



*Swinging apes and leaping leopards were made possible in part to a \$4,000 "flying" grant awarded to the 2018 spring musical "Tarzan"*

## Continuing Tradition of Support

Audiobooks...stand-up desks...video equipment/software... iPads...all-in playground...theatre props to help our budding actors/actresses fly...

When I reflect on some of our recent contributions to the teachers and students of Vicksburg Community Schools, I cannot help but feel very proud. At the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation, we take responsible stewardship of our donors' generosity very seriously. While we do have our own projects to fund, we remain fully connected to the district and stay aware of their most pressing needs that don't fit into the general budget. Together with the school district, we aim to help make our great school district the greatest.

The journey to greater achievement is never-ending, and this year the VCSF is committed to starting a bookmobile in the summer of 2019. This is an opportunity to increase the availability of summer reading materials to students of all ages. We're converting a school bus into a mobile library that will make periodic stops in neighborhoods throughout our school district. You'll be hearing more about this very important project throughout the school year. Come join us on this incredible journey to reduce the effects of "summer slide" and increase our students' opportunities to read.

Our future donations to the VCSF, yours and mine, can help us to accomplish even more great projects. As president of the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation, I want to thank all of you for your continued generous support to our students and staff. Please enjoy reading the accomplishments found throughout this annual report.

Bob Willhite

President, Vicksburg Community Schools  
Foundation



*The Big Read Machine coming to your neighborhood, summer of 2019*

# 2018 Bardeen Teacher

This Teacher Incentive Grant Program, named in honor of the late Max Bardeen, has been supporting special teacher training, high-tech equipment and unique innovative programs at Vicksburg Community Schools since 1986. The Vicksburg Foundation donates \$10,000 each year to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation to support this special program.

From alternative seating, to QBall Throwable Microphones, to a heart monitoring system for P.E. class, the VCSF awarded \$16,727.04 in the spring of 2018 for Bardeen Teacher Incentive Grants.

## *The following teachers were the spring of 2018 recipients:*

**Terri Negri and Margo Staunton** - Attended the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Conference in Chicago, IL.

**Laura Chang** - Received a QBall Throwable Microphone, Tech Tub and an Apple iPad. The QBall is a soft, tossable microphone which gives everyone in the class a chance to participate and have a voice.

**Allison Lamers and Jennifer Rodas** - Attended the 2018 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) workshop and convention in New Orleans, LA.

**Dustin Morris** - Attended the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's summer workshop. This three day workshop included sessions presented by master teachers, which also featured understanding vocal pedagogy, resonance and new vocal techniques.

**Leslie Trayers** - Implemented flexible seating options to create a more welcoming classroom space, as well as allowing students to sit, stand, or lay down while they are working.

**Angela Spanhak** - Tobey Elementary has a new comfort room for students to retreat to when they are feeling upset, frustrated or need a break from their current setting. Items purchased for the comfort room include a body sock, kinetic sand, weighted blanket and other therapeutic accessories.

**Michael Barwegen, Amie McCaw and Ruth Hook** - Peer Mediation training for selected students in all elementary schools in the fall of 2018. The grant covered transportation, lunches and incidentals for the student mediators.

**Justin McDonald** - The Vicksburg High School DECA Chapter will be attending the 2018/19 Michigan DECA State Conference.

**Amy Dunn and Matt VanDussen** - Amy Dunn and Matt VanDussen attended a RTI (Response to Intervention) Workshop through Solution Tree this fall. RTI is an intervention strategy that ensures all students are receiving the time and assistance needed to learn at their full potential.

**Diana Haring, Kelly Christiansen, Susan Pepps and Terri Negri** - Indian Lake will be adding a "Reading Room" with books, shelving, lamps, book bins and cozy seating. The goal is to create a room that promotes leisure reading for individuals, partner reading, or small groups.



*Alternative seating in Mrs. Trayers classroom*

# Incentive Grant Recipients

**Lorrie Jancarz** - Two Graphing Calculators were purchased for the VHS Seminar classroom.

**Sawyer Duncan** - A Heart Zone cardiac monitoring system was requested for use in Physical Education classes. The heart rate monitoring will not only assist students learn accountability and goal setting, but also integrates technology into the Physical Educational classroom.

**Sarah Phillips** - Alternative seating for Sunset Lake Kindergarten classroom. WOBBLE chairs, saucers, bean bag and Bungee chairs will provide Mrs. Phillips' students an opportunity to fulfill their work in a spot where they feel most comfortable and at their fullest potential.

**Jill Barton and Don Puckett** - Collaborative workstations and upright pivot stools were purchased as alternative seating choices in Mrs. Barton's classroom.

**Ben Rosier and Ravenna Kahler** - A wireless sound system, antennas, microphone and a metronome were acquired for the Marching Band program.



