



Foundations

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EGR SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

VOL. XXXVIII FEBRUARY 2018

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Message from the President

When my family and I moved to East almost 14 years ago, we came here for the schools.

I knew our children would get a great education here. What I didn't know was how the schools would connect us to our community. First, parents on our street gathered to watch our kids play. Soon we were discussing how all of them would walk to Lakeside together. The next thing we knew we were waiting at the front door for kindergarteners to be dismissed, working together at holiday parties, sitting together at the kids' activities and sports, coaching together, serving on PTO committees, volunteering at events, selling Christmas trees, and posing for homecoming pictures. Before we knew it, we were serving food together at the Senior all-night party.

We came here for the fantastic schools, but those schools also provided a fantastic community.

I bring this up because the Foundation continues to evolve into an institution that fosters that sense of community by connecting us to each other and our schools. We connect East alumni from around the country by sharing their stories on our updated website and coordinating their reunions. We host an annual event that raises funds for our schools but also brings us together as a community. We host a bi-annual dinner that recognizes our distinguished alumni and community service volunteers, celebrating the accomplishments and service that members of our community have provided.

The Foundation is also becoming a hub of information about our schools and community. Our weekly Cheat Sheet connects us by providing up-to-date information about what's happening in our schools and our city. Our Facebook page shares news about alumni and students while our website pulls all this information together in one spot.

Of course, the Foundation's greatest contribution to our sense of community is supporting our schools. We are all connected by the desire for our children to receive an outstanding education. For 35 years, the Foundation has provided students and teachers funds to take education one step further with innovative programs, teacher education, and technology. Six years ago, when school funding from the state was no longer sufficient, the Foundation pulled our community together with the EGRNow! campaign, allowing our schools to preserve key programs and maintain an excellent level of education. The program support has been critical, thus allowing the district to maintain vital programs and supports in our schools.

I encourage you to look upon the Foundation as another connection point to our schools and our city. I hope you'll take advantage of the information we provide, join us for an event, volunteer or contribute to our cause. We want to help connect you to our fantastic schools and our extraordinary community.

Michael Reid, President



The EGR Schools Foundation is proud to provide funds for Kabookie Week, a week of remembering Jimmy Gerken and promoting kindness at the high school. Pictured are two of the eight recipients, Chris Boylen and Lily Kate Rogers, who were voted by classmates as exemplifying the characteristics of Jimmy Gerken, including friendship and compassion for all.



THE DONOR ROLL CALL

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation's Donor Roll Call recognizes those individuals, businesses and organizations that have supported the Foundation from **January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017**. The Foundation's Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges all who have generously supported our mission through their gifts. We also thank individuals who have secured matching gifts from their employers, as well as the employers who have supported their employees' generosity through matching gifts.

This list reflects all outright gifts and does not include participants in Foundation-sponsored events such as HURRAH! or golf outings.

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*Love truth but
 pardon error.*

Voltaire

*We strive to be accurate and
 comprehensive, but in a listing of
 this length errors may occur.
 We appreciate readers' assistance
 in bringing any inaccuracies
 to our attention.*



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Dave '57 & Nancy Cook
Joe '82 & Amy Coretti
Dustin & Jill Daniels
Bill & Margie Darooog
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Doublestein
Nadav & Karen Dujovny
Pete & Anne '83 Eardley

John & Louise Edison, '69
Michael '80 & Lynette Ellis
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Hoekstra
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Joel & Shannon Iakiri
Win '65 & Kyle '70 Irwin
Graham '94 & Sara Irwin
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Tom & Margy Jones
Mary Ann Keeler
Tom '71 & Vicki '70 Kimball
Tom & Sally '85 Kyros
Brad '94 & Kotoe Laackman
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Randy '88 & Lisa Lovell
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Hank & Liesel Meijer
John & Jane '79 Meilner
Sam '63 & Barb '64 Metcalf
Bob & Beth Milanowski
Matthew '86 & Jill Miller
Steve & Katie Millman
Anthony & Polly Morey
James & Carolyn Morse
Bob & Ellen Nelson
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Chris & Michelle Rabideau
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Sabina Hubjer-Rasoul
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Elizabeth Welch '88
John '63 & Prim '64
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Christopher & Kelli Smith
Jerome & Helen Smith – in
honor of Dr. Sara Shubel

