

Supporting Excellence in East Lansing Schools for 23 years



EAST LANSING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT for 2006



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A Note from the President...

Twenty-three years ago, a dedicated group of individuals committed to excellence in education in our schools founded the East Lansing Educational Foundation. Their goal was simple: To provide students in East Lansing with the best supplemental learning tools and opportunities for their educational experience. In order to do this, the Foundation sought funds from individuals and businesses and became the steward for these funds. Although this torch of responsibility has passed through many hands over the years, our goal has remained the same.

ELEF has experienced many stages of growth. In the past five years, the pace of our growth has accelerated and we have become a significant contributor to our schools. During this time, we have approved grant requests from teachers totaling \$109,600.00 and have established a steadily growing general endowment fund, more than tripling its size in the last four years.

Our goals for the next several years are exciting, yet challenging:

Endowment: We plan to substantially build our endowment fund. To make significant differences in our students' education, we need to have the required fund balances. Increasing our endowment funds will provide the Foundation with a consistent amount of earned interest on an annual basis which will be dedicated to specific needs in our district, above and beyond our teacher grants. We added a staff member, Dorsey Gude (see page two), in March 2007 to oversee our larger development projects. We welcome her expertise and enthusiasm.

Grants: We will continue to provide our teachers with their established grant program and strive to offer more of them. Currently, the maximum amount approved for a single grant is \$500.00. We are introducing an additional grant program which will annually support a project for a group of teachers or specific area of learning with greater funding.

Connections: We intend to further develop our relationship with our community. This initial annual report is just one example of how we hope to reach neighbors in our community. We also look forward to establishing a link to our vast and far-reaching alumni community. We believe the Foundation is an excellent conduit for connecting East Lansing students, past and present, and the East Lansing Public Schools. This bond will help to enrich our district's future.

A strong school system translates into a strong, successful and thriving community. East Lansing Public Schools continue to demonstrate this strength. The ELEF board continually strives to find additional ways to be a beneficial resource for East Lansing Public Schools. It is my privilege to be part of this community dedicated to helping strengthen and maintain educational programs in East Lansing.

Sincerely,
Julia Cawood

The ELEF Mission

Enhancing excellence in education through distribution of private resources for the benefit and enrichment of students is what the East Lansing Educational Foundation is all about.

Established in September, 1984, the ELEF recognizes that the quality of an educational system and the vitality of the community it serves are inexorably intertwined. In hopes of nourishing and strengthening this relationship, the Foundation, through the use of private resources, has committed its support to programs and projects which supplement the educational opportunities available to our children.

The Foundation, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization, operates independently from the school district for the sole benefit of its students. Foundation trustees are corporate and community leaders who donate their time and talents in order to promote the mission of the Foundation. Through your support the ELEF has become a vehicle of empowerment for our students, our teachers, our schools and our community as we greet the dawn of a new century.



EAST LANSING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



2006 GRANTS

by Lola O'Meara,
Chairperson, Grant Committee

The ELEF has granted over **\$16,000** to classroom teachers and consultants over the past year. The variety of requests was such that most children in East Lansing Schools received some benefit. Talented students received attention; children in need of support services were given the support needed and special interests were enriched with a variety of materials.

Requests varied by school and likewise granted monies varied. During the 2006 school year, grants were given to each school: Donley (\$3,200), Glencairn (\$200), Marble (\$1,323), Pinecrest (\$3,915), Red Cedar (\$2,103), Whitehills (\$1,200), McDonald Middle School (\$3,250), and the E L H S, (\$1,129).



So far in 2007, ELEF has granted a total of \$11,997.

The ELEF is proud of its contribution to better supply classroom needs for the children of East Lansing. Of course, that cannot occur without monetary support from our community.

THANK YOU!

2006 6th Annual Awards Dinner Honors Excellence

In April, the ELEF hosted our 6th Annual Awards Dinner at the Eagle Eye Golf Center in East Lansing. Over 250 people were there to applaud the presentation of awards to community members and East Lansing Public Schools teaching staff. Awardees included:

Outstanding Alumni Honor Award

(Distinguished achievement/community service but not necessarily limited to service within the EL area, or even to Michigan)

Dr. Richard Johnson

East Lansing Educational Foundation Award

(Distinguished service to East Lansing Public Schools)

Sue Calverley

Diane Tarpoff Award

(Distinguished service to the East Lansing Educational Foundation)

Charles Hackney

Theda Assiff Award

(Distinguished community service)

Mary Alice Stollak

Distinguished Alumni Award

(Distinguished East Lansing High School graduate who has been recognized for national or international achievement)

Dr. Jeffrey Docking

Excellence in the Art of Teaching Award

(Distinguished teacher nominated by the parents, staff members or community members)

(Elementary Division: K-6)

