



Foundation Focus

Penn Manor Education Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2020

Focusing on Equity

Venture Grants are helping Penn Manor teachers meet the needs of diverse students

When Penn Manor School district made equity one of its guiding principles in 2019, teachers responded with creative projects designed to make more students feel welcome in their schools.

PMEF is happy to support this effort by funding Venture Grants to expand the diversity of reading materials in school libraries, introduce role models of

color in classrooms, embrace the immigrant community and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of Penn Manor students.

The district's equity effort began as a way to address the disparities in outcomes for Penn Manor students. While Penn Manor's minority population has grown from just 10 percent to 27 percent since 2005, students of color



Hambright Elementary students interview Nasy Sok, a Cambodian refugee, for the "Building Bridges with Refugees and Immigrants" project.



Ty Gant, wearing hat, leads an activity during the Spoken Word Club, established with a \$2,000 grant at Penn Manor High School.

have not fared as well as their white peers in school.

Black and Hispanic students are less likely to be enrolled in gifted education programs or do well academically, and they're more likely to face disciplinary action than their white counterparts.

To address inequities, the district administration re-examined its practices and trained staff on how culture drives behavior and what impact this has on their

students.

Teachers responded by submitting Venture Grant proposals designed to help make students of diverse backgrounds feel more at home in their classrooms.

More than \$7,000 in grants were awarded to teachers to expand the cultural diversity of books in classroom and school libraries at Conestoga, Eshleman, Letort, Central Manor and Pequea elementary schools and

More EQUITY on Page 10

Foundation supports remote learning by funding wifi 'hotspots' for students

PMEF is proud to support the efforts of Penn Manor School District in providing internet access to district families that do not have reliable access at home.

The Foundation has donated \$4,375 to cover the cost of 100 wifi "hotspots" purchased as part of the 1 Million Project, a nonprofit dedicated to helping 1 million students who do not have reliable internet access at home reach their

full potential by giving them mobile devices and free high-speed Internet access.

This is especially important this year, as nearly all Penn Manor students are learning remotely and need reliable internet access from home.

Principals and social workers developed a list of families that can use the hotspots for the full

More WIFI on Page 14



A Penn Manor student uses a wifi 'hotspot,' the black device on the right, to access the internet.

Recognition Gifts

Recent gifts given in honor of or in memory of the following individuals

The following donations were made in honor of these Penn Manor community members who died over the past year.

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More **RECOGNITION** on Page 14

We welcome three members to our board

For the new school year, PMEF welcomes two new members and one returning member to its volunteer board of directors and bids farewell to our outgoing board president, Tracy Seiger.

Becky Spezialetti and JoLynn Drexel are the newest community members to serve on the board, while Don Mowery returns after serving from 2013 until 2019.



Becky and Ron Spezialetti

Becky Spezialetti

Becky (Penn Manor Class of 1982) and her husband, Ron, are the parents of Brooke, who attends Alvernia University, and Cole, a senior this year at Penn Manor High School. They live in Millersville.

Becky worked in administration until 2008, when she decided to leave professional employment to spend more time with family.

"I have seen the dedication and drive this organization has

put forth to provide for Penn Manor students, teachers and schools through the district, and the impact the Strong & Healthy Families program has had on families in need, especially now," Becky said.

When she was approached by PMEF director Jan Mindish and board member Pat Kline about joining the board, she was "happy to accept."

Becky enjoys attending her children's sporting events (field hockey and lacrosse), gardening, walking, visiting the beach and spending time with family and friends.

JoLynn Drexel

JoLynn has been part of the Penn Manor community for 35 years and retired at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Hired in 1985, she began her teaching career at Conestoga Elementary and also taught at Hambright, Martic and Pequea.

She taught the longest at Pequea, in reading recovery and kindergarten.

JoLynn's daughter, Jenny Fisher, also teaches in the district, and two other Drexel family members have taught in the district.

Jenny is a Penn Manor graduate, and so is JoLynn's



JoLynn and Jeffrey Drexel with their grandchildren, from left, Paxton, Evelyn and Harrison.



Don Mowery with his wife, Gail, and their children, from left, Kyle, Ryan, Alex, Scott and Erica.

husband, Jeffrey, son, Jordan, and son-in-law, Ryan Fisher.

JoLynn and her husband live in West Willow and have two children and three grandchildren.

One of the first commitments JoLynn wanted to make in retirement was to give back to Penn Manor by serving on the board.

"By being on the board of PMEF, I want to help provide scholarships to students and help Penn Manor families in need," she said. "I am excited to work with such a committed board of directors."

Don Mowery

Don is a partner at Trout CPA who has served since 2013 as treasurer of the PMEF board. He formally rejoins the board this year after serving from 2013 to 2019.

A 1996 graduate of Penn Manor, Don lives in Millersville with his wife, Gail. They have five children: Erica, Ryan, Kyle, Scott and Alex.

He enjoys playing golf recreationally and in competitive tournaments, as well as playing in couples tournaments with his wife. Don also enjoys watching movies and reading about changes in tax laws.

