



Ruth Drips, MHS 1953

Generous Gift of \$3.3 Million To Fund Scholarships

The Marion School Foundation has received the largest scholarship donation in its history. A transformative gift of more than \$3.3 million was received from the estate of Marion High School alumna Ruth Drips. The

George, Gladys and Ruth Drips Endowed Scholarship Fund will distribute its first scholarships to members of the Marion High School class of 2024 in May.

“We are humbled by this incredible gift and look forward to honoring Ruth and her family annually when awarding scholarships to generations of Marion High School students,” said Elisabeth Kissling, Marion School Foundation Executive Director. “I never had an opportunity to meet Ruth, but a note in the 1953 Marion High School Quill described her as having ‘The mildest manner and the gentlest heart.’ She obviously had a very generous heart as well.”

Ruth Elaine Drips, 87, of Marion, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at Summit Pointe Assisted Living Facility.

Ruth was born on April 22, 1935, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of George and Gladys (Howland) Drips. She lived on a farm outside of Mount Vernon and through the third grade went to a one-room schoolhouse. Ruth graduated from Marion High School in 1953; Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, in 1955; and the University of Iowa with a bachelor’s degree in commerce in 1957. She worked in the office of Armstrong’s Department Store in Cedar Rapids for 33 years. Ruth enjoyed reading, knitting, traveling, cooking, and being with her relatives and friends. Her passion was showing American Saddlebred horses and attending the World’s Championship Horse Show in Louisville, Kentucky, for several years. Ruth was inducted into the Iowa Horsemen’s Hall of Fame. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The George, Gladys and Ruth Drips Endowed Scholarship Fund is one of several generous scholarship and school enhancement funds administered by the Foundation. The scholarships provide meaningful assistance for Marion High School graduates as they continue their education. The school enhancement funds support education programs and projects for the benefit of Marion Independent School District students, schools, and the greater community.



Harry Carson, MHS 1976 and in 2022

Dr. Henry J. “Harry” Carson Scholarship to Support Uniquely Gifted Students

easily measured by normal curriculum and standardized tests, often fall through the cracks at school. The Dr. Harry Carson Scholarship will distribute its first awards to members of Marion High School class of 2024.

Carson wrote, “A student’s potential – broadly defined as leadership, creativity, interests, ability, curiosity, or other qualities that suggest untapped gifts – may flourish if given an opportunity. Conventional measures can also be used (grades, class rank, athletic accomplishment, etc.), but students not accomplished in these areas should not

be disqualified if they are otherwise seen to have potential.”

Dr. Carson died in Cedar Rapids at the age of 63 on May 14, 2022, from pancreatic cancer. He attended Oberlin College, Cornell College and the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He earned four board certifications in pathology, including forensic pathology which he practiced in Eastern Iowa. Harry was widely published in medical journals with original research. He was known for his love of music, photography, poetry and cats.

Supporting education for the benefit of Marion Independent School District students, schools and the greater community.

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 @MarionSchoolFoundation

More than \$56,000 in Scholarships Awarded to 2023 Marion Grads

On May 10, 2023, the Marion School Foundation awarded 55 scholarships worth more than \$56,000 to graduating Marion seniors planning to further their education. Read more about our generous scholarship donors and those they honor at marion-foundation.org/scholarships.



Cahalan Memorial Scholarship
Jarred Regennitter

Darrell & Dorothy (Merritt) Fisher Scholarship
Emily Dooley
Piper Even
Elizabeth Fitch

Dr. Robert Thurness Memorial Scholarship
Wesley Logan

Duane Ockenfels Memorial Scholarship
Peyton Johnson

Hapgood Family Scholarships
Alison Varney
Emma Varney
Kristin Varney

Jason "Jay" White Memorial Scholarship
Jackson Kirsch

Jeff Rehnstrom Memorial Scholarship
Josie Barkalow

Jim & Teresa Conklin Soccer Scholarship
Jackson Kirsch

Joel Cox Memorial Scholarship
Chris Oberbroeckling

John Scarborough Miller Memorial Scholarship
Vincent Brown
Evan Wahlstrom
Lily Ford
Kaden Frommelt