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Joseph Vanden Bosch, '86
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Jonathan Gluck
Charles D. Goodyear
Jeffrey Hilliard

WE THE PEOPLE FUND

Robert Goodrich, '58
Lexy McCulloch
Mike & Suzanne Moore



Thank you to our
current L. Neesley
Legacy Society
members:
Linda Kehm
Louise Hitt Neesley
Janet L. Stauss
Peter & Joan Secchia

Remembering the
Foundation in your estate
plan is a lasting gift to
education.

Bob Bailey
Barbara Cone

Paul E. Beard, '96
Laurie Beard

Amy Bennett
Sarah Frey Rose

Joan E. Blanty
Barbara Cone

Donna Boorstein
William Boorstein

Mike Cary
Barbara Cone
Lou & Carol Murray, '64

Julie C. Conway, '89
Anonymous

Terry M. Conway, '64
Anonymous

**Catherine Webber Curtis,
'64**
Lee Webber Porter, '58

Robert Devine, '64
Lou & Carol Murray, '64

Lewis Edison, '76
Suzanne Case Edison, '75

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Tom '71 & Vicki '70
Kimball

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Peter & Amy Stuursma, '89

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Denny '59 & MaryAnn Gray

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Erik Daly '00 & Jessica
Bloom

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Cary Bailen, '90

Kimberly Kell, '93
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Zachary House, '11
Dirk '63 & Lisa '76 Buth
& Family
The Malewitz Family

Keeland Johns, '13
Larry & Lee Nelson Weber

Linda Kehm
The Giving Gardens – Steve
& Margaux Drake

**Harry, Evelyn & Chuck '64
Lawford**
Anne Lawford Krawczak, '60

**Elisabeth "Lissie"
Lawrence-Leeling**
Barbara Cone



Foundations

February 2018
Volume XXXVIII

Memorial Gifts (continued)

Andy Lubbers, '92

Dorothy Ciner Armstrong

Wade Mackay, '77

Mark Zabroske, '77

Sara Galvan Magaña

Barbara Cone
Michael & Carole
McDonald

Roger Martindill, '62

Nancy Seymour, '62

Sherman Massingham, '40

Nancy Massingham

Marion Metcalf

Sam '63 & Barb '64 Metcalf

Beverly Morey

EGR Admin Lead Team
EGR Middle School Staff

Jane Nichols

Jack Nichols

Susan Emmons Nolan, '85

Jim '85 & Susan Weiss

Coach Bob Porter

Chuck Jennings, '57

Irma Stauffacher

Isidore & Cary Okoro

Jacob Steffee, '00

Erik Daly '00 & Jessica
Bloom

Billy Swaney, '81

Tom '77 & Sue '78 Swaney

Rusty Swaney, '51

Jean Swaney, '51
Tom '77 & Sue '78 Swaney

Shirley Swaney, '49

Tom '77 & Sue '78 Swaney

"Bubba" Dorothy Tupper

Tom '71 & Vicki '70
Kimball

Tracy Tupper

Dick '72 & Kathleen '73
Tupper

Peter VandenBerg, '76

Stuart Wegener, '71

Charlie Wallau, '14

Barbara Cone

Jim "Lamar" Wendell, '59

Denny '59 & MaryAnn Gray

Richard N. Wolf, '50

Muriel D. Wolf

Micah Wynn, '10

Jeanine Dailey

CLASS REUNION GIFTS

Class of 1952 - \$185

Sue Noreen Murphy

Jim Peterson

Class of 1957 - \$500

Dave Thoits

Class of '67 gift

Class of 1967 - \$1,500

Bill Baxter
Charles "Chip" Curtis
Margaret Idema
Judy Knappe
Martha Runnells Moyer

