



EXCELLENCE *matters*

A COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION LEFonline.org

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is to acquire and distributes resources that support various Lakeshore Public School programs and projects aimed at enhancing, enriching, or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and community.

OUR TRUSTEES

J.C. Anderson
 Scott Berry
 Dave Brockway
 Tom Buckleitner
 Chad Deja
 Sue Dock
 Lori Doggett
 Jim Keppler
 Kim McAllister
 Tom Mikel
 Kim Risk
 John Welch
 Mike Welch
 Sandy Welch
 Naomi Ventura
 Cindy Vujea



TECHNOLOGY FUNDRAISER IS A SUCCESS

After a 4 month campaign, LEF is pleased to announce that the Technology Campaign reached their goal of equipping every Lakeshore classroom with basic technology tools. The campaign's efforts raised \$125,000. A check was presented to Superintendent Cindy Vujea, and School Board President Mark Whitwam at the September school board meeting by LEF Fund Development and Technology Campaign Chairman, David Brockway.

The campaign was forged to help bridge the technology gap and balance what was apparent in our classrooms. There are many classrooms fully equipped with the latest technology pieces, and then there were even classrooms with very limited functioning pieces or none at all.

In order to realize the full extent of the needs, LEF conducted an equipment inventory of classrooms in all five Lakeshore buildings. Next, they surveyed the teachers asking them what technology tools they felt needed to be in every classroom. The results of the survey showed that there were four basic technology tools that would greatly enhance the classroom edu-

cational experience. These include a document camera (to capture printed information), a ceiling mounted digital projector (to share the information with more students at one time), a computer (to capture on-line resources), and a widescreen projector screen (so everyone can easily see what the teacher processes through the computerized system).

Today we all realize that technology touches almost every part of our lives, our communities, our homes. Yet due to budget cuts many schools are not able to integrate technology into classroom learning the way they would like to. Educators know that properly used, technology will help students acquire the skills they need to survive in a complex, highly technological world. Technology offers educators effective ways to reach different types of learners and assess student understanding in different ways. It also enhances the relationship between teacher and student. When technology is effectively integrated, learning becomes more meaningful and fun.

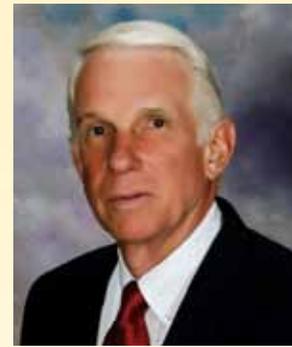
The fund drive began in February with many events scheduled through-

out the next four months. Students throughout the district want technology in their classrooms and were excited to participate in fundraising activities at their respective schools. Such as, the High School Key Club donated the proceeds from their blood drive to the Technology campaign. A final event for the campaign was a Pancake Breakfast held in the Lakeshore cafeteria courtesy of the Baroda Lions Club. Entertainment was provided by Lakeshore High School Choir members and the Jazz Band.

During the four month fund drive, monies were donated from students, local businesses, Lakeshore parents, and philanthropic institutions. Major Contributors were: The Frederick S. Upton Foundation, The Bitzer Family Fund, Jim & Patti Florian, Michael & Lisa Welch Family Foundation, Ron & Brenda McKey, Rene Laney and John & Joy Welch.

Thanks to the generosity of all of the donors, these basic technology tools will be purchased, so that every Lakeshore classroom will have these technology items and students will have immediate benefits as they are installed this school year.





To the Lakeshore Community Members,

In September, I was asked to become the Chairman of the *Lakeshore Excellence Foundation* (LEF) and in this letter I would like to inform you of the following:

- **My background and reasons for accepting this role.**
- **Questions that I had to the LEF Board and the responses.**
- **Some alarming data.**
- **Our collective challenge with the school district.**

My background is being raised in a farming community in central Indiana and being able to go to college because the hog market was very favorable when I sold my 160 hogs as a senior in high school. I have a bad case of "Hoosier Hysteria" having played high school basketball and freshman basketball at Indiana University. After graduating from I.U. in 1966 with a B.S. degree in Production Management from the School of Business, I briefly worked at Cummins Diesel. Being 20 years old, single, and Viet Nam at its peak, I was quickly drafted into the Army for the next two years.

In December 1968, I joined Whirlpool Corporation as an Industrial Engineer and retired 39 years later as the Senior Vice President of Operations in North America. During my initial years at Whirlpool, I was able to obtain my MBA from Western Michigan. My wife, Nancy, and I have been married 46 years and have two married children. Sue Marohn who lives in Stevensville and Doug who lives in Chicago.

