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Madeira's Legacy of Giving Grows

In May 2018, every member of the Madeira High School (MHS) Class of 2018 attending a college, university, career training program, or entering the military received a \$250 monetary scholarship. These 114 graduates were the first recipients of the Made in Madeira Scholarship which was established when a long-time Madeira resident wanted to leave a legacy.

The Made in Madeira scholarships were made possible by a generous donation from the estate of Homer O. Amos. A WW II Veteran and long-time Madeira resident and business owner, Mr. Amos was proud of his sons and their graduation from Madeira High School in the early 1970's. As Madeira's local TV repairman and laundromat owner, Mr. Amos' shop on Camargo Road served Madeira and the surrounding area for many, many years. Mr. Amos was also an avid investor, successful in managing and growing his assets but who in many ways lived a simple and modest life. He passed away in 2016 at the age of 90, and as part of his final wishes had his estate shared with Madeira High School graduates. Mr. Amos' generous gift of \$750,000 provided the foundation of the Made In Madeira Scholarship which will be built on for years to come.

"I know of no other public high school in the State of Ohio who is able to offer this kind of an opportunity to each and every one of their graduates," stated Madeira Superintendent Kenji Matsudo when the scholarships were initially announced. As the years roll by here in Madeira, our intention is to continue to add to this award for each of our future graduating students." The plan to continue to add to the scholarship fund began before the 2018-2019 school year even began, when several MHS '18 graduates donated their scholarships back to the school in an effort to 'pay it forward.'

Then Madeira Preschool Director Mary Ann McPherson and her husband David made a donation in memory of Chris and Audrey Gilissen, Mary Ann's aunt and uncle. Having no children of their own, the beloved and generous former educators were invested in their students and extended family, which is what led Mary Ann and David to donate in their names. "My aunt and uncle would probably smile," Mary Ann stated. "This scholarship proves what a special and unique community Madeira is."

In addition, a future Madeira alumnus donated money made at a cupcake stand she held in her front yard the past two summers. Sixth-grader Abby Naegeli met with Superintendent Matsudo, Assistant Superintendent Tim Weber, and Treasurer Susan Crabill to discuss possible ways she could contribute. "I felt like I didn't need that much money, so how can I help the community?" the sixth grader asked. After hearing several possibilities, Abby chose to contribute to the Made in Madeira Scholarship, because in her words, "I like that it helps the students and it will grow."

In his 2018 commencement address, Superintendent Matsudo shared these words from Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mr. Homer O. Amos did both and would no doubt be proud to see that giving is ensuring that the Made in Madeira Scholarship continues.

For more information, please contact the Madeira City School District Board Office at 513-985-6070 or Madeira Schools Foundation Director of Alumni Relations Mindi Hilgeman at 513- 924-3725.



Pictured above l to r: Mary Ann McPherson, Abby Naegeli, David McPherson