

## 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

**PROMOTING: ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, BUSINESS, CIVIC DUTY, FINE ARTS & SCIENCE**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Greater Portage Youth Education Foundation started 2018 with the declaration that "we can do more". Our hope was to become more active in issuing grants that were focused on education-based activities and projects while still serving those we have supported in the past.

Using that declaration as a measuring stick, 2018 was a successful year for GPYEF! We approved nearly \$17,000 in grants and scholarships last year which marks the greatest financial commitment we have made in over 5 years! And the types of grants we issued are even more exciting. We provided funding to such educational projects as the Google Expedition Project, the Spanish and German Exchange Programs, HOSA and Partners in Education (PIE), among others. All in all, 2018 was a good start to our stated goal.

And yet we could have done even more! But due to budgetary constraints we had to limit the amount of our grants for several requests, or deny the request entirely. So our goal for 2019 is to find ways to increase our donation income so we don't have to turn anyone away. That's a tall order because Portage has so many worthy causes competing for the same dollar. But we are committed to finding a way because the donations we receive from the community have such a positive impact on our students.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2019. We welcomed Krista Escobedo last year as a new board member and are looking forward to her continued contributions in 2019. We will be introducing a new scholarship in 2019 thanks to a generous benefactor and we will be inducting a new class into the Portage High School Hall of Fame in June.



Our many thanks go to all who support GPYEF. Our board of directors is a special group who volunteer their time and effort as we do our best to provide our teachers and students with the tools they need to succeed. And GPYEF gets a tremendous amount of support from Superintendent Margaret Rudolph, Suzi Hemler and the entire Portage School District. And obviously we don't even exist if not for the support of the Portage community so a huge "Thank You" to all our supporters!

*Tim Bressers, GPYEF President*



**FANTASTIC VOYAGES**



**Visit our re-designed website at:  
WWW.GPYEF.ORG**



## **MORE HALL OF FAMERS ON THE WAY!**

This June the Greater Portage Youth Education Foundation will be welcoming another group of extraordinary people into the PHS Hall of Fame! Every two years, the Hall of Fame committee chooses another class of inductees to enter the PHS Hall of Fame. The inductees will be honored at a banquet to be held at Dino's Restaurant on June 29, 2019. Earlier that day, GPYEF will sponsor the Hall of Fame golf outing as part of the festivities.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame will be accepted until March 1, 2019 and the new class of inductees will be announced shortly thereafter. All nominations are kept on file permanently so past nominees are still considered as part of the selection process. If you know of someone you would like to be considered for the HOF, please submit a nomination form. No individual can be considered for induction without first being nominated by someone who is not on the selection committee. Visit the GPYEF website to obtain a nomination form.



The PHS HOF began in 2003 with six initial inductees. There are now 53 individuals and 10 athletic teams inducted in the HOF. The GPYEF website has short bios for many of the Hall of Famers that can be accessed by simply clicking on the name. We welcome any factual information on any inductee that can be added to the HOF bio.



## **PROJECT/GROUPS GPYEF SUPPORTED IN 2018**

PHS German Club Foreign Exchange  
PHS Junior Post Prom  
Bartels MS Google Expedition Project (Fantastic Voyages)  
Partners in Education (PIE)  
Snack Pack/Backpack Program  
PHS Project Graduation  
Fuel Up to Play 60  
HOSA  
Warrior Fund  
PHS Ice Fishing Team  
PHS Spanish Exchange/Club

## **NEW SCHOLARSHIP**

GPYEF is pleased to announce a new scholarship in 2019. The Arthur and Eleanor Docter Scholarship will issue its first scholarship at the awards ceremony in May 2019. The recipient of this \$1,000 scholarship will have a demonstrated history of community service or assistance to the school or community, as well as showing some degree of financial need.

The scholarship was made available as the result of a contribution to GPYEF from the Arthur and Eleanor Docter Charitable Trust. Mr. and Mrs. Docter were long-time Portage residents who graciously donated to their church and various charities throughout their lifetime. We are fortunate they included GPYEF in their estate planning.

