



2019 - 2020 Donor Impact Report WILDCAT FOUNDATION



While it may seem that the year was consumed by COVID concerns and politics, the Wildcat Foundation accomplished some pretty amazing things in the first half of our 2019-2020 fiscal year, and because of donor support, and despite distractions, we were able to continue on that path through the second half of the year.

It is our donors who allow us to do what we do to impact our schools and our students throughout the district. Thank you.

As I look back on what the foundation has accomplished in my tenure as a board member, and current board president, I am humbled by your faith in, and support of our work, and pleased to share that we continue to push forward to strengthen our schools and community.

Please take the time to read through this report, and learn of the impact donors have on the Wildcat Foundation, and in turn, Wildcats past, present, and future.

Benjamin Ried, Esq.

President of the Board, The Wildcat Foundation

Wildcat Foundation and YOU Building the Future *Together!*

Thanks to donor support, the capital campaign to improve and enhance facilities at John H. Frederick Field at Memorial Stadium, is on the home stretch. COVID precautions delayed our planned ground-breaking in March. While construction is underway, funds are still needed to complete the project as planned.

To learn more, follow progress, or to donate, please visit www.wildcatfoundation.org/campaign



Board members and staff (Tracy Rohrbaugh-Besselman, Greg Longwell, John Duggan, Dr. Mark Leidy, Nathan McWilliams, Holly Laufer, Dale Flor, Suzy Walker), graciously accept this gift from fire fighters, Tom Bender, Jack Neibert (center)

Mechanicsburg Citizens Fire and Rescue Donates to Wildcat Wellness

As two Mechanicsburg fire companies prepared for a merger, Citizens Fire and Rescue wanted to insure that their treasury would continue to support Wildcats and borough residents today and for many days into the future. To do that, Citizens Fire and Rescue made a designated donation of \$50,000 to the Wildcat Foundation with the stipulation that these funds be used for wellness initiatives, specifically to provide CPR/AED and first-aid training to the Wildcat community. It is our goal that, overtime, every student, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to learn valuable lifesaving skills for the benefit of all in the Mechanicsburg Community and beyond; such an aggressive goal would not be possible without the generous support of the (former) Mechanicsburg Citizens Fire and Rescue Company #2.

Message from the Superintendent

One year later, and



Mechanicsburg children were first educated in a public school setting in 1835. It was more than a century later, in 1964, when the Mechanicsburg Area School District was established. Many district buildings in use to this day (Shepherdstown, Upper Allen, Broad Street, and Northside Elementary Schools, Elmwood Academy, Kindergarten Academy, and the high school), were built in the 1950s and 1960s; the Mechanicsburg Middle School is our only “new” construction. It’s no wonder then, that to meet the needs of our 21st century students, growing community, and the demands on our schools as multi-use, community facilities, that significant capital work has been completed, and is still underway. The most recent projections have the school district enrollment at nearly 6,000 students within the decade, an increase of nearly 2,500 students from just a few years ago.

Over the last year, the Kindergarten Academy, also home to district offices and the Wildcat Foundation, opened for students and staff. Also, last year’s construction, despite some COVID delays, brought Upper Allen and Shepherdstown to near completion, and construction at Broad Street began in early spring. The anticipated Wildcat Activity Center, on the high school campus, opened its doors in November and is in much demand for sports and extracurricular activities.

COVID concerns delayed the March ground breaking for the long over-due, and greatly anticipated renovations at the John H. Frederick Field. Still, the foundation, with donor support, hopes to complete construction by the spring, 2021 event season. I invite you to learn more and follow project progress at www.wildcatfoundation.org/campaign.

We look forward to additional projects at Northside Elementary, the high school and the middle school in the next couple years. All of these projects are designed to meet the tremendous increases in enrollment in our schools and the program needs moving forward.

As with our entire Commonwealth, March 13, 2020 changed everything for us with the order to close our schools. Quickly, staff rallied to meet the needs of our students and community in a new way. Just days after building doors closed, we were able to provide remote learning opportunities, daily meals, and weekend Wildcat Packs. The dedication of our staff, resiliency of our students, patience of families and caregivers, and donor support to the Wildcat Foundation made all this possible. We spent our days through June (and beyond) responding to and preparing for a new way of educating our students, and supporting staff, families and caregivers. This allowed us to reopen our doors in September for our students and staff.

-Superintendent Dr. Mark K. Leidy

Donors allow the Foundation to Invest \$115,000 in Grant Funds

Donor support, through individual and corporate giving, participation in and support of special events, donations--both solicited and unsolicited--restricted and unrestricted, combined to generate funds that allowed the Foundation to support and award significant grant funds.