"Serving on the PMEF board allows me to give back to the district and community, which provided me with the educational foundation I needed to continue my education at Millersville University and to advance in my career as a CPA," he said.

Tracy Seiger

Tracy, a 1986 Penn Manor alumna, joined the PMEF board in 2013 when her husband, Tom, left the board.

During her six years on the board, Tracy chaired the Marketing Committee, served as vice president and for the past two years as board president.



Tracy and Tom Seiger

Last year, the Seigers' son, Brad (Class of 2014) joined the board, so there's still a Seiger serving the Education Foundation!

Tracy will be able to spend more time with family, including a brand new grandson, as she continues as a real estate agent with Life Changes Realty Group.

The new PMEF board president this year is Kathy Fish, a Penn Manor parent and grandparent. Retired PMHS teacher Joe Herman is vice president, and Barb St. John, another retired PM teacher, is secretary.

Class of 2020 PMEF scholarship/award recipients

Penn Manor Education Foundation was able to award more than \$70,000 in scholarships and other awards to 75 deserving Penn Manor seniors this year!

PMEF scholarship awards fall into three categories:

- Awards funded by community members and businesses committed to investing in the future of Penn Manor graduates.
- Scholarships created by or in honor of alumni, staff and members of the Penn Manor community.
- Scholarships given in memory of Penn Manor students whom we have lost, to honor their legacy.

Listed here are the recipients from the Class of 2020.



Recipients of new scholarships are, clockwise from top left, Anna May Barbusca, Muhab Mufsta, Sheridan Kinser, Briana Shyver; Madison Higgins, Darby Conrad, Rachel Collison and Jackson Heiney.

Scholarship/Award	Recipient	Intended College
<div> <div> </div> <div> COMMUNITY/BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIPS </div> <div> </div> </div>		
PMEF Scholarship	Grace Bibus	Millersville University
PMEF Scholarship	Whitney Eichelberger	PA College of Health Sciences
PMEF Scholarship	Timothy Hermansen	Geneva College
PMEF Scholarship	Brennan McFall	One Life Institute
PMEF Scholarship	Alex Mowery	West Chester University
PMEF Football Scholarship	Aaron Gale	McDaniel College
Kaleidoscope Scholarship	Liban Chibssa	Middlebury College
Millersville Business Association Scholarship	Anthony Perez	Millersville University
Student Services Award	Damian Allman	Millersville University
Rintz Family Scholarship	Ryan Dang	Penn State University
Rintz Family Scholarship	Isaac Leshok	University of Virginia
Rintz Family Scholarship	Pariket Mahapatra	University of Delaware
Warfel Family Scholarship	Madison Henry	Elizabethtown College
<div> <div> </div> <div> IN HONOR OF ALUMNI, STAFF AND COMMUNITY </div> <div> </div> </div>		
Marsha Frerichs Memorial Scholarship	Max Forrey	James Madison University
Marsha Frerichs Memorial Scholarship	Kaden Peart	University of Alabama
Dennis R. Herr Memorial Scholarship	Raekwon Blye	Thaddeus Stevens College
Jere Hoin Memorial Scholarship	Mya Lefever	Millersville University
Bev Longenecker Scholarship	James Groff	Entering workforce
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Jiel Echevarria	Temple University
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Kingston Gearhart	Kutztown University
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Emma-Li Peters	Elizabethtown College
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Bethany Pettis	Lancaster Bible College
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Charissa Phillips	Millersville University
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Dominic Roma	Temple University
Dr. Jan Mindish Scholarship	Aaron Yoder	Susquehanna University
Mark Dano Scholarship	Kaden Peart	Alabama University
Sherilyn Schock Memorial Scholarship	Dylan Jacyszyn	Indiana University
Donald & Susan Martin Family Pay It Forward Scholarship	Adam Martin	Cairn University
Class of 2017 Scholarship	Lucas Charles	Harrisburg Area Community College
Class of 2017 Scholarship	Mary Anne Vozzella	University of Delaware
Class of 2018 Scholarship	Stephen Marquette	Temple University
Class of 2018 Scholarship	Kayla Mills	Temple University
Class of 2019 Scholarship	Jackson Heiney	Drexel University

