

July/August 2022

# FOUNDATION NEWS



Partnering with the community to enhance educational opportunities for Durand Area Schools students.

## FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THEATRE EXPERIENCES IN 2022

For a young person, being part of an audience or playing a theatrical role provides many new learning experiences. Durand students at several grade levels had an opportunity to either see a play or to act in one. For 7th and 8th graders, it was a field trip to see *A Christmas Carol* at Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University. For elementary students it was acting or supporting their classmate actors in the Disney Musical, *Aladdin*. For many students, this was their first theatre experience. Durand Educational Foundation provided funding to help with the cost of both events.

Even though kids today are surrounded with technology and rapidly changing imagery, there is still something intriguing about the theatrical processes. After seeing the *Christmas Carol* performance, Lyza, a student at Durand Middle School, said, "A part I found cool was how the house rotated even though it was made out of bricks." While observing set and costume changes, kids were quickly immersed into the production. "It felt so real" said Kayla C. "If I get a chance to go to another play, I totally would go."

Ms. Klooster, 7th grade English teacher summarized the theatre visit by saying, "Many students reflected how Scrooge made bad decisions but was able to reflect upon them through the different spirits he encountered. He then changed his ways to live happily for the rest of his life. Students recognized that the choices they make on a daily basis have consequences, positive and negative, that affect their lives; and that many times, they will not get a second chance to rectify mistakes."

Students at Robert Kerr School also had a unique theatre experience when staff landed a free *Disney Musicals in Schools* program that was available to a limited number of elementary schools. Through the program, the school received performance rights and teaching guides for a 30 minute musical specifically written for elementary school performers.

Music teacher Evan Garner and 5th grade teacher Tina Franks coached after school sessions for approximately 38 students for several months to prepare them for the performance of *Aladdin* which took place on the Robert Kerr School stage. Later, some of the students were able to join actors from other schools to perform the play at Wharton Center at Michigan State University.

According to Luke, the Durand student who played Aladdin, "The Wharton Center was an amazing way to wrap up all of our shows and the stage was awesome. It was really fun to see the other schools perform. For anyone who wants to do *Disney Musicals in the Schools*, or any musical theatre, you definitely should try it. It feels great to show your family and friends your performance and you could even make a career out of acting someday."

Durand Educational Foundation would like to thank our donors who help deliver these high quality memorable experiences for Durand students.



Donations can be sent to Durand Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 124 • Durand, MI 48429  
Please specify if you wish your donation to be for the endowment or for programs.

## GRANTS AWARDED AUGUST 2021 - JUNE 2022

STEAM Project-Plaster pot project & growing supplies - Middle School

Rocket Math online tutorial - Robert Kerr School, 2nd-5th

Wall map of eastern hemisphere - High School, Social Studies

Meadow Brook Theatre Trip, *Christmas Carol* - Middle School, 7th & 8th

Brain Bins supplies - Bertha Neal Kindergarten

Community service blanket project - High School, English

Pop-Its for small group instruction - Bertha Neal

Robotics Team supplies - High School

Field Trip Supe's Exotic Garden - Bertha Neal, 2nd

Holocaust Museum Field Trip - Middle School, 6th

Testing Day Snacks - High School, Middle School & Robert Kerr

Costumes for Disney Musical - Robert Kerr School

Tech Center noise proofing supplies - Robert Kerr School

Boys Basketball Adrian Team Camp - High School

All-school Field Day Reward - Middle School

## MEET THE BOARD

Durand Educational Foundation has a board of directors that dedicates time, money and energy to keep the organization functioning smoothly. The board meets monthly to discuss and award grants and conduct other business. Members also participate in fundraising events, distinguished alumni selection/recognition and help manage finances. Additional information about individual board members will be found on the "soon to be launched website". Watch for us at [DurandEducationFoundation.org](http://DurandEducationFoundation.org).



