



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328
Rhonda Lessel, Director School & Community Services | Ph: 248.706.4867 | Fx: 248.706.4888

Waterford Foundation for Public Education Announces Mary Lou Simmons Legacy Endowment

November 8, 2017, Waterford, Mich. – Mary Lou Simmons, long time Waterford educator and principal, has bequeathed over \$500,000 to the Waterford Foundation for Public Education. The Waterford Foundation announced the creation of the Mary Lou Simmons Legacy Endowment, in which \$250,000 will be earmarked for literacy and arts enrichment for Waterford School District students. \$20,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded annually for district wide programming for students. Elementary students will enjoy the Mary Lou Simmons Performing Arts Experience beginning this week by attending the production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Kettering’s Performing Arts Center. They will also enjoy Kettering’s Holiday Collage in December and Mott’s play production in the spring. Middle and high school students will be provided similar opportunities this year.

The remaining \$250,000 will assist in developing the Mary Lou Simmons Waterford Promise, which will provide funding for post-secondary education to each Waterford School District graduating senior. This funding will be used as seed money to begin the development the Waterford Promise and will rely heavily on community business support and donor contribution. It represents Mary Lou Simmon’s belief that the Waterford School District is an outstanding place for children to receive a quality education.

-more-

Mary Lou Simmons was an educator, volunteer, and philanthropist who possessed a passion to provide innovative and creative experiences for Waterford School District students. She spent 32 years dedicating her life and career to children and did so through her work as a teacher and member of the Waterford Foundation for Public Education.

The non-profit Waterford Foundation, established in 1984, is proud to proclaim it has an endowment just over \$2,000,000. Foundation trustees, volunteers, sponsors, and patrons have raised or donated money for many worthy projects with the Waterford School District. The Foundation exists to promote and recognize excellence in teaching and learning. Funding, derived strictly from donations or fundraising activities, supports teacher and student recognition events such as the grant program for District staff; Select Fifty for high school seniors, Durant Most Improved Program, scholarships for high school seniors, and outstanding teacher of the Year Award and Reception.

###