

2022  
DeSocio  
Scholarship  
Winner

Ryan  
Stechuchak

For information about  
serving on a committee,  
making a donation,  
or our other activities,  
please visit our website at  
[auburnedfoundation.org](http://auburnedfoundation.org).

Thank you!  
We are sincerely grateful  
to our donors, business sponsors,  
and supporters  
for their generosity,  
engagement, and  
ongoing contributions!



2021 - 2022

**Auburn  
Education Foundation**  
Discover the Opportunities

★

**Annual Report**

★  
don't forget!  
Fall grant applications  
due by  
October 15, 2022

2022  
Dean LaDue  
Memorial  
Scholarship  
Winners

Cameron Daddabbo  
Hannah Hutchinson  
Sydney Marzinielli  
Colleen Reilly

# Letter from the PRESIDENT

What do these activities have in common: the ability to improve problem solving skills through computer literacy; developing math computational skills through math puzzles; tracking one's heart rate during PE through the use of a wrist-based heart monitor; the use of yoga mats for calming; the availability of student-centered sensory activities to help regulate environmental stimuli for students with difficulty doing so on their own; use of movement pathway stickers indoor and outdoor to promote physical activities?

AEF is proud to have supported these teacher grants in 2021-2022. The scope of these grants illustrates the innovative and creative ways in which teachers in the Auburn Enlarged City School District seek to enrich the learning experiences of all students who attend the 7 district schools, and AEF's determination to help teachers achieve their instructional goals through our educational grants. These projects may not have been possible, but for the existence of the Auburn Education Foundation, and the generous support of the community and local foundations.

AEF has also continued its collaboration with the district by providing a \$25,000 grant to support the district's Positive Behavioral Intervention program (PBIS) in the elementary buildings and Junior High School. 2021-2022 marks the third consecutive year that AEF has supported a Signature Project, impacting the greatest number of students attending the district schools.

Our Annual Hall of Distinction (HoD) event successfully returned to honor 8 AHS alumni, the first class of inductees who all attended the high school building on Lake Avenue. Past alumni included those who had attended East, West and Central High Schools.

The AEF Board of Directors met in person for its December and June meetings. While our monthly meetings continued to be held virtually, it was no small accomplishment to plan and celebrate together on those two occasions.

There is much more that the Auburn Education Foundation is grateful for as we close the 2021-2022 financial year. Our annual appeal resulted in donations amounting to \$19,419. In spite of the instability of the stock market, our financial committee made sound fiduciary decisions

that minimized the market's impact on AEF's ability to carry on with our mission.

We are grateful for all present and past members of the AEF Board of Directors for their commitment and determination to invest in the future of our children. Our eternal gratitude to Marybeth Galka and JD Pabis who have completed their terms as Directors. Mr. Pabis, a founding member of AEF while serving as District Administrator, will remain as a Community Partner. Mrs. Galka has graciously consented to serve as a community committee member.

A warm welcome to our newly elected Directors: Terry Mahoney, Jessica Wrench, and Patricia Festa. Also serving as a community partner is Jesse Kline, Assistant Director of the Auburn Downtown Business Improvement District (BID).

As we look ahead to 2022-2023, we are encouraged by the success of our students, the commitment of our teachers, our partnership with the district, and the overwhelming support of the community.

On behalf of the Auburn Education Foundation Board of Directors, Ex-Officio members representing the district and Board of Education, our community partners, and many volunteers who support our efforts, a heart-felt thank you!

Miguelina Cuevas-Post, President  
Auburn Education Foundation Board of Directors



## What we accomplished in 2021-2022

- Continued to reach out to teachers to encourage submission of grants, with emphasis on newly hired staff (on-going goal).
- Developed packets of information to distribute to teachers, new AEF Board Directors, and community organizations.
- Updated website, and continue to expand social media presence.
- Reintroduced events postponed by Covid 19.
- Reached out to teachers through the district office, our email, and website.

## Looking ahead: 2022 - 2023 goals

- Hold an annual retreat in person to review By-laws; revisit/update AEF's Mission statement, community outreach and address strategic plan (including a succession plan).
- Continue to explore and expand funding opportunities.
- Continue to reach out to teachers to encourage submission of grants, and the district's central office administrators to identify another special signature project.
- Return to in-person Business After 5 and Gobble 'n Go events.