Thomas Dye

(Secondary Division: 7-12)

John Plough

Spartan Village Global Education Award

(Distinguished teacher nominated by the parents, staff members or community members)

Casey Bain

The ELEF annually recognizes individuals who go above and beyond in making excellence in education a prominent theme throughout the East Lansing School District. At the awards dinner, through ticket sales, silent auction, golf outing, and contributions, nearly \$9,000 was generated to fund teacher grant programs administered by the Foundation. *(For a more detailed biography of each of the awardees, visit the **ELEF** link under the "About Us" bar at ELPS website: www.elps.k12.mi.us.)*

Coordinator of Development and Communication

By Dorsey Gude

Hello, everyone. Thank you for welcoming me and my family to East Lansing. We moved from Connecticut over the summer: my husband is at MSU; my son, Cole, is a sophomore at ELHS; and my son, Erik, is at MMS. I am honored and excited to be the new Coordinator of Development and Communication—a joint position of the East Lansing Educational Foundation and East Lansing Public Schools. Both jobs are focused on one thing—helping the community-at-large feel connected to, proud of and responsible for the quality of education in East Lansing Public Schools.

While I am new to Michigan, I am not new to the world of education foundations. In Norwalk, Connecticut, I spent five years as the Executive Director of the Norwalk Education Foundation. We raised money to support and challenge our schools especially around the ideas of teacher training, after-school programs and community engagement. I have also worked as an event planner, a corporate communications professional and have co-founded and served on the board of a professional Shakespeare festival.

Other interesting stuff about me? I bought MSU football season tickets the minute my husband was hired—as a long suffering Jets fan, I needed a new local team to cheer. I love to travel and am looking forward to exploring Michigan with my family. I grew up in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

Thank you for your warm welcome. I look forward to working with you to raise awareness of and resources for East Lansing Public Schools.



Founders Plaque in the Works

by Mary Crawford,
Chairperson Plaque Committee

A plaque thanking past and present generous donors to the East Lansing Educational Foundation will be placed in the foyer in the Center for the Performing Arts at East Lansing High School. Look for it in the coming months!

All donors whose cumulative gifts to the Foundation total \$1,000 or more will be recognized. We would like to see your name on that plaque! Consider a donation to ELEF and fill out the form on page five.

Sarah Tarpoff

The Sarah Tarpoff Creative Writing Award Project was created in 1985 as a memorial to Sarah Tarpoff, who loved to write and draw. For 21 years, every student in East Lansing has been invited to submit an original poem, essay, story or play. Each manuscript is read and evaluated. And every entrant receives a ribbon honoring his or her participation.

Each year the ELEF publishes a school calendar showcasing some of the blue ribbon entries from schools across the district and bound volumes of all blue ribbon entries are available at the East Lansing Public Library. New volunteers for readers are always welcome! Please contact Michele LaFave at 333-7439.

ELEF's HAPPENINGS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

by Eric Schertzing, Chairperson, Annual Membership Drive

Each fall, student families and teachers are asked to invest in the excellence of East Lansing Schools. This year's donation appeal was delivered to over 3,000 homes. **\$32,415** was raised in 2006 for teacher grants and the endowment funds. Thank you families and teachers for this generous outpouring of support.

In addition to the mailing, the City of East Lansing included the ELEF investor appeal in the Fall/Winter City Dialogue—Thank You! Future efforts include year-end reminders of the considerable Michigan tax credit for contributions to the ELEF Endowment at the Capital Region Community Foundation. Your school endowment has grown over \$100,000 over the last five years! Thank you investors.

UPCOMING GIVING OPPORTUNITY: ELEF's CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

by Cindy Herfindahl, Co-Chairperson, Capital Campaign

The East Lansing Educational Foundation is in the planning stage for a fundraising campaign to support the children, teachers and programs in the East Lansing School District. After sponsoring a community forum, we identified the needs and desires of our community for our school system and drafted a Case for Support document to support these priorities.

Many thanks to **Summit Community Bank** for hosting a gathering that brought key stakeholders together to introduce the draft Case for Support. The Foundation's Steering Committee continues to work on refining the case statement – making sure it dovetails with the needs and priorities of the school district – and on developing campaign leadership.

We anticipate a public announcement about the campaign to be made in early 2008. For more information about the Campaign for Kids, please contact Dorsey Gude at 333- 7413.

SEVENTH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER/ SECOND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

by Barb McMillan, Chairperson, Awards Committee

We cordially invite you to attend the East Lansing Educational Foundation's **7th Annual Awards Dinner**. This event will be held at the Eagle Eye Banquet Center on **Thursday, May 3, 2007**. The reception, along with a silent auction, will begin at 5:30pm; dinner and program will commence at 6:45pm. Dinner tickets are **\$50.00** (reserved tables of eight are welcomed).