**DEF Board Members, Top row: Roger Zick and Bart Harris. 2nd row: Sharon Patsey, Leslie Telford, Monica Garske. 3rd row: Rebecca Napier, Jennifer Huff, Jan Harper. Front row: Kari Landris, Merrie Jones, Teresa McKay.**

## KIDS SUPPORTING THE FOUNDATION

When Trent and Nate Schaefer needed a community service project for their seventh grade Honors Power Hour Class, they decided they wanted to do something for their school. After considering their options, the boys determined that raising money for Durand Educational Foundation was a good idea because the Foundation was already providing money for activities at their school. The money they raised could do a lot more if they partnered with the Foundation.

The boys gathered supplies, created a sign and made pitchers of lemonade. With the help of a couple friends, the neighborhood Old Fashioned Lemonade Stand opened for business. The stand proved to be quite successful. The boys raised \$43 which, in itself, would be enough money to send two students on a field trip, to purchase 5-6 books or enough to buy testing day snacks for an entire classroom. Hopefully the boys learned about giving back to their community through this project because every donation helps the Foundation provide opportunities for Durand students. Later in the year, Trent and Nate were able to join their classmates on a field trip to Meadow Brook Theatre which was funded by Durand Educational Foundation. Thanks, boys! Working together we can do so much.



## • NEW WEBSITE FOR FOUNDATION •

Since its inception, Durand Educational Foundation has relied on the school district and its tech employees to have web based information available to the public. Late in 2021, the Foundation Board decided there was a need for things that the current system could not address: Donors and staff need to see what the Foundation is doing on a more frequent basis. Staff members need the ability to apply for grants online rather than relying on a cumbersome paper application. And, the ability to accept online and credit card donations would offer additional options for users.

After researching options with several companies, the Foundation Board decided to have AZee Business Solutions from Owosso create the new website. The site will still be visible on Durand Area Schools website, however, it will meet the needs that have been identified and DEF board will be trained to handle updates and other processes.

The Foundation anticipates the new site will launch before the start of the 2022-23 school year in August. Please Google us frequently at [DurandEducationFoundation.org](http://DurandEducationFoundation.org) to see the new look and the latest information.

*John Walworth completed extensive studies in divinity and psychology, earning bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees from Christian Education Ministries, Bethel Seminary and Oakland University. Since 2010, he has served as spiritual leader and as pastor of the Perry Congregational Church. Through his ministry work, John made several trips to Africa where he taught other pastors. He also taught classes at Makerere University in Uganda where he received an honorary doctorate for his benevolent work with the villagers of East Africa. John has been featured as a speaker at hospitals and at universities in Michigan and Canada. He is an Academy Certified Chaplain and served many years as Spiritual Care Director at Memorial Healthcare in Owosso. In addition, he served on the governing boards of the Pat's Place Care Center, Memorial Healthcare Hospice, Hospice House of Shiawassee, Respite of Shiawassee and Durand Educational Foundation. John has been active with Durand Area Food Bank for more than forty years.*

*Tim Foley attended two years of study at Kendall School of Art & Design in Grand Rapids where he*

*has lived for the past 40 years. After seven years working as a graphic artist and typesetter for a local printing company, Tim began working as a freelance illustrator in 1989. For the past three decades, his work has appeared in national and international publications including the Wall Street Journal, Barrons, and the Chronicle of Higher Education, as well as a long list of published books for companies like Penguin, MacMillan and Dover. The graphic novel, What Unites Us, by Dan Rather (et.al.) and illustrated by Tim Foley was released in 2021. The book contains over 265 pages of Foley's illustrations. In his spare time, Tim plays and writes music with his group "Jukejoint Handmedowns." He is also principle bassist for the Kent Philharmonic Orchestra.*

*A reception honoring John and Tim will be held at Durand Union Station on Sunday, August 14, 2022 from 3-5 p.m. The event is open to the public.*

### 2022 DURAND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Durand Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of Rev. John Walworth, class of 1962 and Tim Foley, class of 1980 as distinguished alumni for 2022. The individuals were selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates nominated by their peers.



John Walworth



Tim Foley



# FOUNDATION DONORS (gifts received July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

**Thank you to our donors.** If we missed you, we apologize. Please contact us immediately at [durandeducationfdn@gmail.com](mailto:durandeducationfdn@gmail.com) so we can add your name to the list of people who generously support education in Durand.

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