## Board of Directors

The board of Directors consists of 15 member volunteers. Through its volunteer force, and community partners, AEF implements its mission through teacher grants, administration of the La Due and DeSoccio scholarships, Hall of Distinction to honor graduates of Auburn High School, as well as many other activities that enrich the educational opportunities of students in the AECSD.

**Miguelina Cuevas-Post**  
*President*

**Janie Hutchinson**  
*Immediate Past President*

**William Tenity**  
*Vice President*

**Denise Pellegrino**  
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**Marianne O'Connor**  
*Treasurer*

JD Pabis  
Andy Tehan  
Marybeth Galka  
Kathie Collier  
Carmela Barbagallo  
Kathie Rhodes  
Tom Bachman  
Cindy Murphy  
Kelley Gridley  
Bonny Blair

## By the numbers:

AEF was founded in 2003.

Annual appeal contributions for fiscal year 2021-2022: \$19,419.

The number of donors in 2021-2022 was 126, and the average amount donated was \$155.

The funds raised through the year's annual appeal: \$47,178.

AEF funded 7 grants in 2021-2022, including a special \$25,000 Signature Project grant to the Auburn Enlarged City School District, the third year that AEF has funded a Signature Project.



## Fun Fact!

MARC PETROSINO, AHS ALUMNUS IS A founder of Monkey Boys Production. If you caught the SNL skit with the famous moving dais, you know some of the work produced by Monkey Boys Productions. MARC'S BROTHER, JOE, WORKED on Blue Man Group, and has worked on Aladdin since it opened on Broadway, and continues to do so.

# 2021-2022 GRANTS

Through a competitive grants process, Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) awards funding to educators who have creative project ideas that capture the attention and imagination of Auburn Enlarged City School District students, but which cannot be supported through the regular district budget. To date, AEF has funded more than 140 creative educational projects in grades K-12. During the 2021-2022 school year, AEF supported several projects—examples of which are highlighted below—that enabled students to learn in unique and innovative ways.



Sensory Movement Pathways and Games



Yoga Mats for Calming



Piper Computer Kits



Math Puzzle Packs

## My Beating Heart

This project incorporates wrist-based heart rate monitors into the already established Physical Education program at Auburn Junior High School. The monitors allow students to track their individual progress in physical health based on their personal data. Students learn the healthy benefits of physical activity.

## Sensory Solutions for an Inclusive World

Funding was provided to create student-centered access to sensory activities including an alternative break space to help those children having difficulty regulating environmental stimuli due to sensory system deficits. Use of these tools increases student self-regulation, decreases disruptive and distractive behaviors and promotes a caring community of learners.

## Math Puzzle Packs

Math puzzle packs provided students a fun and effective way to develop computational fluency. Teachers at all grade levels in all the elementary buildings have access to worksheets that use puzzles as a more engaging way to learn and practice math facts. The puzzles are designed to challenge students at their own level and can be modified for those who need additional help.

## Yoga Mats for Calming

Yoga mats were purchased for a first-grade classroom at Herman Avenue where yoga is practiced daily as a calming technique. Students learn self-regulating skills to use when they need to calm down due to frustration or anger. The mats are shared with other classrooms.

## Indoor/Outdoor Sensory Movement Pathways & Games

Movement pathways were created inside the buildings and outside on school grounds at Seward and Herman Avenue Elementary Schools. Large, permanent stickers were placed in specific hallways and students who needed a quick break from academics could follow the path of movement activities. The outside pathways are used during recess as another way to engage children in physical activity.

## Piper Computer Kits

Students at Genesee Elementary School learned about computers by physically building a computer from start to finish. The project was designed to teach problem-solving skills and computer literacy, including knowledge of hardware and programming languages, along with collaboration and communication skills. These kits can be reused to increase student involvement.

\$40,043.44 in teacher grants  
★ WERE AWARDED FOR THE ★  
2021-2022 school year! ★



