



20 Years of Opportunity
and Innovation

Foundation Focus

Penn Manor Education Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2017



PMEF celebrates its 20th anniversary

It started simply enough. In 1996, an anonymous community member wanted to donate money to establish an annual scholarship for a Penn Manor High School graduate.

As a publicly funded entity, the school district could not accept such a gift, so the idea of establishing a separate, nonprofit

\$500 donation in 1996 was inspiration

foundation to benefit Penn Manor students was set into motion. On April 7, 1997, Penn Manor Education Foundation was officially established. Its first deposit, in November 1997, was a mere \$500.

The early years were difficult, and it wasn't until

2000 that the Foundation gained official nonprofit status that enabled it to award Venture Grants to classroom teachers and scholarships to graduating seniors.

Today, PMEF is one of the most successful education foundations in Lancaster

County. It has awarded more than \$750,000 in grants to enhance learning, both in and out of the classroom, for thousands of Penn Manor students.

The grants have funded environmental field studies, guitars, trombones and pianos, 3D printers, fitness

More 20th on Page 6



Strong Grants help CTC students in auto mechanics and other programs purchase tools and uniforms.

New Strong Grants aid students, families

Penn Manor Education Foundation has awarded more than \$12,000 in grants to improve opportunities for students and families through its new Strong & Healthy Families initiative.

Established last year, the grant program provides assistance to families facing financial, emotional and physical difficulties.

The first-year Strong Grants include \$7,000 to pay for uniforms, tools, equipment and supplies for

economically disadvantaged students attending Lancaster Career & Technology Center programs, and \$2,500 to help students pay fees for college applications, SAT tests and advanced-placement tests.

Other grants are supporting the Penn Manor Family Fund, which provides food, shelter, transportation and medical assistance for families in need, and a program to distribute

More STRONG GRANTS on Page 3

PMEF thanks our business partners

Support from these businesses helps fund grants and scholarships for students, families

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Willow Valley Golf Course

Calling all golfers – PMEF Charity Scramble is June 13

Polish off your clubs and get ready to tee off June 13 for the 11th annual PMEF Charity Golf Scramble at Meadia Heights Golf Club.

This event has raised nearly \$75,000 over the years to support scholarships and grants to benefit Penn Manor students and families.

The entry fee of \$125 includes lunch, dinner, beverages, prize holes, giveaways and

a round of golf with a cart. Other sponsorships are available as well.

If you would like to join us, please see our printable brochure at www.pennmanoredfoundation.org.

Please get your entries in early, as the field is filled every year.

For more information, contact Pat Kline at patrick.kline.gkls@statefarm or by calling (717) 682-5538.



Robin Jeffers is newest member of Education Foundation board

Robin Jeffers, a 2000 graduate of Penn Manor High School, has joined the Penn Manor Education Foundation board of directors.

Jeffers lives in Washington Boro with her husband, Joshua, and their two young children, Lily and Connor. The family enjoys traveling, camping and spending time together.

Robin works as a substitute teacher in Penn Manor and is the daughter of former PMHS English teacher – and fellow Foundation board member – Carole Shellenberger.

Robin has been a familiar face at Foundation events, especially as a volunteer at the Annual Dinner. She is a strong believer in the opportunities Penn Manor provides for its students and is excited about joining the



Robin Jeffers with her husband, Joshua, Connor and Lily.

Foundation board.

Robin serves on the Strong & Healthy Families committee, which recently awarded grants to several

projects designed to assist Penn Manor families in need.

Welcome to the board, Robin!

Strong Grants

From Page1

books to preschool children in economically distressed neighborhoods.

That grant also supports an effort to purchase a new Lancaster County Bookmobile to provide children with access to books over the summer.

The PMEF Strong & Healthy initiative was established in response to the increasing needs of families in the Penn Manor community, where more than 40 percent of students now qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

The initiative was seeded with a \$25,000 contribution from the Foundation and additional donations totaling more than \$12,000.

"Thanks to the generosity of our district, Strong & Healthy Families is already a vital part of PMEF," said Anne Kinderwater Carroll, Foundation executive director. "It adds a valuable dimension to what the Foundation provides to our school community."

Lancaster Quilt Guild gives unique gift to PMEF

Handmade 'Modern Bars' quilt to be raffled off Sept. 17

The Lancaster Modern Quilt Guild has donated a handmade quilt to Penn Manor Education Foundation to help raise funds for programs that support families in need.

Called "Modern Bars," the quilt is a twist on a traditional Amish Bars quilt, inspired by the tidy rows of farm fields that line the Lancaster County countryside. The quilting pattern mimics the rolling hills and creeks found throughout the county.

