

November 5, 2018

To: 1963 Middies

From: Class Endowment Project Committee

Subject: Status Report

Background:

For our 50th class reunion in 2013, the “Big Five-OH!” project was initiated. The basic concept was that our class would create an endowment fund in our name at The Middletown Community Foundation. The purpose of the fund would be to support the efforts of the Middletown School System, since that is what brought us all together. Each year the fund was to provide a grant for a worthy cause in the schools. These grants were to be in an amount that would allow the principle of the fund to continue to exist into the future.

Activity to Date:

By the end of 2013, your fund had received donations and pledges totaling \$53,000. Some class members had made very generous leadership gifts, some had pledged monthly donations, and many made donations in memory of or in honor of other classmates.

Our initial discussions with the Middletown School staff led to their proposing the creation of a kindergarten workbook. Each kindergarten student would receive a copy of the workbook to take home. It was designed to guide the parents and children to work together through a set of exercises. The staff provided the design of the workbook, and your funds were used for the printing and distribution. A systematic survey of parents was conducted, and the results were overwhelmingly positive. Verbatim comments indicated that the parents appreciated the guidance in assisting them in participating their children’s education. Your fund made a total of three annual grants for this project, for a total of \$10,000. The project was sufficiently successful that the school system has made it a part of their annual operating budget. It is clear that your seed funding helped this effort get off the ground and thereby made an important contribution to the students’ experience.

During the five years of its existence, the endowment fund has not only made grants, but additional donations have been received. As a result of these substantial donations, your fund now stands at just over \$78,800.

Current Plans:

Early in summer of 2018, Jim Nein, Jewell Watson-Clemons, Jim Ginter, and John Sawyer met with Middletown Schools Superintendent Marlon Styles. He described his vision of giving Middletown graduates career readiness, whether that career is entry directly into the work force, additional job training, the military, or higher education. He also described the need for targeted funding for facilities directed at this program and his work to develop partnerships with local corporations and other organizations.

Superintendent Styles attended our 55th reunion a few weeks ago and presented his vision and progress to date. Chuck Clark (our web master) has also put these links on our class web site, www.1963Middies.org. His description of their location is: “I have put a new page on the 1963 Middies

website for Marlon Styles and his youtube videos. It is the last link on the left, "Middletown Schools Future".

The supportive reception our classmates gave Superintendent Styles has encouraged the committee to direct this year's annual grant from your endowment fund to his initiative. We will track the progress and impact of our gift and use this information in directing future grants.

The Future:

It appears that the basic idea of the 1963 Middies Endowment Fund is sound. Further, the substantial and widespread participation of the class members has made this a valuable part of our class identity. The fund has given us a common means of contributing to the Middletown community and a means of remembering those classmates we have lost.

To date, the relatively modest annual grants that can be afforded by the fund have made an impact. Seed funding from your fund was used to demonstrate the value of the kindergarten workbook that had been conceived by the staff.

Your committee is hopeful that Superintendent Styles' request will lead to similar impact over the coming few years.

Finally, it is clear that the amount of good that can be achieved by our 1963 Middies Endowment Fund is determined by the size of our account. We are grateful that financial support has continued, and we encourage all class members who are so inclined, to consider making a (or another) donation.

To contribute to the fund you can:

1. Send a check to : Middletown Community Foundation
 300 N. Main Street
 Middletown, OH 45042

(be sure to designate "1963 Middies" on your check)

2. Use a credit card by going to: www.mcfoundation.org

Click on "Donate Now" and follow the instructions
Designate "1963 Middies" as the fund to receive your donation

If you have questions or would like to discuss the fund, please contact:

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