providing \$36,000 in funding. Thirty-four students received full-tuition scholarships to attend preschool through the Grand Haven Preschool Development Program. The research describing the benefits of attending preschool is compelling, and we remain committed to providing financial support for three- and four-year-old students who otherwise would not be able to attend.

None of this would be possible without the passion and leadership that Susan Bays brings as our Executive Director. Susan joined us just over a year ago, and she is an incredible asset to our organization. If you haven't met her yet, I hope you are able to in the future.

We want to extend a special thanks to YOU, our donors and community, for your generous support. Your contributions will provide positive returns for many years and perhaps even generations to come.

Brandon Reame
President

Meet our new Executive Director



The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Susan Bays as its Executive Director. Bays has been leading the Foundation in its mission to support education initiatives that increase school readiness, as well as help define and support additional programs within the Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS) since June 2021.

"We are thrilled that Susan has joined the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. Susan brings incredible creativity, energy, and strategic thinking to the organization. With Susan's leadership, the GHSF is positioned to continue making positive impacts in the lives of our young students and their families," said Foundation President, Brandon Reame.

Bays spent six years working in Human Resources, most recently as an HRIS Analyst. Prior to that, she was an Educational Consultant for Usborne Books Tri-Cities and brought the Reach for the Stars Read-a-thon to our local schools to help spread literacy. Bays has a degree in Marketing from Michigan State University and many years of experience in the field.

"I am thrilled to be serving as the Director of the Grand Haven Schools Foundation," commented Bays. "Supporting early education initiatives is critical in laying a strong foundation for student success. I enjoy partnering with the GHSF board, staff at Grand Haven Area Public Schools, and our community to help make a difference in the lives of our area students."

Bays and her husband, Jeff, reside in Grand Haven with their daughter, Kaitlyn. Their son, Scott, works as a software developer, while son Matthew is a rising senior studying at Michigan State University.

\$36,000 Grant Award

GHSF Awards \$36,000 to support K-4 Initiatives

The Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) has announced \$36,000 in grant awards to support Grand Haven Area Public Schools (GHAPS) K-4 students. GHSF Executive Director Susan Bays explained, "These one-time awards are in addition to the ongoing support that the foundation provides to the GHAPS Preschool Development Program, including the provision of 700 preschool scholarships since 2005."

"We are so excited about what the foundation has accomplished this year," shared Bays, who noted the grants will help broaden the Foundation's support to include grades K-4. Bays met individually with principals at every school to better understand areas of greatest need. "These grants go straight to the heart of what Success for All is all about, and address important needs within the district," shared GHAPS Superintendent Scott Grimes. "We are exceptionally grateful for the Foundation's ongoing support."

The grants include funds for the following programs:

- GHSF awarded a total of \$13,000 to support ongoing math interventions and address gaps in math proficiency. A new district math coach will attend Math Recovery Training and bring that knowledge back for district-wide implementation, complemented by math manipulatives that put proven, hands-on learning tools in students' hands.
- The Educational Field Trips Grant provides \$2,000 to bolster Ferry, Griffin, and Lake Hills elementary schools' field trip fund. During her school visits, Bays learned that Title I elementary schools often lack the financial support to provide field trips, so this money will

help bridge a significant gap for the students in these schools.

- The \$7,000 Trauma Informed Grant provides seed money for K-4 classroom teachers to create or enhance their classroom "safe spaces." These calming, comfortable areas are stocked with tools for students to use when experiencing big emotions or other barriers-- allowing the student to emotionally regulate without leaving the classroom, and reengage in learning smoothly when they are ready.
- New Teacher Classroom Library Books Grant provides \$500 for each new K-4 teacher in the district to stock their classroom with their favorite library books right from the start.
- Finally, the Dyslexia Professional Development Grant provides school psychologists and instructional coaches with training aimed at uncovering these learning challenges and providing students with the supports needed to be successful.





Preschool Scholarships

GHSF Preschool Scholarships...Making an Impact for Local Students and Families

Did you know?

- GHSF has provided over 700 preschool scholarships to students of lower income families since 2005.
- One-third of those attending the Grand Haven Preschool Development Program (PDP) in the 2021-2022 school year were supported by full tuition scholarships funded by the Foundation.

The Grand Haven Schools Foundation continues to support three- and four-year-old children with critical early learning opportunities to help ensure kindergarten readiness. Through funding full tuition preschool scholarships, GHSF helps ensure preschool access for children in our community, regardless of economic background. This initiative continues to be an important strategic focus area of the Foundation.

Parent Voices...Thank you!