*Mr. Rosier, VHS/VMS Band Director, utilizing the "microphone pack" during band camp morning calisthenics*

## 2017 - 2018 Curiosity Grants

In 1993, the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation Trustees developed a program that would allow students from any grade level to apply for a special grant that would support innovation. Grants are generally approved for up to \$250; however the committee does consider and has funded grants in larger amounts.

With support from the Vicksburg Foundation, the following grants were awarded this year:

**Mrs. Haring's 4th grade class** - \$250.00 to purchase books to form a Book Club at Indian Lake Elementary.

**Kyla Childs** - \$300.00 to retain the Critchlow Alligator Farm Exhibit for the annual VMS Science Night. Adult mentor: Mrs. JoEllen Pollack

**Summer Painter** - Awarded \$155.00 to attend the spring 2018 HOSA Conference in Grand Rapids. Adult mentors: Dr. Noreen Heikes and Mr. Andrew Lothschutz

**Mrs. Guerrero's Kindergarten Class** - "Swept Away" request was given \$239.40 to purchase dustpans and brooms to keep the Sunset Lake playground clean of debris!



*Mrs. Guerrero's students using brooms and dustpans to keep the playground tidy at Sunset Lake Elementary*

**Century Club Donors**  
\$100 per year

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**President's Club Donors**  
\$500 per year

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Peter VanMeter  
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**Corporate Donors**

Advia Credit Union  
Apple Knockers Ice Cream  
Bronson Healthcare Group  
Church-Allstate Agency  
Denney Veterinary  
Services  
Edward Jones of Vicksburg

Eimo Technologies  
Family Fare  
Frederick Construction  
Fred's Pharmacy  
GreenStone FCS  
Grossman Law  
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Pfizer Foundation  
Ralph Hayward Insurance  
Ronningen  
Stewart Sutherland  
Vicksburg Auto Body  
Vicksburg Family  
Dentistry  
Wiser Financial Group



**Operating Grants & Contributions:**

Annual fund drive . . . . .	\$ 14,754
Student Curiosity Grant . . . . .	\$3,000
Bardeen Teacher Incentive Grant. . . . .	\$15,300
Fundraisers-net. . . . .	\$12,777
Other Grants & Contributions . . . . .	\$25,553
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$71,384</b>

**Grants Awarded:**

Bardeen teacher incentive grants . . . . .	\$15,300
Student curiosity grants. . . . .	\$3,705
Student scholarships . . . . .	\$21,500
Other grants . . . . .	\$29,320
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$69,825</b>

**Total Operating Expenses: . . \$14,018**

**General Endowment Funds:**

Vicksburg Community Schools Endowment  
VCSF Legacy Fund

Ellen & Joseph Cashion Memorial Fund  
Reisterer Family Fund

**Designated Purpose Funds:**

Bardeen Teacher Incentive Fund  
Lewis M. Maher Memorial Fund  
Patricia Reeves Exemplars of Service Fund

**Endowed Scholarship Funds:**

VCSF Scholarship Fund  
Patrick and Lynn Vallier Memorial  
Scholarship Fund  
Louise Reed Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Stanley Weinberg Farms Scholarship Fund  
Letha Munn Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Vicksburg Foundation Scholarship Fund  
Ana Resseguie Barnes Memorial  
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Gordon & Dorothy Daniels Memorial  
Scholarship Fund

Jeremy Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Lloyd Cantwell Memorial Scholarship Fund  
John W. Fritz Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Appell Family Scholarship Fund  
Peter Tindall Memorial Scholarship Fund  
David T. Reisterer Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Endowment Balance**

**July 1, 2016 . . . . . \$2,168.00**

**Contributions Received . . . . \$78,401**

**Grant Distributions . . . . . (\$41,094)**

**Investment Return . . . . . \$165,232**

**Endowment Balance**

**June 30, 2017 . . . . . \$2,370,603**

**Endowments held by Kalamazoo  
Community Foundation**

**Donations may be made online at [www.vicksburgcommunityschoolsfoundation.org/donate](http://www.vicksburgcommunityschoolsfoundation.org/donate)**

**Financial Information** - The continued growth of our School Foundation is the result of the strong support of the greater Vicksburg community. To learn more about ways to contribute to the Foundation's growth, please contact the Foundation office at 269-321-1006 or visit [www.vicksburgschools.org/vcs-foundation/make-a-contribution/](http://www.vicksburgschools.org/vcs-foundation/make-a-contribution/).



Every summer, students lack access to books and educational fun enrichment activities resulting in a "Summer Slide." This is causing students to lose some of the achievement gains from the previous school year. Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation is launching a fundraising campaign to tackle that "Summer Slide." The Foundation is spearheading the construction of the Big "READ" Machine. We want to bring this mobile library to several locations throughout the Vicksburg School District along with Chromebooks, and a Wi-Fi hotspot to support learning all summer long. With your help, together we will make The Big "READ" Machine a reality.

