

THE WATERFORD FOUNDATION HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Our Mission Is To Recognize And Promote Excellence In Teaching And Learning

- 1982 WSD Board accepted a feasibility study prepared by Ron Arnold authorizing the establishment of the Waterford Foundation for Public Education and provided a \$6,000 loan for start up costs.
- 1983 February 1983 was the first organizational meeting for formulation of the Waterford Foundation for Public Education. With the assistance of a consultant, a committee comprised of community leaders developed the Waterford Foundation structure.
- 1984 The original board consisted of President Lynn Anselmi, Vice President Tim Patterson, Secretary Jane Windler, Treasurer Bob Coats and Directors: Donna Thomas, Jane VanDeuson, Ralph Wilson, Delwin Richardson and Bob Donelson. The first Board meeting was held March 27, 1984. Articles of Incorporation and 501c3 tax documents were filed with the State of Michigan and IRS. The first donation given to the Foundation was \$900 from the Waterford PTA Council.
- 1985 The first golf outing was "Guys and Dolls."
- 1986 Pat LaFontaine, WKHS graduate and an NHL player was the first golf outing honoree. The Retirees committee was formed.
- 1987 Repaid the loan from the Waterford Schools and instituted the grants program. The Alumni committee was formed.
- 1988 First "Select Fifty" banquet honoring 50 seniors using the criteria, 40% leadership, 40% citizenship and 20% scholarship was held. Successful alumni are invited to speak annually.
- 1989 Sunday at the Summit (Summit Mall) became a major fund raising activity.
- 1990 Outstanding Classroom Teacher (later renamed Teacher of the Year) Recognition was established when Flannery Ford committed to a new car for a year for the honoree later continued by the the Suburban Collection.
The endowment reached \$100,000 for the first time.
First Foundation video was made and was used as an advertising tool.
- 1992 Payroll deduction campaign was implemented (\$10,290) and has become a major fund raiser. Leaders and Readers, a comprehensive parent volunteer program, was initiated through a Foundation grant. Leaders and Readers became a District Wide program.
The Foundation continues to support the Young Authors and Young Artists programs.
- 1997 Reached a half million dollar mark in the Foundation endowment.
The Foundation developed a five year plan to accomplish eight Objectives.
- 1998 First Rainbow Run was held and made a profit of \$2,700. It is presently called the Foundation 5K Run.
- 1999 The Board expanded to thirteen Directors.
- 2000 Following the dissolution of the Dittrich Foundation, the WF received \$125,000 to establish scholarships in Al Dittrich's name.
- 2001 The first of six Benefit Dinners was implemented
Three students received \$2,500 scholarships from the Dittrich funds.
- 2004 The Foundation funded a class at Kettering High School, "Crime Scene Investigation."
- 2005 The first "Most Improved Students" program was initiated at Manley Alternative High School. The Margie Arsen Early Childhood Grant was implemented with a \$25,000 donation from the Arsens.
- 2006 The Foundation endowment reached a million dollars.
The Foundation adopted a Code of Ethics.
- 2007 The Foundation helped fund the District's 1st grade summer reading program "Building A Reading Foundation." This was the largest individual grant awarded up to this time.