The event will honor those alumni who have been successful in "life after high school", community members who have supported the East Lansing Public Schools and teachers who provide excellence in educational services to our students. This year's awardees include **David Heeke, Paul Fagan, George and June Szygula, Lee Griffin, Kevin Kelly, Rollie and Marilyn Ledebuhr, Marge Andrews and Sandy Gebber**.

The awards dinner will be preceded by a **Golf-Outing** at the Eagle Eye Golf Course, which includes an 18-hole scramble, lunch, golf cart and your dinner ticket to the evening's event. The scramble package begins at 12:30pm for the cost of \$125 per person.

We encourage you to attend, bring your friends, and join in the fun! **Please contact Michele LaFave at 333.7439** to donate a silent auction item or purchase your tickets.



Thank You for Donating to the ELEF in 2006

The following list recognizes those individuals and organizations that supported the Foundation from **January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006**. Their contributions were received during the annual **Membership Drive** or **United Way** campaign and were used to enrich the educational opportunities of our students. The Foundation thanks each and every donor for their generosity!

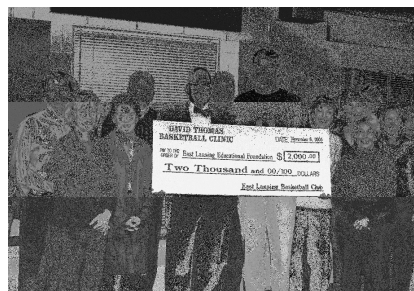
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East Lansing Basketball Club Continues its Generosity



On November 8, 2006, members from the East Lansing Basketball Club presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the East Lansing Educational Foundation Board members. These funds were generated from the profits raised from their June basketball camp offered to East Lansing boys and girls. The club has donated to the Foundation for three consecutive years, bringing their total given to the ELEF to \$7,000!



EAST LANSING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



2006 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

By Ann McDaniel, Treasurer

The East Lansing Educational Foundation realized another year of steady financial growth thanks to the generous donations made by our many contributors. The balances of the various accounts maintained by the Foundation are listed in the box below.

The unrestricted general fund account is the primary source for funding our annual teacher grants. In 2006, the Foundation awarded 46 teacher grants totaling \$16, 223.81. In addition to these grants, the ELEF also disbursed funds for the following programs:

- Sarah Tarpoff Writing Program: \$700.00
- Elementary school libraries: \$150.00
- East Lansing Public Library 'One Book One Community' project: \$500.00
- East Lansing High School 'Post Prom' project: \$500.00

The various **endowment funds** have been established to provide funds, in perpetuity, for the identified educational initiatives:

- ELEF Endowment Fund: Created in 2002, used to supplement teacher grants and the work of ELEF
- Asa Bromley Memorial Debate Fund: Created in 2002 to support the ELHS debate program.
- Calder Bromley Memorial Library Fund: Created in 2002 to support the elementary school libraries.
- Corey Cafagna Fund: Created in 2004 to support the ELPS Special Education programs and the ELHS Jazz Band and Choral programs.

Your participation in this year's fund raising events (i.e., Spring Awards Dinner, Sarah Tarpoff Calendar Sales, Membership Drive, United Way campaigns, Meijer Rewards program) will allow the Foundation to fulfill its mission of providing financial resources needed to support various programs and projects that enrich our students' educational opportunities.

Thank you for helping us continue to grow!

	12.31.06	12.31.05
Unrestricted General Fund	<u>65,041.43</u>	<u>38,592.64</u>
Unrestricted General Fund Total:	\$65,041.43	\$38,592.64
Endowment Funds		
<i>(Managed by the Capital Region Community Foundation)</i>		
ELEF Endowment Fund	138,439.78	122,356.33
Asa Bromley Memorial Debate Fund	8,876.42	7,512.33
Calder Bromley Memorial Library Fund	8,935.02	7,846.43
Corey Cafagna Fund	<u>15,682.92</u>	<u>13,660.66</u>
Endowment Funds Total:	\$171,934.14	\$151,375.75

East Lansing Educational Foundation Giving Form

Amount of tax deductible gift: _____

Payment Type:

Check (Please make checks payable to 'East Lansing Educational Foundation')

MasterCard VISA Card Number: _____ Expiration: ____/____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Fund Designation:

General Fund ELEF Endowment Fund Asa Bromley Fund Calder Bromley Fund Corey Cafagna Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please return this form to:
East Lansing Educational Foundation
c/o Ann McDaniel
337 Chesterfield
East Lansing, MI 48823

(The East Lansing Educational Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit tax-exempt organization.)



EAST LANSING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



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East Lansing Educational Foundation
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**Please Join Us
&
bring your friends
to the
7th Annual Awards
Dinner
& Golf Outing
Thursday, May 3rd
(More Details on Page Three)**