



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Waterford Foundation for Public Education Golf Outing Scheduled *Posthumous Honor of Mary Lou Simmons; Educator, Volunteer and Philanthropist*

April 22, 2024 Waterford, Mich. – The Waterford Foundation for Public Education will hold its Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, June 18, 8:00 a.m. shotgun start, at Fountains Golf and Banquet Center in Clarkston. Each year the Waterford Foundation honors an outstanding individual who has achieved success and is active in service to the Waterford community. This year Mary Lou Simmons will be honored posthumously for her many years as an educator, volunteer, involvement with community organizations and boards, and personal contributions.

Simmons was a dedicated educator, administrator and mentor in the Waterford community. She began her education career in 1967 as a teacher at Burt Elementary School and later moved to Crescent Lake Elementary school before rising into the role of assistant principal at Pierce Junior High School. While she loved her time in both of these settings, having made great connections with staff and an impact on students, her career goals motivated her to become the principal at McVittie School and eventually moved to her role as the principal of Schoolcraft Elementary school where she retired in 2001.

Her passions for education, reading and the arts were shared with all who knew her, personally or professionally. A graduate of the University of Michigan for her master's program, her love of the Maize and Blue was also something she would proudly share. She considered herself a lifelong learner and encouraged all to continue their own journeys to expand their knowledge, find joy in learning, and to do what feeds their passions.

In her retirement she volunteered to support youth education and community with many programs and organizations such as the Waterford Rotary, Waterford's Literacy and Mathematics programs, Summer Slam (now Camp WSD), and the Waterford Foundation for Public Education. Her vision and love of education and the arts is

guaranteed to be shared with future generations through the Mary Lou Simmons Legacy endowment where all of Waterford's students are offered the opportunity to attend performing arts events, have access to literature through the Sweet Reads Bookmobile program and through continued support of the summer Camp WSD.

Established in 1984, the mission of the Waterford Foundation is to recognize and promote excellence in teaching and learning. The Waterford Foundation was created to generate private funding, in the form of grants, to support innovative curricular programs not funded through the Waterford School District. The Waterford Foundation has awarded over \$2 million to the staff and students of the district to finance research and equipment, special materials, science and math workshops, and a variety of instructional projects and programs.

The Waterford Foundation operates through contributions, grants, memorials, and fundraisers. Other Waterford Foundation recognition programs include Teacher of the Year, Select 50, the Al Dittrich Memorial Scholarship, and the Waterford Durant High School Most Improved Award. All Waterford Foundation board members are non-paid volunteers.

Sponsors for this event include Barton Malow and French Associates Architects, Presenting Sponsors; Vibe Credit Union, Gold Sponsor; Ohana Wealth Advisory, Silver Sponsor; and Ron & Margie Gobler, Mike & Michelle Harness, Dr. Jim & Lori Stepanski, Tom & Gail Wiseman, and Michigan United Credit Union, Bronze Sponsors.

Registration is happening now. For golf outing ticket information or sponsorship inquiries visit www.wsdmi.org/wfpe. All donations are tax deductible.

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