

LITERACY LEGACY FUND  
OF MICHIGAN



2018  
ANNUAL REPORT

*supporting a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages*

Dear Donors and Friends,

The Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan (LLF Michigan) is celebrating another banner year in supporting literacy-related grants and special projects! Through 2018, LLF Michigan has distributed approximately \$38,000 state-wide.

In 2018 the Board allocated \$9,600 to assist with a wide array of projects and activities through nine new grants and special projects, including a university scholarship for a third year.

For the first time, LLF Michigan hosted fundraising events in the Marquette area where we are based. The fundraiser in April and a second, in partnership with the Marquette Regional History Center, in November drew approximately 100 attendees at each event. (pp. 5-6) Consequently, we increased our visibility significantly in one area of this state and expanded interest in our fund. Local volunteers played a central role in the success of each fundraiser and we appreciate their time and talents. Funds raised allowed LLF Michigan to increase the number of awards allocated. Additional fundraising efforts are planned for 2019 in the Lowell area and in Marquette.

We recognize that none of this activity would happen without LLF Michigan's dedicated and generous donors, dedicated partners, and an increasing number of volunteers over the past years. We will need your loyal assistance going forward if we are to continue to respond meaningfully to the array of literacy needs in Michigan.

Please visit us on Facebook and LinkedIn. Contributions in honor of a relative, friend or colleague are gifts that keep on giving. While we appreciate any increase in a donor's financial gift, we recognize that any contribution is positive for our Michigan communities. We truly value your past and future support for a literate Michigan citizenry of all ages.

With appreciation,

*Phyllis Aurick, C.J. Blough, Heidi Tester, Nancy Seminoff*

LLF Michigan Board of Directors

*Our website, [www.literacylegacyfund.org](http://www.literacylegacyfund.org), contains our goals, explains our grant activities, highlights our recent recipients, celebrates funding partners, and will soon have an online donation tab for your convenience.*



## LITERACY LEGACY FUND of Michigan

### **THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING 2018 FINANCIAL DONORS**

*\*Sustaining Donor 2017-2018*

Anonymous (S)  
\*Phyllis A. Aurich (P)  
Virgil & Connie Biggs (S)  
\*Dr. Mary A. Bigler (S)  
\*Carolyn Jane Blough (LC)  
Michael & Toni Blough (S)  
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\*Robert & Carolyn H. DeJonge (S)  
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State Farm Companies Foundation (G)  
Marilyn Struzik (S)  
Dr. Jacqueline Tilles (S)  
Melinda Vokal (G)  
Sue Whitney (G)

(Legend: Silver up to \$100; Gold up to \$250; Diamond up to \$500;  
Platinum up to \$1,000; Legacy Circle above \$1,000)

Please see next page for more donor information

## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

### IN MEMORY OF

**Dr. James Hendricks  
and  
Dr. Robert Glenn  
Bertha Wiseman**

Presented by: Dr. Nancy E.  
(Wiseman) Seminoff

Presented by: Marilyn Struzik

**Wayne State University College of Education  
*Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan Annual Scholarship  
in Honor of Dr. Jacqueline Tilles***



Dr. Jacqueline Tilles served as an educator for 56 years, retiring in 2015 from Wayne State University where she was an Associate Professor of Reading, Language and Literature. Prior to WSU, she was on the faculty of Hunter College and previously served as a teacher in the Detroit

Public Schools. She is described as a “teacher’s teacher, helping her students to understand literature and how to engage students to appreciate a wide range of works, especially literature representing various ethnic groups”. Pictured: *Two 2018 recipients joined by the Dean of the College of Education R. Douglas Whitman and Dr. Tilles at the reception in June.*

### **2018 Recipients**

Repa Akhter | Harold Drayton | Marzana Quayoum

\*Spotlight Award: given periodically in recognition for having a significant impact and deemed to be worthy of high praise and emulation by others; Dr. Tilles was the first recipient in 2016

## SPRING 2018 AWARENESS AND FUNDRAISING EVENT

In April a sell-out capacity crowd of 100 participants celebrated *Literacy Lives* at the Barrel + Beam, a renovated historic former Marquette-area restaurant converted to a brewery. In this casual setting they learned about our first



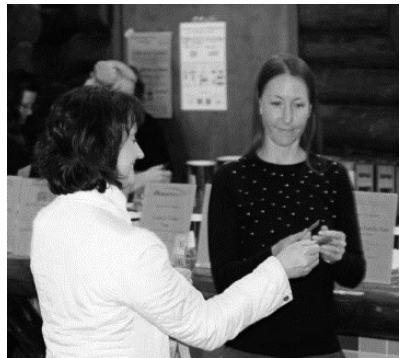
Legacy Award, purchased raffle tickets for 14 baskets valued between \$50-\$140 each, and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while sampling farmhouse ale. A special drawing included a one-night stay at a local bed and breakfast and dinner in downtown Marquette.

A looped slideshow provided an overview of 11 grants awarded in 2017 and early 2018. A brief program focused on our first Legacy Award recipient, the U.P. Children's

Museum for the *Third Thursday Literacy Night*.

Six local sponsors and 18 local businesses contributed to the event's success.

This event generated so much interest that it is being held again in Spring 2019 by popular request.