# Take a Ride on Our .... BOOKMOBILE!!

**We need your help.** The expected cost to retrofit the bus, along with maintenance, and operating costs for the first year is \$40,000.



To donate: You can go to [www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org/vcs-foundation/make-a-contribution](http://www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org/vcs-foundation/make-a-contribution) or write a check to Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation (Bookmobile) and mail to VCSF 301 S. Kalamazoo, Vicksburg, MI 49097. \*VCFS is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor Club \$750+ \_\_\_\_\_

Best Seller Club \$400-\$699 \_\_\_\_\_

Librarian Club \$200-\$399 \_\_\_\_\_

Author Club \$100-\$199 \_\_\_\_\_

*\*All donor names will be recognized on the inside of The Big "READ" Machine and through all VCSF media outlets.*



## 2018 Scholarship Recipients



**Anna Schriemer**  
The Appell Family  
Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Rebecca Crawley**  
Gordon and Dorothy Daniels  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$2,000



**Kailey Kamrowski**  
Stanley Weinberg  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$1,000



**Avery Slanzik**  
David Reisterer  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Caleb Conklin**  
David Reisterer  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Rachel Brewer**  
Ana Resseguie-Barnes  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$1,000



**Nicholas Dilly**  
Lloyd (Todd) Cantwell  
Scholarship  
\$500



**Samantha Trimble**  
Letha Munn  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$500



**Hunter Myers**  
Jeremy Smith  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$1,000



**Ben Green**  
Patrick & Lynn Vallier  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$500



**Brandon Thomas**  
Lewis W. Maher  
Memorial Scholarship  
\$1,000



**Jess Schmidt**  
Vicksburg Community Schools  
Foundation Scholarship  
\$1,000



**Connor Seifert**  
Vicksburg Community Schools  
Foundation Scholarship  
\$1,000



**Emmaline Miller**  
Vicksburg Foundation  
Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Alexander Smith**  
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\$2,500



**Morgan Preston**  
Vicksburg Foundation  
Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Emily Towns**  
Vicksburg Foundation  
Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Autumn Locey**  
Vicksburg Foundation  
Scholarship  
\$2,500



**Lauren Burke**  
Vicksburg Foundation  
Scholarship  
\$2,500

### Not pictured

**Wyatt McClish**  
The Oswalt Family  
Farm/Trades Scholarship - \$1,000

**Kody Fruehauf**  
John W. Fritz Memorial  
Scholarship - \$500

**Paxton Earl**  
The Oswalt Family Music  
Scholarship - \$1,000

**Jacob Wisser**  
Louise Reed Memorial  
Scholarship - \$1,000

# Involved in Community Events

Each year, the VCS Foundation proudly hosts several annual fundraisers. Beginning with the Annual Chicago Fall Bus Trip to the great Duck Derby Race each June, there are fun ways you can help us raise money to support programs that set Vicksburg Community Schools above the rest.

New to **The Hearty Hustle** race last year, the Foundation issued all schools a “participation challenge”, with the highest percentage school winning \$500. Indian Lake Elementary squeaked by with the win, while Tobey Elementary was a close second. Ruth Hook, Principal of Indian Lake, along with her staff, are using their winnings to purchase comfort items for

their new ‘Reset Room’, geared towards students needing a calm-down spot throughout the day.

Another source of giving back is the Hearty Hustle Tina

Hayward Inspiration Award. Leon Hayward began sponsoring this recognition in 2014, to honor his late wife, Tina, who was an avid runner. Awards are given to the top male and female winners of the “Masters” group, with each being presented a Gazelle gift card, along with special recognition on the Tina Hayward tribute plaque.

This coming May will mark the 32nd Annual Hearty Hustle 5k Run/Walk and 1 mile fun run, and in June, our 10th Annual Duck Derby. Please plan on joining the fun by making your own donation to the Hearty Hustle and supporting our schools!



Leon Hayward awarding Heather Boersma the 2018 Tina Hayward Inspiration Award



Duck Derby classroom contest winner award went to Mrs. Sadowski's class. Shown here is one of her student's, Arianna Wright, who personally sold 100 tickets!

## Foundation Trustees

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
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| Brett Grossman  | Mike Oswalt        |
| Lucas Hillard   | Bob Willhite       |
| Warren Lawrence |                    |



Marci Bailey and Bob Willhite at the Community Tailgate promoting the launch of The Big Read Machine.

Make sure to visit us on



**VISION STATEMENT** - We will be a premier school foundation serving as a driving force by investing for a significant impact to help distinguish the Vicksburg Community Schools' educational experience.