



2021 Community Report

A Note from Melinda Heinritz
President, Madison Public Schools Foundation

Thank you. Two words to convey our heartfelt gratitude to YOU – our community members – for standing up for Madison’s public schools and for standing with the Madison Public Schools Foundation over the last twenty years. Working together, we have secured over \$32 million in resources for our MMSD scholars, staff, schools, and families. Through your generosity, the Foundation has adapted, innovated, and created new and different ways of delivering supports to MMSD, through longstanding programs such as Adopt-a-School and School Endowments to more recent efforts such as the Madison Public Schools Friends and Alumni Network and the Teacher Support Network.

While we reflect with pride on our accomplishments, we also recognize that much has changed in the public schools’ landscape since our beginnings. We often hear that public schools are the cornerstones of democracy, that they are critical to the health and vitality of a community. In holding firm to these beliefs, the Foundation now embraces a new role, a new way of doing business, that of staunch advocate, a passionate defender of Madison’s public schools within our local boundaries *and*, increasingly, across our state. Which is why we launched Act Now 2 Invest, a Coalition for Wisconsin’s Education and Economic Success, yet another example of the Foundation reinventing itself to meet the moment and to go boldly into the future.

Again, we thank you for being with us as donors, volunteers, taxpayers, and voters. But... we also ask you to stay true, to stand firm and to move away from the sidelines into the heart of the fight for our public schools. Show up when called because, as we firmly believe, Schools Make Madison. We need you and our kids need you.





“This was a really nice piece of good news in a pretty challenging time! Not only did we get a “free” \$3,000 to spend on supplies that teachers need and have been asking for, but the ordering process was extremely easy, the delivery came really fast, the service was great, and some of the products - especially the playground equipment - seemed to be a great value for a relatively low cost!”

- Brett Wilfrid, Principal, Carl Sandburg Elementary School

Innovating from idea stage to pilot to full-scale program in less than three years, the Teacher Support Network delivered thousands of items to Madison’s schools in the 2021-22 school year.

The Teacher Support Network took flight during fall 2020 to provide emergency school supplies for virtual learning in response to the pandemic. More than a year later, it has transformed into a full-fledged Foundation program serving all 52 MMSD schools. The Foundation’s unique model provides each school with a budget to order supplies via our online store in partnership with EZ Office Products.

The Teacher Support Network has distributed more than \$140,000 in material resources to schools since the beginning of the 2021-22 school year—and we are far from done. This program is efficient, effective, and entrepreneurial.

We Listen and Adapt

Based on teacher feedback, we continue to expand our offerings. Recently, we added hygiene items, snacks, art supplies, and recess equipment. Popular items include colored pencils, markers, notebooks, snacks, jump ropes, soccer balls, and dry-erase boards.

This meaningful work bridges gaps and fights inequities and is possible through many generous gifts from our community. We are thankful for this support which allows us to fulfill our commitment to MMSD students, teachers, and staff.

Thank you to our Teacher Support Network sponsors:

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 **STEVE STRICKER**
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
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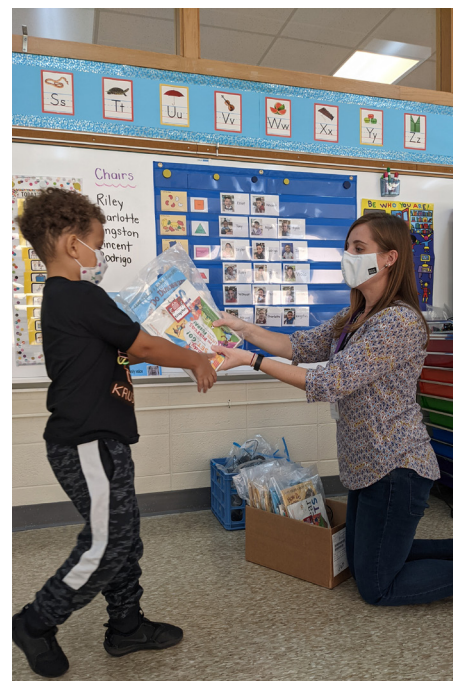


To learn how you can support the Teacher Support Network, contact **Laurie Stensland**, Associate Director, Community Partnerships at lstensland@fmps.org.

Having the right systems and responsive community partners, the Foundation delivers winter gear and books to students.

The Teacher Support Network is a program through which the Foundation can nimbly respond to opportunities as they arise. Having the right systems and responsive community partners is key. We saw two very special examples of this during the past year when the Foundation delivered books to kindergarten students and winter gear to all grade levels.