My reason for becoming involved with the LEF is very simple...with a daughter, a sister, both parents, an aunt, and an uncle all being teachers, the LEF provides me an opportunity to "give back" to the educational process that has been so important in our family. Also, I want to help provide the best education possible for my two grandsons who are in the Lakeshore system. They are in the 2nd and 4th grades at Stewart Elementary where my daughter was a 3rd grade teacher for seven years.

I also hope that my Whirlpool managerial experience will enable the LEF to obtain increased levels of funding for the identified critical projects. Enhanced communications to the community about the LEF's strategic role will be critical to developing improved understanding regarding the LEF.

Some questions that I had for the LEF Board members centered around the mission of the LEF. Very simply stated...it is to raise funding to support the educational process in the Lakeshore public school system. Elementary, middle school, and high school programs and facilities are included with a defined process to allocate the funds to the appropriate program and location. The Board feels good about the \$1.5 million that has been raised during the past 15 years. However, the future offers much more of a challenge as the state funding continues to be reduced. Helping fill this gap is a critical role for the LEF and we want to work closely with the teachers, school board, and superintendent to identify the critical projects.

We all should be **alarmed** and concerned to know that based on the latest information (Bulletin 1014 for 2010-2011 fiscal year)...

- The Lakeshore School District receives less in total revenue (federal, state, local, etc.) per student than 92% of all the school districts in Michigan: \$7,804 for Lakeshore vs. \$9,202 state-wide average.
- Within Berrien County the Lakeshore School District receives the lowest total revenue per student: \$7,804 for Lakeshore vs. \$9,644 Berrien County average.
- The state funding (the largest part of the total revenue) per student for Lakeshore has the following history: **2010/11 School Year** = \$7,316 per student (base); **2011/12 School Year** = \$6,846 per student (-6.4% decrease); **2012/13 School Year** = \$6,966 per student (+1.7%).

The "why?" for the first two (2) statements is that our favorable demographics (i.e. income level) versus the other school districts. The state of Michigan's economic conditions and the efforts to balance the budget represent the "why?" for the state funding reduction. The LEF does not supplement the operating budget but rather supports the educational process through enhancements that are not meant to be provided by normal operations. Examples are technology upgrades in the classrooms, robot club, DECA national competition, and professional theatric productions.

Our collective challenge is to recognize that to provide our students...our future leaders...with an excellent education at Lakeshore we must help eliminate the economic uncertainty that the school system is faced with. I was amazed to learn that the LEF has a mailing list of 3,324 names. Just imagine that if each person were to contribute \$100, we would quickly raise \$332,400 which far exceeds the best fund raising campaign ever in 2011/12 of \$125,000.

I am honored to be the Chairman of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. I hope this letter will help you understand my background and the issues that we collectively face. I will do my part in the leadership of the LEF organization, in meeting with community business leaders/organizations regarding the educational needs, and with my own personal financial contribution. I would ask and appreciate your consideration of an immediate contribution to the LEF as we collectively strive to improve the education of our children.

I am open to your suggestions, comments, and ideas so don't hesitate to contact me at 428-7476, 921-2513, or anderjcna@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

J.C. Anderson

GOLFING FOR EXCELLENCE

Our 10th Annual LEF Golf Outing was held on August 13, 2012 at Berrien Hills Golf Club. We were very happy that the rain held off until the event was over. In the morning after a light breakfast, 17 teams of golfers headed out for a fun morning of golfing. There was some friendly competition between some of the teams.

After a round of golf everyone went to the clubhouse to enjoy box lunches from Honey Baked Ham & Café. Prizes and raffle items were awarded during lunch. It was a lot of fun with happy golfers.

Special thanks to Cook Nu-

clear, Supreme Casting, Inc., United Federal Credit Union, and Honor Credit Union. Also, a big thank you to all of our hole sponsors listed below.

The Golf Outing is a major fundraiser for the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF), this year we raised over \$10,000 and it would not be possible without the wonderful support of all the golfers and sponsors. Their support enables us to continue to reach higher!

Be sure to check our website for the date and location of next years Golf Outing www.LEFonline.org

THANK YOU 2012 SPONSORS FOR A PRIZE WINNING SUCCESS!

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Tom Mikel Agency-State Farm
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ART AROUND TOWN

The annual Lakeshore Excellence Foundation's Art Around Town project has been in existence since 2002. The project's aim is to promote community awareness of art education while showcasing student artwork K-12 from the Lakeshore Public school district. Over 100 pieces of art have been leased and displayed in and around the Lakeshore community.