Owen Fry
Aelwyn Dickey
Grant Schulz
Connor Pospisil
Keara McGuire
Marco Olachnovitch
Lora Mitchell
Addison Stearns
Jakob Regennitter
Leah Fruehling

John Schlotterback Business Scholarship
Robin Loughrey

Justin Turner Memorial Scholarship
Allison Cross
Mia Utsinger

Kelly Grishaber Memorial Scholarship
Phoebe Parenteau

Lowell Morgan Service & Character Scholarship
Hope Vanderlinden

Marion Firefighters Association Scholarship
Alyssa Johnson

Marion Foundation Hall of Fame Scholarships
Allison Steffen
Noah Wasek
Anna Reisner

Michelle Fluckiger Niles Memorial Scholarship
Griffin Coates

Mike McGrew Memorial Scholarship
Ellie Hatfield

Morris F. Neighbor Memorial Scholarship
Ella Bockenstedt
Elliott Dyrland
Regan Rice

Ratliff/Ames Scholarships
Noelle Regennitter
Emma Afeldt
Rebeckah Regennitter
Lauren Garity

Rebecca Paulson Memorial Scholarship
Sydney Potter

Ruth S. Henderson Memorial Scholarship
Gracie Schwartz

Senninger Trojan Lodge Scholarship
Zoey Wecker

Soccer Officiating Scholarship
John Harker
Gracie Schwartz

Todd Little Memorial Scholarship
Mason Kinney

Veda Pollock Moore Scholarship
Aubrey Backous
Alexander Roney

West Family Scholarship
Anastyn Brashaw
Anastasia Scott



Holiday Giving Project Kicks Off 29th Year!

The Marion Holiday Giving Project helped more than 200 families in the MISD community last year. Items donated to families that are struggling to make ends meet include food, blankets, clothing, winter gear and children’s gifts.

How Can You Help?

1. To adopt a family, please fill out the form on our website at marion-foundation.org/holiday-giving-project. MISD social worker Michelle Wilson will reach out to you.
2. Donations of new winter apparel, books, non-perishable food, and \$25 grocery gift cards may be dropped off at the Marion Foundation office by Wednesday, December 13.
3. To make a cash donation, visit marion-foundation.org/make-a-donation and note “Holiday Giving Project” in the Comment box. Or, mail or drop off a check to our office.



21st Annual Golf Classic Raises More Than \$25K

The event at the end of September hosted 29 golfing foursomes and was supported by many fabulous community sponsors. A variety of food, prizes and giveaways kept golfers happy all day! Money raised by the Golf Classic event helps support education for Marion Independent School District students, schools and the greater community.



Visit marion-foundation.org/golf-classic to view golfer results and additional photos courtesy of Joe Photo.



Marion Foundation staff and board members, along with members of their families, took first place in the City of Marion Fall Festival parade with their float entry “There’s No Place Like Marion!” The Wizard of Oz-themed float was resurrected five days later for the Marion High School homecoming parade.

Class Reunions!

If you graduated in a year ending in 4 or 9, it’s time for a reunion!

Throughout the summer and fall of 2023, a series of MHS class reunions unfolded. The air buzzed with nostalgia as classmates reconnected and strolled down memory lane during tours of the high school. Those who attended Homecoming or another home football game at Marion’s new state-of-the-art stadium were bestowed a special honor – being announced from the press box while standing on the pristine turf.



Class of 1973 reunion

Next year, graduates and class representatives from years ending in 4 or 9 can anticipate outreach from Alumni Relations Director Zhen E Rammelsberg offering assistance with reunion planning. To help event coordinators, please update your contact information at marion-foundation.org/alumni.

An up-to-date list of reunion details and contacts for each class can be found at Marion-Foundation.org/class-reunions.

