



2011 Program

the
Gala

Celebrating Excellence in Forest Hills Public Schools

Welcome to The Gala 2011

Thank you for attending the 2011 Gala. This event, presented by the Forest Hills Educational Foundation, is an upbeat, engaging opportunity for you to personally experience the great things happening in Forest Hills Public Schools. We are celebrating the people, the talent and the accomplishments that make Forest Hills such a wonderful environment in which students can develop their individual potential. This year we are pleased to feature singers, musicians, demonstrations, and student art work. You will hear about three highly distinguished award recipients. You will also learn about outstanding accomplishments in the district through the notes in your program.

The proceeds from tonight's Gala will be split evenly between the endowment fund and immediate instructional needs of the district. Thank you again for your support of Forest Hills Public Schools and the Educational Foundation!



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About the Foundation

As WB Yeats once said, “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” The Forest Hills Educational Foundation provides a match that ignites a passion for learning, leading to success both in school and in life.

In today’s shrinking world, it is not enough to churn out students who can recite facts. Success is about molding and shaping students who can analyze, engage, create, and adapt. Students who receive the benefit of a kaleidoscopic education are better equipped to succeed in a world that looks very different than it did just one decade ago.

The mission of the Forest Hills Educational Foundation is to provide funding for core areas of academic excellence in Forest Hills Public Schools. Grants from the Educational Foundation give teachers the freedom to provide the variety of experiences that position students to succeed in life. These investments pay an increasing return every year, as more and more students benefit from them.



2011–2012 Grants

The Forest Hills Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the following grant awards will be provided to schools throughout the district in the 2011–2012 school year.

Grant Amount	Description
\$1,000	Planer: used to enhance capabilities in the industrial arts classrooms as they seek to upgrade their equipment and the students' experiences.
\$1,000	Digital Cameras (5): used to help students document their journey of assisting students in impoverished countries, as well as for the student newspaper and yearbook.
\$1,004	Spanish Reading Books: A set of 25 books in 12 different titles to help students practice and progress in their comprehension of Spanish language literacy.
\$1,200	Storyworks Magazine: ideas, exercises and activities to help 5th and 6th grade students learn creative writing skills.
\$1,300	Classroom Furniture: desk height, standing and floor-level surfaces, rugs and seating that encourage different styles of individual learning as well as collaboration.
\$2,600	Sensory Input Tools: specific items that help students take physical and sensory breaks to stimulate their learning. These include items such as stability balls, weighted vests, noise reduction headphones and more.
\$1,310	MP3 Players and Audio Books: to be used in the library as well as the classroom so that all students can enjoy literature while improving word recognition, comprehension and literacy skills.
\$1,500	Ipads: Used to create a physical fitness evaluation and cumulative record over a student's career in the district.
\$1,500	Interactive Whiteboard: used in the music classroom to facilitate student composition, recording and editing of music.
\$3,000	Ipads: a loaner library that can be signed out to teachers and used to engage students in small groups or one-on-one learning, with emphasis on audio books and other learning applications.
\$2,000	Table Saw: this specially equipped table saw senses contact from the human body, and will stop and retract instantly to eliminate serious injuries.
\$2,000	Kindles (12): this audio book tool will help engage students with a wide variety of quality literature while facilitating small group interaction and discussion.
\$5,169	Classroom Performance Systems: small handheld devices that allow students to respond to questions asked verbally, on paper or on screen, and enable teachers to instantly assess student comprehension of lessons.
\$6,500	Adobe Creative Suite 5: an updated version of current desktop publishing and graphic design tools to be used in multiple disciplines and departments.

Teacher of the Year Award

This award is given to one teacher each year who is chosen by the administrative leadership based on nominations by principals from each school in the district.



STEPHANIE CARPENTER THORNTON
Forest Hills Central, Class of '88

Stephanie is a living example of the influence that a teacher can have in the life of a student. Both her high school cheerleading coach and her college mentor encouraged her to channel her love of kids and psychology into the educational setting. Fortunately for the students of Forest Hills, she did!

