

ENHANCING EDUCATION SINCE 1983

2021 / 2022

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Expand and enhance every student's education through a partnership with Gull Lake Community Schools to provide enrichment opportunities for students, educators, and staff.

OUR VISION

We envision a school district where all students achieve their full potential.

OUR VALUES

- Education
- Innovation
- Partnering with the school district, teachers, students, and the community
- Good and thoughtful stewardship of financial resources
- Diversity
- Integrity

The GLCS Foundation is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit school foundation established solely for the benefit of Gull Lake Community Schools.

40 GREAT YEARS!

Total \$\$ supporting GLCS = **\$3,186,000**

GRANTS

917 AWARDED

\$1,450,000

SCHOLARSHIPS

636 SCHOLARSHIPS

\$1,510,000

DAS (SINCE 2012)

382 SCHOLARS

Earned a **3.9 GPA** or higher during their High School Career

FIRST DECADE!

August 1983: First savings account with \$200

1983: First flier - distributed in GL newsletter

1986: First Honors Banquet (now Distinguished Academic Scholars)

SECOND DECADE!

1993: Published first Grants list in the GL Newsletter

1993: Hired administrator, Bonnie Kuepfer; she's still at it!

1994: First scholarship, Michael Bailey Scholarship

1994: First Grant Request Form

1999: First logo, by John Stap

1999: First Grant committee formed

1999: Annual Fundraising Campaign: 10,000 brochures

THIRD DECADE!

2005: First Strategic Planning meeting

2006: First Annual Report

2005: James R. Ryan Family Foundation Scholarship established

2008: First Spark Series Event, John Grogan, *Marley and Me*

2008: First website created

2009: Spark Series, Greg Mortenson, *Three Cups of Tea*

2010: First Robotics grant

2011: Spark Series, Jean-Michel Cousteau, *Our Water, Our World*

2012: *The Wall That Heals*, the traveling Vietnam Veteran Memorial

FOURTH DECADE!

2015: Outdoor Classroom Pavilion completed

2014/2015: The Year of Science - Year long Science and Engineering Festival

2014: Gull Lake Community Garden at Ryan Intermediate

2018: Spark Series, Denise Brennan-Nelson, Ruth McNally Barshaw, and Rhonda Gowler-Green

2018: Spark Series, Holocaust Survivor, Irene Miller

2018: Spark Series, Kalamazoo artist Paul Sizer

2018: Spark Series, Crawl Space Eviction improv group

2019: Staff Enrichment, featuring George Couros

2020: Spark Series, #GLWELL, year-long wellness initiative, Tom Voss and *Jump with Jill Live Tour*

2020: Staff Enrichment, Jessica Minehan

2021: Staff Enrichment, Joe SanFelippo

2022: Spark Series event, One District One Book literacy initiative

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY

The future begins here.



Dear Community Member,

'We can offer no greater gift to our children than to dedicate ourselves to educational excellence' - Unknown.

These words are the inspiration behind the work of GLCS Foundation, and, I believe, for many of our generous donors, as well.

I know these words are motivation for the teachers, staff, and administrators of Gull Lake Community Schools. It is our privilege to support them in the important and imperative work they do in educating Gull Lake students. The GLCS Foundation has been proudly supporting them for nearly 40 years, in pursuit of our vision – **A school district where all students achieve their full potential.**

It is with great pride and gratitude to our donors that we share with you our 2021-22 Annual Report. **Together** we have achieved a strong impact—**expanding and enhancing the educational experience of Gull Lake students across the entire district.**

We do this through Grants – such as Robotics, Read and Ride, and the Chris Rundle Innovation grant which funds Project Lead the Way.

We do this through Scholarships – this year alone, generous donors awarded 47 scholarships to help students pursue education after high school.

We do this through Spark Series – this year we provided support for the literacy initiative, One District One Book, reaching over 3,000 students and staff district-wide.

Our goal is to be a sustainable resource for Gull Lake Community Schools, into the future. We can only achieve this through the generous support of donors. **Are you inspired by our work? Do you share our vision? Please join us—donate today!**

THANK YOU! *The future begins here.*

BY THE NUMBERS 2021-2022

GRANTS

30 AWARDED

TOTALING
\$78,355

Benefitted students, teachers, and staff in every building, including Gateway Academy and Gull Lake Virtual Partnership.

SCHOLARSHIPS

47 AWARDED

TOTALING
\$72,575

DAS SCHOLARS

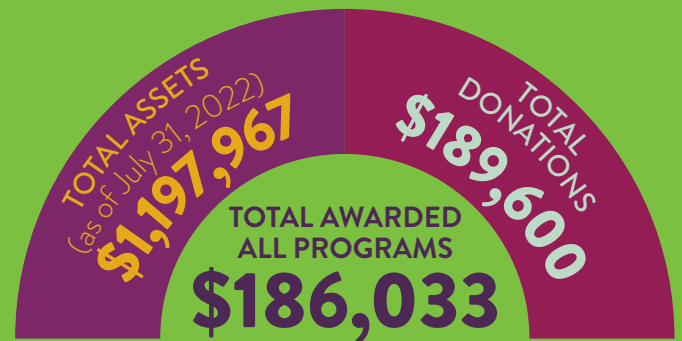
36 STUDENTS

Earned a **3.9 GPA** or higher during their High School Career

SPARK SERIES

3,200 STUDENTS & FAMILIES

TOTALING
\$29,932



MEET THE GLCS FOUNDATION BOARD



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FOUNDER SPOTLIGHT – JOYCE MELVIN



When Joyce Melvin sat down with the other original eight founders of the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation, she was not only the youngest person present, but the only woman at the table. Little did she know that her initial involvement with the GLCS Foundation would call and inspire her to work with several community organizations over the years to award scholarships.