The quilt was made by more than 55 Guild members, each of whom created 4x4-inch sections that were stitched together during a group sew day. The quilt was created as part of the QuiltCon Charity Challenge, in which modern quilters must follow restrictions on color, design and size to create a quilt to donate to charity.

The quilt was donated to PMEF in support of PM CARES, a program that provides personal supplies to families in need that is supported by the Foundation's new Strong & Healthy Families initiative.



Lancaster Modern Quilt Guild member (and retired Penn Manor teacher) Sue Althouse, far left, points out details of the quilt design to, from left, Dianne Smith, Anne Kinderwater Carroll, Paula Howard and Nicki Nafziger.

Through the summer, the quilt will be on display at Penn Manor schools and at community events, and students, staff and community members will be able to purchase raffle tickets at \$5 each for a chance to win this piece of art.

The winner will be announced Sept. 17 at the PMEF Annual Dinner.

For information on purchasing a raffle ticket, please send an email to pmef2@pennmanor.net with the word "quilt" in the subject line.

Advancing learning for all students

Penn Manor students will be building habitats for bats and bees, creating prosthetics with a rapid prototyping 3D printer and learning stress-reduction skills, thanks to Venture Grants awarded to their teachers by the Penn Manor Education Foundation.

The grants total more than \$48,000 and range from \$64 for geography games for Central Manor Elementary second-graders to \$8,459 for pH, moisture and CO₂ sensors for Penn Manor High School students enrolled in plant science courses.

In between are grants for musical instruments and sound equipment, high-definition television video cameras, culturally diverse elementary books, brain games, bowling equipment and makerspace materials. In all, 38 projects were approved.

These projects are made possible thanks to donations from Penn Manor community and district staff members, alumni and area businesses participating in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. This year, EITC donors contributed \$16,500 to the grant program.

Here are highlights of this year's projects:

Traveling Trunk Outreach Program, Conestoga ES

Landis Valley Farm Museum's "Traveling Trunk" program was presented to fifth-graders, who participated in hands-on learning activities that replicate daily life in Colonial America.



Sustainability: A Biology and Chemistry STEM Approach, HS

Hydroponic/aquaponic materials were purchased so that biology and chemistry students can research, design and build gardening systems with a focus on sustainable farming practices and green chemistry.

Environmental Science Bat Box Project, HS/MS

The grant funded a collaborative project involving high school and middle school science students, who are researching, designing and building bat boxes. The older students are teaching the younger students about the role of bats in the ecosystem and the function of bat boxes.

Agricultural Science Education Plant Science Lab Materials, HS

Students are studying plant anatomy and physiology, taxonomy, growing environments and reproduction by using grant-funded computer interfaces, pH, CO₂ and O₂ sensors, and other equipment.

Biology/Chemistry Water Quality Testing Materials, HS

The grant paid for a limnology outfit with turbidity tubes that students are using to analyze water samples from the Conestoga and Susquehanna rivers and feeder streams. They also will design a fictional town with features that minimize runoff from urban and rural sources to the greatest extent possible.



Eshleman Shoots for the Moon: Bringing Families Together with STEM

The grant funded materials for a schoolwide rocket-

launching project at Eshleman Elementary. Students and parents/guardians are working together to design, build, launch and modify simple bottle rockets equipped with altimeters to measure the height and duration of flights.

Environmental Science Apiarist Project, HS

Beehives, protective clothing and other materials are being used in this project to establish bee colonies on the high school campus so students can study bees and their role in nature and agricultural businesses.

Project STEM Enhanced – Makerspace Materials, K-8

The grant provided makerspace materials for use by gifted students at one elementary and one middle school, including STEM motor kits, magnetic building materials, Snap Circuits electronics kits, marble tracks, art supplies and building materials for project-based learning activities.



Percussion Ensemble Development, HS

The grant paid for crashes, cymbals, a snare and related equipment for use by students in the Penn Manor Percussion Ensemble, established in 2014.

Rapid Prototyping in Computer Science and Engineering, HS

The grant will pay for a 3D printer and related supplies to be used in the Applied Technology and Business curriculums.

All That Jazz, HS

Textbooks, sheet music and a vocal processor were purchased for the high school music department's growing student jazz ensemble. The grant also paid for jazz workshop sessions.

Penn Manor TV High-Definition Cameras, HS

Two HD professional video cameras are being used to create daily high school student-produced newscasts and feature stories on school events and fundraisers. While using the gear, students learn about aperture settings, depth of field, film speeds, audio settings and other technical skills.