Class of 1977 - \$7,700

Penny Minhinnick Burns

Scott Champion

Trisha Jillson Cornelius

Abby Dilley

Peter Hallas

Amy Dolphin Haskins

Neil Kimball

Scott Love

Lynne Boyles Marino

Curt Matheny

Brian Phillips

Tom Swaney

Grace Mueller Thornton

Vincent Turcotte

Karin McAleenan Turmelle

Tom Wanty

Class of '77 gift

Class of 1987 - \$808

Julie Sebastian Andrews

Sandy Secchia Aslanian

Maggie Catchick Houghton

Elizabeth Henry

Pete Johnson

Patrick McCarthy

Elaine Sellas Milnes

Ingrid Nelson

Lisa Ripperger

Class of '87 gift

Class of 1997 - \$575

Ted Balck

Jaime Cutler Weibel

Class of '97 gift

Class of 2017 - \$6,050

Class of '17 graduation gift

Class of '77 Makes Extraordinary Reunion Gift

After their 40th reunion last fall, members of the Class of '77 decided they wanted to do something special for East Grand Rapids. At the Foundation Board Meeting in December, they did just that, presenting a check to the Foundation for \$7,700.

"We are so fortunate to have a Foundation that's committed to the school system and community," said Johnny Liu, one of the class members who presented the check.

"EGR and its school system were a gift growing up," says Lynne Boyles Marino '77. "You often don't realize what you have until you move away. It's a pleasure to give back to a place that has been the springboard for my life. EGR was my 'Foundation.' Community is what we are all about and EGR is our community. The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation helps keep our community strong and vital. With our gift, we hope to continue that legacy."

The donation was made up of individual contributions and money that was left in the reunion fund. "Schools today are faced with shrinking budgets and EGR is no exception," said another classmate, Diane Schroeder. "Our reunion not only provided a great opportunity to reconnect as a class, but gave us the chance to give back and help students and staff enjoy many of the extras that were readily available to us during our time there. It's truly humbling to be able to do that."

And Cecilia Cunningham summed up the motivation for the Class of '77's donation: "The bonds of friendship formed while at EGR have lasted a lifetime. The educational experiences were some of the finest. The faculty were some of the top teachers in the state. The community is unparalleled in its support of our schools. Now, we are in a position to assist the next generation. It is our pleasure! Go Pioneers!"





HURRAH! 2017

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County Commissioner Phil Skaggs

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Jack '77 & Jennifer '83 Zinser

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Mark & Allison '89 White
Chad Zagel & Ellie Frey

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Monica's Gourmet Cookies
Olive's Restaurant & Bar
Osta's Lebanese Cuisine
Pietro's Italian Restaurant/Three Chefs Catering
Ramona's Table
Rose's on Reeds Lake
Schuil Coffee Co.
Subway
Trailhead Café
Two Scotts Barbecue

E V E N T S

SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 21, 2018



East Grand Rapids
Schools Foundation

Last year was the last HURRAH!

This year's fundraising event will be held on April 21
at the EGR Community Center and Wege Plaza.

Join us in support of our schools!

SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US



WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 6, 2018

THOUSAND OAKS GOLF CLUB
1:00PM

AFTER PARTY AND
AUCTION ON THE PATIO

PLUS, NEW THIS YEAR!
EARLY BIRDY 9-HOLE
MORNING ROUND AT 9AM
FOR GOLFERS WHO WANT
NINE INSTEAD.

ONLINE REGISTRATION
BEGINS IN APRIL ON
WWW.EGRSE.ORG

East Grand Rapids Team Boosters and
the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation
in support of Athletics, Kabookie Week,
and The Jimmy Gerken Fund



