

TRADITIONS

MONONA GROVE ALUMNI

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FALL 2022

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Dropping Balls For a Great Cause

Saturday, October 8 was a beautiful fall day as the third annual Great Golf Ball Drop took to the skies at the Monona Dream Park to raise money for the Monona Grove Education Foundation (MGEF) and its annual education initiatives. In this fun twist on a traditional raffle, the MGEF once again partnered with the Monona Volunteer Fire Department to drop 500 numbered golf balls from a ladder truck, aimed at a special target prepared by the Monona Parks & Recreation department. Twenty cash prizes were awarded, ranging in value from \$100 to \$1,000.

"We are so encouraged by the growing popularity of, and support for, the Golf Ball Drop," said MGEF President Jason McCutchin. "From our generous sponsors to each individual or family that purchased a chance to win, it's impressive how both the Monona and Cottage Grove communities show their support for the important work that we do."

That unprecedented support translated into more than \$23,000 to support the **Pay It Forward** program, the **Weekend Snack Pack Program**, and **Monona Grove Education Foundation Teacher Innovation Grants**, and was fueled by our wonderful sponsors who are acknowledged elsewhere in this issue.

The **Pay It Forward** program was designed to provide extra support and financial assistance to Monona Grove students struggling with food instability or clothing; and those needing additional educational support outside of traditional school programs. Now in its third year, the Pay It Forward program has helped fund a wide range of initiatives including support of the **Weekend Snack Pack Program**; the purchase of quality ear buds to support students with virtual learning; and support of the district's student services clothing reserves so they could purchase needed clothing items for students.

The **MGEF Innovation Grants** support efforts to bring innovative new ideas and programs into the district that fall outside of traditional funding. The foundation holds an open application period each year in which teachers and other school personnel are encouraged to submit unique ideas for consideration. Since 2010, the MGEF has supported 75 different innovation grants worth more than \$93,000.



We would love to have more alumni on the board. If you live in the Monona/Madison area and are interested in joining us, please email mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com



To receive *Traditions* via email please contact us at mononagrovetraditions@gmail.com

2022 Great Golf Ball Drop Sponsors

MGEF would like to thank all of the sponsors of the 2022 MGEF Great Golf Ball Drop. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Presenting sponsor - Monona Bank

Platinum Sponsors - Alliant Energy, Cory Frank Real Estate, and John & Judy Fritz

Gold Sponsors – Andrew & Michael Stolper Foundation, Inc, Axley Brynelson, LLP, Boardman & Clark, LLP, Christopher Buelow, Eppstein Uhen Architects, Findorff Builders, Homburg Companies, MGE Foundation, Slinde Realty Company, LLC, Van Holten's Pickels and WPS Health Insurance

Silver Sponsors - Door Creek Golf Course, Gunderson Funeral & Cremation Care, Hoey Apothecary, Kellie Unke – Stark Realty, Mary O'Connor & Robert Bocher, Monona Motors, Ultimate Construction, Inc., Ken's Meats & Deli, Monona Grove Business Men's Association, Bradley & Susan Manning, Culver's of Cottage Grove, Bank of Sun Prairie, Ed & Nancy Young, Patty & Doug Parrott, Riverplace Dental, LLC, Dave & Sandy Zweifel, Capitol Tax & Accounting Group, Jason & Linda McCutchin, Culver's Cottage Grove Road, UW Credit Union, Dan & Wendy Perkins, Building Wisconsin Together, Heartland Family Chiropractic, LLC, Your Heart's Content, Klinke Cleaners, LSM Chiropractic, Excellence in Dentistry

Bronze Sponsors – Craig Culver, Daniel Olson, Doug Gehrke & J.R. Levine, Metcalfe's Market, Silver Eagle Bar & Grill, Creative Kids Nursery & Daycare Center, Papa Jimmy's Pizzeria, American Family Insurance (Jake Vetter), Keri & Jeff Robbins, Bill Weber, Jr. Homes, Inc., Topsy Cow Sun Prairie, Annette Durkin ArtCDA.com, PMA Financial Network, LLC