Scholarship/Award	Recipient	Intended College
Class of 2019 Scholarship	Briana Shyver	Millersville University
Dorothy Dart Milliman Scholarship	Gavin Neuman	Lebanon Valley College
John R. Milliman Scholarship	Ian Carper	University of Colorado
Kim Wells Scholarship	Ryan Dang	Penn State University
Kim Wells Scholarship	Hannah Smith	Bucknell University
Dave Ober Memorial Scholarship	Sheridan Kinser	Penn State University
Mrs. Abner Houseknecht Memorial Scholarship	Peyton Burgess	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Mrs. Abner Houseknecht Memorial Scholarship	Rachel Collison	University of Pennsylvania
Mrs. Abner Houseknecht Memorial Scholarship	Maiya Groff	Arcadia University
Mrs. Abner Houseknecht Memorial Scholarship	Delaney Mercado	Franklin & Marshall College
Mrs. Abner Houseknecht Memorial Scholarship	Fikir Simegn	Johns Hopkins University
Mrs. Abner Houseknecht Memorial Scholarship	Lindsey Anderson	Penn State University
Geist Family Citizenship Award	Kaitlyn Stauffer	Franklin & Marshall College
Frerichs Family Education Scholarship	Meghan Greenawalt	Millersville University
Capt. Ed Davis Memorial Award	Timothy Hermansen	Geneva College
Willis and Martha Herr Family Scholarship	Aaron Gale	McDaniel College
Edgar Funk Memorial Scholarship	Madison Higgins	PA College of Health Sciences
Norma Lois Herr Memorial Scholarship	Brayan Vasquez Lugo	Harrisburg Area Community College
Lloyd & Ann Boyd Memorial Scholarship	Carissa Shirk	PA College of Technology
Michael Hnat Memorial Scholarship	Tyler Heiney	Millersville University
Marian B. Davis Memorial Scholarship	Eduardo Contin	Pre-med track
Olga and Spencer Harvie Memorial Scholarship	Sonja Mowery	Arcadia University
Shellenberger-Hosler Scholarship	Daniel Mader	Penn State University
William H. Duncan Jr. Memorial Scholarship	Garrison Webster	Millersville University
Norma Aston Memorial Scholarship	Rachel Collison	University of Pennsylvania
Abram & Dorothy Sangrey Memorial Scholarship	Morgan Heitland	Arcadia University
Donald Pollock Memorial Scholarship	Thomas Bonnici	Xavier University
Joan Pollock Scholarship	Ashley Seiger	Eastern University
Stella Caldwell Memorial Scholarship	Audrey Ritchie	Drexel University
Betty Doan Memorial Scholarship	Nichole Rudy	Franklin & Marshall College
Wade Groff Memorial Scholarship	Trevor Grassel	PA College of Technology
Jack & Joanne Herr Scholarship	Jolie Haertter	University of Pittsburgh
Patricia A. Texter Scholarship	Janabi Sharma	Harrisburg Area Community College
PMAA Luella Mellinger Scholarship	Thomas Eby	Millersville University
Karen Shenk Memorial Scholarship	Kailey Stoner	Messiah College
PMAA Dr. D. L. Biemesderfer Award (valedictorian)	Ryan Dang	Penn State University
PMAA Mary Klemmer Award (salutatorian)	Alex Roth	Colby College
PMAA Legacy Scholarship	Anna May Barbusca	Lock Haven University

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Christine A. Weidinger Memorial Scholarship	Shayna Welch	University of Northern Alabama
Jim Livermore Memorial Scholarship	Jose Torres	Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
Mario-Angelo Russo Memorial Scholarship	Alexander Detter	Lebanon Valley College
Rachel E. Miller Memorial Scholarship	Catherine McMahon	Elizabethtown College
Sean Moore Memorial Scholarship	Taylor Schneider	Drexel University
Kevin B. Smith Memorial Award	Owen Rohrer	Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
Molly Curtis Memorial Award	Abigail Overmeyer	Susquehanna University
Megan Lynn Martin Scholarship	Darby Conrad	Iowa Central Community College
Michelle Blazic Memorial Scholarship	Anna Aston	Colgate University
Hans H. Haverstick Memorial Scholarship	Kyle Ament	Elizabethtown College
Chris Shank Memorial Scholarship	Muhab Mustfa	Penn State University
Starrett Metzler Memorial Scholarship	Ryan Buckwalder	Penn State University
Starrett Metzler Memorial Scholarship	Justine Fry	Millersville University

Venture Grant projects for 2019-2020

Penn Manor Education Foundation awarded a record \$93,000 in Venture Grants to help teachers enhance learning opportunities for Penn Manor students in 2019-2020.

The grants enabled elementary students to create podcasts of immigrant families' personal stories, supported a therapy dog for middle school students and funded 3D printing pens, a CNC router and field trips to regional historical sites.

In all, 65 teachers and principals at all 10 Penn Manor schools received funding for 67 grants to enhance math, science, social studies, physical education, music and art classes, while improving the school environment.

The projects range from \$245 to purchase flags representing the 25 countries of origin of Eshleman Elementary students to \$3,750 for vertical growing tower gardens for high school agricultural education and family and consumer science classrooms.

Since 2000, the Education Foundation has awarded more than 850 teacher Venture Grants in excess of \$940,000, providing learning opportunities that teachers and schools could not fund on their own. Here are summaries of the most recent grants:

Flexible Seating Alternatives

Grants totaling nearly \$6,000 were awarded to fund alternative seating, such as standing desks, lap desks, balance balls and wobble cushions, at Hambright, Eshleman and Pequea elementary schools.



The funding also helped establish a lending library of sensory materials for special needs students across the school district.

Museum of the American Revolution Field Trip

The grant funded a field trip for Marticville Middle School eighth-graders to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

Vamoosh Music and Speaker

The grant funded a Vamoosh music instruction system for grades 4, 5 and 6 at elementary schools across the school district.