Enhancement Grants Provided by EGRSF – Fall 2017

Support Provided	School	Amount
Stories Connect Us – Revitalizing the Elementary Learning Commons Instruction and enrichment in all elementary learning commons	Breton Downs, Lakeside, Wealthy	\$11,806
Classroom Set of Ukuleles 30 ukuleles to complement set already existing at Breton Downs	Lakeside	\$2,225
Zoning in on a Culture of Inclusion Multi-day training on leadership and inclusion for students and teachers in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor. Also MLK Day speaker	Middle School	\$9,032
Bicycle Window Art Public art design, creation and implementation in the middle school	Middle School	\$2,862
Debating the Documents: U.S. History Resource 51 lessons centered around historical questions and investigations	High School	\$1,760
3D Printer For use in the science classrooms	Middle School	\$1,031
EGR Robotics – CNC Router Table-top CNC router for use by Robotics team and other courses in the high school	High School	\$5,474
Middle School Classroom Libraries Building breadth, depth and diversity in middle school classroom libraries	Middle School	\$15,400
March Madness Books International program where tournament bracket competition is set up between books for 3 years of competition	Breton Downs, Lakeside, Wealthy	\$5,873
Book Love – High School Edition Books and alternative seating options to increase engagement and literary options	High School	\$1,500
iPad for English as a Second Language Students Supports vocabulary building and listening comprehension	High School	\$464
EGRHS Science Olympiad Registration, competitions and building supplies	High School	\$600
iPad Pro for Making Flipped Classroom Videos	High School	\$645
Social Studies Trade Books Select trade and picture books to serve as companions to all 8th grade units	Middle School	\$715
National Council of Teachers of English Conference Opportunity for an EGR teacher to present a session with poet Amy Ludwig VanDerwater and showcase past students' poetry works	Middle School	\$790
MakerBot Digitizer (3D Scanner) Allows students to scan objects and replicate	High School	\$800
Second Grade Classroom Libraries – Below Grade Level Extends the variety of leveled books in the classroom to support Lucy Calkins' units of study	Lakeside	\$800
Headphones for Spanish Class 35 two-way headphones with microphone attached for use with oral assessments	High School	\$539
ENHANCEMENT GRANT TOTAL		\$62,316
PROGRAM SUPPORT TOTAL		\$255,000
EGRNow! provided funding toward K-1 paraeducators, the world language program, and the Performing Arts Center management for the 2017-18 school year.		



East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation “STARS”

Gifts to the Foundation were made to honor stars in our school community. Below is the list of gifts made during the Fall of 2017 recognizing a special teacher, staff member or school employee. Thank you to the many contributors and to the many outstanding staff members who make East Grand Rapids Public Schools a great place to learn!

Deanna Allchin

The Adamy Family

Carlye Allen

The Adamy Family

Mike Arthur

EGR Crew Team

Steve Brinks

Charlie Connor

Sam Connor

Dan Brown

Charlie Connor

Joshua Klug

Mary Buzalski

Scott, Maddie, Claire &

Matt Millman

Harry Coffill

Nick Collins

Michelle Day

The Faber Family

Lori Dood

The Duncan Family

Michael Dykstra

Charlie Connor

Larry Frazier

Sam Connor

Christy Gast

The Duncan Family

Jeanne Glowicki

The Murkowski-Goller Family

Erin Grin

The Faber Family

Beth Hill

Sam Connor

Chris Kenward

The Duncan Family

Betsy Kratt

The Duncan Family

Holly Lampen

Charlie Connor

Sam Connor

John MacKenzie

The Duncan Family

Susan McCaffrey

Charlie Connor

Socorro Mercado-Blackport

Ben Collins

Megan Miller

The Adamy Family

Cassandra Rood

The Duncan Family

Tim Saunders

The Adamy Family

Danielle Smith

Charlie Connor

Jill Smith

Sam Connor

Chris Stabile

The Duncan Family

Kevin Vance

Charlie Connor

The Duncan Family

Tad VandenBrink

Jack Collins

Jodi Westgate

The Duncan Family

Laura Woolford

Sam Connor

Sarah Youngs

Sam Connor



Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks – Fall 2017

To recognize a coach who has made an impact

Bill Bergstrom, JD Collins, Bryon Higgins, Rob Kowalewski, Joe Taylor, Matt Vriesenga

2017 7th Grade Football Team

Don't forget to recognize your spring coaches with a Jimmy Gerken Award of Appreciation and Thanks!

L. Neesley Legacy Society Recognizes the Lasting Power of Planned Giving

Every donation to support education is an investment in the future. Funding school programs gives students of today and tomorrow every opportunity to succeed.

A donation made through planned giving takes that investment in the future one step further. Planned giving to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation is an investment in education for generations to come.

