



# Distinguished Service & Friend of Education Awards

Presented by the School District of Menomonee Falls

September 13, 2021  
MFHS Auditorium



Engage | Learn | Improve

## *Our Mission*

Engage. Learn. Improve.

## *Our Vision*

The relentless pursuit  
of excellence,  
one person at a time.

*Falls Pride*

School District of Menomonee Falls

## Our Board of Education

Faith VanderHorst, President

Keri Duce, Vice President

Michele Divelbiss, Clerk

Cathy Olig, Treasurer

Melinda McShane, Member

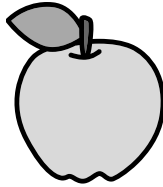
Eric Pelzer, Member

Jennifer Grant, Member

## Our Superintendent

Corey Golla

# Distinguished Service Award



The Menomonee Falls Board of Education established the Distinguished Service Award in 2002 to honor those individuals who have given graciously of their time and talents over a number of years to the improvement of the School District of Menomonee Falls and the community as a whole.

Given only once a year, the Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor the Board of Education bestows on members of the community.

The recipients of this award are community members, educators, or other individuals who have made significant contributions to the School District of Menomonee Falls students and staff, or the Menomonee Falls community as a whole.

Modeled after James Hollenhorst, who was the first recipient of the award, the honor is presented to an individual who has given freely and graciously to the support of the School District of Menomonee Falls' goals and whose efforts have helped improve student learning and professional development for District staff.

The Distinguished Service Award is awarded to those individuals or organizations who have proven to be leaders in bringing about positive and meaningful educational change.

# Distinguished Service Award Past Recipients

2002 Jim Hollenhorst

2003 Joe Greco, Sr.

2004 Marie Leekley

2005 Sandy Swanson

2006 Scholarship and Education Foundation

2007 Dick Woosencraft

2008 Harry Goetz

2009 Sid Truckenbrod

2010 Lynn Zindl

2011 Cathy Hazzard

2012 Amy Ignasiak

2013 Optimist Club

2014 Jim Jeskewitz

2015 Community Memorial Hospital &  
Menomonee Falls Rotary Club

2016 Bob and Pat Willie & MFPD

2017 Menomonee Falls Little League &  
Menomonee Falls Food Pantry

2018 Marty Schallock, Dave Petroff & Harvey Neu

2019 Patrick Noll

2020 Next Gen Personal Finance &  
Capital Improvement Campaign

# Distinguished Service Award

## Community League of Menomonee Falls

It is with great pleasure that Amber Montague, Michelle Olson, Sally Pallan, and Felicia Perkins, the school social workers within the district, would like to recognize The Community League of Menomonee Falls as a Friend of Education.

Over the years, the Community League has been incredibly kind and generous to our students, families, and school community. They have shown unwavering support throughout our district and have worked diligently to establish strong connections with the school social workers at each building. Every month, The Community League offers financial support to our students and families in need by providing gift cards. They have also been instrumental in helping students whose families do not have vision insurance pay for eye exams and if need be, prescription eyeglasses. Additionally, they have collected clothing and school supplies for our district-wide Resource Reach Out Room and created care packages for our families during the holidays.

The Community League has worked tirelessly to keep up with the evolving demands of our school community, and they do so with ease and grace. The Community League never hesitates to answer our calls or respond to our requests as they continually find creative ways to offer support, even if they have met their quota for the month.

The Community League is a group of exceptional individuals rooted in service to others. Their desire to help those in need is evident in all they do and is why we would like to recognize this organization as a Friend of Education. Thank you, Community League of Menomonee Falls, for your continued support and all you do for our students, families, and our school community.

*Nominated by: Amber Montague, Michelle Olson, Sally Pallan, and Felicia Perkins, the school social workers within the district*

# Friend of Education Award



The Friend of Education award was established as a way to recognize unique contributions by individuals or organizations to the education of the children of Menomonee Falls. Former art educator and administrator, Bill Pierce initiated the award, and former science teacher, Tom Bauer, continued the tradition of the award.

The award is bestowed upon those whose efforts to improve or enhance education within the District were so unique, that if it were not for the individual or organization, the initiative would not have been implemented.

The Friend of Education award recognizes the critical link between the School District of Menomonee Falls, the community, and the many volunteers that serve both.

Third-grade artwork has become the trademark of the Friend of Education Award. Each year, third-grade art students create original "busscapes" that depict the famous yellow school bus transporting children to school. The artwork is chosen by the art teachers for consideration as a Friend of Education award. The artwork is framed and presented by the student artist to its recipient. Over the years, the busscapes have found special places in many Menomonee Falls homes and offices.