Stephanie Thornton received her undergraduate degree from Hope College, and earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Michigan. She has been at Orchard View for twelve years as a counselor and social worker. Stephanie is one of those rare people who sees a need and immediately goes into action. She has been instrumental in developing a mentoring program between children with autism and other children; she has started fund drives for local and international needs; she works tirelessly with families and children who need special help.

"I am so grateful to the school for supporting the emotional needs of children," says Stephanie. "I am seeing more and more children who desperately need a safe, encouraging place during the school day to balance the fierce pressures at home caused by this economy. Kids are surprisingly resilient and they want to make the world better. It's my job to help them in any way I can. My sincere thanks to the Gala committee, the Educational Foundation board, and the administration for this honor, and also to the passionately dedicated staff at Orchard View. They are an amazing group of people, and I couldn't do what I do without them."

Stephanie, on behalf of every student, teacher and parent at Orchard Hills, thank you for your unwavering commitment to meeting needs both inside and outside the classroom.

Catalyst Award

This award is given to a community member whose life work has created powerful change in our community.



BRENDA HEACOCK

Brenda has experienced the kind of adversity that few people are called upon to endure. Yet she has been given the strength to channel her pain into work that has brought lasting change to our community. When her daughter Kirsten was born with Down Syndrome, Brenda and her husband Steve, along with several other couples, formed the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan. This marvelous organization, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2010, provides education, support and resources for parents who experience the unique issues and joys of parenting a child with special needs. After Kirsten subsequently died of leukemia at age 10 1/2, Brenda went to work again. She collaborated with several other families to organize the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team (P.O.R.T.) at DeVos Children's Hospital. Their work with P.O.R.T. was a selfless gift that continues to reach hundreds of families each year who desperately need encouragement and support in the battle against childhood cancer.

Brenda is a para pro who works at Northern Trails with students who are cognitively impaired. She says, "Our classroom is full of heroes. Every day I see courage, strength, a sense of humor and amazing character in our students as I watch them learn and grow. I am so proud to help each one fulfill his or her individual potential, and to help families rejoice in the achievements of their children."

Brenda, your passion for your community is a treasure that has enriched thousands of people. We thank you for being a catalyst: an agent of change who has used the challenges of your own life to transform the world around you.

Legacy Award

This award honors an outstanding Forest Hills graduate who came back to establish roots in the community, and whose life work gives back to the people of West Michigan.



JEFF GIETZEN
Forest Hills Central, Class of '75

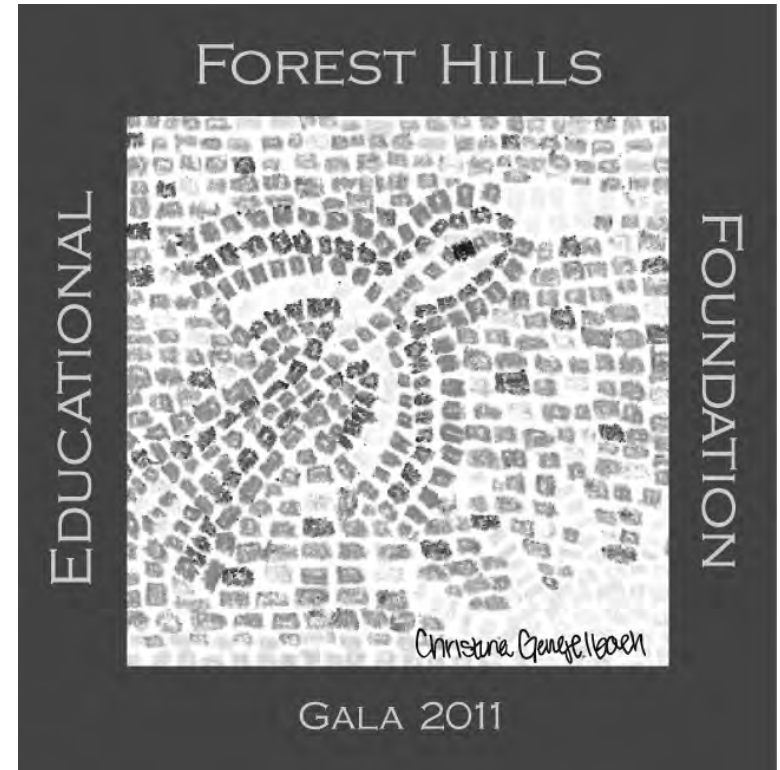
Jeff has a deep and long history with the Forest Hills community, going back to his education in FHPS and his first job with D&W Food Centers. He held a variety of positions within the retail organization before moving into administration and ultimately into the CEO/Vice Chair role. Additionally, he has diversified the family business holdings into areas such as retail, hospitality, real estate and various business community investments.