Learning About

Abusive Dating Relationships, HS

A counselor presented a workshop on learning how to identify and safely respond to abusive relationships and support others who may be in an abusive relationship.

Scrambled States, Central Manor ES

The grant provided five sets of "Scrambled States" games designed to engage students in reading and problem-solving as they identify specific geographic locations.

Precision Measurement Tools for Ag Mechanics, HS

Multiple sets of torque wrenches and dial calipers were purchased for use by students in Intro to Ag Mechanics and Engines classes, enabling them to more accurately diagnose and repair small engine components.

Environmental Education Day, Conestoga ES

The entire elementary school will participate in a day of

Venture Grant projects for 2016-2017

environmental workshops at Lancaster County Central Park covering such topics as animal adaptations, compasses and orienteering, food chains and forensic science.

First in Math for Fifth and Sixth Grades, Letort ES

Software licenses were purchased so that 100-plus students can work on improving fluency in basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills, along with higher-order thinking skills, including “mental math,” pattern sensing and reasoning.

Freshman Transition Mentoring, HS

Students entering the high school for the first time are paired with mentors, provided through the Millersville University social work program, to help them adjust to their new environment, both socially and academically.

Bowling Equipment, Martic ES

The grant purchased bowling carpets, pins, balls and other equipment to transform the gym into a bowling alley during physical education classes.

Differentiated Stations to Enhance Fine Motor Skills, Eshleman ES

Kindergarten students are using a variety of materials, including foam dice, word construction sets, beads and Mega Bloks, to practice their fine motor skills. The materials are set up in several stations in the classroom.

Breakout EDU Boxes, HS

Students are using Breakout EDU Boxes to solve math problems that enable them to “escape” from the boxes and discover the prize inside. The activity promotes teamwork and critical thinking, along with math proficiency.

Flexible Seating to Promote Learning, Martic ES

The grant paid for buckets and clipboards that enable second-graders to move around the classroom to different learning activities, promoting physical activity and flexibility in learning.

Digital Physics Interfaces, HS

Twelve Vernier interfaces were purchased for use by students to collect data during labs in real time for physics, forensic science and biology classes.

Playaway Bookpacks, Conestoga ES

Ten sets of Playaway Bookpacks (MP3 players and books) are being used by young readers to improve their literacy skills and build phonemic awareness and fluency.



High-Interest Guided Reading Materials, Conestoga ES

Special-education students in grades five and six are participating in guided reading groups under a new program supported by new, high-interest reading materials.

I Spy Science, all elementary schools

Kindergarten teachers at all Penn Manor schools are using document cameras to enable students to see whole-

group science experiments from multiple angles.

Chair Organizers, Central Manor ES

The grant paid for 50 chair organizers to help kindergarten students become more organized and cut down on lost instructional time as students search for folders and other materials.

Percussion Project, HS

Bar chimes, a bass drum, stands and other percussion equipment has been added to the high school music department to enable orchestra students to play a wider range of music.

Removing Barriers to a Successful Future, HS

The grant covers the cost of fees for college applications, AP and advanced placement tests for students whose families are experiencing financial difficulty.

Thinking Library Collection: Puzzles, Brain Games and Building, HS

The grant paid for puzzles, building materials, thinking games, adult coloring books and other hands-on brain activities for students to use during “down time” in the library.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, HS

Special-education and gifted students are participating in workshops to learn mindful awareness skills and self-regulation strategies to help them better handle their personal challenges at home, school, work and in community settings.

Building a Culturally Responsive Book Closet, Hambright ES

Fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms added books for instructional and classroom library reading that better reflect the changing ethnic diversity of the school population.



Musical Instruments for Elementary Students

Two cellos, a saxophone and a trumpet were purchased to be made available to students whose families cannot afford to provide them with instruments to play. A lottery determines which students get to use the instruments.

Book Scavenger, Marticville MS

The grant paid for 30 copies of “Book Scavenger” and a second book that students will choose, read and discuss in an online discussion board. Students will encourage their peers to read their chosen book.

TEAMS Design Challenge, HS

Students from six different classes will work in groups to complete STEM challenges to prepare for the Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Math and Science competition.

Kindergarten Resources for Connecting to Families, district elementary schools

The grant funded professional development and copies of the book “Powerful Interactions: How to Connect with Children to Extend Their Learning” for kindergarten teachers to strengthen relationships with pre-school parents.

Headphones for Literature Groups, Hambright ES

The grant paid for 65 sets of headphones for use by second-graders while utilizing laptops for literature, math and reading activities.

Reflecting on the Foundation's success

Board member emeritus Frank Geist looks back

Although our Foundation is now thriving, like most nonprofit organizations, PMEF initially had a bumpy road to success. Over the years, three main ingredients of our winning recipe have emerged.