Alumni Business Spotlight – Amber (Eganhouse) Henline, MHS 1998

Healing Hands and a Holistic Heart

In the saturated world of self-care and holistic wellness, Amber (Eganhouse) Henline (MHS 1998) stands as a beacon of healing, compassion, and dedication. A Licensed Massage Therapist, Amber owns and operates Salveo, where massage and acupuncture are offered to help people heal and stay healthy.

Amber's journey in holistic wellness spans eight years with the past five years at her Salveo studio at 1501 51st St NE, Cedar Rapids.

What sets Salveo apart from others in the field? Amber emphasizes that their approach is deeply rooted in a caring and non-judgmental atmosphere. "We really care about the outcome of the session for each person that comes into our space. We hold space for everyone's health and wellness journey to give them the opportunity to heal. We listen and acknowledge concerns and give our full attention to clients' needs," she says.

Amber's journey into the field of holistic wellness wasn't just a career choice; it was a calling. Her desire to help people feel better in their bodies drove her to pursue this path. It's a vocation that resonates with her deeply, and it's something she's passionate about every single day.

What could Amber give a 30-minute presentation about with no advance preparation? "The effect of stress on the body and how to address stress in your life."

As she navigates the world of self-care and runs her business, Amber remains motivated by a unique perspective. "I'm motivated by wanting to be able to keep doing all the things I want with my life and body even as I grow older." This sentiment keeps her going and speaks to her determination and resilience.



At the end of a busy day or workweek, Amber unwinds with a good book and some time outdoors, connecting with the world around her. You can often find Amber and her husband Eric out hiking the trails around Iowa.

In terms of her background, Amber graduated from Marion in 1998, a testament to her longstanding connection to the area. She didn't attend her class reunion, but she has had the opportunity to witness how much the Marion School District has grown and prospered.

Amber's family is at the center of her world, alongside her husband and two children. While she currently resides in Cedar Rapids, her roots in Marion run deep.

As for her personal interests, Amber's hobbies are as diverse as her approach to holistic wellness. She enjoys triathlons, lifting weights, reading, knitting, crochet, drumming, hiking, and foraging for mushrooms.

When it comes to motivation and support, Amber's husband is a significant influence in her personal and business life. His presence is a source of strength and encouragement as she navigates the challenges and successes of her career.

While the journey has been filled with accomplishment and commitment, there's one aspect Amber wishes she had known when she opened her new space: the unforeseen challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these hurdles, her dedication to her clients and the holistic approach she brings to her work remain unshaken.

For those aspiring to reach their goals or start their own business, Amber's advice is straightforward but crucial: "Do your homework and create a solid yet fluid business plan. Without a plan, you have no idea where you want to go or how to get there."

Amber Henline's journey is one of compassion, dedication, and holistic wellness. Her commitment to helping others find healing and well-being is at the core of Salveo, and her journey continues to impact and inspire those around her. To book a session with Amber, visit her website at www.salveocr.com.

As she guides her clients toward holistic wellness, Amber's healing hands and holistic heart remain a testament to the power of self-care and dedication.

Do you know of a Marion alumni-owned businesses we can spotlight? How about any other interesting alumni achievements? Send ideas to Zhen E – zrammelsberg@marion-isd.org or 319-377-4691 x1106.

Meet New Foundation Board Members

Amy Triggs: A Passionate Gardener with a Heart for Education

Amy Triggs is a dedicated mother, passionate gardener, and advocate for the next generation. Amy's story is not just about her impressive role as a Human Resources Business Partner for Aegon, but also about her unwavering commitment to



Marion's schools and her roots in the nation's Czech Capital.

As one of the newest members of the Marion School District Foundation Board, Amy is eager to contribute to the community she holds dear. "The best piece of advice I was ever given was 'Together we can do so much'", says Amy. "I'm passionate about raising

up the next generation, grateful for the wonderful faculty and staff at MISD, and the generosity of our community. Being able to serve on the Foundation has been a perfect match."

Graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she carries with her a strong work ethic and a love for her family, which includes her husband Erik and three daughters. Two of her daughters currently attend MISD, while the youngest eagerly anticipates the opening of her future school, Parkview Elementary. It's this familial connection to the Marion School District that fuels Amy's desire to see it succeed.

With an extensive background in human resources, Amy brings valuable expertise to the Foundation Board. She is particularly excited to serve on the Grants Committee this year, where her skills and insights will undoubtedly make a significant impact.

When Amy isn't immersed in her HR work or Foundation commitments, you'll find her in her garden, tending to her beloved plants and flowers. Gardening is more than just a hobby for Amy; it's a way to connect with the natural world and find solace.

"Gardening is a source of inspiration for me. It allows me to slow down and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us," she says.

Amy's appreciation for slowing down extends to another passion of hers: sending handwritten notes. In today's digital age, taking the time to put pen to paper is a gesture that reflects the deep connections Amy values.

As a new member of the Marion School District Foundation Board, Amy Triggs is eager to make her mark by working on the Grants Committee, contributing to the growth and success of the schools and the community she holds so dear. Through her dedication, passion, and commitment to Marion's youth, Amy is a shining example of how one person's involvement can make a world of difference.

Ryan Norton: A Community Catalyst for Positive Change

Ryan Norton, a dedicated advocate for change is "excited to apply his knowledge to help serve on the Foundation Board Finance Committee." His story is a testament to the power of passion, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of his town.



Ryan, a prominent figure in Marion, wears many hats, but his main role is that of a community catalyst for positive change. As a Financial Advisor at Farmer's State Bank, he's seen Marion evolve, and he's been a vital part of shaping its future.

"I've always been passionate about making a difference. I believe in the power of community, and the Cedar Rapids/ Marion area is a place I've called home for years," Ryan says.

Ryan has played a role in various education initiatives, from mentoring students to fundraising for educational programs. For Ryan, the path to a brighter future for Marion begins with quality education. He has also initiated and led projects aimed at improving the lives of Marion residents. Whether it's volunteering for Meals on Wheels and Junior Achievement or helping walk a parade with the Marion Foundation, Ryan is the first to volunteer.

Even though Ryan was born in Cedar Rapids, grew up in Hiawatha, and is a Xavier graduate, Ryan's childhood memories are filled with stories of Marion. He's seen the town grow and change, and he's determined to ensure that the essence of community remains intact.

Ryan married his high school sweetheart Jolene and they have a full house with a daughter who is a sophomore at MISD, two poodles named Tootles and April, a bunny named Benjamin, a bearded dragon named Jack and a school of fish. As a family man, Ryan knows the significance of providing support and encouragement to the next generation. He actively mentors local youth, guiding them towards paths of success and community engagement.

Ryan's relaxation comes from organizing community gatherings. His weekends are often filled with local events and initiatives aimed at uniting the townspeople. However, Ryan does know how to wind down. You can often find him reading a book, playing piano, listening to music, or watching movies with his family and menagerie.

When asked what motivates him, Ryan offers a simple yet profound answer: "The belief that change begins at home and that every small effort can have a big impact."

(As a side note, new board members Ryan Norton and Don Norton are not related.)

Meet New Foundation Board Members

Don Norton: Revving Up for Education and Community

"Always do your best and treat others the way you want to be treated," is the best piece of advice Don Norton has ever received. Don is a retired Senior Healthcare Sales Representative and brings a wealth of expertise and



dedication to his role on the Marion School District Foundation Board.

Don's journey towards joining the Foundation Board is a story of giving back to the educational institutions that have shaped his family's life. His daughter Jessie graduated from MISD in 2002. "I was President of the MISD School Board when the MISD

Foundation was set up many years ago. The Foundation does so much to help the District with support for staff and students. Since I am retired now and have time for volunteer activities, a mutual friend contacted my wife and me to see if we might be interested in serving on the Foundation board. I am honored to have been asked and accepted to help the MISD Foundation continue with the work they are doing for our school district," Don shares.