Jeff gives back a tremendous amount to the West Michigan community through his board memberships, his civic involvement, his fundraising efforts and his leadership mentoring and coaching. He has been described as a good listener; a team player that gives first and expects others to do the same. He is loyal, committed and active in whatever causes or needs cross his path. His tireless efforts, along with those of hundreds of volunteers, led the drive to build the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, and the Woodrick Diversity Learning Center.

Jeff places great emphasis on the health of the local business community, as not only a business owner but also as a member of Local First, the Grand Rapids Chamber, and the Grand Angels, a venture capital group. He says, "I am committed to helping West Michigan develop businesses that sustain West Michigan – investing in ourselves so that it remains a place of strength and opportunity for the next generation. My thanks to all of those individuals, families and businesses that committed so much in so many ways to bring this West Michigan vision to life – they have been great role models for me and countless others."

Jeff, on behalf of FHPS and the West Michigan community, thank you for your legacy of service. Your visionary leadership continues to challenge and enrich all of us.

Student Artist: Christina Gengelbach Forest Hills Central



The 2011 Gala committee chose a mosaic theme to represent the multitude of different ideas and experiences that mold each student during their education at Forest Hills Public Schools. We asked all art students in grades 7-12 to submit their original art work for this competition. The judges chose Christina's design from a field of more than 80 entries submitted by students throughout the district. Her dove design was the best illustration of the mosaic concept, and it reiterates the theme of peace and harmony that the district continues to emphasize with the student body.

Christina's design has been transferred to a commemorative 4"x4" tile that will be given to each guest this evening. Thank you and congratulations Christina!

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

The staff and administration of Forest Hills Public Schools walked a total of 32,243 miles over six weeks to raise money for P.O.R.T. (Pediatric Oncology Resource Team).

Menu

Hors d'oeuvres (Passed during reception)

Red Pepper Hummus in Endive Boat
Brown Sugar and Bacon Wrapped Water Chestnuts
Smoked Salmon with Cream Cheese Wrapped around Asparagus
Avocado Egg Roll with Plum Dipping Sauce
Tuna Ceviche with Cilantro Served on a Round Wafer
Artichoke and Boursin Pastry Cups

Salad Course

Farmer's Market Salad – Grilled Mushrooms, Fresh Asparagus, Cherry Tomatoes, Brown Tomatoes and Orange Peppers Served in a Yellow Pepper with Sun-dried Tomato Basil Vinaigrette
Assorted rolls with butter

Entrée

Cabernet Tenderloin Medallions and Champagne Chicken
Roasted Vegetables: Red Peppers, Orange Peppers, Yellow Squash and Zucchini
Oven-Roasted Redskin Potatoes

Dessert

Apple Cheesecake with Vanilla Pirouette, Chocolate Drizzle
Roasted Fuji Apple Tartlet with Golden Caramel Sauce
Coffee

We do have a limited number of vegetarian dinners available for guests with special dietary needs. Please ask your server.

