

## MISD FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

### Report for 2017-18

The foundation was created in 1986 to raise funds for support of the Murray Independent School District, to manage those funds carefully, and to spend funds wisely on activities and programs which benefit students.

Friends of the Murray schools have enabled the foundation to meet these goals. All funds come, directly or indirectly, from donations by supporters of the school system!

This report has been prepared for foundation board members but also for all friends of the Murray City Schools and especially for all donors—past, present, and (we hope) future—who have made and will continue to make the foundation possible. We hope it will confirm we are meeting our goals!

### HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR

#### **New scholarship**

A memorial scholarship for **Connie Payne** was initiated by classmates and awarded for the first time.

Also awarded for the first time was the **Bob and Gayle Rogers scholarship**.

Again in the spring of 2018 members were inducted into the **MHS Athletic Hall of Fame**, made possible by a donation of \$15,000 by former MHS athlete and professional football player **Tim Masthay**.

### FOUNDATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Contributions to the foundation's general fund during triennial fundraisers provide support for four important foundation programs.

#### **Mini-grants**

For many years, the main business of the foundation has been awarding mini-grants to teachers. These grants, usually less than \$500, provide funds for a wide variety of classroom activities and equipment designed to enhance students' learning.

In 2017-18 twenty-eight grants were completed by eighteen teachers. For 2018-19, twenty-five grants have been awarded to twenty-one teachers. Both new projects and continuations of previous successful grants are included. Total grant funds were about \$8500 each year.

Friends who would like to see the wide range of innovative mini-grant projects may find lists of grants for each year on the foundation's website: [www.murrayfoundation.net](http://www.murrayfoundation.net).

Photos and brief articles about several mini-grants were published in the *Ledger and Times*.

#### **Development and Enrichment Grants**

The foundation also provides grants intended to support professional development for teachers, student enrichment activities, and the purchase of supplies and equipment. They usually are larger than mini-grants in scope and cost. They also are listed on the foundation's website.

Development and enrichment grant funds were used in 2017-18 to pay fees so that 5th grade students could participate in the **Challenger Center space program**, to purchase adaptive **playground equipment**, to purchase **art toolkits** for students with special needs, and to pay some expenses of the **Future Problem Solving team**.

**Donor designated grants** are a special subcategory of these grants. They allow individuals to direct contributions toward particular projects or needs. In 2017-18 the **Charles and Sarah Jones Endowment** donated funds for equipment for the **MHS Golf team**.

**Tiger Tales**, a publication at Murray Elementary School for many years, has become a cherished tradition supported by regular donors to the foundation. Initially supported by a mini-grant, the publication will receive a continuing yearly contribution of \$1500.

### **Tuition Assistance grants**

Since 2005, donors have helped the foundation provide more than \$120,000 in tuition assistance to families. Tuition costs have declined since 2010, but the number of families who need help has not. The foundation approved tuition assistance grants totaling \$3185 for 23 students in 15 families for 2017-18 and \$3500 for 21 students in 12 families for 2018-19.

## **OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES**

Income from gifts and endowments is used to fund awards, scholarships, and students' participation in academic activities which require significant expenditures.

### **Awards and scholarships**

For 2018-19 the following received scholarships from foundation endowed funds:

**Sydney Reid**—the \$2500 **Eli and Sally Alexander scholarship**  
**Phoebe Shown**—\$1000 **Brad Barnett scholarship**  
**Michael Parks**—the \$1000 **James H. Boone Sr. scholarship**  
**Hannah Derby**—the \$1500 **Tommy Carroll scholarship**  
**Kristen Youngblood**—the \$600 **Robert G. Jeffrey scholarship**  
**Brianna Earick**—the \$1000 **Connie Payne scholarship**  
**Kristen Lyons**—the \$1000 **Bob and Gayle Rogers scholarship**

**Ava Elliott, Tyce Gibson, Nora Lewis, Adeline Pitman, London Teitloff, and Olivia Watson**, third grade students at Murray Elementary School, received **Clara W. G. Humphrey scholarships** to participate in the Young Authors Camp at Murray State University.

**Emily Chipman**, a teacher at Murray High School, received the \$1000 **Mark Schmidt Technology award** for the project "Art for the 31st Century."

