



SCHOOLS MAKE MADISON
LEGACY

LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

Tripp & Nancy Widder 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 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.”



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To create your own legacy for Madison public schools, contact Melinda Heinritz, President, Madison Public Schools Foundation at mheinritz@SchoolsMakeMadison.org or 608.210.6902.