

September 2020

# ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PROVISIONS

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



## GRANT: Building Book Love Grant

*"The eBooks were great to have last year when we couldn't read the books in our library. I especially liked how they bookmarked my spot so I could just keep going the next time I read."*

- Lucas Zahrt (7th grader)

### Mission:

The purpose of the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation is to raise, steward and distribute resources to enrich the education of students in the St. Joseph Public Schools.

### Vision:

Increase opportunities for students in curricula, facilities and various learning options by securing resources from diverse sources of funding through broad community involvement.

### Board Members:

- Sam A. Abdelnour, President
- Kenley Penner, Treasurer
- Dennis Bowen, Secretary
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- Tereck Halsey & Jim Marohn  
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- Shawn Kim
- Nancy Kodis
- Maria Moen
- Mike Ryan
- Greg Weykamp
- Dr. Thomas Bruce, Superintendent
- Sue Riemland, Executive Director

# THANK YOU, WHIRLPOOL!



SJPS Foundation President Sam Abdelnour and Superintendent Dr. Tom Bruce, gratefully accept a check from Whirlpool Corporation and partners.

## GRATITUDE

Not only the world's leading manufacturer of kitchen and laundry appliances, Whirlpool Corporation is a company with strong values that contributes substantially to our community schools.

Whirlpool, thank you for your support!

*"On behalf of the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation, our students, teachers and community, we thank Whirlpool Corporation for their long-standing financial support of our students! Whirlpool's generosity has impacted generations of students and residents in our community, across many initiatives, including numerous projects which have enriched our students' education. Thank you Whirlpool, for your generous support again in 2020. These funds will benefit so many students who need our help more than ever during these difficult times."*

~Sam Abdelnour

*We can offer no greater gift to our children than to dedicate ourselves to educational excellence. To realize this ambition and to carry St. Joseph Public Schools into the future, we ask for your trust and active support.*



Enriching the education of students.

3275 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085  
Phone (269) 926-3252  
sjsfoundation@sjschools.org  
www.sjsfoundation.org  
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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



September, 2020

*Greetings from the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation. As I write this letter, I hope you and your loved ones are well and managing change to the best of your ability. These changes have impacted all of us, including the SJPS Foundation.*

*From the beginning of the pandemic, the Foundation maintained its commitment to the St. Joseph Public Schools and vowed to help in any way needed. While school foundations throughout the state put fundraising activities on hold, the SJPS Foundation assured Dr. Bruce and his administrative team that the Foundation would continue our efforts to provide teachers and students with the tools they need to be successful.*

*On June 1 we launched our annual No Show Ball, a month later than usual, and with cautious optimism that our donor community would support our efforts. As I write this letter, donations are still coming in, and we have far exceeded our previous record for this campaign. Amazing! Thank you to all of our wonderful donors ... we are so grateful!*

*I love the community of St. Joseph and have a deep appreciation for the education our district provides. The SJPS Foundation's role is to raise, steward, and distribute resources to enrich the education of students in the St. Joseph Public Schools. We have a passion for delivering the very best education for every student in our schools. Won't you be part of our continued success?*