“A planned gift to the Foundation shows unconditional support for our schools and our community,” says Foundation Executive Director Amy Stuursma. “We live in a community that is built around our schools and educational excellence. A planned gift is a way of memorializing that commitment to our community.”

When individuals name the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation in their estate plans, they become part of the L. Neesley Legacy Society and continue to benefit East Grand Rapids Schools even after their lifetime.

Louise Hitt Neesley didn't have any children. She and her husband, Nate, were longtime residents of East Grand Rapids. She was on the boards of several local organizations. She loved to work in her garden. And Louise loved to walk from her house up to Gaslight and over to the public library, a path that would have taken her right past East Grand Rapids High School.

Something she saw or heard or experienced on those walks past the high school must have made quite an impression on Louise. When she passed away in 2006, at age 91, Louise donated a portion of her estate to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation.

“As a member of the East Grand Rapids community, Louise recognized the importance of education and understood the value of our schools and the impact the Foundation can have on our public schools,” Stuursma says. “By making the Foundation part of her estate plan, Louise demonstrated her understanding of how important our schools are to our community.”

If you have any questions about the L. Neesley Legacy Society, or any aspect of planned giving, please contact the Foundation. We'd be happy to talk to you about making a lasting investment in our community and our children's future.

*A special thank you to **Kim Bardeggia, Kim Bolt, Bethany Bregenzer, Tanya Craig, Doreen Lambert, Mari Persons and Amy Rockwell** for their volunteer hours in the Foundation office.*



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

A VIRTUAL CUP OF COFFEE WITH BILL SPINDLE, '81



Bill Spindle, '81 is the Wall Street Journal's senior writer for global energy issues. Previously, he was the Middle East Bureau Chief for the Journal and has covered the financial industry in Japan and on Wall Street.



What was your path from East Grand Rapids to where you are now in life?

Circuitous, although looking back I suppose there's a logic that wasn't so clear as it was all happening. After working at the student paper at the University of Michigan, I careened through various freelance and full time jobs in journalism: a few months at the Grand Rapids

Press, the Ann Arbor News and then — after a year at Columbia University's graduate journalism school in New York — Newsday on Long Island.

In 1992 I moved to Japan with my wife, who needed to do her field research for a PhD in Japanese art history. I worked at Business-Week magazine and Bloomberg News in Tokyo before landing at The Wall Street Journal. Eventually I moved to the Journal's main office in New York — which directly across the street from the World Trade Center — to become assistant foreign editor. That was early in 2001. With our toddler and newborn, we got an apartment two blocks from the office, on opposite side of the Towers. Six months later, the 9-11 attacks completely destroyed the Journal's offices, though miraculously no one at the paper was killed or injured. I got out of our offices before the worst of it. My family and I then made a relatively harrowing escape from lower Manhattan.

But the attacks thrust me into more than a decade of editing and reporting about the Middle East. We were based in Rome for several years, then Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. I was in Iraq for parts of the U.S. occupation and its aftermath, and in Syria both

before and after it collapsed into civil war. I've made almost a dozen reporting trips to Iran, as well as Israel and nearly every other country in the Middle East. Along this journey I've written about everything from the Japanese automobile industry, Arabic-language TV shows, Iran's youth music culture, the collapse of global financial markets, ISIS, OPEC and the global cashew nut industry. I currently live and work in India, based in New Delhi.

What specific thing did you learn in East that has enabled you to be successful?

I think I learned to appreciate the value of learning — of learning how to learn. That's been my bread and butter as a journalist, quickly making sense of and then explaining so many different things while retaining a healthy appreciation of just how much you don't know and understand.

What were you like in school?

Curious and confident enough to get myself into classes where I usually then was awed by how smart the other students were. I managed, but often with considerable struggle.

Did you have a favorite teacher or class?

Bert Froyland instilled a love of language and appreciation for the discipline that went into the best writing. I was dazzled by the intelligence of teachers in the science department and came away with a lifelong fascination with physics and have even put some vaguely recalled knowledge of chemistry to work while writing about the energy industry, my struggles in those classes notwithstanding.

What advice do you have for young East alums who are just starting out?

