

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Celebrating 19 Years of Impact: General McLane Foundation



In the 23-24 school year, the General McLane Foundation surpassed the \$1 million mark in its cash and investments. From left to right: Matthew Zewe, Carrie Crowe, Linda Rummel, William Fendya, Peg Richards, Steven Karns, Richard Hymes.

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Letter From the Board of Trustees

Dear General McLane Community,

As we reflect on the 19-year journey of the General McLane Foundation, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude. Over the years, our Foundation has grown and flourished, thanks to the unwavering support and generosity of our community. We've been able to fund numerous programs, scholarships, and initiatives that have significantly enriched the educational experiences of our students. Our mission to support innovative teaching, learning technology, and provide vital resources continues to be our guiding light.

This past year has been particularly special as we celebrated the milestones we've achieved and the lives we've touched. From funding 3D printers for our elementary schools to supporting our students' participation in national competitions, every contribution has made a difference. Our initiatives, like the book vending machines and the RealCare Babies for the Family & Consumer Science classroom, are a testament to the innovative spirit that we aim to foster within our district.

As we look back on these achievements, we also want to take a moment to honor an individual who has been instrumental in the success of our Foundation. Mr. William Fendya, our Business Manager and Foundation Treasurer, is retiring after a stellar career. Bill's proficiency, keen insights, and pleasant demeanor have been a cornerstone of our operations. His contributions have been invaluable, and we are grateful for his support to our mission.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our goals and are excited about the future. With your continued support, we are confident that we can achieve even greater heights in the years to come.

Sincerely,
The Board of Trustees
General McLane Foundation

Generous Contributions

Celebrating the Crawford-Rilling Warrior Fund

Our school district utilized this fund to purchase a laptop, equipment to livestream and record events in the district, an Atem Mini Pro, a four-person headset system, a wireless video transmitter, and three digital displays. Two of the digital displays are in the athletic hallway by the high school gymnasium and the third by the middle school gym. The remainder of this endowment fund was used to help purchase the poster printer.

Below is a photo of Dr. Rilling with Kasey Ramey when she came for a guided tour on May 20 to see how her gift was put to good use. Dr. Karns also used the poster printer to make a beautiful banner listing the many items which were purchased thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Rilling Family.



Like many of our funds, this one was created to memorialize a family's loved ones. It was started by former GM administrator of 20 years, Dr. Annette Rilling, and her son Jonathon to pay homage to their husband/father, Gary, and their daughter/sister, Allison.

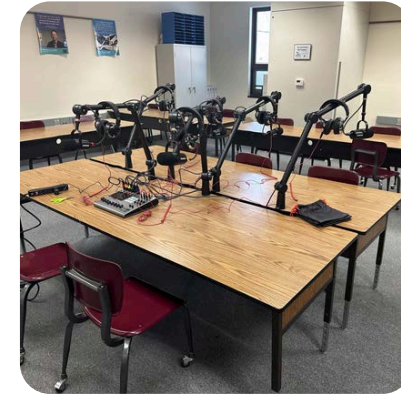
Gary was an administrator in the Fort LeBoeuf School District for 30 years. He was diagnosed with glioblastoma and succumbed to this disease after a 14-month battle. Allison was a GM graduate who fell victim to ovarian cancer after a 13-month struggle. Annette and Jonathon contributed \$8,000 to this fund to focus on supporting innovative teaching/learning technology. Their hope is to enable students in the GM School District to interact with technology that might motivate them to someday pursue a career that could lead to advances in the world of medical science.

We are grateful to Annette and Jonathon for entrusting the GM Foundation to serve as a facilitator to help pay tribute to Gary and Allison. We are very sorry for their losses and we hope that their magnanimous gesture helps to provide their family with an enduring measure of comfort and peace.

Congratulations to one of the newest affinity-based clubs in the school district—the high school's multimedia club.

Led by faculty member Tyler Stuyvesant, the multimedia club was established with support from the Crawford-Rilling Warrior Fund. The club has already started to livestream General McLane School District events including every home football game this season.

This group is just getting started and hopes to continue to grow and stream more events as the year goes on. This wouldn't be possible without the generous donation from the Crawford-Rilling Warrior Fund.





Saving costs with a new district-wide poster and media printer

With a grant from the Crawford-Rilling Warrior Fund, the GM Foundation recently provided money for a much-needed Canon 36" TM300 Poster Printer for the district. This machine can create posters up to 36" wide and as long as the paper roll allows with most posters being 36"x24". The printer is now centrally located in the administration office.

These posters are perfect for classroom visual aids. Additionally, the printer will help promote school events, encourage positive behavior, recognize student achievements, and advertise fundraisers. This valuable addition will benefit our schools for years to come. The total cost, including start-up materials, was approximately \$4,695.

