FOUNDATION GIFTS ALLOW STUDENTS TO EXPERIMENT, TO CREATE, & PERFORM
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OH ALUM LEADS STUDENTS TO KENYA
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Thanks to our Ottawa Hills alumni, community, and friends, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is making a real and significant impact on our students. This year’s annual campaign raised more than $250,000 in gifts and pledges. We are well on the way to reaching our goal of raising $1 million dollars in gifts and pledges by June of 2018.

Your investment truly enriches the lives of present and future students and facilitates our pledge to provide them with superior programming. This past year, the annual campaign enabled the Foundation to support many endeavors that enhanced and extended the Ottawa Hills experience: Agora, the Acting Out production of The Wizard of Oz, a robotics camp, a Science Olympiad camp, an expert choreographer for the OHHS dance team, and a classroom set of ukuleles for the elementary music program. These programs support our mission to inspire confident, compassionate, independent, and creative thinkers who embrace lifelong learning.

We look forward to sharing the Foundation’s continued successes with you. In the meantime, if you would like to schedule a visit to see, firsthand, how the Foundation is making a difference, please contact us at any time.

Sincerely,
the Foundation

Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation
Each summer, a group of Ottawa Hills students joins Fred Roberts at his Balian’s View Experiential Education Center in Naro Moru, Kenya as part of the Summer Learning in Kenya (SLIK) program. Students take part in a three-week service learning program, teaching at local Kenyan schools – a life-changing experience.

Fred’s path to Kenya began in Ottawa Hills. After graduation in 1979, Fred attended Ohio Wesleyan where he studied geography and zoology. He then pursued an opportunity with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), which provides wilderness education to build participants’ leadership skills.

From 1983 to 1986, Fred instructed NOLS courses in the U.S., but his desire was to return to Kenya, where his NOLS experience began. His goal was realized in 1986 when he was offered an instructor’s position in Kenya. He notes, “It was the people of Kenya that made me fall in love with the country.” During this time, Fred met his future wife, Elizabeth, when she came to Kenya as a student in the NOLS program. Another accomplishment for Fred was reached at age 29 when he was appointed Director of the NOLS program in Kenya. In 1999, with heavy hearts, the Roberts family decided to return to the U.S. A shift in Fred’s career to education would lead him to St. Gregory College Prep School in Tucson. There, he developed curricula as part of the Summer Learning in Kenya (SLIK) program. Students are to learn.

Fred’s wife, Elizabeth, appreciates her experiences as well as the people she has met in Kenya. “I learned from a lot of caring teachers in a safe community. At Ottawa Hills, I found a lot of freedom to be who I was. I came out ready for college. I guess you could say that Ottawa Hills provides solid grounding. It was a great place to grow up.”

For more information about participation in the SLIK program, contact Fred Roberts at frob5390@gmail.com. FRED, WITH HIS CHILDREN BREWER (14), MAKENA (17), AND JAKE (21)

Jonathon and Liz have walked in the shoes of current OH students. They know from first-hand experience how passionate, motivated, and excited Ottawa Hills students are to learn.

As a teacher at the elementary school, Jonathon explained how he loves the rigor of the curriculum and coming up with new and innovative content. He added, “Students are motivated and do their best to succeed. It’s great to see!” Jonathon reflected on his time as a student at OH and noted all of the opportunities to get involved that were available to him, such as being in the Choraliers, playing in the band, and running track. “If I wanted to participate in the arts, I could do that. If I wanted to play sports, I could do that, too.”

Liz Puskala joined the science department at Ottawa Hills to teach biology, anatomy, physiology, and botany. Liz studied ecology at Michigan Technological University but couldn’t find the right career fit she was looking for. “While living in Kansas I worked at a Head Start,” Liz said. “It was there I fell in love with education.” For the last five years, Liz taught at Maumee schools. She’s excited to be back in the OH district where she has many fond memories, including being a part of the “Kindergarten Club” and participating in field hockey, volleyball, track, and basketball. “There were so many opportunities to find the things you really like to do,” she noted. Both, Jonathon and Liz reminisced about being students at Ottawa Hills.

Excitement was buzzing on the OH campus as students and teachers alike began the new school year. For OH grads Jonathan Siebenaler (’05) and Liz (Clement) Puskala (’99), there was a sense of familiarity and comfort being in the halls they walked as OH students.

Jonathan, a sixth grade science and writing teacher, began his 18th year teaching at Ottawa Hills elementary. Prior to coming to OH, he taught in the Genoa school district and at a local charter school. “When the teaching position at Ottawa Hills opened up, I knew it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up,” Jonathon said.