How it works: student artwork is pulled from the classrooms and is judged by local artists in the spring. Five pieces are chosen from each school in the district (ensuring a grade range).

The artwork is then professionally matted and framed. At back to school time the artwork goes on display at the schools. It is then leased to area businesses to be prominently displayed. The one-year lease is \$150.00. At the

end of the year the artwork goes back to the student.

All monies raised from this project go back into sustaining this and other projects of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

This year Art is already hanging at Ani-Med Animal Health Care, Anytime Fitness Stevensville, Edgewater Bank, Honor Credit Union, United Federal Credit Union, Lakeland Health Park, Dr. Padla's Wellness Center, Mathnasium, Herald Palladium, Berrien Reg. Assoc. In Neurology, Martins, Young Rembrandts (displayed at Lincoln Twp. Library), and Priebes Woodworking.

When you are at one of these businesses, be sure to look for the Art Around Town artwork. If you would like to lease a work of art for your business contact Jeanne Simpson 429-7982.



FAMILY FUN RIDE

Our 4th annual Family Fun Ride was held on September 15, 2012. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day to have this fun family event.

There were 65 enthusiastic riders who participated. The ride began in the Roosevelt School parking lot. There were routes for all comfort levels -- 5 mile, 15 mile, 30 mile, and new this year for the diehard bikers, a 45 mile route. There were rest stops with snacks and water along the way.

Thanks to Sandy Welch and Megan Green, the co-chairs of the event, and the LEF volunteers.

Special thanks to Santina Moore and her crew from United Federal Credit Union for their help in promoting and participating in the event. Also, a big thanks to Dave McIntrye, our friends at Cycle-Re-Cycle, and to the Lincoln Twp. Police Dept. for their assistance.

The event would have not been possible without our GREAT SPONSORS. Thank you: Martins Supermarket, Barrett & Driscoll, MD's, Boelcke Heating & Cooling, Bob & Cindy Vujea, Anytime Fitness, Schultz Roofing Supply Co., and Sensational Spas.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVE!

LEF wants to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to Dave Brockway, LEF Vice Chair Fund Development.

Dave took on the huge task of chairing the Reach Higher Technology Campaign. He worked tirelessly through the campaign to raise the funds that were needed to equip all the classrooms with basic technology tools.

Dave just kept telling us we NEED to do this for our kids, and we HAVE to be successful. And we were...thanks to him! Great job, Dave!





NEW LOGO BY DENNY HANEY

"I am very pleased to have my concept accepted to represent the professional, dynamic and giving qualities of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

To visually display these qualities, these elements were incorporated.

The star has always represented excellence throughout our culture; from the Cadillac crest, on awards of every kind, to the gold star we got in kindergarten; a symbol of quality work. It represents an ideal, something for

which to strive. This has always been, I think, the philosophy of LEF: to "Reach Higher." Shoot for the moon, reach for the stars. The arc of the star represents movement; upward progress. A sans-serif type face was selected that would not compete with the graphic elements and would keep the overall design simple and clean.

I hope I have created a logo that reflects the ideals of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation." *Denny Haney*



LAKESHORE ROTARY DINNER

We could not have asked for a better day to have the 3rd Annual Lakeshore Rotary-LEF Pulled Pork Dinner.

The Hickory Pit Restaurant from Saugatuck came down with their smoker, and filled the air with the wonderful aroma of smoking pork.

The Rotarians worked assembling and selling over 1000 dinners and large trays of pork for takeout. The LEF trustees were busy selling homemade desserts, water and soda to complete the meals. Both groups had a great time working together, and trying to keep up with the lines of cars

and customers.

The proceeds went to the Rotary's North Lake Park Project and to the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. Thanks the generosity and support of the Lakeshore Community, this event was a big success...again! Big thank you to the Wash Station for the use of their parking lot for this event.

The Rotary and LEF are proud to work together on this event to do great things for our community. This is has become an annual tradition taking place the day of Lakeshore's Homecoming Game. We look forward to seeing you next year!

NEW TRUSTEES



Naomi Ventura

Naomi has always been passionate about improving the education of children through teaching, coaching and volunteering. She attended Rice University for her undergrad and University of Texas and University of Houston for two Masters Degrees. She has owned a small business, taught at the elementary school and college level. Naomi feels very blessed to live in such a family friendly and caring community.



Mike Welch

Mike has been on the LEF Board since June 2012. He is excited about being part of the LEF and fully supports the mission of LEF. Mike Graduated from Lakeshore in 1981 and Western Michigan University in 1986. He was the Co-founder of Express-1 in Buchanan. He is a current member of the Lakeshore Board of Education and the President of the Lake Michigan College Foundation. He and his wife Lisa have two kids who are currently attending Lakeshore. He enjoys sports, golf, history and traveling with his family.



