

## **MISD FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE**

### **Annual Report to Friends and Supporters for 2018-19**

Goals of the foundation are to raise funds for support of the Murray Independent School District, manage those funds carefully, and spend funds wisely on activities and programs which benefit students, teachers, and families.

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!

Below is a summary we hope confirms the foundation is meeting its goals and deserves the continued support of donors who have made its work possible.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR**

The third **MHS Athletic Hall of Fame** class was inducted in May. New members included the 1979 State Runner-Up Baseball Team; coach James Weatherly; athletes Catherine Claywell, Tom Covington, Laura Mitchell, Tommy Wells, Earl D. Hudspeth, and Dennis Jackson; and contributor Leon P. Miller. Funds to support awards to members are drawn from an endowment made possible by a donation of \$15,000 by former MHS athlete and professional football player **Tim Masthay**.

### **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY FUNDRAISERS**

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

#### **Mini-grants**

Awarding mini-grants to teachers has been a priority for the foundation since its beginning in 1986. These grants, usually less than \$500, provide funds for a wide variety of classroom activities and equipment designed to enhance students' learning.

In 2018-19 twenty-eight grants were completed by eighteen teachers. For 2019-20, 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.

A \$1500 grant was used in 2018-19 to pay fees so that 5th grade students could participate in the **Challenger Center space program**.

**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 \$125,000 in tuition assistance to families. Tuition costs have declined since 2010, but the number of families who need help has remained stable. The foundation has approved tuition assistance grants averaging a total of more than \$3000 in each of the last three years, assisting an average of 20 students each year,

## **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 the 2019-20 academic year, the following received scholarships from foundation endowed funds:

**Mark Thompson**—the \$2500 **Eli and Sally Alexander scholarship**  
**Olivia Baron**—\$1000 **Brad Barnett scholarship**  
**Chase Merriss**—the \$1000 **James H. Boone Sr. scholarship**  
**Harold “Beau” Osborne**—the \$1500 **Tommy Carroll scholarship**  
**Chloe Lovins**—the \$600 **Robert G. Jeffrey scholarship**  
**Will Lovins**—the \$1000 **Connie Payne scholarship**  
**McKinzie Nelson**—the \$1000 **Bob and Gayle Rogers scholarship**

**Kyle Hendrith, Andrea Morales Cano, and Carolyn Madden**, fifth grade students at Murray Middle School, and **Eliana Archibong**, a third grade student at Murray Elementary School, received **Clara W. G. Humphrey scholarships** to participate in the Young Authors Camp at Murray State University.

**Whitney York**, technology specialist for the school system, received the \$1000 **Mark Schmidt Technology award** for the project “High School Information Technology and STEM.”

At the conclusion of the 2019 fall soccer season, teammates will select a most valuable player of the year to receive the **Keeslar-Soltani trophy**. Zak Mathis received the award in 2018.

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 2018 and 2019, the foundation received gifts in memory or honor of the following:

**Gail Houston Pappas, Willie Jackson, Janel Cary, Connie Payne, Brad Barnett, Judy Tidwell, Brenda Maddox, and Teresa Speed.**

## **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 2018-19 were **Martha Andrus, Don Bennett, Jennifer Bryson, Janel Cary, Ron Cella, Nathan Crafton, Melissa Easley, Jennifer Green, Renee Howell, Darren Jones, Sarah Jones, Cindy Kinsey, David Koelsch, John Kopperud, Shirley Martin, Melony Morgan, Ryan Noland, Vicky Parks, Angel Renick, Bob Rogers and Shawn Smee.** Elected to serve for 2019-2022 were **Jim Baurer, John McConnell, Heidi Shulz, and Mark Stubblefield.**

Ninety-two community members have served on 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 2018-19 the committees were **Academic Enrichment**, chaired by **Cindy Kinsey**, which selects recipients of mini-grants; **Community Relations**, chaired by **Rene Howell**, which maintains contact with the public, including our website; **Endowments**, chaired by **Vicki Parks**, which supervises our scholarship and awards programs; **Finance**, co-chaired by **Janel Cary** and **Angel Renick**, which manages fundraising; 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 Angel Renick, Secretary Ron Cella, and Treasurer Nathan Crafton**, served as the

**Executive Committee**, which manages other foundation activities. New committee chairs for 2019-20 will be elected at the annual meeting in October

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

### **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).