Focus on students

First and foremost, the central focus of our organization has always been each Penn Manor student. It has been the Foundation's clear vision of giving every Penn Manor student educational experiences and opportunities surpassing all other districts in our state, and the achievement of this lofty goal has remained our mission.

The support of Penn Manor's superintendent and entire administration has been a true blessing to PMEF; however, having a Foundation board of directors independent from the school district has been an important part of our 20 years of success.

Committed volunteers

Finding 15 community leaders dedicated to educational excellence in our Penn Manor schools has been

the second vital ingredient for success. These giving individuals have tirelessly raised funds for our mission through their extensive personal networks while spreading the word about our programs.

Dedicated faculty

Although our board members have great leadership and fundraising skills, only a few have had formal training and careers in education. Fortunately,

this void has been filled by our Penn Manor faculty, the third key ingredient for success.

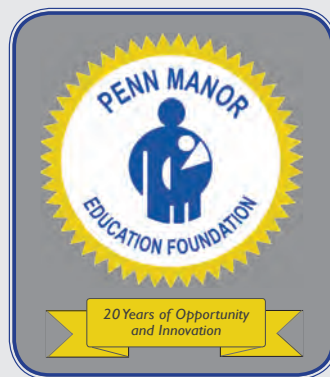
PMEF has long relied on our exceptional faculty to dream big for our students, and

it has been this partnership that has been the key in identifying projects, experiences and essential equipment that go beyond what is funded through traditional district revenues.

Through our classroom Venture Grant program, PMEF has funded over \$750,000 in grants to fulfill our teachers' visions for our students.

PMEF owes our current excellent financial footing to our donors represented by

PMEF owes our current excellent financial footing to our community, PM alumni, area businesses, plus our faculty and administration.



our community, PM alumni and area businesses, plus our faculty and administration.

Our board has made a commitment to future generations of Penn Manor students by establishing endowments that will keep educational enhancements in place for perpetuity.

We currently hold more than \$450,000 in endowments for scholarships sponsored by families, friends and other generous donors. Also endowed with PMEF is more than \$750,000 in our growing Founding Friends fund.

Rounding out our endowments are special curricular board endowments, plus the Douglas Maine endowment for the arts totaling more than \$250,000.

Thanks to the community's generosity and PMEF's forward thinking, Penn Manor students and families will continue to benefit from all these programs for the next 20 years and beyond!

20th year

From Page 1

scooters, books to foster independent reading, science lab equipment and countless authors and artists in residence.

In addition, PMEF now administers more than 30 scholarship funds that have provided over \$500,000 in financial assistance to help graduates pursue college and careers in a wide range of fields.

Last year, PMEF expanded its scope to add the Strong & Healthy Families initiative to support the growing number of Penn Manor families experiencing economic, physical and emotional hardships.

"Reaching 20 years as an organization is not in and of itself anything special, but funding \$750,000 worth of classroom Venture Grants is," said PMEF board president Patrick Kline.

"So is providing \$500,000 worth of scholarships to graduating seniors. And now we have the opportunity to play a bigger role in assisting our Penn Manor families with financial needs."

"These are all funding opportunities that complement the mission of Penn Manor School District: creating a better community ... one student at a time."

This growth would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers and the many individuals and businesses that have generously supported our programs over the years.

From its humble beginnings, PMEF has grown to an organization with assets now approaching \$2 million — and it all started with a simple act of generosity!

Check out our new website

www.PennManorEdFoundation.org

PMEF has redesigned and updated its website to make it much more user friendly.

The new site provides background information on our scholarship, Venture Grant, Strong & Healthy Families and tax credit programs, along with information on donation options.

In addition, you'll find direct links to our board members and updated Twitter and Facebook feeds and more photos, videos and articles.

Please visit the site at the address above and share your feedback with us!



PMEF adds five new scholarships this year

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, the Foundation remains rooted in providing opportunities for Penn Manor students by granting nearly \$60,000 in scholarships each year to graduating seniors.

This year, we are humbled to add five new scholarships, which are described below.

The Steven Graby Scholarship

Steven Graby approached a friend at the district following several unexpected deaths of local young people. A 1984 PM graduate, Steve's desire was clear – to give back to the district and to advance the efforts of a graduating senior's desire to make a positive impact in combatting mental illness.



Steven Graby

Having worked through his own personal struggles earlier in life, he understood the importance of trained, caring mental health professionals in helping people address life's challenges. The Steven Graby Scholarship provides \$750 for a student pursuing studies in psychology or a related field.