Don't dismiss simply doing something that's fun and interesting. Amazing where that can take you....

*To read more on Bill and other alumni, go to
www.egrfsf.org.*



The Class of 1997 came H.O.M.E. (House of Music and Entertainment at the B.O.B. in downtown Grand Rapids) to celebrate their 20th reunion.



UPCOMING REUNIONS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming 2018 reunions! Find additional reunion information on our Upcoming Alumni Events page at www.egrfsf.org.

Class of 1958 – 60th Reunion

June 8-9, 2017

Reunion contact Murry Idema at ridema58@gmail.com.

Class of 1968 – 50th Reunion

September 21-23, 2018

Reunion contact Jeff Hudson at egrhs1968@yahoo.com.

Class of 1978 – 40th Reunion

October 6, 2018

Reunion contact Laura Young at laurayoung6@me.com.

Class of 1988 – 30th Reunion

October 5-6, 2018

Reunion contact Elizabeth Welch at elizabeth@welch-law.com.

Class of 1998 – 20th Reunion

July 28, 2018

Reunion contact Sarah (Stiehl) Tupper at sarah.tupper@gmail.com.

Class of 2008 – 10th Reunion

Date TBD

Reunion contact Maxwell Mikelic at mlm2316@columbia.edu.

Reunion information and contacts are needed for 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, and 2013.

Consider a class gift to our endowment, EGRFOREVER!, in your reunion planning. Make a lasting impact on generations of EGR students to come. "We are EGR!"



The planning committee for the Class of 1967 50th Reunion

Don't Delay – Start Planning Your Reunion Today!
Your alumni association is available to support your reunion planning efforts. Contact Maria Allen, Alumni Relations Coordinator, today at mallen@egrps.org or (616) 575-9907.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni who died since our last publication. They will be greatly missed.

Class of 1939

Margaret (Rittenger) Campbell
Rogers

Helen (Parsons) Nobel

Class of 1943

Will Bottje

Class of 1947

Marjorie (Olds) Leenhouts

Class of 1948

Katherine (Hogg) McAleenan
Priscilla (Goodspeed) Shuart

Class of 1950

Noel Black

Class of 1957

Lynn S. (Keister) Eleveld
Robert Meek

Class of 1960

Mary Sue Jack

Class of 1964

Robert Devine
Willard Bukhardt

Class of 1965

Janet Stauss
D. William Ruoff
Richard Closterhouse

Class of 1967

Elizabeth (Neuman) Muste
Marguerite Rowland

Class of 1972

Drusilla Hillman-Richard

Class of 1974

Bradford Loomis

Class of 1976

Marc Wilkinson

Class of 1977

Karla Mae Jacobus

Class of 1987

Sarah Hall
Steven Saltsman

Class of 2000

Margaret Genow

Class of 2010

Micah Wynn

Class of 2014

Charles Wallau

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please help us stay informed by calling us at (616)235-3535 or emailing egrfsf@egrps.org.

Take a look at the **Class News** page on our website, www.egrfsf.org, and you will see the variety of information that is being shared, i.e., weddings, births, new jobs, accomplishments/awards, retirements, reunions, photos, etc. You too can share your news with us, allowing alumni to find information from their classmates quickly and easily. Contact the class agent listed for your class year or contact Maria Allen at mallen@egrps.org or (616)235-3535. If you don't see a class agent listed for your class year, you can sign up to be one.



Foundations

East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

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Foundations

February 2018
Volume XXXVIII

Thank you for supporting East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation.

Please include this form with your donation. You will receive a letter of receipt for your tax-deductible gift. If you would like to make your donation online please visit our website: www.egrsf.org.

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(as you wish to be recognized on printed materials)

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Please accept my gift of:

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Please charge my VISA Master Card Discover

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I wish to remember a special person with this gift:

- I/We have remembered EGRSF in my/our estate plans.
- Please send information on how to remember EGRSF in my will.
- I plan to make a matching gift through my employer.

Employer name _____

Please make checks payable to: East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation.

Donations may be sent to: 2915 Hall St. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506 or donate online at: www.egrsf.org