## FALL 2018 FUNDRAISER

In November the Marquette Regional History Center (MRHC) C. Fred Rydholm Gathering Hall was the venue for *Read Between the Wines*, a partnership that featured presentations by local history authors, Tyler Tichelaar and Sonny Longtine, and actress Jessica Bays each of whom volunteered their time. Participants received a commemorative wine glass and entry into a drawing for a framed historical print.



Participants sampled and learned about wines that were paired with a variety of hors d'oeuvres and purchased raffle tickets for baskets each valued at \$75 or more.

This was the first partnership effort offered by the Marquette Regional History Center and Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan.



These events increased visibility of the fund and contributed financially to supporting evidenced-based grants and special projects.

## 2018 Allocations

**Grand Valley State University** Dr. Wil Rankinen

\$1,000 JumpStart

“Summer Linguistic Lecture Series-U.P.”

**Dominican Literacy Center** Sonia Eckerman

\$1,000 JumpStart

Reading and math books for tutoring adults to enter a GED program

**UPHS-Marquette Family Medicine Residency Program** Dr. Patrick Huffer

\$1,000 JumpStart

Books for wellness visits to clinic; initiate Read Out and Read project

**NPS Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore/Hiawatha National Forest** Melissa O'Donnell

\$1,000 JumpStart

Outdoor education professional development for school and agency personnel

**Peter White Public Library** Jenifer Kilpela

\$750 JumpStart

Prime Time Preschool Program; purchase books for families

**Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter-UPAWS** Kori Tossava

\$750 Special Project

Read to Your Shelter Pet Program

**Marquette Alger Regional Education Service Agency**

**redirected from Marquette Alger Great Start Collaborative** Deborah Veith

\$1,800 (*carry forward*) JumpStart

Purchase books for newborns, UP Health System Marquette, and MARESA Early On Program

**Upper Peninsula Children's Museum** Nheena Weyer-Ittner and Jim Edwards

\$1,000 (*carry forward*) Legacy

Sponsor admission and purchase books for “Third Thursday Literacy Nights”

**Marquette Regional History Center** Dr. Adam Berger

\$500 JumpStart

Cover fees of NMU students' use of the John M. Longyear Research Library

**Lowell Area Historical Museum** Lisa Plank

\$1,000 JumpStart

Museum Immersion Program for Lowell Third Grade students

**Wayne State University Foundation-College of Education**

\$2,500 Spotlight Award\*

Scholarship in honor of Dr. Jacqueline Tilles for teacher education candidates

**Northern Michigan University Visiting Professor** Dr. Taylor Norman

\$500 (*carry forward*) JumpStart

NMU Creative Writing Night for area high school students, teachers, English majors and graduate students

**A Story Hike Adventure with Lori Taylor**-Melissa O'Donnell

\$100 Special Project

Hosted by NPS Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

in cooperation with Alger County Parks and Recreation

**Amounts allocated in 2018: \$9,600 and Carry forward from 2017: \$3,300**

JumpStart: for launching or supporting a new or existing worthy project

Legacy Award: for funding projects demonstrating potential for long-term impact; implementation over an 18-24-month period

\*Spotlight Award: given periodically in recognition for having a significant impact and deemed to be worthy of high praise and emulation by others

Special Project: for supporting a unique activity or event, not evidence-based; future grant potential

## **THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORT**

Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District (MARESA)  
Marquette Regional History Center (MRHC)  
Michigan Reading Association (MRA)  
Upper Michigan Special Education Directors  
Upper Peninsula Children's Museum

## **THANK YOU FOR ASSISTANCE, TIME AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE IN SUPPORT OF LLF MICHIGAN ACTIVITIES**

Dunworkin'  
Gloria LaPointe/accounting  
Bonnie Kilburn, author / *Just Imagine*  
Kathleen Martindale/artist  
Dr. Taylor Norman/Literacy Consultant  
Dr. Lisa Rivard/author  
TV6 Christmas Craft Show  
Lori Taylor, artist, author/illustrator / Bear Track Studios  
Verna Schmidt  
Tony Beres, LaDolce Video & Design  
Brian Maki, Computer Technician  
Pride Printing  
Rita Rossway/Interiors by Design

### **2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Phyllis A. Aurich (Development: Exhibits)  
Carolyn Jane Blough (Development: Donor Solicitation)  
Heidi B. Tester (Secretary)  
Nancy (Wiseman) Seminoff (Chair and Treasurer)

### **2018 ADVISORY GROUP**

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Kenneth J. Helinski, Kerri Moccio, Barbara Ojibway, Sheila Potter

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Carol Pelkola, Financial Assistant  
Karen Kimar Johnson, Financial Assistant  
Teresa VanZalen, Assistant to the Board  
Margaret Schwalm, Clerical Assistant

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Kenneth Carlson, Carol Pelkola, Margaret Schwalm,  
Nancy (Wiseman) Seminoff, Teresa VanZalen

### **VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING SUPPORT**

Tony Beres, Dr. Adam Berger, Jennifer Dodge, Andi Goriesky,  
Karen Kimar-Johnson, Dave Johnson, Margi Licht-Mallo, Dr. Taylor Norman,  
Carol Pelkola, Pat Olson, Cris Osier, Barbara Salmela, Sue Schauland, Margaret Schwalm