## Past Friend of Education Recipients

2020

Paulette Barr, Dave Borucki, Joe Greco,  
Senior, Sue Ishihara, Kara White, Catherine  
Sharkey, Sally Tautges

2015

Brian Mihelich, Kent Sutherland, Johnson  
Bus Company, Jeff Gross, Gary Kiltz,  
Mitch Maersch & Casey Ulrich

2019

Karin Grant, Janet Marty  
& Mandie Reedy

2014

Karen Habegger, Joe Weitzer, Dr. Jess  
Thomas, Karen Sass, Lens Crafters, Jo Young,  
& Tom King

2018

Nicole Robbins, Jenny Bisswurm,  
Michael Vettor, Dawn Hinton, Marge  
Sauerberg, Laura Olteanu & Tony Resch

2013

Al Garcia, Jerry Witt, Joe Campbell,  
Lynn Zindl, & Linden Grove

2017

Larry Podolske, Susan Corkum, John  
Mercure, Cathy Olig, Purloin Studios,  
& Your Choice To Live

2012

Ron Burling, Dee Dee Ternes, Nate Taffel,  
Mike Grzesiak, Linda Meyers & Kathy Shurilla

2016

Kent Eliason, Barb Taggart, Todd Paulus,  
& Rodney and Michelle Zimmerman

2011

Carol Rudnick, Ted and Joan Majdecki, Keith  
Marty, Bob Simi, Bruce Roehsner,  
Rosalie Schulze, Sue Johnson,  
Ray Thornborough & John Seymour

2015

Brian Mihelich, Kent Sutherland, Johnson  
Bus Company, Jeff Gross, Gary Kiltz,  
Mitch Maersch & Casey Ulrich

2010

VFW Post 9496/ American Legion Post 382/  
Walter Miller Post 5, John Cassidy,  
Anne Weiland, Thomas J. McKillen,  
& Pam Schwalbach



# Friend of Education Recipients cont.

2009

Jill Czajkowski, M.D., John Furrer, Tailored Label,  
Bruce and Nancy Angeli, Henry DeBoer  
and Miz Daisy & Tony Cherney

2003

Jeff and Susan Steliga, Sue Crowley,  
Booster Club, Gertie Fox, Jan Wilson  
& Barb Lowe

2008

Fire Chief Robert J. Coon, Mike Lamp,  
Lynn Cassidy, Sue Jeskewitz,  
Warren Simonsen, Don  
Eisenhauer & Ted Klumb

2002

Retired Senior Volunteer Program,  
Karen Nelson & Gerard Severson

2007

Bill Bigus, Tom Bauer, Camille Morris,  
Tom Hartmann, Students for Renovation,  
Chuck Demge, Doug Menne, Lou Sanicola,  
Sharon Whitman, John Potnek, Jerry Mislant,  
Mark Lamkin, Jim Held, Steve Raymonds  
& Linda Kons

2001

Dr. James Shaw, Rog Rogers, Jim Hollenhorst,  
Paul Schramka, Dr. James Altschaf, David  
Eigner, Dennis Droese & Kurt Minor

2006

Dick and Marianne Rediske, John Tarantino,  
& Mary Ellen Nelson

2000

Michael Hurt, Linda Kent, David Leigh,  
Frank Nerad, Jack Pitrof & Bill Dunnigan

2005

Richard Crane, Laurie Stout, Sid Truckenbrod,  
Brian Blank, Judy & Hank Linser, Jean Skibba,  
Lois and Hank Darkow & Joan Sanders

1999

Starkey Davis, Terry Lorbiecki,  
Duni Corporation, Dr. Richard T. Anderson,  
Dr. Clyde Chumbley,  
Matt Hakes & Rick Rechlicz

2004

Dave Glisczinski, Pam Oliverson  
& Marie Leekley

# Friend of Education Recipients cont.

1998

Jim Rupnow, Kenneth and Bonnie Dison,  
Richard Schwabenlander,  
Dick and Donna Strong, Stephanie  
Schneider, Jane Radaj, Ron Cada,  
Don Nienow, Gregory Rossebo, Patricia Jahn,  
Sue Morency, Community Prevention Council  
& Julie Attoe

1997

Elizabeth Wiest, Harley Davidson Motor Co.,  
Joe Greco Sr., Robert Unke,  
Doug Marvan & Llewellyn Tietz

1996

Kohls Corporate Office, Don Schneiders,  
James Brewer, Joe Fox, Linda Marcou, Faye  
Bonini, Susan Schoepke,  
The Parent Connection & Connie Wolf

1995

Optimist Club of Menomonee Falls, Sunrise  
Rotary Club, Lamplight Farms, Robert  
Jakubowski, Kiwanis Club, Sue Listwan,  
Don McNamara & David O. Steingraber