Respectfully,

Sam Abdelnour, President  
St. Joseph Public Schools  
Foundation



**2020 NO SHOW BALL DONATIONS  
THANK YOU ALL!**

- Todd & Kathie Adams
- Anonymous
- Ginny Antonson
- Ren Baldwin
- Anthony & Judith Belski
- James R. Bernard
- Bill & Jinny Bock
- Chip Borre
- Dennis & Lynn Bowen
- Barbara L. Brehm
- Danyl Broderick
- Tom & Kristin Bruce
- Clementine Brueck
- Cindy & Andy Burch
- Steve & Kathy Burdick
- Andrew & Kim Capes
- Heather Caropepe
- Dr. John & Barb Carter
- Victor Coar
- Mandi Coburn
- Joe & Glenna Collins
- Barry & Jody Conybeare
- Chris & Katie Cook
- Amy Crooks
- Matthew & Jamie Culver
- Michele & Wayne Demchinski
- Brett & Maritza Dibkey
- Christian & Liz Door
- Pamela Dorgelo & Michael Kline
- Rick & Pam Dyer
- Ed & Lucille Eisele
- Tom & Cynthia Ellspermann
- Judy Felland
- Jeff & Claire Fetters
- Jeff & Marcia Fetting
- Vincent & Susan Fiorucci
- Erik & Irene Fiskars
- Judith Fowler
- Kendra Fugal
- Liz & Mike Garey
- Bob & Carol Gerbel
- Joan Gleiss
- Carl & Mary Goff
- Bob & Anne Gottlieb
- Gladys M. Grieger
- Ron & Mary Griffin
- David & Sally Grumbine
- John & Cathleen Guldan
- Robert & Janet Hahn
- Tereck & Emily Halsey
- Melissa Hanks
- Jim & Peg Harmon
- Wayne & Nancy Hemingway
- Nicolina Holt
- Marlene Holubar
- Dan Hopp
- Insurance Management Service
- Julie Ives
- Roger Jensen
- Patricia L. Johnson
- Dr. Gyl & David Kasewurm
- Randy & Kim Keppeler
- Darlene Kiessel
- Jim & Nancy Kodis
- Lalee & Ted Kuball
- Dave & Jan Kuyers
- David & Karen Laetz
- Tamera Layman
- Lois F. Lewis
- Jim & Tina Machacek
- Janet & David Mack
- James & Beth Mandarino
- Bill & Jane Marohn
- Jim & Amy Marohn
- Debora & Ernest Matlock
- Linda McConville
- Sharon McFall
- Alan H. McKee Jr.
- James & Donna Menchinger
- Ed & Susie Meny
- Bill & Janice Metzger
- Mary Ann Milletics
- Dick & Shirley Moeckel
- Norma M. Nisbet
- Miriam Pede
- Robert & Kathryn Peirce
- Karla Percy
- Jenny & Toan Pham
- Shirley Pittman
- Curt & Sue Plummer
- Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Reck
- Jerry & Jan Reimann
- Werner & Jill Riedel
- Jim & Sue Riemland
- Jennifer Gibbs Rose
- Mike & Jen Rucht
- Rumsa Family
- Susan & Richard Russell
- Steven & Cheryl Schadler
- Serge Schillio
- Anita M. Schultz
- Art Schultz
- Mark Scott
- Tom & Helen Sinn
- Spira/Emanuel Family
- Gary & Patricia Sprunger
- Christina & Joe Strickler
- Thomas & Maria Yeager Family Foundation
- United Federal Credit Union
- Fred & Amey Upton
- James & Molly Vandewege
- Wei Wang
- Michael & Lisa Weber
- Allan & Betty Westmaas
- Sarah & Jeff Yircott



# Donor SPOTLIGHT

*"It's tough enough to communicate in a world filled with distractions. The communicator masks allow students to read the teachers' lips and will enable more effective communication which is so important for learning and developing important relationships between teachers and students."*

– Dr. Gyl Kasewurm



Dr. Gyl Kasewurm

## Admiration for Teachers Prompts Generous Donation

To describe Dr. Gyl Kasewurm as energetic would be an understatement. She admittedly compares her personal and professional life to a "fast-moving roller coaster with an upfront view of life's ups and downs."

A casual conversation this summer about the pandemic's impact on schools, particularly teachers, resulted in an immediate offer from Dr. Gyl Kasewurm to assist SJPS in a big way.

She had been working with a vendor on the design and distribution of communicator masks for Professional Hearing Services staff to wear upon the reopening of their practice in May. Her knowledge of these masks led to a discussion on how K-12 students would react to teachers wearing masks which covered their mouths. Dr. Gyl noted, "Living in a world of people speaking with masks has made it difficult to communicate and understand speech. Masks muffle sound and take away the ability to read lips and see facial expressions – important elements of the face to face communication process."

Denise Reising, Director of Special Education for the St. Joseph Public Schools and advisor to the district's three speech pathologists, couldn't agree more. When Denise heard about the generous donation, she saw the implications for speech students in the district. "Thanks to Dr. Kasewurm, every student receiving speech and/or language services has been provided a mask which allows for intense, individualized interventions while keeping everyone safe."