"Things are very tough right now and I am unable to work... the scholarship was a HUGE blessing for us. Thank you!"

"The scholarship has helped us greatly. Our daughter probably would not have gone to school if it weren't for the scholarship."

"I am a single mom of three...thank you...Words truly cannot explain the gratitude I have..."

"Having the opportunity to receive a scholarship from the Grand Haven Schools Foundation has made a difference for our family in several ways – our daughter has gained confidence in herself and enriched relationships with peers. It has been a nurturing experience."

"This scholarship has been a blessing for so many reasons... we do okay but wouldn't have the extra money to put our daughter in this great program. I hope this program stays around."

Consider donating today to help fund a scholarship for a deserving child in our community. Your \$1,500 donation supports one child to attend preschool, four half days a week, for a year! Visit ghsf.org/DONATE or return the enclosed donation envelope to advocate for a child in the Grand Haven area.



It's easy to give.

**Together we will continue to make
a difference in students' lives.**

Thank you for
your support!

- Mail check:** Return the enclosed envelope.
Grand Haven Schools Foundation
PO Box 272
Grand Haven, MI 49417

OR

- Online:** Visit ghsf.org/DONATE



Support a child today!

Consider a \$1,500 donation to support
sending one child to preschool for a year.

Donor Gifts (June 2021 - May 2022)

Shirlee Achterhof
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Anderson
Cynthia and Donald Anderson Fund
Bruce and Christine Baker
Bank of America Charitable Foundation (*matching gift of Ms. Stacey Cassis*)
Bluefield Engineered Systems
BlueWest Properties
David and Yvonne Boon
Bosgraaf Homes
Mr. Stanley Bright (*In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bright*)
Henni Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Christopher
Jeanne Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Eidson (*In memory of William & Helen Eidson and Harley & Marie Pfeiffer*)
Martha Erickson (*In honor of Lana Jacobson*)
Steve and Mary Jane Evink
Ken and Jan Formsma
F. Charlotte Godsman
Grand Haven Class of 1953 Fund
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power
Randall and Therese Hansen
Mary Hardy (*In memory of Barbara Connolly*)
Adam Hass
Haworth Helps
Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Hoffman, Jr. (*In honor of Ron & Linda Lukasik*)
Mrs. Mary Helen Hoffmeyer (*In memory of Earl H. Babcock & E. Paul Babcock*)
Huntington Bank
Roger and Susan Jonas
JSJ Foundation
JW's Food & Spirits
Keith and Patti Konarska
Jeff and Kelly Kurburski
Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective
Barbara Lambourne
Ken and Sue Larson
Donna Jean Lock
Jon F. McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Larry McLaughlin
Ms. Stacey Cassis & Dr. Arianna Morales
Darell and Phyllis Moreland
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Overway
Anita Pellegrom
Pliant Plastics Foundation Fund
John Ratchford
Dave and Barb Rickard
Ms. Lisa Ringley (*In honor of GHHS Class of 1980*)
Mr. John Rotonda
Scholten Fant
Mike and Peggy Secory
Mr. and Mrs. Peter K. Sherwood
Ivo and Vinka Soljan
Dirk and Denise Stone
Ms. Holly Streng
Mrs. Sabina Streng
Robert Surman
Ms. Donna Vargo (*In memory of Helmut's Mednis, Richard Groenevelt, Sandra Teunis & Connie Groth*)
Anthony & Monica Verplank Thriving Communities Fund
LJ Verplank
Verplank Donor Advised Fund
Jim and Heather Walsh
Henry and Louann Werksma
Thomas and Mary Wood
Sharon Yonker (*In memory of Marci Yonker*)
Mr. Robert J. Zitta (*In memory of Mary Zitta*)



Art at the Yard Returns

After a year pause due to the pandemic, Art at the Yard returned in October 2021. The event welcomed hundreds of guests to view artwork by thirty local artists. Held at D. Baker Lumber and Sons, Art at the Yard was hosted by the Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective (LVAC) and the event benefited the Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF). Funds were raised for the Foundation through door donations as well as a 10% margin on all art sales throughout the evening. The event brought in over \$10,000 for the Grand Haven Schools Foundation.

"Art at the Yard is a testament to the success that is achieved through collaboration with other local non-profits." commented Susan Bays, GHSF

Executive Director. "The support GHSF has received through this event has helped area children access preschool scholarships and has also funded other initiatives in kindergarten through fourth grade. We are grateful for our partnership with LVAC, the artists, and the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful community event each year."