1994

D & L Manufacturing, James W. Wright,  
Margaret Goecks, Beth Harwood, Sonja Holt,  
Walter Marquardt & Lolita Schneiders

1993

Julie Altschaft, Carol Fay, Robert  
Janke, Menomonee Falls Rotary Club, Harry  
Stoetzel, Cousins Corporation, Jean  
Armitage, Paul Wickesberg & John Coffee

1992

Aboretum Retirement Community, Tri  
County YMCA, Linda Boxhill, Strong  
Corneliuson Capital Mgmt., John  
Zorbini, Marie Simek, Diane Johnson, John  
Evans & Falls  
Chamber of Commerce

1991

Dick Goodnow, Carolyn Lemberger,  
Jim Riehle, Frank and Margaret  
Roberts, Arlene Shimek, Elmer Lauer,  
Richard Klug & Thomas Joynt

1990

Patrick Noll, Donna Baldwin, Dick Becker,  
Judy Elsner, Diane Geisberger, Cathy  
Hazzard, Patricia Lein, Cherie Mayer, Walt  
Meyer, Kathy McBride, Debbie  
Shoemaker, Jeanne Verbsky & John  
Wandschneider

1989

Richard Hess, Richard Brillault  
& Raabe Paint

# Friend of Education

## Steve Sexton

*Artist: Emmalynn Kowsky  
Valley View Elementary School*

Steve Sexton was instrumental in the overall success of the Menomonee Falls Debate Team. From helping us start the organization in 2016 to coaching our teams in his free time without charge, Mr. Sexton played a vital part in helping to give a few determined young women a chance at victory. Mr. Sexton's work eventually paid off when Amma and I placed in the top three at the 2018 Wisconsin State Debate Tournament and his legacy will continue to live on, not only through us, but in all of those who continue to participate in the Menomonee Falls Debate Team. While we wish we could tell him just how much his belief in us meant during that time, we can still honor him today. The 2021 Friend of Education Award could not be awarded to a better person.

*Nominated by: Tytiana Curtain*

Steve's involvement in the WI debate community extended beyond coaching his team. When we started the Menomonee Falls HS Debate team, we had no debate experience, Steve volunteered to train all our parents in judging tournament, which allowed our students to participate in tournaments.

He also offered to coach our students for free. Steve will come by, after chemotherapy treatment to coach our team. His support was instrumental in our team ending their 2nd year as a debate team as State Semi-finalists.

We are very grateful to Steve for his support in establishing a debate team in Menomonee Falls.

*Nominated by: Linda Otchere*

# Friend of Education

## Grace Commons

*Artist: Anna Hansen*

*Valley View Elementary School*

I would like to nominate Grace Commons, a Capri Community for Senior Living, for the Distinguished Service award. Grace Commons has provided much-needed support to the community and senior citizens of Menomonee Falls.

During the pandemic, I offered bingo on Facebook Live and Grace Commons was the first to step up and offer to sponsor this event. They purchased gift cards to local Menomonee businesses, to be used as prizes and encouraged others to support local businesses as well. We had community members joining in to play bingo as a family and many commented how fun this was to do together. As we slowly started to run more events at the senior center, Grace Commons offered a to-go craft for the holidays that participants had to sign up for. This was especially important to our seniors who were staying in their homes during COVID, because this helped combat some loneliness the seniors were feeling. Whether online seeing my friendly face during bingo and being able to chat with friends, or when they would drive up to pick up their craft, they were so excited to see our faces again.

Once we were able to conduct in-person craft classes, they supplied materials and instruction for four different craft projects. Each one filled up quickly. The crafts included Mother's Day bracelets, decorated planters, a patriotic wreath, and pebble art. They are also planning on offering Fall and holiday themed crafts this October and December. In addition to crafts, Grace Commons supported our community event, The Egg-celent Egg Hunt, last March.

Grace Commons has graciously offered to fully sponsor our fall event, The Search for The Great Pumpkin. This is an event similar to the Egg Hunt to get the participants out into the community parks. Grace Commons also occasionally helps call bingo for the seniors on Thursdays. They bring treats, which the seniors love.

In addition to supporting CE & Rec programs, they have also worked with Menomonee Falls Downtown to sponsor the First Thursday of the Month Concert Series, a total of three concerts at the new Village Park.

Grace Commons has done a wonderful job at being involved with the community, and are always looking for ways to help make Menomonee Falls the place to live and play.

*Nominated by: Lori Oertel, CE & Rec Supervisor of Older Adults and Volunteers*



Engage | Learn | Improve

## *Our Vision*

The relentless pursuit  
of excellence,  
one person at a time.

[www.fallsschools.org](http://www.fallsschools.org)