Thank you for your generosity, Dr. Gyl Kasewurm!



Mrs. Knuth, 3rd grade, teacher E. P. Clarke



Mrs. Schueneman, Young 5's teacher, Brown



Mr. Bacolor, U.S. History teacher, Upton



PHS Customer Service Specialist Tina Machacek (SJHS '83 Alumni)

# BULLETIN BOARD

**SJPSF Photo Contest is Underway!**  
 The seventh annual SJPS Photo contest is underway. High-resolution photos of school events and activities are needed. All photos must be submitted by March 30, 2021. For more information visit our website.

**2020 Distinguished Alumni Nominations are open until Dec. 15, 2020.**  
[sjpsfoundation.org](http://sjpsfoundation.org)

**Thank You Dr. Gyl Kasewurm and Professional Hearing Services Nature's Way Landscaping**

**Read our NEW Blog!**  
 a **MAIZE**ing Times  
SJPS FOUNDATION MAIZE n' BLUE BLOG  
 Available on [www.sjpsfoundation.org](http://www.sjpsfoundation.org)

To subscribe to our monthly online newsletter, send an email to [sjpsfoundation@sjpschools.org](mailto:sjpsfoundation@sjpschools.org)



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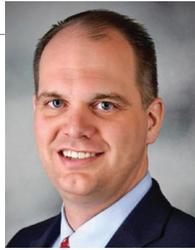
Like us on Facebook



## PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES:

- DECEMBER 15: Deadline for submission of SJPS Distinguished Alumni Nominees
- DECEMBER: A perfect Holiday Teacher Gift – Thank A Staff Certificates

**\$ NOTES FROM TREASURER  
KENLEY PENNER**



To assist in our accountability to you our valuable donors, the Foundation engages an independent audit firm to audit our financial statements every year and prepare our informational tax returns.

The SJPS Foundation has funded \$2.5 million of grants to the St. Joseph Public Schools since 2018.

96% of all 2019 expenditures consisted of grants awarded to the SJ School District to benefit teachers and students. That's a statistic we're very proud of.



Thank you for your donation to help fill the needs of our teachers and students at St. Joseph Public Schools.

**WAYS TO GIVE**

**1. Write a check payable to "SJPS Foundation" (you can also use the form below) and mail to:**

SJPS Foundation  
3275 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

**2. Make a donation using PayPal or a credit card online**

[www.sjpsfoundation.org](http://www.sjpsfoundation.org)

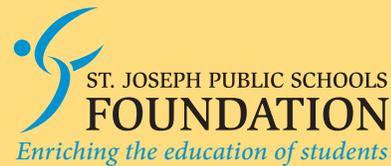
**3. Set up an automatic payroll deduction.**

Contact Executive Director Sue Riemland at 269.926.3252 or [sjpsfoundation@sjschools.org](mailto:sjpsfoundation@sjschools.org)

**4. Donate Stock**

Contact Executive Director Sue Riemland at 269.926.3252 or [sjpsfoundation@sjschools.org](mailto:sjpsfoundation@sjschools.org)

**5 Planned Giving**



**YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE OUR SCHOOLS  
AND COMMUNITY STRONGER**

*Although we have been able to enrich the education of the St. Joseph Public Schools, there is still so much more to do. Thank you for your gift.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to contribute to the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation.**

Amount enclosed:

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_ Other

My employer will match my gift: \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

I am a St. Joe graduate: \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

\_\_\_ We are planning a class reunion. Our group is considering a donation. Please contact me.

\_\_\_ I am considering a planned gift. Please contact me.

Please also consider a three-year pledge, memorial, honorarium and business donations to benefit our students.

Make checks payable to: **SJPS Foundation or donate online at: [www.sjpsfoundation.org](http://www.sjpsfoundation.org)**

The St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our funding comes entirely from generous individuals, organizations, businesses, civic groups and foundations. To make an endowed gift to the SJPS Foundation, please contact the Berrien Community Foundation.