In September, we partnered with the Madison Reading Project and the school district to deliver a little library of 8 culturally appropriate books to every 5-year-old kindergarten student in the district. This was made possible through memorial gifts honoring Karen C. Ragatz, beloved mother, volunteer, and educator. The Ragatz family agreed helping students build essential literacy skills was a fitting tribute to Karen, a long-time district volunteer who then became an ESL educator at Thoreau Elementary School. We were delighted to help get the class of 2034 off to a great start!



“The excitement and joy in this room is palpable! They are jumping up and down as they open these beautiful books. I am so happy to see a large number of modern, well authored and illustrated books as well as multicultural and multilingual texts.”

- Lapham Elementary Teacher

“It was so beautiful to see our students legitimately squeal with delight over such high interest books!”

- Claire Frees, Dual Language Kindergarten Teacher, Henderson Elementary

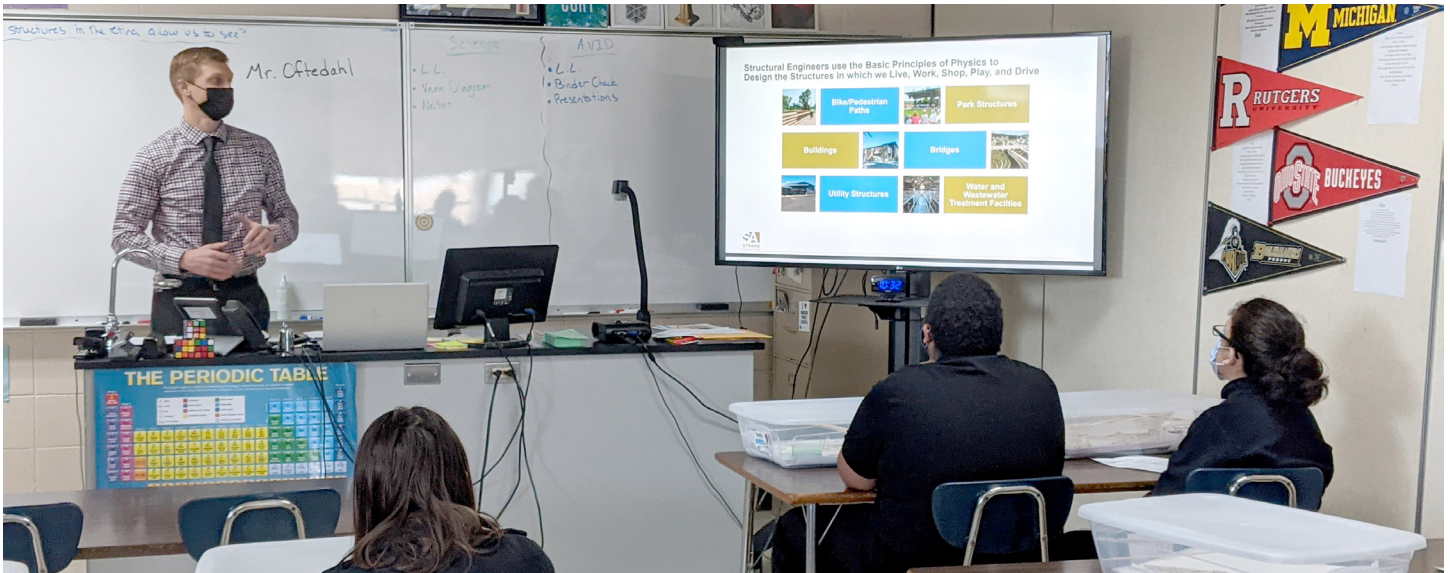


A few months later, a generous collective gift from The QTI Group, Jay and Janet Loewi, Londa and Walter Dewey, and Dave Silverberg and Betsy Huebel was quickly channeled into a high-priority student need across Madison's schools—winter outerwear. The Foundation purchased 1,944 items, integrating them into our online store and delivering directly to schools with the assistance of our key partner, EZ Office Products. Students received the gear just as the first cold snap of the season arrived.



“Warmth is wealth at Sherman Middle School, where 63% of scholars are low income. When a donation comes into the school that will benefit our scholars in any way, it warms up the staff!

- Jennifer Nadolski, Administrative Clerk Senior, Sherman Middle School



Our Community Partners Deliver Again and Again

Through our Adopt-a-School program, the Foundation works diligently to pair organizations and businesses with schools. This “matchmaking” has resulted in many meaningful connections and is one the most powerful ways to support our schools and scholars. Each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours are invested by the community in our schools.

Celebrating Long-Time and New Adopt-a-School Partners

Strand Associates, Inc. and Wright Middle School have been neighbors for years and recently became an Adopt-a-School partner. In recognition of its commitment to Wright, Strand made a significant financial gift to the school. Strand also hosted a Youth Leadership Retreat for Wright students and staff at its offices, and Strand structural engineer Brett Oftedahl recently made a presentation to the 8th grade technology class.

Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin has established Adopt-a-School partnerships with six MMSD schools. The Group Health investments in our schools largely focus on health-related assets which have been particularly important over the last two years. Among other things, Group Health provides supplies to nursing staff, holiday gifts for families, and healthy snacks.

Attic Angel and Anana Elementary have one of our most enduring Adopt-a-School partnerships. Many Attic Angel members and residents are current or retired educators who understand the needs of our schools. Attic Angel has been incredibly generous when it comes to supporting the Anana community, including a significant gift to help families with rental assistance and eviction avoidance. Attic Angel member Jeanne Schultz is the point person for the partnership and she and her Therapy Dog, April consistently visit and read with students.

We welcome our newest Adopt-a-School partner: the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators. AWSA recently established an Adopt-a-School partnership with Sandburg Elementary School. In celebration of the new partnership, AWSA staff purchased almost \$400 worth of toys that were delivered to Sandburg for its Holiday Store.

We are seeking more Adopt-a-School partners. To learn more about this program, email Mary Bartzen at mbartzen@fmps.org.



Your Generosity Drives the Foundation's Results

The Foundation's Schools Make Madison Sponsors, Champions, and Legacy Circle members are integral in providing financial stability that allows us to build capacity for growth and innovation. Their support ensures Madison has excellent, well-funded public schools where learning is celebrated and all students graduate ready for college, career, and community involvement.

Schools Make Madison Sponsors

Visionary



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WEA Member Benefits
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Schools Make Madison Champions Honor Roll (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

The Meanwell Legacy Fund
Pat Schiro

Leaders (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Cummings Christensen
Family Foundation
Betsy Huebel & Dave Silverberg
Joy Miller
Deb Neff & Kurt Sladky
Joe Silverberg

Principals (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Samantha Baruah
Carol & Peter Carstensen
Doug & Laurie Egge
Cathy & David Gillman
Melinda & Mark Heinritz
Melissa Auchard Scholz
& Karl Scholz
Jay & Katie Sekelsky
Gisèle Sutherland
& Brett Thompson

Educators (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Anonymous (3)
Barbara B. Arnold
Laura & William Bird
Brian & Mary Blanchard
Gail & Gordon Derzon
Benjamin Dickey
& Elizabeth Connor
Jessica & Jim Doyle
Fred & Beth Evert

Susan Goodwin & Alan Fish
Sandy & Dave Gunderson
Dave & Tina Hafeman
Jennifer & John Hannon
Mike Hertting
Ed Hughes
Erica & Ralph Kauten
Robert Keller & Cathy Kestle
Dan Kennelly & Sarah Barber
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Elizabeth & Daniel O'Callaghan
Charles & Helen Read
Allison & Jeff Reimann
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Karen Stuesser & Rich Cornwell
Suzanne & Mike Swift
Ellen Taylor-Powell
& Mark Powell
Martha Vukelich-Austin
& George Austin
Michael & Beth Walsh
Dave Wilder
Jessica & Jim Yehle

Scholars (\$500 - \$999)

Anonymous (2)
Anne Arnesen

Jeff & Angie Bartell
Jim & Mary Bartzan
Jane & Ken Belmore
Pat Brady & Robert Smith
Bill & Susie Conley
Jennifer Seeker Conroy
& Tim Conroy
Karen & Alan Crossley
Joy & Peter Dohr
Suzanne Dove
& Miguel Garcia-Gosálvez
Victoria Nimick Enright
& Timothy Enright
Beth & Noel Goeddel
Steve & Bette Hartley
Ellie Hein
Annette & Brian Hellmer
Anne & Paul Karch
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John & Rhonda Norsetter
Kathy Price
Janet Reschke
Hailey Riggle
Steve & Laura Rose
John & Shelly Van Note
Jon Voichick & Leslie Shown
Tripp & Nancy Widder
Ann & Guy Wilson

“Education can transform lives, that's why National Guardian Life Insurance Company (NGL) proudly supports Madison's public schools. Investing in our children provides a solid foundation that offers the resources and opportunities to grow and thrive, ensuring every child is prepared for the future.”

- Maria Lubick, Corporate Communications Manager
National Guardian Life
Insurance Company (NGL)



Leadership and Legacy - Building for the Future

The idea for a Madison Public Schools Foundation was originally presented to the Board of Education in the 1970s by retired Superintendent Doug Ritchie. At the time, Delevan Darien was the only Wisconsin public school district with a foundation. Nearly two decades later, an education foundation was incorporated into the “Madison Schools 2000” strategic plan. The Foundation took shape over the 1999-2000 school year when Doug Ritchie and Don Hafeman led the Organizing Committee.

