

## MISD FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE REPORT FOR 2016-17

*The foundation hopes this report on activities and events of the year will confirm that it is meeting its goal – to raise funds and spend them wisely on activities that benefit students of the Murray City Schools.*

### HIGHLIGHTS

A successful **Triennial Fund Raiser**, completed in April, 2017, was a highlight for the year because it will enable much that the foundation can do. Fifty-five generous individual and corporate friends of the schools donated or pledged \$38,715 to support general fund expenses through the year 2020. These expenses include mini-grants, development and enrichment grants, tuition assistance, and *Tiger Tales*, published at Murray Elementary School. The foundation greatly appreciates its donors, many of whom have given repeatedly and often!

Two New Scholarships and the MHS Athletic Hall of Fame, both resulting from donations to establish endowments, also were significant funding milestones.



*The first **Brad Barnett** scholarships were awarded in May of 2017 to two MHS seniors chosen for their courage and character as exemplified in the life of Mr. Barnett.*



*In winters of both 2016 and 2017 members were inducted into the MHS Athletic Hall of Fame, made possible by a \$15,000 donation from former MHS athlete and professional football player **Tim Masthay**.*



*The foundation is currently seeking additional donations for the **Bob and Gayle Rogers** scholarship to be presented in the spring of 2018 to a senior who will attend Murray State University and prepare for a career in public education.*

The foundation took the first disbursements from the **Madge and Joe Parker** endowment to supplement funds for teacher grants, and a successful match by individual donors of a **\$5000 grant from the Doran Foundation** supported travel by the MHS speech team.

**Memorial Gifts** have enabled the foundation to establish endowments and pay for special projects. In 2016 and 2017, the foundation received gifts in memory or honor of the following:

**Connie Payne, Wilson Gantt, Ann Waldrop Griffin, Will D. Thornton, Brad Barnett, Tim Philpot, Karl Keeslar, Wayne Bell, Ron Cella, Cardelle Wilson Waldrop, Ed Overbey, Yancey Watkins, Bill Wells, Katie Bailey Mader, Sid Easley, Roy Weatherly, Paul McNeary, Bob Rogers, and Dana Roberson.**



## FOUNDATION GRANTS



*Mini-grants, offered for more than twenty-five years, have been awarded to teachers for a wide variety of classroom activities and equipment designed to enhance students learning. In 2016-17 twenty teachers implemented twenty-six grants, and twenty-eight grants were awarded to eighteen teachers for 2017-18. Included were both new projects and renewals of successful grants.*



*Mini-grants totaled about \$9000 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).*

Six years ago, thanks to a successful fundraiser, the foundation began offering **Development and Enrichment Grants**. Usually larger than mini-grants in scope and cost, they support professional development for teachers, student enrichment activities, and the purchase of supplies and equipment. They also are listed on the foundation's website.



*Development and enrichment grant funds were used in 2017 to help pay fees for 5th grade students to participate in the **Challenger Center space program**, purchase **adaptive playground equipment** for Murray Elementary School, and purchase **Google Expeditions**, a virtual reality program, for use in any classroom.*

**Donor designated grants** allow individuals to direct contributions toward particular projects or needs. Examples are anonymous gifts for the purchase of classroom **computer equipment** costing more than \$10,000 in both 2012 and 2013. During 2016-17, the Doran Foundation agreed to fund a **\$5000 Matching Grant for Speech** to help with travel expenses of the MHS Speech Team, and the grant was more than matched by individual donors. The **Charles and Sarah Jones Endowment** donated \$1596 to the **MHS Golf team**.



***Tiger Tales**, a publication of Murray Elementary School students' art and writing, has become a cherished tradition supported by donors to the foundation. The foundation has committed to a continuing yearly contribution of \$1500.*

Since 2005, donors have helped the foundation provide more than \$118,000 in **Tuition Assistance Grants** to families who needed help. While tuition costs have declined since 2010, the foundation continues to provide support. The foundation approved grants totaling \$3185 for 23 students, members of 15 families, for 2017-18.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



In 2017-18 **Scholarships** from foundation endowed funds were awarded to the following:

**Jonathan Hilbrecht** – the \$2500 **Eli and Sally Alexander** scholarship  
**Andrew Pajor and Faith Thornton** – \$1000 **Brad Barnett** scholarships  
**Jacob Jones** – the \$1000 **James H. Boone Sr.** scholarship  
**Matthew McCormick** – the \$1500 **Tommy Carroll** scholarship  
**Brittany Lawson** – the \$600 **Robert G. Jeffrey** scholarship

*Madison Hill, Betsy Perdomo, and Jenna Stone, third grade students at Murray Elementary School, received **Clara W. G. Humphrey** scholarships to participate in the Young Authors Camp at Murray State University.*



*Nancy Newsome and Murray Elementary School received the \$1000 **Mark Schmidt Technology award** for the project "Communication Station Using ESGI"*



***Ethan Back** was chosen by soccer teammates to receive the **Keeslar-Soltani memorial trophy** as most valuable player for the year.*

The **Burgess-Spann scholarship**, funded through an endowment at the Community Foundation of West Kentucky, helps pay expenses for international travel by a Murray High student in alternate summers.

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.



## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

All activities of the foundation are carried out by a **Board of Trustees** and other persons who serve as uncompensated volunteers on special committees. Most work of the foundation is carried out by standing committees. Details about the foundation's organization, including its **Bylaws**, may be found on its website: [www.murrayfoundation.net](http://www.murrayfoundation.net).

Currently serving staggered three-year terms as members of the board are the following: **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.**

In 2017 **Dick Weaver** was named a **Member Emeritus** and thus serves a term without limits. **Bob Jackson** and **Harold Doran** serve as members of the special committee on investments.

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

The most important participants are **DONORS!** The foundation could do nothing without them.

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, an **Honor Roll of Donors** lists these 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, and three others have become **Sponsors** by donating at least \$25,000.

Anyone who would like to help can donate online at the foundation website or mail a donation to:

**MISD Foundation for Excellence, PO BOX 1417, Murray, KY 42071**

Looking ahead, the foundation hopes to reach out to many **alumni** who no longer reside in the area – to share information about the outstanding successes of their alma mater and to offer them the opportunity to join with classmates who have helped the foundation support Murray schools. A committee is now attempting to reach representatives of graduating classes for their help in getting addresses, including email addresses. All friends who would like to share addresses—their own or those of friends and classmates – can send them to:

**[admin@murrayfoundation.net](mailto:admin@murrayfoundation.net)**