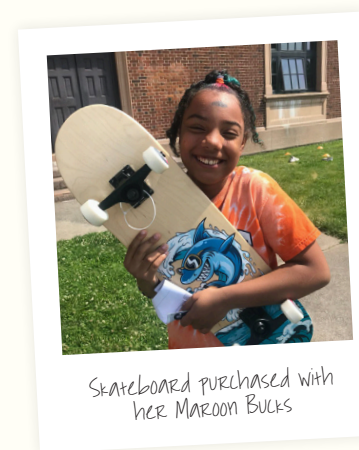
## \$25,000 Signature Grant Project

Funding was provided to elementary schools and Auburn Junior High School to support the district's Positive Behavioral Interventions Support (PBIS) program. This program is used nationally to help schools manage behavior and provide clear instruction of rules and procedures in schools. Students earn points/school currency when PBIS behaviors are demonstrated/seen and can then use accumulated points/currency to "purchase" prizes. To accomplish this, book vending machines were purchased for Owasco, Herman, Casey Park and Genesee (Seward already had one). Students earned currency and could then go to the machine and choose a book. This also increased an interest in reading. At the Junior High School, this grant funded the prizes for the program. Teachers handed out Maroon Bucks to students who followed the tenets "Be Dedicated, Be Respectful and Be in Control". Students use their Maroon Bucks to "purchase" prizes including skateboards, gift cards, art supplies and other gifts desired by this age group.

## Special Grant Project

Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) and Herman Avenue Elementary School have a friend in Jay Goldman, a 1974 Auburn High School graduate. Jay, and his friends, John Callahan and John Marshall, all of whom attended Herman Avenue Elementary School, supported Jay's idea to make a monetary gift to Herman Avenue School that would fund the purchase of equipment identified by Ronald Gorney, principal at Herman Avenue, and Jennifer Poole, the school's social worker. Jay, John and John wanted the money to be used to support the greatest number of students, especially the many with social and emotional needs now two full years into the COVID-19 pandemic. The joint contribution totaled \$5,500 and was donated through AEF and designated solely for the benefit of students at Herman Avenue School.

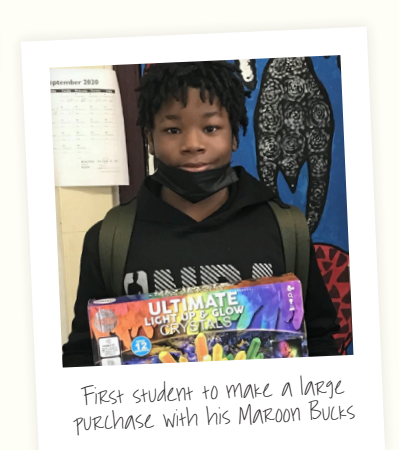
Auburn Education Foundation thanks Jay, John and John for their desire to help improve and enhance the educational experiences of students at Herman Avenue School. Their generosity is appreciated.



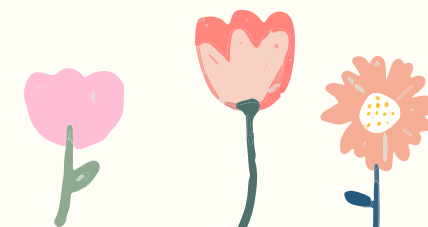
Skateboard purchased with her Maroon Bucks



Book Vending Machine



First student to make a large purchase with his Maroon Bucks





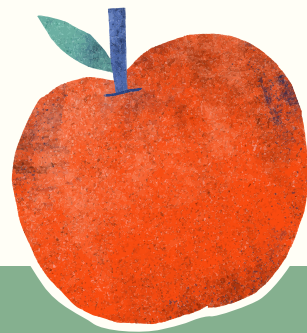
# TEACHER REPORTS



"I just wanted to share that the Computer Grant you gave to Genesee worked out **wonderfully!**

My computer club was able to build a computer allowing them to learn about the hardware that goes into a computer. Once it was built they were tasked to program the computer through a fun game. **The project was a hit.**

Thank you for your continued support!"  
Victoria Calarco



"The students ask daily when we can practice our yoga. The mats have encouraged the students to become mindful and responsive. When students are frustrated or upset, they can get their mat and deep breathe to calm down. During our practice, they repeat the mantra "I am good. I am smart. I am kind." This has been internalized, and **my students' self esteem and empathy has increased** which is measured in the lack of discipline referrals and kindness wall. Thank you so much for allowing my students to grow their mindfulness."

Respectfully,  
Christine Siddall

"Just wanted to say thank you for your help in getting PBIS up and running this year at the junior high. With your grant money we were able to make this **an exceptional year for our students.** Returning from Covid years, a boost in morale was highly needed and this did just the trick!

AEF works wonders!"

Sincerely,  
Kasha Fletcher

## We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Partners, Sponsors & Donors

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, partners, funders, and in-kind donors. Your generosity has made it possible for AEF to continue as a strong, viable organization working to provide experiences for students that are not funded through the district budget.