Addressing financial barriers for students

The Student Assistance Fund ensures our high school students have access to essential educational resources, helping continue to break down financial barriers and empower our students to succeed.

This academic year, the fund helped with field trip expenses, provided transportation from Erie for a student to finish the school year, and supported rent for a student living independently.

New role connects district and foundation, enhancing outreach

At the end of the fiscal year, the General McLane Foundation drafted and submitted a job proposal for a district liaison with the foundation. The goal of this position is to streamline communication and increase fundraising potential to continue to grow the foundation.

Elizabeth Lewis has joined the district after 10 years as an ELA teacher at Harbor Creek Junior High. She took on the newly created

role of Foundation Coordinator at the beginning of July and is excited to begin coordinating, organizing, and promoting the great work of the foundation to enhance community outreach.

"I am honored to be able to bring my unique experiences as an educator and a GM parent to the foundation and help create innovative teaching experiences for generations of Lancers to come," Lewis said of her new role.



McKean and Edinboro Elementary Schools

3D Printers: A modern technology and curiosity introduce STEAM

The GM Foundation purchased a total of five 3D printers and needed supplies for the elementary schools. As a regionally and globally relevant field, the Foundation is pleased to support this modern curiosity for our students.

Two 3D printers and filaments for each elementary school cost approximately \$2,500. Dr. Justin Whitford, the principal at Edinboro Elementary, reports that his school was excited to receive two Flashforge 3D printers which are housed in the school library. These printers are used by staff and students to create items for their learning.

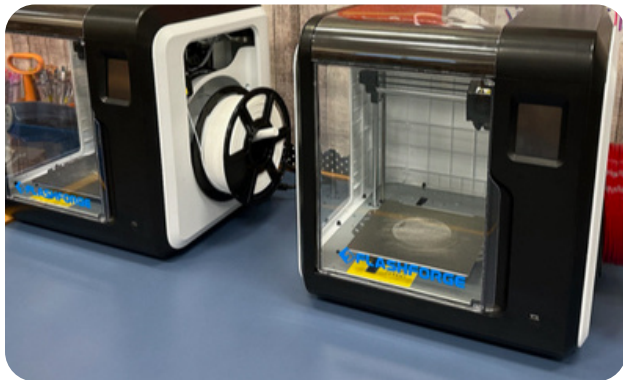
For example, the students in Edinboro Elementary's gifted challenge class used the printers to extend their spring research projects. Each student/group researched a decade of the 20th century and then picked one item from their decade to print. They were able to create items like an old-fashioned television, a model of a Nintendo GameBoy, a mini Mr. Potato Head, and even an extremely realistic-looking Oreo!

Mrs. Androstic, Edinboro Elementary's librarian, has also been using the printers to print bookmarks and fidget toys to give as prizes to students during their library classes.

"What an excellent addition to our school! These 3D printers will be used for years to come," said Mrs. Androstic.

The new printers in the library were so well received, there was an additional request approved for McKean Elementary's third-grade STEAM and gifted curriculum to receive \$800 for a dedicated 3D printer.

And, thank you to Melissa Bean at McKean Elementary for the 'GM' monogrammed cell phone stands she fabricated for the Foundation board members as a gesture of gratitude.



McKean and Edinboro Elementary Schools

Vending machine for bookworms and recognizing positive choices

As part of positive behavior incentives, faculty requested an innovative idea—vending machines loaded with new and popular children’s books.

Two book vending machines were purchased and stocked for each elementary school using \$12,800 from the GM Foundation’s Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Innovative Education grant and \$3,000 from the Jerry Englert Endowed Fund.



Out With the Old



Look out: Updated signs for both elementary schools

At the final board of trustees meeting for the 2023-2024 year, the trustees approved \$2,800 funding for updated signs for both elementary schools. The signs are planned to be installed around the beginning of the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

James W. Parker Middle School

Experiences to engage beyond the page, meet and write with the author

The GM Foundation proudly supported enhancing literacy instruction at James W. Parker Middle School. English teachers aimed to enrich the reading experience for seventh- and eighth-grade students by introducing a novel study program. This initiative provided students with the opportunity to read and analyze books, culminating in an exciting visit from Dan Gemeinhart, best selling author and national book award winner.

All students had the chance to participate in a Q&A session with Gemeinhart. Additionally, some classes were able to collaborate in a writing workshop with the author, making it a memorable and experiential reading program. This structure was so successful, the faculty has planned a similar curriculum for students this fall.

Goals & Objectives:

1. Supplement Core Instruction: Enhance the instructional program with novels that align with grade-level content and standards.
2. Additional Practice: Provide extra practice for students reading below benchmark to build their fluency and comprehension skills.
3. Author Interaction: Offer students the unique opportunity to meet and engage with the author of the book they read in class.



