



FOREST HILLS FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

Who are we?

We are your neighbors and friends, teachers and parents, business owners and residents who are working to make sure that every FHSD student has the resources to reach their full potential.

How do we do that?

FHFE has a board of devoted individuals who work to advance its mission of cultivating resources and creating opportunities to prepare all Forest Hills School District students to be successful.

FHFE also has an Executive Director, Dee Stone. Dee is responsible to the Board for her work on behalf of FHFE, and she works closely with the FHSD administration to make sure that our efforts are closely aligned with the District's objectives.

What has FHFE supported?

FHFE has supported a number of projects over the 10 years that it has been in existence. For example, shortly after it was created, FHFE started providing funds to support students bringing computers to school. FHFE has supported Destination Imagination, provided funding for robotics and e-sports, given teacher grants to inspire innovation in our schools, funded after school extended learning at Nagel and provided buses to get the students back to their homes, and, most recently, provided additional funding so that more students could access mental health support in these difficult days, provided funds to purchase cameras and microphones for extended learning—among many other things.

Are there checks and balances to make sure that my money goes to the causes that FHFE supports?

Absolutely! With exceptions for minor amounts that can be spent for day-to-day expenses, of course, no one person at FHFE has access to the money. Our devoted Treasurer, Mark Heggem, reconciles the accounts and reports to the Board at least monthly. He asks another board member to go through those accounts monthly with him as well.

All of the donations that we receive are invested and used to support students as determined by the Board.

How is the Foundation doing? Has it been successful in being able to raise more money for our students?

Yes! As you can see from the 2020 Annual Report attached, even in this dismal year of 2020, the Foundation met its fundraising goal of \$200,000. Each year, the goal has been raised, and, with your help, we have reached our goal. A modest portion is set aside for the endowment that we are creating for future years, but the vast majority of that money goes right back into our school system and our community to support our teachers, students, and provide additional learning opportunities.

I know Dee Stone. Is there an active Board or does the Executive Director really make the decisions?

Dee Stone is our first Executive Director and has served FHFE passionately and well. While at this point in our development as a Foundation, we can only afford a part-time executive director, you would never know that from the amount of effort that Dee puts into her role. She is well-known in the community and does an amazing job of advocating for our students.

Without taking anything away from Dee, there is an active and committed group of Board members who guide the decisions regarding what the Foundation will fund to help our students, run the events that help to fund the Foundation, set fundraising goals and strategy, and make sure that everything is done legally and well.

How can you help?

How would you like to help? Of course, we are happy to receive your contributions that will be used to advance our mission. Attendance and participation in our signature events are also much appreciated as it is a chance to learn more about the Foundation but also to introduce new people to the work that we are doing. Do you want to give of your time and energy? Please feel free to contact our Nominating Committee Chair, Jay Berliner, to submit your name for consideration to serve on one of our committees or the Board. Contact Jay at jay.berliner@parknationalbank.com.

With gratitude for your confidence and support,

Kimberly K. Mauer

Board Chair 2020-present

Bill Lyon

Immediate Past Board Chair 2016-2020

Forest S. Heis

Board Chair 2012-2016

Annual Report | FY 20

A Year of Unparalleled Challenges and Bold Solutions



Mission:

We cultivate resources and create opportunities to prepare all Forest Hills School District students to be successful

Vision:

Every Forest Hills School District student has the resources to reach their full potential.

Letter from the Board Chair

It is no understatement to call this a “remarkable year” in the life of our foundation, our schools, and our community. So much has changed – and so quickly – that it is easy to be overwhelmed by it. As a community, we asked a lot of our administrators, our faculty and staff and, indeed, our students. They delivered!

The Forest Hills Foundation for Education (FHFE) also asked a lot of our community in the past year. And you delivered!

A friend of mine often says, “you can’t predict the future, but you can prepare for it.” If you look to the Foundation’s Mission Statement, it refers to “preparing all FHSD students to be successful.” We want them to be successful in good years and in challenging ones. We want them to succeed now, and later in life.