Eaglet – Melissa Ratcliff, Abby Eddington



Alumni News

- **Ron Kelly**, Class of 1971, Monona, reports that “The MG graduating class of 1971 celebrated our 50th class reunion on June 25, 2022 (1 year late due to Covid) at Breakwater in Monona. Our classmate, **Mitch Kerkhof** made two beautiful wood carved plaques to commemorate this 50-year milestone. One was raffled off at the class reunion and the other was recently presented to the high school for display.”
- **Debbie Brewer Behnke**, Oregon, WI & **Phil Doll**, McFarland, WI, the Reunion Committee for the Class of 1972, report that “The MG class of ‘72 held its 50th class reunion on June 18th 2022 at The Breakwater in Monona, WI. 50 classmates were in attendance along with 19 spouses or significant others! A special thank-you to classmate **David Loeb** for offering his time and talent capturing special moments throughout the night and the group photos to help remember the occasion. It’s always great to reminisce, tell silly stories from our younger days and catch up on each other’s lives. Thank you to all who donated to help cover the cost for the appetizers, it was greatly appreciated! Please continue to send Debbie Brewer-Behnke any email changes or updates (Debbie71123@gmail.com).”
- **Max Ethridge**, Class of 2014, St. Louis, MO, was hired in June as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Maryville University women’s basketball team, an NCAA Division II program based in St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to being hired at Maryville, Ethridge served as director of basketball operations at Division 1 Evansville during the 2021-22 season.



2022 MGEF Scholarship Recipients

In May, 2022, several members of the MG Class of 2022 received scholarships administered by MGEF. Recipients included:

Frank & Mary Jean Hlavac Basketball Scholarship
(\$1500) – **Rylee Gaber**

Frank & Mary Jean Hlavac Basketball Scholarship
(\$1500) – **Allison Yundt**

Frank & Mary Jean Hlavac Basketball Scholarship
(\$1500) – **Jordan Hibner**

Patti McGinnis Teaching Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Karlie McKenzie**

Wilma Bernards Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Kinsley Kahl**

Kent Evenstad Memorial Teachers Scholarship (\$500) – **Eli Kuzma**

Raymond & Carol Krizmanic Education Scholarship
(\$1,000) – **Quindlen Anderson**

Gordon & Janet McChesney Scholarship (\$750) – **Benjamin Auby**

John Klement Scholarship (\$500) – **Shae Donelan**

John Klement Scholarship (\$500) – **Jalen Wendricks**

Keith Sorenson Memorial Scholarship (\$500) – **Karlie McKenzie**

Keith Sorenson Memorial Scholarship (\$500) – **Rylan Bahr**

Ann Ahearn Memorial Scholarship (\$500) – **Kinhkha Tran**

Glenn D. McNaughton Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Logan Aro**

Neuhauser Family Scholarship (\$500) – **Sarah Vandervort**

Class Reunions

Class of 1970 reunion

The Class of 1970 will hold their Fifty + 3 Class Reunion on Friday, June 16, 2023 beginning at 4:00 pm at the Cottage Grove fireman's Festival beer tent.

Class of 1973 Reunion

The Monona Grove Class of 1973 will hold their 50-year reunion on Saturday July 8th, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. In the future, additional details and registration information may be found at the class website which is currently under construction:

mgclassof1973.com

If classmates have questions, suggestions or updated contact information, please contact Karen Chisholm at the dedicated class email address: mgclassof1973@gmail.com

Stay Connected

Visit us at our new and improved website – www.supportmgef.org and “Like” us on Facebook.

2022-23 Teacher Innovation Grants

The MGEF Board has approved the following Teacher Innovation Grants for the 2022-23 school year:

Alison Ewing (Taylor Prairie School) - \$990.00 for equipment for a gross motor skills room.

Katie Wedig (Glacial Drumlin Middle School) - \$945.00 for equipment for an after-school yoga program;

Dawn May (Cottage Grove School) - \$1,000.00 to update existing MakerSpace programs for first and second grade students. (Previous programs at Cottage Grove School were for third and fourth grades).

Mary Todd (Cottage Grove School) - \$2,000.00 for age-appropriate cultural studies library books and study materials for first and second grade students.