Sensory Path Materials

Grants totaling \$5,300 funded colorful "sensory paths" in the hallways and on the playgrounds of several elementary schools to assist in behavior management and provide a physical challenge for students.

The funding also was used to establish a lending library of social skills materials to be shared among five elementary schools.



Reading Diversity Projects

Updates to classroom and school libraries at five elementary schools and Manor Middle School were funded with grants totaling \$7,000.

The purchases include guided reading books of various genres and cultural references, nonfiction books on refugee stories and other titles that better reflect the changing demographics of Penn Manor students.



Artist in Residence – Strings

The grant paid for teacher and conductor Elizabeth Lavender to visit grades 5 and 6 at two Penn Manor schools to conduct workshops and lessons on playing the violin.

Lego Education WeDo Kits

The grant funded kits for technology education instruction for grades 3 and 4 at Central Manor and Hambright elementary schools.

'Peter Pan' Field Trip

Manor Middle School students in grade 7 got to experience *Peter Pan* live at the historic Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, PA.

Facility Dog Supplies

The grant paid for supplies to support Kiwi, a therapy/facility dog at Marticville Middle School that is owned by a staff member and visits the school daily.



Gettysburg Military Park Field Trip

Manor Middle School eighth-graders got to visit the historic site as part of their history unit.

For the Love of Learning

The grant was used to purchase math bingo and reading and writing skills materials for Central Manor Elementary sixth-graders.

All That Jazz, Part 3

As an extension of two earlier grants, this award was used to purchase music and microphones for choral and jazz ensembles at Penn Manor High School.

Scholastic News Magazine Subscriptions

Central Manor third-graders were able to hone their reading and analytical skills with a class subscription to Scholastic News.

Books Every Business Professional Should Read

The grant paid for new books for the high school business department and library for grades 9 through 12.

Gel Electrophoresis and PCR Equipment

Penn Manor High School sciences classes were able to add sophisticated testing material for studying DNA with this grant.

UAVs for Agriculture, Part 2

The grant funded an infrared crop camera to be installed on a drone that was purchased with a PMEF grant last year for the high school agricultural education department.

Lifelong Recreational Activities

Indoor recreational games, including cornhole, Kan Jam and washer toss, were purchased for use by the high school

Advancing learning for all students

physical education department.

Manufacturing and CNC Machining

The grant paid for a CNC router and tooling to expand STEM instruction on manufacturing processes at Penn Manor High School technology education classes.



Community Building: Recognizing Students' Home Communities

Eshleman Elementary School used this grant to purchase and display flags of the 25 countries of origin of its students.

3D Printing Pens

A set of five 3D pens and filaments was purchased for use in technology education classes at Pequea Elementary and Penn Manor High School.

Breakfast Book Club for Sixth Grade

The grant paid for books for a new pleasure reading club for sixth-graders that meets for breakfast at Hambright Elementary School.

Learning to Do

The grant funded supplies for raising and showing animals at fairs for students enrolled in Penn Manor HS agricultural education courses.

Choosing Books

The grant was used to purchase books for seventh-graders at Marticville Middle School. Students created "book trailers" to encourage other students to read the books as well.

Graphing Calculators in the Classroom

The funding was used to buy a set of replacement graphing calculators for the Penn Manor HS math department.



English Learners and Ballet

The grant paid for a field trip to see a live performance of *The Nutcracker* for Penn Manor HS English Language Development students.

Building Bridges with Refugees and Immigrants

The project paired students at Hambright Elementary School with refugees and immigrants in the community to share their stories via podcasts and VR tours.

Heart Health

The grant funded the purchase of blood pressure monitors and cuffs for use in Martic Elementary physical education classes.

Spoken Word Club

Artist in residence Ty Gant conducted workshops with Penn Manor HS students to promote teamwork and

communication under this grant.

Culinary Culture

The high school foreign language department used the grant to purchase hot plates and fire extinguishers for cooking ethnic foods.

Readathon

The grant paid for materials for a districtwide Readathon led by high school students to encourage reading among students in kindergarten through grade 3.

Kindergarten Boost Program

Language arts enrichment materials were purchased for Hambright kindergarten students with this grant.

Penn Manor Marching Unit Battery Recharge

The funding was used to purchase bass, snare and tenor/quad drums for use by Penn Manor HS band students.



Orchestral Percussion Project

Cymbals, mallets and sticks for orchestra students at Penn Manor High School were purchased with this grant.

Spec-20 for STEM

The grant was used to purchase spectrophotometers and glassware for use by AP chemistry students at the high school.

The Dialogic: A Student Produced Magazine

The funding supported the creation of a magazine featuring AP seminar students' scholarly writing and artwork at Penn Manor High School.

Diffraction Lab and Beyond

The grant paid for diffraction lab materials for physics and engineering students at the high school.

Using Robotics to Enrich and Promote Learning in Elementary Classrooms

Sets of Lego WeDo robot kits were purchased for use in technology education classes at Martic Elementary School.