Don brings a wealth of experience in sales, marketing, and organizational skills to the Foundation Board, making him a valuable asset to the team. He is particularly excited about contributing to the Scholarship Committee and the Annual Golf Outing Committee, two areas where his skills and insights will undoubtedly make a significant impact.

Growing up in Washington, Iowa, Don is proud of his hometown's claim to fame as the "cleanest city in Iowa." Don hails from a family of four with a twin brother Ron. Today, he and his wife, Marty are residents of Robins, where Don served on the city council for 13 years. Their daughter and son-in-law currently live in Florida. Marty is not one to be idle either and is active in theatre in the community and sits on the board of the Giacometto Foundation.

What motivates Don? The drive to stay active and make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate fuels his passion for community involvement. In his downtime, he enjoys winding down by walking his dog and spending quality time with his wife, supporting local theater events.

In his current phase of life, Don is exploring travel destinations where he and his wife can venture next year, adding another layer to their life filled with experiences.

(As a side note, new board members Don Norton and Ryan Norton are not related.)

Justin Haas: Dancing Through Life, One Fundraiser at a Time

In the vibrant heart of Marion, a town where enthusiasm and community spirit go hand in hand, you'll find Justin Haas, the Director of Development for the ISU Foundation, a master of fundraising and volunteer engagement. His journey is one



of dedication to his work, love for his family, and a surprising twist involving ballroom dancing.

Justin may not have graduated from Marion, but he became involved with Marion when his family moved to town. "I joined the Marion Athletic Booster Club, and that's how I first found out about the Foundation," Justin shares.

His expertise in fundraising and volunteer engagement perfectly aligns with the Foundation's mission. Justin is excited to work on the Golf Committee and the Alumni Engagement Committee, where he can leverage his skills to further the Foundation's goals.

When he's not immersed in the world of development, Justin's life takes on a different tune, thanks to his two-year-old son. "My hobbies include wrestling with him, introducing him to golf, and watching Bluey," he says.

Justin's hometown of Cabot, Arkansas, boasts a unique accolade as one of the best public school districts in the state. He completed his education at Cabot High School and pursued his higher education at Clarke University in Dubuque, followed by graduate school at Drake University in Des Moines.

Justin's family dynamic takes an interesting turn, as he hails from a smaller family while his wife Abbey comes from a large one. Their family gatherings in the Cedar Rapids area have introduced him to "controlled chaos," a description that he appreciates and enjoys.

Adding a touch of furry joy to their lives, Justin and his family have a German Shepherd named Maggie.

What has surprised him most about the Marion School District and Foundation is their rich history.

While his professional life revolves around development and fundraising, there's a surprising twist to Justin's story – he used to teach ballroom dancing. This unexpected skill adds a touch of elegance to his already impressive repertoire.

Grants Awarded to Several 2023 Projects

The Marion Foundation Grant Program provides teachers and staff an opportunity to receive funding for projects that benefit students in the Marion Independent School District. Grants are made possible through generous contributions received throughout the year from businesses and individuals. Additional grants are funded through the Foundation's endowed educational funds. Contributions to educational funds are encouraged and may be made in any amount at any time. For more information about grants or educational funds, please contact Elisabeth Kissling, Marion Foundation Executive Director.

SPRING

Clavinova Piano

Olivia Freesmeier

Longfellow Elementary

Replacement for current digital piano. Used for general music classes for K-2 students plus rehearsals of Longfellow Lyrics 2nd grade choir and all other grade level performances. **Supported by donations in memory of David Shindoll and by Irene & James Sauer.**

Joy of Reading (Year 3)

Rebecca VonBehren, Kim DeWulf, Marcy Shie, Terri Schmidt, Renee Meth FMI, Stary & Longfellow Elementaries

Provides all students in grades K-4 with a monthly new book for their home library. **Supported by Farmers State Bank.**

Social/Emotional Library

Kelli Johnson

Stary Elementary

Provides students ages 5-8 years old with books, games, or activities to support the social-emotional health of students.