Program for the Evening

Cocktail Reception

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Musical performances by “Joseph” cast member, the Drum Line, Chinese immersion students, “Seussical” cast members and Northern Singers

Welcome

7:30 p.m.

Dinner

7:40 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Harpist and String Quartet

Performing During Dinner

Dessert & Program

8:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Jazz Band Performance

9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

2011 Gala Committee

This evening is the culmination of a year's worth of work and planning. Thanks to a vision from the Educational Foundation board, the perseverance of two very dedicated co-chairs, and countless hours of selfless service from the entire committee, this celebration has come to life. Thank you to everyone who has worked to make The Gala a success!

Committee Co-Chairs

Beth Batts
Jeannine Leslie

Executive Committee

Beth Batts
Amy Clark
Chris Engle
Wendy Fisk
Meg George
Laura Kruisenga
Jeannine Leslie
Sandi Frost Parrish

Nominating/Selection Committee

Sheryl D'amato
Dave Ellis
Tanya Meuhlbauer
Judy Popiel
Jeff VandenBerge

Sponsor Committee

Beth Banta
Kristine Dozeman
Chris Engle
Mark Hunting
Jeff Schreur
Sarah Steffens
Maribeth Wardrop

Program Committee

Martha Campbell
Renee Fisk
Elizabeth Hinshaw Hall
Margaret Hartline
Candace Hinshaw

Decor Committee

Jill Coyne
Theresa Helmbrecht
Maeve McInerney
Gretchen Southwall
Julie Squillante

Communications Committee

Beth Johnson
Jennifer Moss Hawkins
Amy Wiener

IT ADDS UP TO SUCCESS

Two students from Northern High School are among the top 100 math students in Michigan based on their performance in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.



Logistics Committee

Mike Batts
Kim Morandi
Lisa Novosad
Ann Riihimaa
Kathy Wildt

Educational Endorsement Committee

Dan and Valerie Behm
Ben and Sue Emdin
Mike and Sara Washburn

Honorary Committee

Chip and Linda Anderson
Bert and Jan Bleke
Jack and Marge Greiner
Bob and Sharie Grooters
Mike and Kathy Lloyd
Jim McLean
Mary Goodwillie Nelson
John and Maribeth Wardrop





Thank You to Our Sponsors

The commitment of our sponsors and their impact on education will be remembered long after The Gala 2011 goes into the history books. On behalf of the students, teachers, administration, Educational Foundation board and Gala committee, we sincerely thank the following individuals and businesses who have made this evening possible.

Regal Sponsor

Batts Family Foundation

Crown Sponsors

Batts Family Foundation

Currie Foundation

Forest Hills Foods

Miller Johnson Attorneys & Counselors

Oral Surgery Associates/Dr. Brent Dingman

GREEN AND GREENER

FHPS entered into an energy savings program in 2007 that has helped the district avoid \$2.6 million in utility costs over four years. Eighteen district buildings have earned Energy Star status.



Empire Sponsors

Argus Financial Consultants - A. Christopher Engle

Argus Financial Consultants - Brian C. Sandberg

Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education

Charles Anderson Family

The Christman Company

Custer Workplace Interiors

Falding Capital Group

Dr. and Mrs. Tim and Kathleen Gietzen

Jack and Marge Greiner

Steve and Brenda Heacock

Meijer

Hunter's Run Families

The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan

Michigan State University - College of Human Medicine

Jeff and Susie Schreur

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In-Kind Donors

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Marco New American Bistro

System 290 Signs

Forest Hills Foods

MIND-BLOWING RESULTS

The Central Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team took home fourth place in the 2010 World Finals.

Silent Auction

We invite you to take home a unique memento of The Gala by bidding on one of our beautiful centerpieces in the silent auction. Photos and bid sheets will be on display near the bar in the ballroom. The proceeds raised through the auction will be split evenly between the endowment fund and immediate instructional needs of the district.