CO2 Sequestration with Azolla

Funding was used to purchase materials to grow and test aqueous Azolla ferns in physics classes at the high school.

Puppet Grant

The grant was used to purchase puppets to engage Central Manor kindergarten students in language arts lessons.

Tangrams

The grant was used to purchase math puzzles for use in the classroom by the Penn Manor HS math department.

Career and Social/Emotional Supports

The grant paid for career development programs and materials for students and staff districtwide.

The Human Circuit

Sets of energy sticks for science experimentation were

More VENTURE GRANTS on Page 9

PMEF appreciates our many partners

Generous support from these businesses and organizations helps fund grants and scholarships

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A special thank you to our Blue & Gold Donors

PMEF appreciates its donors who contribute to our general fund and board curricular funds at the Blue & Gold levels.

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Kate Cox
Alan & Martha Raush
Lucky Dog Cafe
Edward & Judy Goodhart
Tracy Seiger
Jeremy Nafziger
James Yearsley
Edward & Judy Goodhart

PMEF receives \$25,000 grant to bolster computer science programs in PM schools

Penn Manor Education Foundation recently received a \$25,000 grant as part of a nearly \$1 million fund administered by the Lancaster County Community Foundation to support STEM initiatives in schools.

Penn Manor School District will use the grant to enhance its computer science program as the district expands its STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs across all grade levels.

The funding comes from BB&T Now Truist Economic Growth Fund.

PMEF staff conferred with Penn Manor Superintendent Mike Leichter and Assistant Superintendent Phil Gale, who then worked with district technology, business and computer science leaders to develop a plan to utilize the grant.

The funding will enable Penn Manor to upgrade its technology education classes in grade 8 and add computer science classes at the high school for the 2020-2021 school year, including one course that introduces students to artificial

intelligence.

The grant also will support the purchase of Raspberry Pi computers, software, Lego education kits, and other classroom materials.

At all levels, computer science is playing a vital role in developing students' understanding of technology, along with the soft skills that are vital to thriving-wage jobs and economic growth.

This grant also will enable Penn Manor to

expose all students to lucrative STEM careers.

This funding builds on the district's K-12 computer science programs initiated in 2018 as part of a PA

Smart Grant award that expanded computer science in the elementary library curriculum and in eighth-grade science classrooms. It also provided professional development for several dozen teachers to utilize new technology.

PMEF thanks the Lancaster County Community Foundation and the BB&T Now Truist Economic Growth Fund for this terrific opportunity.



ECONOMIC GROWTH FUND

AT THE LANCASTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Director's message

The 2019-2020 school year was filled with challenges and opportunities for all of us.

Thanks to the generous support of the Penn Manor community, PMEF received unprecedented funding

for our mission of positively impacting Penn Manor students and families.

This enabled us to fund over \$90,000 in Venture Grants

to teachers, \$25,000 in Strong & Healthy Families grants to support our neediest students, and \$70,000 in scholarships and awards for our graduating seniors.

You can read the details of these efforts throughout this newsletter. This support for our schools and families should make all of us proud. But there's another reason we should be proud. Facing the COVID-19 pandemic that closed schools, Penn Manor's administration, teachers, staff, students, parents and community members rose to the challenge.

A good example was the meal distribution program that was implemented after schools were closed in March. Bus drivers and volunteer staff members delivered meals to neighborhoods following student bus routes.

Said one parent of the effort: "My fifth-grader said that now he knows things will be OK. The fact that he felt reassured and safe made me feel happy."

Teachers quickly switched gears and developed plans to keep their students engaged and learning remotely. Staff videos telling students how much they were missed added to their sense of security.

Parents assumed a larger role in their children's education than they had ever imagined.

Despite these challenges, many parents expressed an appreciation for the time they were spending with their children and a renewed



Jan Mindish

Venture Grants

From Page 7

purchased for fifth-graders at Central Manor Elementary School.



Guitar Capo Grant

The grant funded the purchase of capos for guitar classes at Penn Manor High School.

Harrisburg Field Trip

Funding was used to cover transportation and other expenses related to a tour of the state Capitol building by members of Penn Manor's Multicultural Club.

Playaways

The funding was used to purchase audio versions of chapter books to help improve student comprehension in grade 3 at Central Manor Elementary.

Vertical Growing Science Tower Garden Classroom Collaboration

Materials to support tower garden

growing projects were purchased for use by agricultural education and family and consumer science classes at Penn Manor High School.

Audiobooks for English Course Content

The grant paid for a service that provides free audiobooks for loan via the internet to assist struggling Penn Manor HS students.

Learning with Legos

The funding paid for sets of Legos and Magformers for use by learning support and emotional support students at Hambright Elementary.

Penn Manor High School Robotics Team

Funding was used to purchase materials to create robots for student competitions by the high school robotics team



Enrichment for All – Keystone Biology

Penn Manor High School Biology/Chemistry Keystone classes took a field trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore under this grant.