Thank you!

Annually, staff, faculty, advisors, and coaches of the Mechanicsburg Area School District (MASD), have the opportunity to submit to the foundation, requests for funding. The Wildcat Foundation invests in requests that align with our mission, “to strengthen the educational, cultural, wellness, and athletic programs of the MASD”.

Our first grant distribution in 2002 totaled \$23,750. In the 2019/2020 academic year, district-wide, the Foundation awarded \$115,828.79 in support of 34 programs and projects.

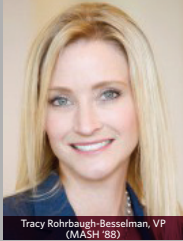
How did these funds impact our schools and students?

- ✿ Students throughout the district had the benefit of a learning environment that is comfortable and soothing
- ✿ Both elementary and high school students (and staff) enjoyed “soft start” morning activities to ease into their workday
- ✿ Middle school students had the opportunity to learn mountain biking skills in phys ed class; some, on a bicycle for the first time
- ✿ And despite, or because of COVID restrictions, teens enjoyed a modified cheer camp and many benefited from a variety of robotics and tech equipment that could be used and accessed from the home during hours of remote learning.
- ✿ Students and staff alike, enjoy virtual reality, including a “trip” to Australia, sheep shearing, and cow milking during agricultural days
- ✿ All MASD students grades 1-5, had the opportunity to participate in the One District, One Book initiative, first revealed during Community Day in November, 2019
- ✿ And before the world stopped, high schoolers visited our nation’s capital on route to France for an exchange program

2019/2020 Members of the Board



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Jonathan Boles (MASH '03)



Meghan Brown, Secretary



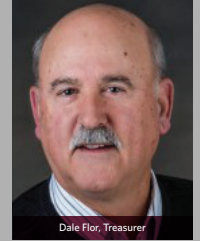
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Investors Support our MASH Seniors with Scholarships

The Foundation awarded modest senior scholarships annually, beginning in 2008. We were able to step-up our investment in graduating seniors when The Mechanicsburg Club gave a generous gift to seed the Mechanicsburg Club/Wildcat Foundation Scholarship Fund. Administered by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), with the Club's continued, annual investment, combined with other donor designated gifts, the Foundation is able to award four, \$4,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Any MASD senior, pursuing any type of post-secondary education, is eligible to apply. Awards are granted based on the following criteria: their essay, community volunteer service, and academic performance.

🐾 During the virtual senior award program in May, 2020 the following were recognized and each awarded a \$4000 scholarship: **Brando Aristy, Morgan Bathgate, Maxwell Hahn, Grace Wiedman**

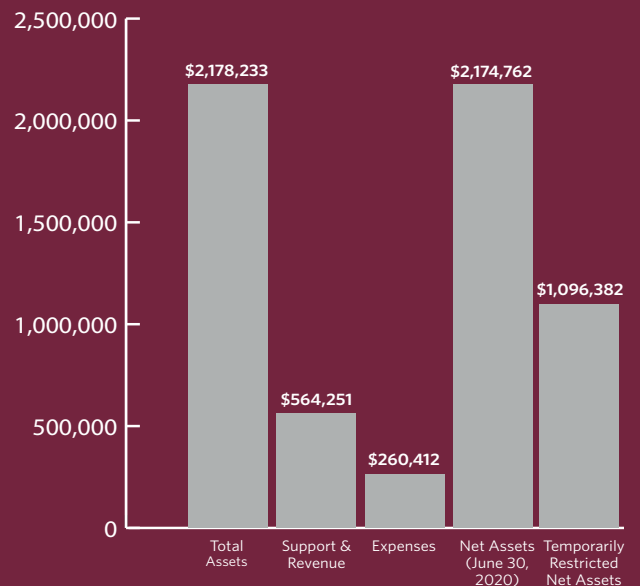
Our thanks to the Mechanicsburg Club for their continued support of the Wildcat Foundation and Wildcats beginning their next phase of life.



Volunteer Impact on the Foundation

With one part-time staff, the foundation could not do what we do, were it not for volunteer support. Foundation by-laws allow for 21 volunteer board members; these volunteers give of their time, talent, and treasure, to lead the activities of the organization. Board members are community leaders, parents with students enrolled in MASD, Mechanicsburg Area High School (MASH) alumni, MASD administration, and concerned residents.