Look Out: Eliot Schrefer to visit in Fall 2024 and read his *Endangered*

The Foundation proudly funded \$4,800 from the EITC Fund to support seventh- and eighth-grade students becoming skilled readers. Using the successful structure from last year, the students will participate in similar programming, including a novel study culminating in a visit from author Eliot Schrefer, where they will engage in Q&A sessions and writing workshops.



James W. Parker Middle School

Audio visual equipment introduces public speaking and multi-media technology

Earlier this school year, the GM Foundation granted \$3,213 from the Gerald Aggers Fund to purchase audio-visual equipment for the “Morning Announcements” at James Parker Middle School. Previously delivered by an administrative assistant over the intercom, these announcements are now a dynamic, student-led production.

Inspired by a visit to Quaker Valley Middle School, where a similar program impressed GM administrators and teachers, the new setup at James Parker Middle School has been a hit.

Student involvement has increased engagement, created a sense of ownership, and provided hands-on experience with video and audio production.

This initiative not only enhances public speaking skills but also lays a stronger STEAM foundation, equipping students with valuable skills for high school and beyond. Kudos to everyone involved in making this a success!



General McLane High School

Intro to Babies 101: Resource for child development and self-reflection

The GM Foundation recently purchased four RealCare Babies and one Supply Pack for use in the Family & Consumer Science classroom at General McLane High School. This learning tool will specifically augment the teaching materials in the Child Development I Class taught by Mrs. Sarah Webb.

The total cost of this acquisition was approximately \$5,464 and includes a car seat carrier, diaper bag, a blanket, and a detection kit. Students are expected to take these “babies” home and provide the necessary care required. This invaluable simulation is designed to provide students with real-life insight into early childhood care, infant development, and even infant health. This worthwhile experience can also help students determine if they want to pursue a career in professions related to child care.

Mrs. Webb’s class is a very popular elective course and we are fortunate to offer such a special learning opportunity to our students.

“The RealCare Babies are a valuable resource for teaching Child Development as they allow for hands-on, real-life application of the skills we learn in class.



“The technology of the babies is so great that it mimics the needs of a real infant. Students are able to learn the practical skills of tending to an infant’s needs, but also are able to gain insight into the mental, emotional, and physical demands of parenting. Having the babies allows for students to deepen their understanding of parenting and provides an opportunity for self-reflection on parental readiness.

I am grateful for the Foundation’s generous donation of the babies as they will provide authentic learning experiences for many students for years to come. Thank you for supporting Family & Consumer Science!”

Look Out: GM Drumline beats a new drum...many new drums, actually

With \$10,000 from The M Fund, The GM Foundation supported the purchase of equipment and instruments to provide a fully refreshed drumline for the GM Marching Band, which can be spotted on the field this fall.



**DO YOU HAVE USED
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
SITTING AROUND?**

Donate them to GMSD’s “Play It Forward” program today!

**GMSD’s “Play It Forward” program uses funds
provided by the GM Foundation to refurbish
instruments donated by the community for
students to use in band class!**

To donate, email John Roden at
johnroden@generalmcclane.org

General McLane High School



Hitting a high note

Seven General McLane High School students were honored with an invitation to participate in the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Region Musical Conference in Providence, RI. The GM Foundation generously contributed \$3,500 from the Hill Music Endowment to support the costs of participation for the students.

Lancers represent at National TEAMS

A team of four students placed 8th in a recent state competition and advanced to the national competition in Orlando, Florida. The Foundation agreed to award the group of TEAMS students a sum of \$4,000 to help offset the financial burden of the unique opportunity.





General McLane High School Class of 2024 Scholarships

The GM Foundation serves as stewards of many scholarship funds established by many generous benefactors. We are grateful to these individuals. Because of their benevolence, the GM Foundation was able to award 36 scholarships/awards to graduating seniors. The monetary sum of these awards equals over \$26,000!

The Foundation proudly awarded five new scholarships/special awards: Bre Humble and Kind Scholarship, Lorraine McLaughlin's Lancer Pride Scholarship, Lancer Wrestling Parents Senior Scholarship, Rob Kennerknecht Scholarship, and Unsung Hero Award.

