

## The Molly Izant White Montessori Teacher Education Fund

Lead teachers at Hudson Montessori School (HMS) are held to a higher standard: They must be passionate, effective teachers, and they also must be Montessori trained. Montessori training programs are a significant investment for both the teacher and HMS. The faculty member commits to a 12-month course that involves a combination of on-site classroom instruction, extensive observation, practice teaching, and mentoring by a highly qualified Montessori trainer. Most often located outside of Northeast Ohio, these programs are critical in grounding teachers in Montessori philosophy, child development theory, and curriculum. HMS, in turn, agrees to fund the training—which averages \$20,000 per teacher—in exchange for a minimum of three years of service.

**As we celebrate our 60th anniversary in the 2021-2022 school year, HMS anticipates needing to provide Montessori training for a number of newly hired or prospective lead teachers.** Training these Montessorians will fulfill the aims of our strategic plan, allowing us to expand our program as well as prepare for planned faculty transitions. Thanks to the generosity of four families, we already have three teachers enrolled in Montessori training.

We are now seeking partners who are passionate about HMS and Montessori education to help us continue this essential work. **By making a multi-year or one-time gift to the Molly Izant White Teacher Education Fund, you will ensure that each child experiences the individualized approach to learning that is the hallmark of HMS.**

### MOLLY IZANT WHITE

Molly Izant White is one of the beloved founding mothers of Hudson Montessori School. Her unwavering commitment and tenaciousness were essential in opening the first Children's House on Maple Street in 1962. Molly was attracted to Montessori because of its unparalleled platform for discovery and the way it nurtured children as lifelong, holistic, and independent learners. From the very start, Molly advocated for hiring the best Montessori teachers.

After raising her five children to adulthood, Molly became reengaged with HMS during the school's 30th anniversary. She went on to serve on the board of trustees at the time HMS was considering opening a middle school. Unsurprisingly, Molly was all for the idea. Vehement in her support, she was also vocal in her insistence that the program's success depended on well-trained Montessori teachers. She followed every discussion of the topic by asking the head of school, "Now, what do you need?" and then followed through to assure those needs were met.

When the Middle School opened in 2004, "Miss Molly" became a regular visitor with Poncho, her black Labrador retriever. She delighted in her role as grandmother-in-chief, bringing treats for the students and teaching them to knit as part of the personal expressions program. Molly also shared her gifts with younger students by reading to them and accompanying them on the piano at many HMS recitals and performances.

Now in her 90s, Molly remains a fearless force of nature, unbridled in her generosity and interested in everyone she meets. It is fitting that this fund to prepare outstanding Montessorians at HMS bears her name.