Alyssa Strzyzewski (Winnequah School) \$2,000 for library books for special celebrated months and materials for 1st & 2nd grade

We've Recently Received

Greetings! From:

Pat Norfolk, Class of 1958, San Diego, CA

Timothy Murray, Class of 1960, Portland, OR

Thomas (Baime) Boehm, Class of 1961, Madison, WI

Bonnie (Bahr) Francois, Class of 1961, Belleville, WI

Nancy (Koerner) Hanson, Class of 1962, McFarland, WI

Clay Russell, Class of 1962, Summerfield, FL

Gary Johnson, Class of 1965, Woodbury, MN

Glenna Carter, Class of 1969, Monona, WI

Thomas & Lynn (Hendrickson) Jorris, Class of 1970, Hugo, MN

Kathleen (Virnig) Siewert, Class of 1970, Madison, WI

Lynn (Trummer) Imme, Class of 1971, Beaver Dam, WI

Ann (Strand) Sanders, Class of 1971, Salina, KS

Karen (Fry) Chisholm, Class of 1973, Waunakee, WI

Mike Marten, Class of 1973, Whitewater, WI

Eric Holen, Class of 1976, Stoughton, WI

Bruce Huibregtse, Class of 1976, Cottage Grove, WI

Jane Newhouse, Class of 1977, Elgin, SC

Carol (Storer) Polipnick, Class of 1977, McFarland, WI

Leah (Altenberger) Martin, Class of 1981, Sun Prairie, WI

Lori Martinelli, Class of 1984, Madison, WI

Todd McChesney, Class of 1984, Middleton, WI

Joe Prestigiacomo, Class of 1985, Middleton, WI

Crissman Loomis, Class of 1988, Grandville, MI

Jennifer Nelson, Class of 1992, West Allis, WI

Amy (Buzzell) Tourtillott, Class of 1994, Cottage Grove, WI

Sarah Karre, Class of 2008, Fitchburg, WI

Elizabeth (Emmerich) & Zac Dolan, Class of 2011, McFarland, WI

Lucas S. Quam, Class of 2016, Sun Prairie, WI

Elizabeth Nelson, Class of 2017, Washington, DC

Staff/Alumni Passages

- **David “Dave” J. Kerznar**, Cottage Grove, passed away at his home on May 6, 2022. After retirement, he taught part-time for a few years at MGHS. In early 2010, he built a woodshop at his home and over the years, made dozens of awards for members of the Monona Grove Football teams.
- **Judith (Hockstad, Miller) McGuire**, Mesa AZ, passed away on August 23, 2022. She was a former teacher at MGHS.
- **Charles “Charlie” Yih-Lon Pyng**, passed away unexpectedly at age 45 on September 15, 2022, while coaching the Monona Grove girls’ varsity tennis team. A beloved art teacher and coach, Mr. Pyng spent all but two months of his teaching career in the Monona Grove School District, teaching at Glacial Drumlin Middle School and Monona Grove High School. In addition to teaching art, he coached JV girls’ and varsity boys’ tennis as well as advised the Anime and Asian Clubs. He leaves a wife and three young children. A GoFundMe to assist the Pyng family has been set up at <https://gofund.me/9f3d8b3f>
- **Donna (Traska, Melone) Schroeder** passed away on June 22, 2022. After being a 27-year survivor of breast cancer, in September of 2016, she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer which she battled in her remaining years. Mme Melone taught French at Monona Grove High School for eighteen years, beginning in 1983 until retiring in 2001. Every three years during her time at MG, she led a three-week student trip to France as well as one trip to Quebec.
- **Sally Ann (Dussault) Slack**, passed away on October 7, 2022, at the age of 87. She was a former member of the Monona Grove School Board, having served for 15 years.
- **Celeste (Smith) Wencel**, passed away peacefully on September 20, 2022, due to complications of dementia and diabetes. She was a former teacher at Maywood Elementary School.
- **Karen (Williams) Schultz**, Class of 1957, Madison, passed away on October 19, 2022 surrounded by her loving family.
- **Amy Jo (Voges) Brendler**, Class of 1958, Madison WI, passed away on September 15, 2022.
- **John Mallory “Jack” Fadness**, Class of 1958, Monona, passed away on August 29, 2022 at the VA Hospital in Madison.
- **Roger W. Brown**, Class of 1959, Eagle River, WI, passed away at home on November 30, 2021, due to colon cancer.
- **Daniel “Dan” Burke**, Class of 1959, Port Washington, passed away at his residence on May 21, 2022.
- **Dolores (Reimer) Baccus**, Class of 1960, San Jose, CA, passed away peacefully on November 9, 2021, due to breast cancer.
- **Larry Brackett**, Class of 1960, Madison WI, passed away on October 2, 2022.