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Both, Jonathon and Liz reminisced about being students at Ottawa Hills. There were several special memories they had in common. Besides the wide range of organizations and extracurricular activities they were a part of, and the traditions they remember such as attending football games and the annual chicken barbecue, another connection Jonathon and Liz share was the support and encouragement of OHHS French teacher Noreen Hanlon. “I was a part of the French program in high school and kept in touch with Noreen after graduation.” Jonathon said. “I was a biology major at The University of Toledo and had been on a pre-med track, but following
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The Foundation also sponsored the Science Olympiad competition and provides athletic programs at the elementary school.

The Ottawa Hills dance team will participate in a national dance camp thanks to a grant from the Foundation. The dance team will be trained by national collegiate dancers from the Universal Dance Association, which will provide them with additional training in technique, choreography, and safety along with the skills necessary to compete at the national level.

A gift from the Foundation will make it possible for elementary students to learn how to play the ukulele. The gift purchased 30 ukuleles with bags, strings, tuners, and books, to augment the current general music offerings. The ukuleles will provide students with an introduction to string instruments of the world, while teaching students an instrument used primarily for chording and accompanying a melodic instrument or voice. Playing the ukulele will provide students with an understanding of how string instruments work and will build their knowledge of note reading as well as the fine motor skills necessary to play any instrument.

The Ottawa Hills Foundation recently approved four grants for projects at the elementary school and junior/senior high school. These projects were funded through donor funds like The Talmage Family Fund, The Eleanor Seifried Fund, and the STEM Fund established by Chris and Aparna Brown.

In coming seventh graders enjoyed an introduction to robotics at a camp sponsored by the Foundation. Students constructed a Clawbot using the VEX EDR Robotics platform. They programmed the robot to drive autonomously and with a remote control, and put their skills to work competing against one another.

# Donor Funds

The Talmage Family Fund
The general fund for all unrestricted gifts to support emerging needs and initiatives at Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

The Eleanor Seifried Fund
To support the enhancement of the performing arts – theatre, choir, and dance.

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation STEM Fund
To increase and enhance student opportunities in STEM-based learning: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Athletic Fund
To provide ongoing support for athletic programs at Ottawa Hills.

The Student Assistance Fund
To provide financial assistance for students to participate in curricular, extra-curricular, and super-curricular programs, regardless of financial ability.

Cornerstone Planned Giving Society
Donors who plan for a bequest in their will.

# Thank You Donors

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**Cupola ($10,000 and above)**

- Chris and Aparna Brown
- Allen and Margaret Braham
- Robert and Jennifer Basset
- Raniah Jaouni
- Bethany Halasz

**Green Bear ($50 and above)**

- Allen Bohl
- Dan and Catherine ('88) Sullivan
- Kris and Lionel Suly
- Ellen Smith Taft ('57)
- William Lin Taylor ('43)
- Russell Tabbitts ('72)
- Walt Thoman ('64)
- Patricia Timmerman, in memory of Allen Timmerman ('65)
- Christine Lofgren Vitecek ('66)
- Beth Work ('56)
- Anna Wiley ('88)
- Helen Williams ('53), in memory of Mary L. Bagley ('53)
- Richard Wolf ('73)
- Tristan Wyatt ('10)
- Thomas Yamin ('56)

# Thank You Class of ’17!

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The Foundation also sponsored the Science Olympiad competition and provides athletic programs at the elementary school.

At the camp, students worked collaboratively on projects such as:

- Robotics
- Science Olympiad
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Computer Science

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New Funds **Enhance** Student Experiences

### Athletic Fund

The Athletic Fund exists to support Ottawa Hills’ high-quality athletic programs, which not only benefit its student-athletes but the entire community. Through our athletic programs, students have the opportunity to learn about the value of hard work, dedication, teamwork, and perseverance. They acquire a lifetime of memories and develop lifelong relationships with coaches and teammates who become mentors, role models, and friends.

### Student Assistance Fund

The student assistance fund ensures all students, regardless of financial ability, have the opportunity to collaborate, explore, and engage with the world around them through curricular, extra-curricular, and super-curricular programs at OHLS. Programs beyond the classroom allow students to apply their knowledge and skills and expose them to real-world experiences through travel and other opportunities such as Agora, Camp Storer, and the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

### Your Gift Makes a Difference

These funds have been established through the generosity of Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation donors. Please consider donating today to these or any one of our named funds at ohschoolsfoundation.org/givetoday.php. A gift of $25,000 gives you the opportunity to create a named fund. If interested, please contact Erica Silk at 419-214-4838.