Melvin has a background in education and was working in an SLD center when she was approached about the concept of forming a group that would provide funding to

enhance and provide extra opportunities for teachers and students in the Gull Lake School District. One of the first to benefit from the GLCS Foundation's generosity was Nancy Kellogg, a business teacher, who saw the computer age coming. GLCS Foundation provided funding for computers for her classroom. Melvin noted that Robin Nott was another teacher that the GLCS Foundation supported from the earliest years.

Having had two children attend Gull Lake schools, she and her husband Bill appreciated the opportunities that came with education and realized that there were many impressive students who could benefit from the scholarships and programming the GLCS Foundation provided. She said that even now our students give her hope for the future.

Melvin currently is the Ladies of the Lake Scholarship

Chairperson and it gives her tremendous pleasure to interview and choose candidates, knowing the impact it has on both the students and their families. She even keeps in touch with many previous scholarship recipients.

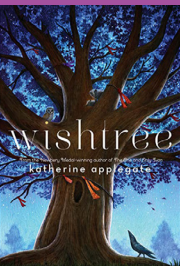
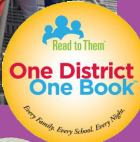
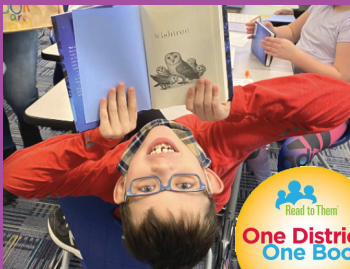
Forty years later, thanks to Joyce Melvin and our founders, the GLCS Foundation continues to expand and enhance education for Gull Lake students, teachers, and staff.

Thank you Joyce!

We thank all our GLCS Foundation Founders for their vision and generosity!

Thomas Geil, Everett Hiestand, Judson Knapper, Jack Lawrence, Joyce Melvin, Thomas Merritt, Peter Ordway, Robert VanPeenan and Thomas Ryan

ONE DISTRICT ONE BOOK! The gift of literacy!



I wish there was not trash in the world, on the ground.



Research shows that providing children with positive reinforcement and support produces better literacy outcomes. Reading improves listening skills, cognitive and language development, expanded vocabulary, attention span, creativity, life lessons, and social emotional development. Creating strong readers, sets students up for future success.

It was the Foundation's absolute pleasure to provide funding for One District, One Book, a targeted literacy initiative which encourages a love of reading, not only to entertain, but to learn! All GL students (Young-5's - 8th grade, including virtual) received a hardcover edition of the book, *Wishtree* and bookmark to keep, as well as at-home and in-class reading and learning activities.

We loved it!! We had so many good conversations about nature, immigration, and how we treat others. We loved all your awesome projects along with the book! :) -parent

[My son] connected with his classmates and could make the connection that "homework" matters...we learn at home so we can also succeed at school. -parent

As an educator, I am SO EXCITED for this initiative and can't wait to see the results! One District, One Book is a great concept to bring school and home together while emphasizing the importance of reading and discussing books with your child. The fact that thousands of people will all be reading and discussing the same book at the same time in our community is so exciting! It offers a multitude of opportunities for creative projects, cross-grade-level activities, and fanning the flame to read at home for pleasure. -educator

I wish to make the world fair

GLCS Foundation donations work hard to enhance education at GL Schools.



Annual presentation of "Big Check" totaling \$186,033 at Gull Lake Field.

Please support the Foundation that supports your Gull Lake schools.
Go to glcsf.org to donate and learn more.

Follow us on:



36 Distinguished Academic Scholars Celebrated!

On Tuesday, May 31, 2022, the GLCS Foundation celebrated 36 Distinguished Academic Scholars and their selected honored staff members with a reception at the Gull Lake Country Club. Distinguished Academic Scholars are Gull Lake Seniors who have earned a 3.9 grade point average or higher during their high school career.



Front Row: Aleah Minehart, Jack Markillie, Avery Baliff, Madison Quinn, Rachel Grimes, Johanna VanLandegent, Madelyn Howes, Hannah Kewkel, Natalie Clark, Paige Hull.

Second Row: Mary Hagey, Sarah Campbell, Kiley Kin, Shelby Foster, Isabella Hakman, Alyssa Noneman, Mackenzie Ford, Ava Zondervan, Brady Strickler, Ella Smith, Genevieve Boudeman.

Back Row: Anna Wozniak, Hayden Belanger, Mandy Esman, Nathan Loudon, Alexandria French, Joseph Rohrer, Aiden Crowley, Daniel Clancy, Jacob Winfrey, DeWitt Renwick, Austin Boucher, William Waldorf. Not pictured: Andrew Graves, Daniel John, Claire Keegan. Photo credit: Mark Yancy

GLCS FOUNDATION DONORS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

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2. Jill Adamski
3. Laurie M. Cartwright
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IN HONOR OF:

24. Will and Libby Beardsley
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