Jim Keppler

Jim has been an LEF Trustee since September 2012. He wanted to be part of LEF to give back to his community and insure that his kids and all those who go to school in the Lakeshore school district have the best available educational opportunities. Jim grew up in Kokomo, IN and graduated from Purdue and GMI Engineering & Management Institute. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Whirlpool Foundation. Jim and his wife Chantel have two sons attending Lakeshore. In his spare time, Jim enjoys spending time with the family at their lake cottage, and supporting the kids in their sports and activities.

REACH HIGHER TECHNOLOGY CAMPAIGN DONORS

SEPTEMBER 2011-JUNE 2012

\$10,000+

Bitzer Family Fund
 Frederick S. Upton Foundation
 Jim & Patti Florian
 Rene Laney
 Michael & Lisa Welch Family Foundation

\$5,000+

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 Lakeshore High School Student Council
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We humbly apologize if we have inadvertently left your name off our donor list. Please contact us and we will rectify our error in our next publication. *Thank you for your understanding.*

A BANNER YEAR FOR GRANTS

LEF is very pleased to announce the growth of our different grant programs this year. We were able to award more monies to our students and staff for more programs than ever. Our total amount awarded this past year was \$72,982. We were able to fund 21 staff applications and 12 student applications. The LEF currently has 3 different grant programs to which Lakeshore staff, students, and community members may submit an application.

Stepping Stones to Enrichment

These are grants awarded in the fall and spring. They are open to ALL Lakeshore students, from kindergarten to high school seniors. They provide financial assistance to students to pursue their interests, whether it is band, academics, language skills, athletics, and much more. 2012 Stepping Stones recipients pictured to the right.

Innovation Grants

These grants typically are requests in the amount of \$2500 or less. The proposals should be creative, innovative, and supportive of the LEF mission statement. They are awarded once a year. They typically are for a classroom or grade level program or project. We funded 10 grants this year for the following: iPads, apps, accessories for Daily Five Literacy program for a Roosevelt teacher, "Take Home Bags" for the ELL teachers, exercise balls for a high school classroom, iPads for the K-5 guidance Program curriculum, Digital camera for the Math & Science, Roosevelt "Girls Night Out" program, leveled library of books and materials for Stewart teachers, Brain Waves toys for Roosevelt Kindergarten class, Weebly Pro subscription to upgrade classroom websites at the high school, and Sean Covey books/materials for high school Extended Time program.

Foundation Project Grants

These are our BIG idea grants. The completion costs are generally more than \$2500, and may take up to 3 years to fully implement. The proposals usually impact a larger constituency of Lakeshore students, staff, and/or community. The grants are awarded in the fall and spring. This year we awarded 11 grants for the following: Speaker Series for the Math & Science Center, document camera, projector, and screen for high school Algebra classroom, Dance Residency with the Chicago Hubbard Street Dance for the Berrien County Dance Program, upgraded technology for all the 6th grade classrooms, Anti-Bullying curriculum for the high school in conjunction with Andrews University, iPads for 3rd grade classroom at Hollywood, funding for a 3 year thematic course study on Energy in the Math & Science Center, Speech-Language Pathology Dept. iPads to work with students at all grade levels, and Science Trade Books for every elementary classroom for use with the new Science curriculum.

For more information about LEF grants or to print out an application, please visit our website: www.LEFonline.org



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The LEF is pleased to sponsor the LEF Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award will recognize Lakeshore, Baroda, or Stevensville High School graduates for their achievements and contributions.

We would like to honor alumni who have excelled in their professions and/or made significant contributions to their community. Their achievements, strength of character, and citizenship serve as models to inspire and

challenge today's students. They also need to have graduated from Lakeshore, Baroda or Stevensville High School ten or more years ago.

The award is presented annually at Lakeshore's graduation ceremony. We are looking for the community's help in nominating deserving alum. Watch our website www.LEFonline.org for details and deadline information for the 2013 Alumni Award. Start thinking now of who YOU could nominate.

2007 – Awarded to Lori Von Koenig, *Director of Lakeshore Bands*

2008 – Awarded to Brian Siewert, *Musician and Composer*

2009 – Awarded to David Drews, *Businessman*

2010 – Awarded to Jerry Catania, *Glass Artist*

2012 – Awarded to David Stockman, *US Politician and Businessman*



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All donations will be listed on the LEF website and in the Excellence Matters annual donor newsletter.

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