We want the same for our school district and the wider community. At their best, that is what school foundations do. They help prepare for a future that they cannot predict. To that end, we set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$200,000 for the 2019-2020 school year. It would be our largest to date in our 11 year history.

It would mean asking the individuals and businesses of our community to reach deeper into their hearts and into their pockets. It would mean doing so in the same year that the District would ask voters to support a necessary operating levy.

As a community, you said “Yes, We WILL” to both. You delivered. Thank you! By saying “Yes” to the Foundation’s fundraising efforts, we were able to make it possible for the District to quickly deploy a much-needed additional counselor to serve the growing mental wellness needs of our students. We continued to support Mental Wellness programs already in place as well.

We were able to invest in innovation and technology experiences that make our

students resilient in a world that would demand that skill more than imagined. We also added an additional \$20,000 to our growing endowment, because as much as there are pressing needs today... we never know when the next critical need will occur.

There are many wonderful support organizations that raise funds for specific schools and specific activities or with specific types of initiatives. They are wonderful partners.

Please continue to support them. However, there will always be a need for significant resources (financial and otherwise) to provide incremental funding when and where it is most needed to make sure every student can reach their own potential. Because of your support, we will be there.

This also marks my final year as Board Chair of this amazing organization. It has been an honor to serve along with many of our community’s most dedicated volunteers and school supporters.

Having recently gone through a strategic planning process, the organization is in great shape. We have a super relationship with the Administration, with loyal corporate partners, and community leaders. And under the able leadership of my successor, Kimberly Mauer, I expect even greater things.

I close with this quote from Helen Keller. “Alone we can do so little. Together, we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

Thank you for your continued support. In the coming year – and beyond, We WILL Prevail!



Bill Lyon
Board Chair, FY20

Thank you to our Community Partners: Amy B Sells, Brandicorp, Energy Alliances, Inc., Forcht Bank, Gardner Business Media, Map Your Show, M.E. Lyons YMCA, Park National Bank, Zimmerman & Co. CPAs, Inc.

Your Impact was felt in the hearts, minds and bodies of **Your** Students. #WeWILL and **YOU** DID!

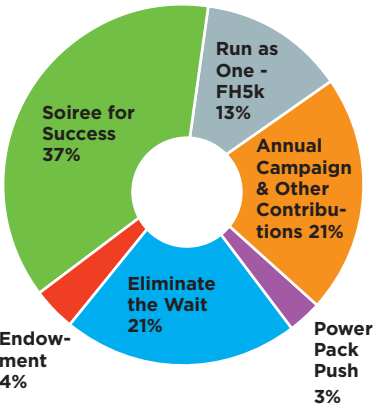
W		WELLNESS: YOU Eliminated the wait. Child Focus, Inc. reported there is NO longer a wait list for the Forest Hills school district with the additional therapist, allowing FH to meet the mental health needs of your students.
I		INNOVATION: YOU sponsored elementary and middle schools Destination Imagination teams AND high school e-sports. These programs prepare your students for the future with the skills of critical thinking, teamwork and perseverance.
L		LEARNING: YOU gave Nagel students a safe place to study after school, transportation home and extra activities to get them involved.
L		LOVE: YOU answered the call to help feed students and build a community of kindness by participating in ALL IN, Power Pack Program, and the first ever virtual FH5Kind event.

Your support helps the Forest Hills School District continue to be named within the **top school districts** in Ohio.

**FY20
Income Sources**

Almost 25% was put towards an immediate need from the school district with the addition of a mental health therapist & Power Pack Program during the pandemic. Thanks to you, FHFE can meet the needs of our district FAST.

50% of dollars raised are from events! Thank YOU for joining the fun while doing good.



**FY20
Income Expenses**

78% of expenses are directed back to the students. Thanks to YOU the FHFE can fill the gaps in the 4 pillars designated by the district.

