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Madeira Schools Foundation Benefits District through Volunteers

In the past 20 years the Madeira Schools Foundation (MSF) has raised over \$2 million to enhance the education of students in the district through donations of time, goods, and funds from devoted parents, community members and Madeira alumni.

The organization was founded in July 1984 by a group of enthusiastic parents and community members who had worked to make the high school's outdoor track a reality. As time passed they recognized the need to continue assisting the by providing extras not included in state funding or the district's budget. Today the group is run by over 30 volunteers.

Since its inception the Foundation has raised funds to pay for computer hardware and software in all three district schools, new seats for Madeira High School's auditorium, supplemented the theatre arts program and built a science lab building fund. Donations have also supported a 1:1 student laptop program, Madeira High School's annual Day of Service, and sponsored overseas student service learning trips. In 2017 a state-of-the-art fitness center opened at Madeira High School funded by the Foundation along with the monetary, physical and manual donations of parents, alumni, staff, students, and community members. The volunteers raised funds to refurbish the Madeira High School (MHS) Stadium and most recently helped ensure there was a new Jtouch in every classroom at Madeira Elementary School.

The Foundation sponsors a golf outing and several other functions, but their primary fundraising event is the annual spring auction - which has also become a premier social event for Madeira. Donations of goods, services, trips and meals are auctioned off online prior to the event as well as live that night. Attendees purchase a ticket that includes dinner, the auction, and entertainment – and have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for big prizes. This year tickets to the box office hit Hamilton were raffled, as well as for The Benintendi Experience which includes exclusive tickets for four to attend to a 2019 Red Sox game at Fenway Park, batting practice and a guided tour of the park and more.

The Madeira Schools Foundation also provides annual scholarships for graduating seniors as well as alumni currently continuing their education. Last year they initiated the 'Made in Madeira Scholarship', established when a long-time Madeira resident wanted to leave a legacy - and provided every member of the MHS Class of 2018 attending a college, university, career training program, or entering the military a \$250 monetary scholarship. Since its establishment additional donors have contributed to the scholarship guaranteeing MHS graduates a 'Made in Madeira Scholarship' for years to come.

Each spring Foundation's Distinguished Awards program honors individuals who made significant contributions to society, exhibited leadership qualities, and represented a positive role model to others. Throughout the year, MSF accepts nominations for the Distinguished Staff and Distinguished Alumni/Citizen Awards program which are presented at a special awards luncheon each spring.

Madeira resident Pat Shea shared his thoughts about the Foundation, "As a parent and Board member, I am amazed and especially thankful for the generous donations the district receives. This is a school family and community that cares about making Madeira the best it can be."

To purchase tickets to attend the auction on March 16, raffle tickets, or become a sponsor, visit www.madeiraschoolsfoundation.org. For additional information contact Madeira Schools Foundation Director Mindi Hilgeman at mhilgeman.msf@gmail.com.



Pictured l to r: Trustees Mike Miller and Matt O'Cull at a recent MSF fundraising event