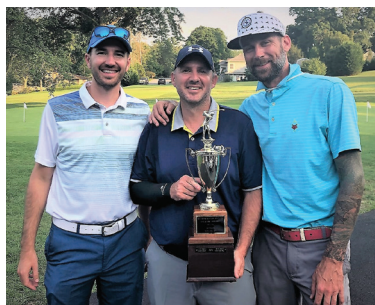
More DIRECTOR on Page 15

Third time proves the charm for Golf Scramble

14th annual event raises nearly \$11,000

They say the third time's the charm – and that certainly was the case with this year's PMEF Charity Golf Scramble.

Originally scheduled for June 18, the golf outing was rescheduled for Aug. 4 because of the business shutdown resulting from the global pandemic. Then, a major storm forced us to reschedule again, for Aug. 14. Despite the threat of rain that day, Mother Nature cooperated, and we were able to host an enjoyable day of golf, hot lunch, a buffet dinner and a raffle – all of which generated \$10,800 for the Education Foundation.



Members of the winning team, from left, Travis Oot, Don Mowery and Elliott Foster. The fourth member, Brian Groff, is not pictured.

our rescheduling needs and providing a lovely outdoor eating area so we could maintain social distancing.

We'd like to give a special thanks to Meadia Heights Country Club for so graciously accommodating



Golfers practice prior to the start of PMEF's 14th annual Charity Golf Scramble at Meadia Heights Country Club in Lancaster, PA.

Many thanks also to our major sponsors, including RBC Capital Markets, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates, B.N. Excavating, Good Spirits Bartending, Bob and Coleen Kayden, Scenic Ridge and Trout CPA.

We also thank our 40 hole sponsors, the many supporters who donated raffle items and the more than 100 golfers of all stripes who made this year's event – on the third try – a great success!

Our winning team this year was the foursome of Travis Oot, Don Mowery, Elliot Foster and Brian Groff.

We're already looking forward to next year's Golf Scramble, which is scheduled for June 15, 2021.

Equity

From Page 1

Manor Middle School.

At Penn Manor High School, a Spoken Word Club was established with a \$2,000 grant to promote literacy skills and self-confidence through spoken-word poetry. The club was led by Ty Gant, a 2005 Penn Manor graduate who served as a Black role model to students.

Venture Grants also supported the high school's Multicultural Day, an annual event at which students make foods native to their countries of origin and share them, along with information about their culture, with other students and staff.

At Eshleman Elementary, teacher Kim Garvey used a \$245 grant to purchase flags from 25 nations – representing the countries of origin of the school's students – to hang in the school's hallways.

At Hambright, teacher Katie Harnish received a \$2,700 grant for a project called "Building Bridges with Refugees and Immigrants." Fifth-grade students invited refugees living in Lancaster to their school to hear their stories, Skyped with a refugee in a camp in Kenya and interviewed refugees and immigrants



Manor Middle School teacher Kathy Kirk, pictured with some of the books she purchased with a \$2,000 Venture Grant.

from Cambodia, Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Nepal and Nicaragua.

Students recorded and edited their interviews to create podcasts to share on the web. Through a collaboration with BRIDGE Lancaster, they also enjoyed a meal with Somali, Congolese, and Syrian refugees that included foods from each country.

"It was a real transformation for students," Harnish said. "They became more empathetic and thoughtful about

welcoming and engaging with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, both inside and outside of the classroom."

Harnish said she was inspired to pursue the grant to celebrate Lancaster's recent designation as "America's Refugee Capital" by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and to "help her students learn to approach differences in culture, race, and background with openness and appreciation."

Some of the Venture Grant projects were delayed by the pandemic shutdown of schools that began in March, so students won't begin to reap the benefits until the 2020-2021 school year.

Manor Middle School reading teacher Kathy Kirk purchased 200 novels featuring a wide range of characters and subjects that explore race and culture, mental illness, sexual identity, disabilities and other topics that few books included previously.

"I now have books that address all these issues, and more, with characters that resemble my students, written by authors who have experienced what my students have experienced or are experiencing," Kirk said.

"My hope is that I have a book – or 20 – that appeals to everyone I teach and thatw, once a student sings that book's praises in class, I won't be able to keep it on the shelf."

PMEF adds seven new scholarships this year

Thanks to the generosity of the Penn Manor community, Penn Manor Education Foundation has awarded seven new scholarships for graduating seniors in 2020, including four in memory of Penn Manor teachers, students or graduates who passed away in 2019.

PMEF Scholarship Awards fall into three categories:

- Awards funded by community members and businesses committed to investing in the future of Penn Manor graduates.
- Scholarships created by or in honor of alumni, staff and members of the Penn Manor community.
- Scholarships in memory of Penn Manor students we have lost, established to honor their legacy.

In 2020, PMEF awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to 75 deserving Penn Manor seniors.

The seven new scholarships are:



Class of 2019 officers

Class of 2019 Scholarship

Established by the Class of 2019 with remaining class funds, two \$500 awards go to a male and female in good academic standing who are committed to school and community.