The Gala committee wishes to thank the many students, staff and local artists throughout the district who designed and created these unique centerpieces! They are truly works of art, and they showcase some of the remarkable talent in Forest Hills.

OF NATIONAL NOTE

Forest Hills had 10 semifinalist students on the National Merit list in 2010. More than 1.5 million students enter this nationwide academic scholarship competition, but only approximately 15,000 make it to the semifinals.



Forest Hills Educational Foundation Staff and Board

Foundation Director: Amy Clark

Executive Committee

President: A. Christopher Engle
President Elect: Wendy Fisk
Secretary: David Moored
Treasurer: Matt Smith

Board Members

Beth Banta
Cheryl Berrodin
Allyson Breon
Gregory Ford
Jennifer Moss Hawkins
Mark Hunting
Jeannine Leslie
Walter Perschbacher IV
Jeffrey Schreur
Denise Sherwood



DOMO ARIGATO, MR. ROBOTO

The FHPS Robotics Team took first place out of 41 teams at the regional competition, and received the 2010 Rookie Inspiration Award. They also won the Rookie All Star Award at the state competition and qualified for the national championship.

Special Thanks

We would like to extend special thanks to the many people and groups who have made this evening possible.

Meadow Brook

Chinese Immersion Students

Forest Hills Eastern

String Quartet

Northern Hills

Harpist

Forest Hills Northern

Drum Line

Northern Singers

“Joseph” cast member

Forest Hills Central

Jazz Band

“Seussical” cast members

Additional Credits

John Bishoff (Technical Services)

Jennifer Moss Hawkins (Emcee)

Dylan Malburg (Sophomore student at FHN; Technical Services Staff)

Kris Schrottenboer (FHPS Staff)

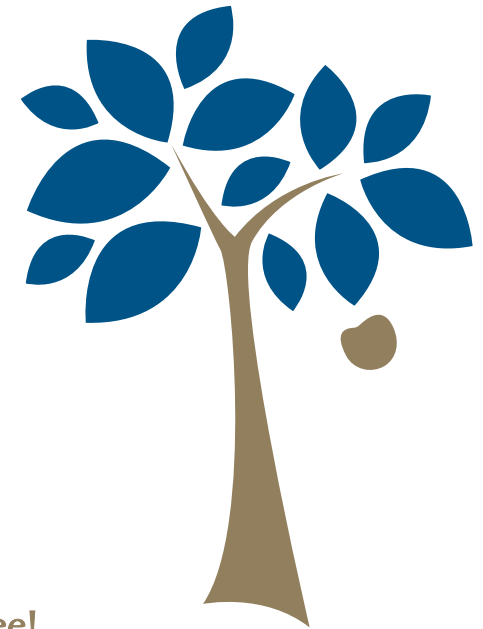
Cathy Williams (FHPS Staff)

Transition Center Staff and Students

All the volunteers who made this event possible!

SHOW ME THE MONEY

The 2010 high school graduates from Forest Hills Public Schools received a collective \$4,163,800 in college scholarship offers.



Visit the Giving Tree!

Get a first-hand view of how technology impacts students by visiting the Giving Tree. This interactive white board displays a tree of opportunities that will enrich students for years to come. Each fruit represents a cash gift, or a specific gift that you can pick and fulfill. You'll see how engaging such technology can be as you watch gifts go into the basket and apples regenerate on the screen.

From a practical standpoint, your gift will help the Educational Foundation continue to fund grants that allow teachers to explore new tools, new methods, and new ways of interacting with students. Over the course of a student's career in the district, they receive cumulative exposure to a myriad of new ideas, different ways of thinking, and experiences to help them succeed regardless of their position in life.

Gifts to the Forest Hills Educational Foundation are tax deductible. We welcome your gift by check, Visa, Discover or MasterCard.

the
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EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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