Our thanks go out to the Docter family for their support!



Arthur and Eleanor Docter



## **THANKS TO RILEY'S, JACK'S TAP**

Like any other charitable organization, GPYEF relies on the business community for a good portion of our donation income.

In 2018, we were thrilled when Lisa and Bob Thompson of Riley's Bar & Grill informed us that the proceeds of their golf outing would go to GPYEF. Lisa and Bob were open to the suggestion to merge our Music Fest into their golf outing and the result was a tremendous fundraising day for GPYEF. The Riley's golf outing raised over \$5,500 for GPYEF and the Portage Schools music departments! After the golf outing, the Portage High School marching band performed for all in attendance to complete the day.

Another major fundraiser for GPYEF is the annual meat raffle held at Jack's Tap. Owners Jackie and Jerry McGowan generously donated the meat to be raffled off which then allows for 100% of the raffle ticket sales to go directly to GPYEF. Thanks to Jackie and Jerry's contribution, the meat raffle raised nearly \$1,500!

It should be pointed out that the generosity of Riley's Bar & Grill and Jack's Tap is not limited to their contributions to GPYEF. These two establishments frequently give back to the community benefitting numerous Portage area causes throughout the year. GPYEF is grateful to have been included in their giving and encourage your support of their charitable efforts.



## **FANTASTIC VOYAGES!**

Imagine a field trip to ancient Egypt? Or how about visiting a Jamestown settlement as it was during the Revolutionary War? Or traveling through the human body to examine how our nervous system functions?

These are just some of the "trips" taken by students at Wayne Bartels Middle School using the new Google Expeditions program (proudly sponsored by GPYEF). Using special Google goggles and a wide variety of platforms to choose from, students are able to embark on virtual reality field trips from the Caribbean Sea to the North Pole. The technology allows teachers to target an expedition that proves vital in helping students experience and understand course content.

Social Studies is a natural focus for the Google project as it uniquely provides students opportunities to view historical places and people. But the project is also used in science, agriculture, health and business classes as well. With over 400 views through December, the goal is to reach over 1,000 views by the end of the 2018-2019 schoolyear.

The project is also looking to expand with a local flavor. Using a special 360° camera that has yet to be purchased, the Google program allows teachers and students to create their own expeditions. The local expeditions can then be submitted to the WiscoVR program for the entire state to view.

**GPYEF**  
GREATER PORTAGE YOUTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

## DONATIONS

I would like to support GPYEF in the following manner:

☐

One-time donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (check enclosed payable to GPYEF)

☐

Total donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid over \_\_\_\_\_ years (maximum 3 years) beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (month/day/year).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

I prefer that my donation remain confidential

Credit card and PayPal Donations can be made via our website.

For information regarding endowments, memorials and stock donations, contact us via email at [info@gpyef.org](mailto:info@gpyef.org)

Mail Checks payable to GPYEF, Inc. to:

GPYEF, Inc.  
PO Box 872  
Portage, WI 53901

GPYEF, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.  
All donations are tax deductible



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BUSINESS, CIVIC DUTY, FINE ARTS & SCIENCE**

## GPYEF THANKS YOU!

The Greater Portage Youth Education Foundation exists through the generosity of our donors who share our vision for helping the teachers and students of the Portage Community School District.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to GPYEF, but we especially thank our major contributors in 2018: The teachers of the PCSD who consistently contribute to GPYEF through payroll deduction, Riley's Bar & Grill, the PHS Alumni Basketball Tournament, Jack's Tap, Sandy Jacobs Memorial and Mashee Charities for allowing us to be a fundraiser during their charitable golf outing.

Your donations ensure that GPYEF will continue to support excellence through grants and scholarships. Thank you!



## GPYEF DIRECTORS/MEMBERS

Tim Bressers, President  
Thom Wielgus, Vice-President  
Scott Bublitz, Treasurer  
Krista Escobedo, Secretary  
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Mike Hurd  
Susan Kreckman  
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