Scholarship and Award Recipients

- Dr. Ray F. Birchard Scholarship: Ellah Beachly - \$850.00
- Kevin Hayes Electric Fund for the Trade: Haven Teed - \$500.00
- Patricia Chaffee Memorial Art Scholarship: Aniah Filson - \$500.00
- Janet Clapper Scholarship: Riley Amory - \$600.00
- Dick Dundon Scholarship: Logan Anderson - \$500.00
- R.A. Fuller Scholarship: Joe Lipchik - \$500.00
- Gae M. Fuller Scholarship: Sydney Rotko - \$750
- The Huntley Family Scholarship: Alexandra Hoehn - \$2,500
- H.G. Giles pie Scholarship: Tyler Tirpak & Caden Brumagaden - \$1,000.00 each
- James R. Hill Scholarship: Reagan James - \$1,200
- Jon & Nancy Kron Memorial Scholarship: Peter Alberti - \$500.00
- Brendan O'Conner: Ethan Webb - \$500.00
- Gail Orbanek Scholarship: Lillian Adamski - \$500.00
- Mary Pfeffer Nursing Scholarship: Lydia Zehr - \$500.00
- PNC Capital Markets Scholarship: Ethan Webb - \$500.00
- Scarlett Science Scholarship: Eliot Webb - \$800.00
- Cindy Walker Memorial Scholarship: Riley Amory - \$500

- Jennifer Woodland Scholarship: Makayla Hargest - \$500.00
- Danny Woods Softball Scholarship: Bella Dibble (Softball) and Landon Roach (Baseball) - \$350.00 each
- Lincoln Daniel Bufalino Memorial Scholarship: Magdalen Rutkowski - \$3,300
- The Be Happy Scholarship ~ In Memory of Elise McEldowney: Braeden Means - \$500
- R. James Mischler Memorial Scholarship: Ryan Dedrick: \$500.00
- The Independent OPP Fellows Edinboro Lodge #510: Dylan Boulder - \$500.00
- Elizabeth R. "Betty" Gilbert Scholarship: Jayla Duffrin - \$500.00
- Corey Murdzak Memorial Scholarship: Greysen Rhodes - \$1,000
- David Knickerbocker: Ethan Webb - \$500.00
- General McLane Girl's Soccer Scholarship: Samantha Johnson - \$500.00
- Dr. Therese T. Walter Scholarship: Samantha Johnson - \$1,000.00
- Edwin J. Linden Memorial Scholarship: Lydia Zehr - \$1,000
- Francis Lamson Award: Logan Furry - \$500.00
- Lancer Wrestling Parents Senior Scholarship (NEW): Magnus Lloyd - \$500.00
- Bre Humble and Kind Scholarship (NEW): No Recipient - \$500.00
- Lorraine McLaughlin Pride Scholarship (NEW): Kaitlyn Brozich - \$500.00
- Rob Kennerknecht Memorial Scholarship (NEW): Logan Anderson - \$500.00



Our Signature Events



Celebrating the season with our community at the Foundation's annual Holiday Arts Fair

Now in its 17th year, The GM Foundation Holiday Arts Fair is an annual event held at General McLane High School. In 2023, over \$10,000 was raised for the students of General McLane. This fair features a variety of local artisans and vendors showcasing and selling their handmade arts and crafts. It serves as a significant fundraiser for the General McLane

Foundation, supporting various educational programs and initiatives within the district. The event typically includes holiday-themed activities, entertainment, and opportunities for the community to come together and celebrate the season while supporting local artists and the school district.



Save the Date:

The GM Foundation looks forward to hosting this popular event on December 7, 2024.

Tee off for education at our favorite summer golf outing

The GM Foundation Golf Outing is an annual event held to raise funds for the General McLane Foundation. This golf tournament takes place at the Culbertson Hills Golf Club and features a day of golfing, camaraderie, and community spirit.

Participants, including local businesses, community members, and supporters of the General McLane School District, enjoy a round of golf followed by various activities such as raffles, auctions, and awards.

Proceeds from the outing support scholarships, educational programs, and other initiatives that benefit students and schools within the General McLane School District.

In 2023, this event raised over \$10,000 and hosted more than 100 players. Thank you for your support. With our 2024 event completed, the continued growth of community support is greatly appreciated and recognized.

2025 Save the Date: The 18th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing date will be announced in Spring 2025. Keep an eye out so we can see you on the green next year!



Donate on August 13, 2024

Support GM students: Join us for Erie Gives Day

The Erie Community Foundation will be conducting their annual public fundraiser called “Erie Gives Day” this summer on August 13th. The GM Foundation is one of the designated non-profits to which people can donate. An added incentive for making a contribution during this event is that The Erie Community Foundation will supplement your gift to us with a yet undetermined prorated “Bonus Match.” For example, if the Bonus Match is set at 5% and you donate \$50 to the Foundation, we would receive \$52.50! So, please consider helping us on August 13 and, please know, that whatever amount you can afford will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

<https://www.eriegives.org/>

Donate anytime.

A Lasting Lancer Legacy

Gifts of any amount are always appreciated and accepted. Other ways to support include attending our community Holiday Arts Fair and Golf Outing. Please also consider donation matching programs, including community fundraising like Erie Gives Day or corporate social responsibility donation matching through employer programs.

Donations may be mailed or delivered to the General McLane Education Center. All donations are tax deductible.

The General McLane Foundation
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