- **Dianne Kay (Whitwam) Bullis**, Class of 1960, Middleton, passed away peacefully at Attic Angels Place on November 14, 2022 due to Lewy Body Dementia.
- **Duane A. “Marty” Martinson**, Class of 1960, Minden, Nevada, passed away on October 2, 2022, in Carson City, NV.
- **Shirley Mae (Torke) Klink**, Class of 1961, Clyman, died on May 28, 2022 with family and loved ones with her during a short and courageous battle with cancer.
- **Richard “Dick” Nawratil**, Class of 1962, Monona, passed away on August 4, 2022.
- **Janeen (Virnig) Pergande**, Class of 1962, Hazelhurst, WI, passed away due to natural causes on May 11, 2022.
- **Barbara A. Prescott**, Class of 1962, Madison, passed away on September 8, 2022 at Oakwood Village Settlers Ridge Apartments.
- **Floyd Earl “Butch” Richmond**, Class of 1962, McFarland, passed away peacefully in his home on April 26, 2022.
- **David Seiberlich**, Class of 1962, Monona, passed away on June 6, 2022. He was a former physical education teacher at Monona Grove High School.
- **Allan M. Gurriell**, Class of 1963, Madison, passed away on August 15, 2021.
- **Mary (Gifford) Meisch**, Class of 1963, Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away on August 30, 2022.
- **Richard John “Moose” Reinhold**, Class of 1963, Madison, passed away on October 13, 2022, at St. Mary’s Hospital.
- **Robert Donald “Bob” Van Etten, Jr.**, Class of 1966, Monona, passed away unexpectedly on May 25, 2022. He was a volunteer firefighter and EMT with the Monona Fire Department from 1977 until 2010, serving as chief from 1996 until his retirement.
- **Sue Ann Linda (Randall) Hubanks**, Class of 1969, DeForest, passed away at UW Hospital, surrounded by her family, on June 7, 2022.
- **Sharon Ann Walsh**, Class of 1971, Monona, passed away on October 13, 2022, at Agrace Hospice in Fitchburg.
- **Diane Derlein**, Class of 1972, passed away on August 18, 2022.
- **Mark Allen Fuchs**, Class of 1975, Lyndon Station/Sauk City, WI, passed away on October 31, 2022.
- **Gloria “Jean” McAdams**, Class of 1976, Reedsburg, passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on July 16, 2022.
- **Daniel John “Dan” Schachte**, Class of 1976, Madison, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on September 6, 2022. He was an NHL linesman for 30 years and became the first American-born official to work more than 2,000 NHL games. He was selected to officiate for five Stanley Cup finals and the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.
- **Timothy John Trummer**, Class of 1976, Fitchburg, WI, passed away tragically in a fire on May 18, 2022.
- **John Bruno**, Class of 1977, Hawaii, passed away on June 2, 2022.
- **Lori Lynn Seldal**, Class of 1977, Watertown, passed away on September 24, 2022.
- **Jeffrey S. Trummer**, Class of 1977, Madison, passed away on November 2, 2022 at St. Mary’s Hospital.
- **Lisa (Turk) Croissant**, Class of 1978, Madison, passed away on October 26, 2022.
- **Archpriest Patrick Joseph Kinder**, Class of 1978, Louisville, KY, passed away on January 14, 2020 due to prostate cancer.
- **Penny L. (Rakow) Rundle**, Class of 1978, Byron, IL, passed away on May 11, 2022 at Javon Bea Hospital in Rockford, IL.
- **Barbara Lynn Williams**, Class of 1978, Monona, passed away on July 8, 2022 at St. Mary’s Hospital following a 25-year battle with cancer.
- **Dale M. Baum**, Class of 1982, passed away unexpectedly on March 26, 2021 in Las Vegas, NV, due to complications from heart surgery.
- **Dwayne A. Chase**, Class of 1988, Madison, passed away due to a brain tumor on August 8, 2022.
- **Stacy Lynn Wilcox**, Class of 1990, Cottage Grove, WI, passed away on her own terms after a long battle with mental illness on June 18, 2022.
- **Angela L. (Strohbusch) Caradine**, Class of 1992, Madison, WI, passed away on May 15, 2022.
- **Sondra “Sam” (Reiners) Boyd**, Class of 1996, Dalton, Georgia, passed away on July 5, 2022
- **Kendra (Richart) Atherton-Guenther**, Class of 2011, Winona, MN, passed away as a result of a car accident on February 23, 2022.
- **Khamon Gerard Uphoff**, Class of 2013, Deerfield, found peace on August 23, 2022 after a long struggle with depression.