Flying with Finch Flocks

Heath Mueller

Vernon Middle School

Curriculum implementation support for 7th and 8th grade computer science classes using Finch Robots. **Supported by the Bruno Rinas Memorial Fund and donations in memory of Duane Weltha.**

Esports Program

Chris Martin, Mike Manderscheid
Marion High School

Purchase of equipment to start an Esports team at the high school. The competition seasons are run through the Iowa High School Esports Association. **Supported by the Cedar Rapids Kernels Foundation.**

Take Charge Program

Michelle Wilson, MHS Take Charge
Marion High School

Materials supporting a student-lead group that teaches the hazards of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use through classroom presentations and advocacy activities.

AMPED Program Computers

Roxanne Paulsen, Pete Messerli
Marion High School

AMPED is a newer math option for students that applies math principles through instruction in business, logistics, engineering and construction. The computers will run Cricut programs for t-shirts designs. **Supported by the Giacoletto Foundation.**

Geometry in Construction

Andrea Hansen, Dennis Fleege,
Abby Wennekamp
Marion High School

Students will meet geometry core standards by applying them to building projects such as picnic tables, chicken coops, sheds, shelves and play houses. **Supported by the Giacoletto Foundation.**

2023 MISD Summer Institute

Abby Wennekamp, Jen O'Brien
District Wide

Participating staff were provided t-shirts to help develop a sense of cohesiveness and community.

District Literacy Project

Gretchen Kriegel
Longfellow Elementary & Vernon
Middle School

First part of a multi-year project developing classroom libraries for accessible text-rich learning. **Supported by donations in memory of Greg Hapgood and Holly Hapgood.**



(top) Liz Pearson is awarded her grant request from Foundation Director Elisabeth Kissling. (bottom) Teams of Vernon Middle School students work to program their Finch Robots.

FALL

Small Group Knowledge Books

Jen O'Brien, Melissa Cahalan
Longfellow Elementary

Sets of books that can be used by students that are at benchmark on grade 2 reading skills that go along with knowledge units.

Band Instruments

Jennifer Adams, Michelle Waymire
Vernon Middle School

Two flutes, two alto saxophones, and two trumpets to be added to the band inventory and rented to students.

Library Books

Liz Pearson, Stephanie Hoppenworth
Marion High School

Books for the high school library for curricular use and for free reading. **Supported by the Rathbun Memorial Fund.**

College for Kids Summer Program

Grant Wood AEA
Vernon Middle School

Discount on tuition for summer program offering advanced-level courses to qualifying students. **Supported by the Jay White Educational Enhancement Fund.**



Superintendent's Report

At MISD we recognize the critical importance of parent/family involvement in successful student outcomes. We have Board Policies, available on our website, that support the role of parents in your child(ren)'s education. For example, the 500s series policies outline a variety of requirements for students as

well as provide a policy specific to family engagement, while the 600s series detail the process for curriculum selection as well as the process to review any instructional materials. If you have any questions about how to review materials or are just seeking ideas for how to become more involved, feel free to reach out to the building principal, Assistant Superintendent, or Superintendent.

Facility upgrades continue at MISD! It is amazing to see so many new spaces take shape and for our students to experience the new facilities.

The **Marion Stadium**, at the Les Hipple Complex, has been a tremendous space this fall to host fall activities! The best part of using this space is seeing and hearing the pride in which our students hold in having an awesome venue in which to compete, perform, and call their own!

The renovations at **Francis Marion Intermediate** were nearing completion prior to a recent setback. We experienced significant water damage at FMI when the temporary roofing material over the section of the building being re-roofed unfortunately failed, sending a flood from the ceiling into a section of the building. The spaces that were impacted have had many ceiling tiles and large sections of carpet removed. In an effort

to return students to learning as quickly as possible, this space will remain in temporary condition (concrete floors and some open ceiling tiles). Larson Construction is now overseeing the restoration for this project. To minimize disruption to learning, much of the remaining repair will be scheduled during school breaks whenever possible. Despite this setback, the new secure front entry and new classroom wings, along with the renovated playground and parking area, are in use and serving our students and staff well.