A variety of artwork was displayed throughout the lumberyard. Guests enjoyed an open bar as well as music at the venue. A rotating roster of artists are selected each year from the membership of the Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective (LVAC). Art at the Yard is one of the signature events of LVAC which seeks to create a sustainable artist community by partnering with

businesses, community organizations and private individuals to create diverse visual arts events.

"Art at the Yard has grown each year since it began," explained Maggie Bandstra, founding board member for the Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective. "It is wonderful to be part of something that exposes the immense talent in this community and draws people together for a great night in support of great organizations like the Grand Haven Schools Foundation."

The next Art at the Yard will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at D. Baker Lumber & Sons.



Emeritus Breakfast

GHSF Emeritus Breakfast

In April, the Foundation hosted an Emeritus Breakfast at the Grand Haven Community Center. "It was a special morning for everyone in attendance," commented Susan Bays, GHSF Executive Director. "We had the opportunity to celebrate the past while planning for the future needs of the Foundation."

During the breakfast, former board members had the opportunity to reconnect while providing current and new members the chance to learn from and connect with past members who created a strong foundation for the GHSF. The Foundation's impact over the years was shared and engaging conversations took place.

"It was wonderful to connect with old friends," shared Susan Blauvelt, former GHSF President. "It was fantastic to see the enormous gains that GHSF has made over the years in growing its endowment and programs it can support." commented Blauvelt.

The GHSF board of directors would like to thank all the emeritus members who joined us at the Emeritus Breakfast.



GHHS Hall of Fame 2022



It's a Hall of Fame (HOF) year! The Foundation is busy planning the next Grand Haven High School (GHHS) Hall of Fame event to be held at the Spring Lake Country Club on Saturday, November 5, 2022.

The Hall of Fame is a triennial event established in 2008 by the Grand Haven Schools Foundation (GHSF) to honor the achievements of graduates and those who have served Grand Haven Area Public Schools, as well as to provide meaningful role models for students.

The Hall of Fame has helped to shine a light on the many accomplishments of Grand Haven alumni as well as those in our community who have provided exceptional service to Grand Haven Area Public Schools. The class of 2022 inductees will be announced in the Grand Haven Tribune at the end of July/beginning of August.

As the largest fundraiser hosted by the Foundation, we are currently seeking sponsors for the 2022 Hall of Fame. If interested in becoming a sponsor, please email Susan Bays, GHSF Executive Director, at sbays@ghsf.org for details.

Thank you Hall of Fame Advisory Council!

Bob Eidson
Iain Novoselich
Mike Reed
Scott Robertson
Karl Rowe
Scott Stanley
Denny VanHall
Diane Veneklasen

The Hall of Fame Advisory Council is made up of a group of eight members who provide expertise in different focus areas and are members of the selection committee. The current council has served for three terms on the council (2016, 2019 and 2022). This year is the final term of service for these outstanding individuals. The council members meticulously review nominations submitted and vote on the next class of inductees.

The GHSF Board of Directors sincerely appreciates the time and dedication each of these individuals has spent over the years supporting the GHHS Hall of Fame which is the main fundraiser for the Grand Haven Schools Foundation. Thank you for lifting up inspiring role models for our students and community.



Denise Stone



Nikki Tiefenbach



Heather Walsh



Chris Van Schoick

Welcome! New Board Members (2021-2022)

GHSF is excited to announce the addition of four new board members during the 2021-2022 school year.

Denise Stone and Nikki Tiefenbach joined the Foundation in October 2021. Denise brings a wealth of knowledge from her role as Sr. Vice President at Huntington National Bank and has recently stepped into the role of Treasurer for GHSF. Nikki, an Instructional Coach at Robinson Elementary, brings unique perspectives of working with students and staff to GHSF. She has been instrumental in helping the Foundation understand the current needs in our K-4th grade buildings.

In May 2022, the Foundation welcomed two additional members to the board, Heather Walsh and Chris Van Schoick. Heather brings communications knowledge to the board with her background in Marketing. She most recently worked as a Physical Therapy Assistant and is currently writing a book. Chris, a Lawyer at Scholten Fant in Grand Haven, brings a wealth of legal knowledge to the board.

Officers:

Brandon Reame - President
Todd Anthes - Vice President
Denise Stone - Treasurer
Barb Rickard - Secretary

Emeritus Board Chairperson:

Lana Jacobson

Executive Director:

Susan Bays

Directors:

Christine Baker
Mary Jane Evink
Mindy Linebaugh
Nikki Tiefenbach
Chris Van Schoick
Heather Walsh

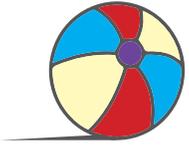
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Let's create a
brighter future.