MGEF Weekend Snack Pack Program

MGEF's Weekend Snack Pack Program provides over 135 school-aged children access to healthy food options on weekends during the school year. Every week, volunteers shop for food, pack the Snack Packs at a local site, and deliver the designated number of Snack Packs to each of the seven schools within the district, where they are discreetly delivered to each child by the school counselors. In order to maintain confidentiality, MGEF and the volunteers do not have access to the participant names or addresses. The program is supported by a newly formed 20 member MGEF committee that is dedicated to supporting MG youth who may be facing food insecurity.

Each Snack Pack includes nutritious and wholesome food items for the child to have to eat throughout the weekend. Included in each small disposable bag are two breakfast options, two lunch options, two snack options, a fruit, a vegetable and a dairy item. Examples of items that are in a typical Snack Pack are individual cereal boxes, packs of instant oatmeal, macaroni and cheese packs, soup, granola bars, pretzels, Goldfish crackers, applesauce, peas, yogurt, and mixed fruit cups. These foods are selected for nutrition, as well as the ability for young children to open and prepare if an adult is not present.

Our hope is that by providing easily accessible and nutritious food to these students, we will help ease their food insecurity and support their physical, mental, and academic health. With a common goal of eliminating childhood food insecurity, this project supplements services available to families in the Monona Grove School District that already target this issue. Food pantries have limited hours, which makes it difficult for parents to

use that as a consistent and reliable food resource. The schools host programs throughout the school year to help families in need with items such as Christmas presents and Thanksgiving meals; however, it is not on a consistent weekly basis. Our Snack Pack project gives children experiencing food insecurity consistent and direct access to food when not being provided by the school district's free and reduced breakfast and lunch program.



Volunteers prepare bags of snack packs for Monona Grove Students

Be a TRADITIONS Reporter!

Help us gather information and news for the next *TRADITIONS* newsletter! Send us the scoop about engagements, weddings, births, deaths, promotions, new jobs, awards, or honors, even your change of address ... or just tell us what you are doing now.

Take a minute to complete this form or email us! We'd love to hear what you are doing now, and we will share that information in our next newsletter. Please include class year and city/state with correspondence.



mononagovetraditions@gmail.com



Traditions, MGEF
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Monona, WI 53716

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Monona Grove Education Foundation

Monona Grove Public Schools
5301 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716

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Planning a move? Don't forget to let us know.
Your class doesn't want to lose you!

Join Us

The Monona Grove Education Foundation publishes this alumni newsletter as a service to all residents of the Monona Grove School District, past and present. Your donation to the Monona Grove Foundation Fund will support grants for innovations in education and will guarantee the future of MG Alumni Traditions. Consider a gift to the Monona Grove Education Foundation in your year-end tax planning. Just fill out this form and send it in with your contribution in one of the suggested categories or donate online (see details below).



Choose a category

"Professor" - \$5000 + "Fellow" - \$500 - \$4999 "Scholar" - \$250 - \$499 "Graduate" - \$100 - \$249 "Undergraduate" - under \$100

Class Year _____ E-mail _____

Name (first, maiden, last) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (Evening) _____

Phone (Daytime) _____

Credit card #: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Make checks payable to: **Monona Grove Education Foundation** or provide credit card information as indicated.

Mail to: Monona Grove Education Foundation, 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716

You may also donate online www.supportmgef.org/givenow

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