The M. Wade Groff Memorial Scholarship

Ray and Lisa Caldwell are no strangers to supporting PMEF. Since 2008, the Caldwell family has sponsored an annual scholarship in memory of Stella Caldwell, Ray's mother. When Lisa's father, Wade Groff, passed away in June 2016, Ray contacted PMEF to begin another scholarship.

The M. Wade Groff Memorial Scholarship awards \$500 to a graduating senior attending a

technology or trade school. This scholarship reflects Mr. Groff's history of working for Turkey Hill Dairy, establishing his own business and being an active alumnus of Stevens Trade School.



The Warfel children

The Warfel Family Scholarship

Raising five children of diverse talents and gifts inspired the inception of the Warfel Family Scholarship. Jerissa and Eric Warfel approached PMEF to endow a lifetime \$1,000 annual award every May. The intention is to have the scholarship support the education of a graduate pursuing a career in special education or a related field.

Recognizing the multitude of professionals who have provided education and care for their daughter, Nadia, over the years made the Warfels want to encourage others to go into such a field of positive change.

The Starrett Metzler Memorial Scholarship

The most difficult scholarships to establish are those honoring the lives of young people that ended much too soon. Starrett Metzler, a 2014 Penn Manor graduate, was a student at Penn State studying engineering when he

took his own life a year ago.

A young man with a big smile, Starrett worked hard (lifeguarding, landscaping and farming tobacco) and played hard (volleyball, track, cross country). His friends have organized the Steps for Starrett 5K and Metzler Mile on June 10 to raise funds for the ongoing scholarship, which will be awarded to a student involved in community activities and Penn Manor athletics who values "team over self."



Starrett Metzler

The Sherilyn Schock Memorial Scholarship

"I am a better person for knowing her."

Those are the words shared in a note about Sherilyn Schock, a retired Letort Elementary teacher, vital volunteer and tireless community member who passed away this year.

Upon the news of her passing, donations poured in to establish the scholarship, to be awarded to a senior who attended Letort Elementary. The scholarship has reached endowment status, with more than \$15,000 in contributions from individual donors and a generous match.



Sherilyn Schock

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with a scholarship, donating to an existing scholarship or talking through options for future giving, please contact Anne Kinderwater Carroll at (717) 872-9500, ext. 2332, or email Anne at akc.pmeff@gmail.com.

Class of '56 assists CTC students

Kudos to the Penn Manor Class of 1956, which recently donated \$550 to Penn Manor Education Foundation to support high school students entering Career and Technology Center programs.

The money will be used in PMEF's Strong & Healthy Families initiative, which enables students with financial difficulties to purchase CTC uniforms and supplies, which can cost hundreds of dollars.

Many thanks to those alumni who think of PMEF as a way for their legacy to live on!



Members of the Class of 1956 present a check to Anne Kinderwater Carroll.



**Penn Manor
Education Foundation**
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Grants bring 'experts in residence' to PM schools

Programs focus on empowering students

At Penn Manor High School, students are learning how to cope with stress, identify potentially abusive relationships and plan for their futures with the help of outside experts sharing their knowledge.

At Conestoga Elementary, students learned from volunteer docents at Landis Valley Museum what it was like to live in Colonial times through hands-on activities right in their classrooms.

And at all district elementary schools, teachers received training on strengthening relationships with families whose children are entering schools for the first time.

These are some of the unconventional Venture Grants that have brought "experts in residence" to Penn Manor schools to help students and teachers connect with the curriculum in

powerful ways.

A grant that funded Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction introduced high school students to focused awareness, attention and concentration strategies designed to help them better handle challenges at school, at home and at work.

"Even after the initial session, students approached me and mentioned the techniques they had used to help them get to sleep in the evening, release some tension in their shoulders or find some comfort when feeling upset," said Jodi Swartz-Rakin, a special education teacher at the high school. "A true success indeed."

Also at the high school, a professional counselor from Samaritan Counseling Center talked with students about dating violence, which affects about 1.5 million teenagers each year.



Wynne Kinder of Wellness Works in Schools leads Penn Manor High School students in mindfulness exercises.

Students learned how to recognize inappropriate behavior, escape an unhealthy situation and empower and support friends experiencing abusive relationships.

"As a teacher, I was most touched by the number of students who raised their hands when asked if this was an issue in their home or life experience," said Maria Vita,

a psychology teacher and Aavidum Club advisor.

These grant-funded programs are empowering students by bringing expertise directly to Penn Manor schools to extend learning far beyond the regular curriculum.

Thanks to the support of our donors, PMEF is able to tap into this wealth of knowledge in our community.