Parkview Elementary is on schedule and progressing smoothly. The view changes regularly as Garling Construction continues to erect walls. The building will open to PK-2 students next fall, serving families who currently are within the Starry Elementary boundaries. With regard to the Starry site, a committee is currently working to identify potential uses for that site and will take recommendations to the School Board yet this school year.

Last but not least, the **Auditorium** will begin to quickly transform in the upcoming weeks as the walls for the storm shelter will be constructed first, followed by the larger auditorium structure. This venue will seat over 750, and will include a back of house similarly sized to the auditorium stage and allowing for various rehearsals to take place, in addition to serving as a storm shelter for the MHS site. If you drive by MHS over the next few weeks you will have a chance to see the auditorium take shape.

Follow the progress on our website or social media – marion-isd.org/page/construction-updates

Yours in Education,
Janelle Brouwer



FSB is a proud supporter of the Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association. Reinvesting in the communities they serve is at the core of FSB. The Foundation is grateful for the long-term role FSB has had in enhancing educational opportunities for Marion students!

Stop by the high school and drop a few coins in the COIN SPINNER. Located near the Red Gym, the vortex is collecting funds for playground equipment at Marion's new Parkview Elementary School.

Besides being fun to watch, you may also start to ponder concepts of gravity, physics and non-Euclidean space!



End-of-Year Charitable Gifts

If you are thinking about end-of-the-tax-year gifts, please consider the **Marion Independent School Foundation**.



Remember that Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income, unlike regular withdrawals from your IRA.

QCD limits are generally \$100,000 for an individual or \$200,000 for a married couple. Funds are typically issued directly from the IRA custodian to the charity.

If you are interested in completing a QCD for the benefit of the **Marion Independent School Foundation** or any other charity, speak with your income tax preparer or financial advisor to address any questions and ensure eligibility.

Back-To-School Event Recap

This year's Start School Right event was held on August 10 at Vernon Middle School. **Start School Right supported 214 families and 461 students this year.** Students attending received school supplies, clothing, hygiene items, tennis shoes, breakfast food and more thanks to a variety of local partners. Also available during the event was a community resource fair, dental and vision screenings, and a meal provided by Hy-Vee.



Start School Right began in 2015 to support families with some of the items students need before heading back to school. A volunteer committee of district staff and community members plans and hosts this event each year. MISD families are grateful to have these supports provided at our school and within our community!

Interested in contributing to Start School Right? Please visit marion-foundation.org/make-a-donation and note "Start School Right" in the comment box. Volunteers are needed to sort items and help at the event. If interested in volunteering, please contact Michelle Wilson, MISD Social Worker, mwilson@marion-isd.org or Elisabeth Kissling, Marion Foundation Executive Director, ekissling@marion-isd.org.



The Wall of Support is over 95% filled. Order your bricks soon!

Leave Your Mark on This Wall!

The Foundation's Wall of Support pays tribute with over 600 memorials, honorariums and achievement highlights. It is located in the school district's administrative office wing on the south side of the high school.

Engraving includes up to three lines of text with 15 letters/spaces per line. Red bricks are \$300 each and gold bricks \$1,000 each. Bricks are engraved about once per year (most recently in early 2023.) We are happy to provide a certificate about the brick for use in gift giving.

Thanks for Your Support!

Name _____ MHS Grad Year _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Enclosed is my donation to the Marion Foundation:

- General Donation
- Marion Grants
- Scholarships
- Start School Right
- In Honor/Memory of _____

Total contribution \$ _____ Thank You!

- My employer _____ offers a matching gift program
- Please contact me about planned giving

Marion School Foundation, 777 S 15th Street, Marion, IA 52302
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