Megan Lynn Martin Memorial Scholarship

The family of Megan Martin established this scholarship in memory of Megan, who died in 2019 when she was a student at Letort Elementary. Family and friends funded this scholarship in her memory.



Megan Martin

The \$500 award is given to a student who has overcome adversity and has made a positive impact by helping others. Priority is given to applicants with an interest in music, and students who attended

Letort Elementary.

Penn Manor Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

The \$500 scholarship goes to a student whose parent(s) are Penn Manor graduates. Recipients should be in good academic standing and committed to school and community.

Norma Aston Memorial Scholarship

This \$500 award is given in honor of Norma Aston, longtime Penn Manor High School English teacher and Class of 1939 graduate.

The recipient is selected by the English department based on the student's writing accomplishments.



Norma Aston

Chris Shank Memorial Technology Scholarship

This \$1,000 award was partially funded by friends, classmates, teachers and co-workers of Chris, a member of the Class of 1987.

The family endowed the scholarship, which is given each year to a student pursuing a career in information technology, with priority given to the communications technology field.

Chris was inspired to pursue a career in information technology, spending 20 years with the Barley Snyder law firm as IT director.



Chris Shank

David Ober Memorial Scholarship

The family of David Ober established this \$500 scholarship in his memory with the support of friends, family, former students and fellow teachers.

Dave was a longtime PMHS social studies teacher who started the psychology program at Penn Manor.

Gifts from family and friends were used to start the scholarship, which is given to a student majoring in the field of social studies. Priority will be given to psychology majors, and financial

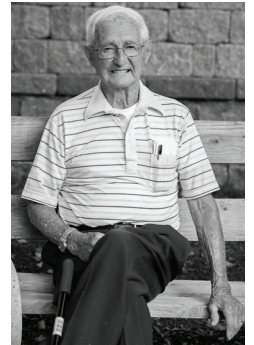


Dave Ober

need will be considered.

The Edgar Funk Memorial Scholarship

This \$500 award was established in memory of Edgar Funk, who helped run the family's produce market and construction businesses and was known for his strong work ethic and friendly nature. It is given to a Career & Technology Center student or a student pursuing a career in teaching, nursing or public service.



Edgar Funk

In addition to these individuals, Penn Manor this past year also lost two other members of its "family."

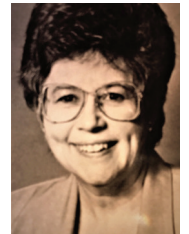
Gail White taught English at Marticville Middle School and Penn Manor High School.

Her husband, James, noted, "the great reward for those who work daily at this noble calling is the joy of knowing you have helped and are loved and respected by those you have taught."

Donations in Gail's name have helped fund the Strong & Healthy Families program.

Carlton 'Bud' Rintz was a proud supporter of Penn Manor who established the Rintz Family Foundation to fund scholarships for seniors.

Donations made in his name from his many friends will go into PMEF's Math/Science Endowment to support math- and science-related Venture Grants.



Gail White



Carlton Rintz

If you would like to contribute to any of these awards, send checks to PMEF at P.O. Box 1001, Millersville, PA 17551 or donate online at www.pennmanoredfoundation.org/donate/. Please include the name of the scholarship you are supporting with your donation.

Donor Recognition

Many thanks to these individual donors for your support!

(July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020)

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More **DONORS** on Page 15

Extra Give takes place of dinner

Penn Manor Education Foundation's Annual Dinner, scheduled for September 20, was canceled for 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

The PMEAF board of directors based its decision on concerns for the health and safety of our participants, as it would have been difficult to maintain social distancing and mask-wearing at the event – often a highlight of the year.

As a result of the loss of our largest fundraiser, PMEAF is asking supporters who normally donate through the dinner to consider making a donation during the Extraordinary Give event on November 20, 2020.



This one-day, 24-hour online giving event benefits hundreds of nonprofit groups across the region. You can participate at extragive.org.

More details about the Extra Give will be posted on PMEAF social media in the coming months, so stay tuned.

Wifi 'hotspots'

From Page 1

school year. Penn Manor expects to help 100 families, many of which include several Penn Manor students.

According to Charlie Reisinger, Penn Manor technology director, the grant also covers free internet service for families through the 1 Million Project. The only cost is the one-time purchase of hotspots at \$43.75 each.

Typically, monthly service for one hotspot from Verizon is \$40 a month for 12 months, so the ability to provide 100 devices for only \$4,375 represents a significant savings to the district that will not cost families anything.

Many thanks to the 1 Million Project for its support of this effort.

Recognition gifts: *Donations in memory or honor of others*

From Page 2

The following donations were made to support the scholarships listed

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Norma Aston

Dianne & Barry Kauffman

James Kirk Jr.

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Strong & Healthy grant program filling needs

Nearly \$23,000 is awarded to 2020 projects

Penn Manor Education Foundation recently awarded \$22,800 in Strong Grants to improve opportunities for students and families through its Strong & Healthy Families initiative.