### Foundations

D E French Foundation  
Stanley Metcalf Foundation

### Partners, Sponsors, and Major Donors

Jacobs Press  
Wegmans  
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Auburn Teachers Association  
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Hilton Garden Inn  
Bouley Associates, Inc.  
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Auburn Discount Liquor

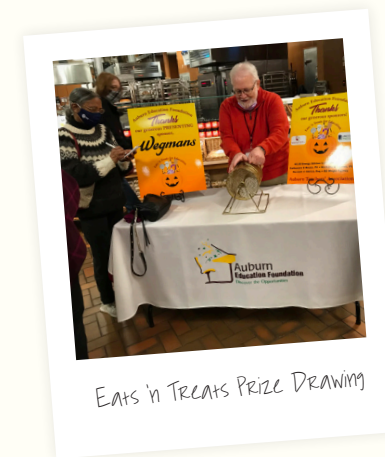
Post Beef and Pork  
White Chapel  
Heieck-Pelc Funeral Home  
The Flower Shop  
CIAO  
Kevin Corcoran  
Dan & Carol Soules  
Dr. Cassandra Archer  
Kathy McLane  
Buffington & Hoatland CPAs, PLLC  
Lesch & Bechtel Family Dentistry, DDS  
The Postcard Project by Terri Hoercher

## Eats 'n Treats

In fall of 2021, Auburn Education Foundation held its first on-line fundraiser, "Eats 'n Treats for Education". The premise behind this fundraiser was threefold: to raise funds for educator grants while keeping our community safer during a Covid surge, to support those in the downtown restaurant industry who have supported AEF in prior fundraisers, and to remind our community that AEF continues its work to support an enriched learning environment in our schools.

By making a donation to AEF, participants' names were entered into a prize drawing that primarily featured restaurant gift cards that were donated by our board members, as well as with sponsorships from eight local businesses. Wegmans partnered with us by donating a \$500 gift card, and combined with a \$500 Mirbeau gift card, we offered a Grand Prize valued at \$1,000! The remaining 3 prizes were assorted gift cards valued at \$500, \$300 and \$200 respectively.

Gina Gera, Senior Vice President for CNY area Wegmans, drew the winning entries at Auburn Wegmans after a brief presentation was made highlighting two recently awarded grants. AEF board members and officers attended the live drawing, and were excited to notify the winners. More than \$4,000 was raised.



Eats 'n Treats Prize Drawing

## Fun Fact!

Arthur Hutchinson, another AHS Alum, architect, and artist has been commissioned to design a mural entitled, "Harriet Tubman: Her Life in Freedom," depicting Harriet Tubman's life from the Civil War through her life in Auburn, NY. The mural will be on display in Auburn.

## Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction Class of 2022

Auburn Education Foundation is committed to recognizing those Auburn graduates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding academic, professional, personal or civic achievements. Inductees are selected from submitted nominations. Nominations are kept on file and reviewed each year, and inductees are selected from among all nominations received. To date, 51 Auburn Enlarged City School District graduates have been inducted into the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction.

Due to Covid, the induction ceremony for the Class of 2020 could not be held and then the ceremony to induct that class was also postponed in 2021. On May 20, 2022, the following honorees were inducted into the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction:

Dr. Mark Brown, William Snee (posthumously), Dr. Susan Taylor Brown, Martha Gallo, Joe Alberici, Brian Kreydatus, Jared Tuxill and Maria Papalia-Meier.



HoD HONOREES (left to right)  
MaryEllen Snee (widow of William Snee), Brian Kreydatus, Maria Papalia-Meier, Jared Tuxill, Joe Alberici  
Missing from photo:  
DR. MARK BROWN, DR. SUSAN TAYLOR-BROWN, and MARTHA GALLO.

# Annual Report 2021 - 2022



**Auburn  
Education Foundation**  
Discover the Opportunities

## Who We Are

Founded in 2003, the Auburn Education Foundation mission statement seeks to support an enriched learning environment for Auburn Enlarged City School students through collaboration, gifts, and grants. We value diversity, support educators who have creative and innovative ideas that capture students' attention and ignite their imagination; and celebrate the accomplishments of students and alumni.

A copy of AEF's latest annual financial report may be obtained from the Attorney General's Charities Bureau Website [www.charities.com](http://www.charities.com), or from AEF by mailing a written request to AEF at 78 Thornton Avenue, PO Box 592, Auburn, NY 13021.

A registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides significant resources to champion enrichment programs which elevate the educational experiences of Auburn Enlarged City School District students from average to extraordinary.

Gobble 'n Go is proudly scheduled to return in 2022! Please check updates on our website, and on Facebook.

