

# MAKING WAVES AT DCS



## DHS Senior Auction Benefits Sprout Love

*Charity close to Dexter's heart will receive over \$10,000*



On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Dexter High School's National Honor Society (NHS) once again hosted the popular Senior Auction, after being shelved for the past two years due to the pandemic. The Senior Auction has been a DHS annual tradition for at least thirty years, raising money for charities such as Sprout Love and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The Sprout Love Initiative is part of the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor, and was founded in memory of the "vibrant spirit and energy" of Maureen McCurren, mother of DHS alumnus Seamus McCurren. McCurren was a yoga instructor at the Cancer Support Community, and utilized the free services offered at the center while fighting her battle with cancer. The McCurrens created a Financial Assistance Fund for people experiencing hardship during their cancer treatment. Since 2018, Sprout Love has granted over \$250,000 to over 100 families who can use grants for rent/mortgage, car payments and insurance, utilities, phone and internet, groceries and gasoline, and many other necessities during their treatment.

Several years ago, another NHS parent asked advisor Deb Marsh to consider making Sprout Love the primary recipient of funds raised by the NHS. Marsh remembered Seamus as one of her former students, and was moved by the concept. Since then, Sprout Love has been NHS's sole charity, donating increasing amounts each year. The group's first donation was just over \$3,000; this year, NHS has raised more than \$10,000 for their annual contribution.

NHS students felt the Senior Auction was the perfect event at which to raise money for Sprout Love, and on April 21<sup>st</sup> raised over \$3,000 in one day! The Senior Auction is a special “senior only” experience in the spring. Seniors pay \$3/ticket to attend (and the opportunity to skip 2<sup>nd</sup> hour), and over half of the senior class were present to bid or observe.

DHS teachers donate items, activities and experiences such as movie passes, candy and treats, Dr. Moore’s famous “band hat,” rounds of golf or coffee meet-ups with various teachers, a field trip to the zoo with Mrs. Tracy’s Zoology class, and even knitting lessons! The highest bid of \$217 was made for a tea and cookie experience with Mr. Stolkey and Mrs. Doss, and the chance to control Mr. Tong’s hairstyle (“give him a mohawk, shave his head bald, color his hair neon pink”) brought in a cool \$75.

Newly-elected NHS President Griffin Patel (jr) served as auctioneer, and Lucas Greatorex (jr), Mischa Rafferty (so) and Owen Bruderly (so) helped deliver certificates/items and collect cash. “As the auctioneer, I just wanted to have fun with it and get the crowd involved,” says Patel. Advisor Deb Marsh, along with Sasha Amani (jr) and Diego Reyes (jr), accepted credit/debit card donations.

Senior Audrey Hudson serves as the chair of the NHS Sprout Love committee, which has worked tirelessly to raise money all year, exceeding the committee’s goal (and the NHS fundraising record) of \$10,000. “During our first virtual National Honor Society meeting last year, I was immediately drawn to the mission of Sprout Love,” Hudson shares. “Its extension beyond the walls of the high school touched me, especially the story of its creation.”

As chair, Hudson oversees all the moving parts including marketing, sponsorship, decoration, and concessions with the help of a dedicated team. The committee has put in countless hours to reach their monetary goal delivering sponsorship pitches, distributing district-wide flyers, conducting bottle drives, soliciting concession donations, and holding collaborative meetings with Skyline High School, just to name a few. “It’s an intense, but rewarding responsibility,” she says.

“I could not have hoped for a better outcome [for the Senior Auction], Hudson continues, “and the amount raised is truly a testament to the seniors of DHS. They have amazing relationships with their teachers despite the separation of the pandemic, and are willing to pay upwards of \$200 for experiences with them.”

**SPROUT LOVE  
MOVE-A-THON**

Schedule

**10:00 to 10:30 - Yoga**  
Relax on Al Ritt field with a yoga session (mats not provided)

**11:00 to 12:00 - Family Fun**  
Participate in races, games, face painting, and more with NHS students

**12:00 to 1:00 - Food Trucks**  
Featuring Kona Ice, D&W Street Eatery, and Smokey Styles BBQ

**1:00 - 2:00 - Fun Run**  
Help us compete against Skyline High School for the most movement in 30 minutes



**Come join the community fun!**  
Questions? Contact [audrey.hudson@dexterschools.org](mailto:audrey.hudson@dexterschools.org)

*To promote wellness in the community and to raise more funds for Sprout Love, NHS is hosting their Spring Fling Move-a-Thon at Al Ritt Field on May 1<sup>st</sup> which will include yoga, family fun, food trucks, and a fun run. This NHS annual fundraising event has been modified for the past two years, but is coming back in full force this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Information and registration for the Spring Fling Move-a-Thon and Fun Run can be found at <https://runsignup.com/sproutlovespringfling>.*