At the conclusion of the 2018 fall soccer season, teammates will select a most valuable player of the year to receive the **Keeslar-Soltani trophy**. Ethan Back received the award in 2017.

The **Burgess-Spann scholarship** for international travel will next be awarded in the spring of 2020 for travel in the summer of 2020.

Students who needed help with fees necessary to participate in the MHS speech program and the MHS and MMS bands benefitted from funds earned in the **Etherton Speech** and **Alumni Band** endowments.

### **Gifts in Memory or Honor**

Memorial gifts have helped enable the foundation to establish endowments and pay for special projects. In 2017 and 2018, the foundation received gifts in memory or honor of the following:

**Gail Houston Pappas, Willie Jackson, Connie Payne, Wilson Gantt, Ann Griffin, Will D. Thornton, Brad Barnett, Tim Philpot, and Karl Keeslar.**

## **ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

All activities of the foundation are carried out by a **Board of Trustees** and other persons who serve as uncompensated volunteers on special committees. Details about the foundation's organization, including its **Bylaws**, may be found on its website.

### **Board Members**

Serving staggered three-year terms as members of the board in 2017-18 were **Jim Baurer, Don Bennett, Jennifer Bryson, Janel Cary, Ron Cella, Nathan Crafton, Melissa Easley, Renee Howell, Darren Jones, Sarah Jones, Cindy Kinsey, David Koelsch, John Kopperud, Shirley Martin, Melony Morgan, Ryan Noland, Vicky Parks, Matlene Perry, Angel Renick, Roy Riley, and Bob Rogers.** Elected to serve for 2018-2021 were **Martha Andrus, Jennifer Green, and Shawn Smee.**

Eighty-nine community members have served as members of the foundation board since it was formed in 1986.

### **Honor Roll of Donors**

The most important foundation participants are its **DONORS!** Without them, the foundation could not do anything.

More than 100 individuals or corporations have made **cumulative contributions of at least \$1000** to the foundation. Except for those who have chosen to remain anonymous, the names of these donors are listed on the foundation website in the section Donors and Donating. Two donors have reached the highest category of donor, Investors, which requires a minimum of \$50,000 donated.

### **Standing Committees**

Most work of the board is carried out by standing committees. In 2017-18 the committees were **Academic Enrichment**, chaired by **Cindy Kinsey**, which selects recipients of mini-grants;

**Community Relations**, chaired by **Angel Renick**, which maintains contact with the public, including our website; **Endowments**, chaired by **Roy Riley**, which supervises our scholarship and awards programs; and **Tuition Assistance**, chaired by **Shirley Martin**, which reviews applications and awards funds to families who need assistance in paying tuition. These chairs and the officers, **President David Koelsch**, **Secretary Ron Cella**, and **Treasurer Nathan Crafton**, served as the **Executive Committee**, which manages other foundation activities, including raising and dispersing funds.

**Bob Jackson** and **Harold Doran** serve as members of the special committee on investments.

### **Management of Funds**

Other than direct contributions to general fund operating accounts, funds come from a small amount of income from interest but primarily from contributions to and earnings from endowments.

An account with Vanguard Funds established in 2012 holds the principal amounts of endowed funds. Monitored regularly by the Investments Committee, funds have earned an average annual 6.8% rate of return through June 2018.

The **Burgess-Spann Travel Fund** is held in an account at the Community Foundation of West Kentucky.

### **Looking Ahead**

Murray schools continue to enjoy extraordinary success, and the foundation believes all alumni would like to know about it! A plan to establish and maintain contact with alumni, especially those who no longer reside in the area, is a priority for the foundation. The hope is that alumni also will want to join with classmates who have helped the foundation support the Murray Schools.

In order to make contact, the foundation and the **Murray Tiger Alumni Association** are trying to build a database of email addresses. Anyone who would like to share an address for that purpose can mail or send it to the email address below.

### **Contact and Information**

By email: [admin@murrayfoundation.net](mailto:admin@murrayfoundation.net)

By mail: MISD Foundation for Excellence, PO BOX 1417, Murray, KY 42071

Further information and the opportunity to make a donation online are available at the foundation website: [murrayfoundation.net](http://murrayfoundation.net).