Donor Impact by the Numbers



2019/2020 Audit

Our thanks to those who have given or pledged their support to Building the Future *Together!* for Wildcats today, tomorrow, and beyond. (2019/2020 Capital Campaign Donors)

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Thanks to all others who invested in the Wildcat Foundation throughout 2019/2020. Your impact is felt by our students, staff, and schools.

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While we make every effort to properly recognize all of our donors, we apologize for any errors or omissions, and ask that you please contact the Foundation office with your corrections. Thank you.

*** and bold text, Business donors that support the Foundation through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program**

✨ Individuals and businesses who supported the Wildcat Pack program

Business Donors Invest in Wildcat Education

We are grateful to the businesses that have recognized that if they do business in Pennsylvania, they may be eligible to receive tax credits through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program administered by PA's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). These tax credits may in turn, be used to provide financial support to charitable organizations like The Wildcat Foundation. DCED has approved the Wildcat Foundation as an Educational Improvement Organization (EIO), as such, we may utilize donor funds to support k-12, innovative educational programs including:

Design4Change
Dual Enrollment
Internships and Co-Ops
Junior Achievement (both
Economics for Success and
BizTown)

Model UN
STEAM MakerSpace
Trails and Trees Environmental Center
TSA (Technology Student Assoc.)

Always helpful and appreciated, these funds were particularly beneficially during months of remote learning, as they provided resources that allowed us to get innovative educational materials into student homes, distributed through the Wildcat Pack program.

Thanks to the following who invested in Wildcat education in 2019/2020

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To learn more about EITC and to qualify to give in support of education and other worth-while community efforts, visit
<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>



Members of the Board with John Havis, NexTier Bank.



Thanks to MidPenn Bank (Amanda Brigaman, Holly Laufer, Heather Hall)



Members of the Board with Lew Davey from PennianBank

Participants/Donors Invest in the Wildcat Foundation through Special Events

During the 2019/2020 years, The Wildcat Foundation hosted just three fundraising events:

10th Annual Golf Outing

a Success: August 16, 2019 brought 112 duffers together at Range End Golf Club. In addition to the annual thunderstorms, the day featured a silent auction and several on-course games, testing both luck and skill.



Despite their concentration, no one hit a hole in one



One District, One Book®, *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline

Community Day and a 5k Road and Trail Run

returned to the Middle School on November 9, 2019. A highlight of this annual event was the reveal of



Books being prepared for distribution

Davies. The Wildcat Foundation was just one of many sponsors that allowed the District to provide a copy of the book to every 1-5 grader. And in partnership with Soles4Souls, Bobs from Skechers, SuperShoes and Operation Wildcat, nearly 500 pairs of new shoes were distributed to children throughout the District.

On February 21, 2020, our event season culminated with **Wildcat Foundation Night at Stock's Manor**. Record attendance provided the opportunity to share our story, highlight funded programs, showcase student talent and close a successful silent auction and fundraising season.



Bart Miller with Hardhat Tour Winner, Gregg Sheibley



Centerpieces, compliments of Paulus' Farm Market.

Photo Credit, Celtic Knot Photography



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/TheWildcatFoundation



/WildcatFndt

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Help Needed. Donors Responded.



Upon the governor ordered school closures on March 13, MASD administration and staff responded by quickly identifying immediate, emerging and anticipated needs of students and their families. One of the many responses was the roll-out of the Wildcat Pack program. While athletic director Seth Pehanich, athletic trainer Sandy Zettlemoyer, rec director Tonya (Tug) Brown, MASH assistant principal Tim Bianchi, EA Principal, Joe Underkoffler, food services director Karin Marlin, Operation Wildcat, and an untold number of faculty and staff volunteers, worked to coordinate logistics, the Wildcat Foundation worked to raise the funds necessary to support the program. Between March 18 and June 30, donors gave in excess of \$19,000 in support of the Wildcat Pack program, during this same time, a total of 9,000 Wildcat Packs were distributed to MASD students and families. Wildcat Packs contained non-perishable food and personal care items, and age appropriate education and enrichment materials. Donor funds were used to purchase bulk food and educational/enrichment materials for our Wildcats.

Donor gifts, whether \$5 or \$5,000 had an immediate impact on our entire MASD community.

Thank you!



LOOKING AHEAD

Wildcat Foundation Night, A

Perfect Evening In: We will help you create your own fun, beginning with an on-line auction on May 9, and culminating with dinner and a virtual program on May 14.

Learn more at

www.wildcatfoundation.org/events

12th Annual Golf Outing: August 13,
Carlisle Barracks Golf Club

**Community Day/5K Road and Trail
Run:** TBD