The 2020 grants include \$6,000 to pay for uniforms, tools, equipment and supplies that enable Penn Manor students to attend Lancaster Career & Technology Center programs. Another \$6,000 grant will help students pay fees for advanced-placement tests to earn college credits.

A grant for \$5,000 to PM C.A.R.E.S. provides household essentials such as toilet paper, cleaning supplies and toiletries to families in need. A \$4,000 grant supports counseling programs to meet the social and emotional needs of students, K-12.

A new program for immigrant families new to Penn Manor, Family Fun Nights, received a \$500 grant for supplies.

Nearly 60 immigrant students and their family members attended the first Fun Night on Nov. 12 to help them transition to life in Penn Manor School District.

The event, held at Hambright Elementary School, included dinner, bingo, arts and crafts and raffles. Attendees also learned about Penn Manor schools and community services available to them, including medical assistance, dental and eye care and food and clothing banks.

The gathering was open to any Penn Manor student who has attended a school in the United States for three years or less and their family members. Attendees were from Congo, Tanzania, Nepal, Dominican Republic, Russia, Turkey, China and Saudi Arabia.

Family Fun Night was truly a community effort. Transportation was provided by volunteer members



Participants enjoyed bingo, craft activities, raffle and dinner at the first Family Fun Night, held in November at Hambright Elementary School for immigrant families new to Penn Manor.

of Millersville Woman's Club and the Education Foundation board, and bingo prizes were donated by those two organizations, along with the Penn Manor Athletics department.

The presentations were led by Penn Manor social workers, and interpreters were available for those who needed them.

"The goal of the event was to build relationships

and togetherness among our immigrant families in the district," said Wendy Letavic, Penn Manor English Language Development specialist. "We also wanted to bridge the gap and share what services Penn Manor has for our families."

The \$22,800 total awarded this year is the highest since the Strong & Healthy initiative was established in 2016.

Director

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appreciation for our teachers.

As high school seniors faced a very different ending to their final year, parents, community members and staff stepped in to communicate to our seniors what they meant to Penn Manor. And virtual senior awards and commencement ceremonies were implemented to provide the sendoff that Penn Manor seniors deserved.

PMEF was impacted in much smaller ways by the pandemic. Our monthly board and committee meetings all took place via Zoom, thanks to district support staff, for

four months.

Our annual breakfast to honor our Penn Manor retirees was canceled, as was our annual fundraising dinner.

PMEF board members presented scholarships to seniors virtually in a tent at Comet Field, instead of in person, and our annual golf fundraiser was postponed until August, with adjustments made for social distancing.

PMEF was able to support the district by purchasing wifi "hotspots" for 100 families who lack internet access. The district received a grant to cover the monthly internet access fees, so all students should be able to use their laptops at home to

complete assignments and participate in online learning in the current school year.

School will certainly look different in 2020-2021, and flexibility will be crucial to responding to ever-changing health and safety concerns. We expect to work more closely with the district this year to use Venture Grant and Strong & Healthy funding to support efforts to create safe and meaningful learning opportunities for our teachers and students.

In these challenging times, the support of and connection to our school and community are even more vital.

If you are able to support our efforts, we are very grateful.

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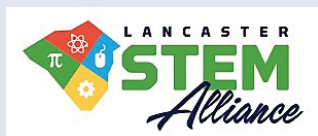


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PMEF receives \$5,000 grant for stream study

Penn Manor Education Foundation recently received a nearly \$5,000 grant from the Lancaster County STEM Alliance to enable students to raise trout, release them into local waterways and conduct research on the ecosystem.

The grant, "Watershed Explorers: Examining and Protecting Our Local Waterways," was written by Katie Harnish, fifth-grade teacher at Hambright Elementary School.



Her students will be raising 200 rainbow trout from eggs and releasing them into the local ecosystem in the spring.

To understand the needs of the fish and the human impact on the ecosystem, students will first need to

understand the health of the water system. They will gather data on water health, organize their findings using GIS maps, and present their research via multimedia presentations to the community.

Students will work with experts from the Stroud Water Research Center and partner with a National Geographic Explorer and wildlife photographer to document what they find.

They also will partner with Penn Manor High School students in the Wildlife and Natural Resources course. The older students will accompany the elementary students on their trips to local creeks and conduct their own research, while helping the fifth-graders operate the water probes and tools.

Harnish is hoping her students can study water quality in the Little Conestoga Creek, where it runs through two local parks. Students will



Hambright Elementary teacher Katie Harnish is pictured with students exploring the wetlands area around the school last year. She will lead a new project this year to raise trout and study the health of local streams.

be encouraged to come up with an action plan to address pollution and other threats to the ecosystem that they might find.

"More than likely, they're going to find something that needs to be fixed," she said. "The whole point is not just to help them understand the ecosystem more, but to care about it more."

The grant will cover all costs of transportation, supplies and equipment, including boots, waterproof GoPro cameras and testing equipment.

The project may be expanded to include other schools and/or grade levels after the first year.

Many thanks to the Lancaster County STEM Alliance for funding this great opportunity for our students!