The visionaries who helped launch the Madison Public Schools Foundation understood that a thriving public school system needed the support of its community. One of those founders was Tripp Widder, who championed the idea of creating a public-private collaboration to support all schools in Madison. As we observe our 20th anniversary, we celebrate Tripp’s leadership in helping establish a broad base of support for Madison’s public schools and his personal commitment to our work. Tripp and his wife Nancy exemplify the impact individual donors can have on the Foundation. They make an annual contribution through our Schools Make Madison Champions program, and they are members of the Foundation’s Legacy Circle, helping us build for the future.



Nancy and Tripp Widder

“Nancy and I have always believed that a robust public school system is the backbone of our community and adequate resources are always a challenge—particularly, in these increasingly fraught times. That is where the private sector has to step up. The Madison Public Schools Foundation is the vehicle designed to do just that and we couldn’t be more supportive.”

The Schools Make Madison Legacy Circle is a special recognition society that celebrates those individuals who have made a planned gift to Madison's public schools through the Foundation. Contact Kristin Wensing at 608-210-6905 or kwensing@fmps.org to learn how you can include the Foundation in your estate plan.

Schools Make Madison Legacy Circle

Anonymous (5)
Jeff & Angie Bartell
Shirley W. Baum
The Helen Boley Estate
Bonnie Bruce
Susan Covarrubias
Alan & Karen Crossley
Karen Dismar
Kathy Engel-Hunt

Estate of Karen G. Gould
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Melinda & Mark Heinritz
Mike Hertting
Howard & Judith Landsman
The Estate of Richard Linster *
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Marvin & Patricia Meissen
Amy Mietzel

Greg Minix Nichols
Kathie J. Nichols
Pat Schiro *
Joel Skornicka
Jack Sweeney & Jodi Bender Sweeney
Tripp & Nancy Widder
Larry J. Zanoni

*new in 2021

In our 20-year history:

\$32M

in total resources secured for MMSD



1,200

people participated in A Principal Experience (APEX) program



Nearly **90,000**
gifts from over 32,000 donors

In 2006,
**GROUP HEALTH
COOPERATIVE**
became our first
Adopt-a-School partner

\$9M+

awarded in grants to MMSD

First grant awarded was for
\$500 in 2004-05 school year

In 2005-06 school year,
\$16,000 in grants awarded

In 2021, **over \$1M**
in grants awarded

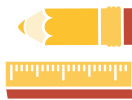
In 2021:

\$4.7M

in total resources secured for MMSD

The Ragatz family honored their parents, Tom and Karen, giving to the West High Campaign for the swimming pool, and by establishing the Karen C. Ragatz Teacher Support Endowment Fund.

70 Adopt-a-School
partners invested
\$537,638
in our schools



Distributed
\$130,000
in material resources to schools
through Teacher Support Network



Under our 501c4, launched Act Now 2 Invest, a Coalition for Wisconsin's Education and Economic Success

Partnering with Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation and business community, gathered **400+ signatories** on state-wide budget surplus letter to invest **\$770M** in education

More Great Staff = More High Impact Programs



Tatiana Dennis is an East High School alum, UW-Madison graduate, and daughter of an MMSD educator.

She joined the Foundation in November 2021, as our Alumni Engagement Coordinator. Contact Tatiana at tdennis@fmps.org to share your MMSD alumni story.



Joey Grindrod joined the Foundation as an intern while attending UW-Madison. In fall 2021, he became a full-time staff

member in the role of Advocacy Coordinator. Joey is an East High School alum. To learn more about our local and statewide advocacy work, contact Joey at jgrindrod@fmps.org.



Kristin Wensing is the Foundation's first Development Director, joining us in October 2021. Kristin believes that every child should have

access to a free and quality public education and that a strong public school system serves the best interests of the community. Contact Kristin at kwensing@fmps.org to learn more about how you can support Madison's public schools.



Madison Public Schools Foundation

2005 West Beltline Highway, Suite 203
Madison WI 53713

We packed
our boxes and
headed three
miles west.



You can now find us at
2005 West Beltline Highway,
Suite 203
Madison, WI 53713
608.210.6900
[SchoolsMakeMadison.org](https://www.SchoolsMakeMadison.org)

Stay connected to the Foundation's work,
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COMING SOON

A new look that aligns with our mission.

From creating opportunities for every student to advocating on their behalf, our organization exists to support our schools. Our updated identity, from our logo to colors, reflects the optimism we have for the future and the strength needed to make real change.



**MADISON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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