HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE

PRESENTED BY

GEMMENS ACE Hardware

2026

WELCOME FROM OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR

On behalf of the entire Gemmen family, welcome to the 2026 Eagles of Excellence Gala.
For us, being part of the Hudsonville community isn't just business. Our work is about building and sustaining a legacy. As a family-owned company rooted in service and connection, we're proud to serve as presenting sponsor of this year's gala and to stand behind the Hudsonville Education Foundation's mission to invest in our students, teachers, and classrooms.



We've seen firsthand what that investment can do. When our family chose to root our business in this community, it changed more than our own story. It shaped how we hire, how we serve our neighbors, and how we show up for the people around us. That is the same ripple we celebrate tonight. When you invest in one student, you are never investing in just one life. You are investing in the leader they will become, the family they will build, the business they may one day run, the work they do in service to their community, and every person those roles will touch for years to come.

Tonight we celebrate setting and holding high standards for ourselves and others.

Our Hall of Fame inductees are proof of what that ripple looks like decades later. Their personal and professional achievements reflect the influence of the teachers, coaches, and neighbors who shaped them, and their stories remind us that excellence is never built alone. It is nurtured by a community willing to invest early and stay invested.

Our student Eagles of Excellence and their role model guests are pursuing that high standard. These young people are showing us what it means to soar through tenacity, hard work, and growth. Their journeys are just beginning, and they already carry forward the values that make Hudsonville strong.

As a family business, we extend our values into this community, and that work is what allows all of us to live, work, and build relationships as an Eagle community we're proud to belong to. We believe we can positively influence one another, and tonight is a chance to see that belief in action: to celebrate the people who do it well and to recommit to doing it ourselves.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration and in supporting the future of Hudsonville.

With pride,

The Gemmen Family
Gemmen's Ace Hardware

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS

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Powell Orthodontics
West Michigan Community Bank

HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE

PRESENTED BY GEMMENS ACE Hardware

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2026

THE PINNACLE CENTER
5:30PM - 7:30PM

WELCOME

INVOCATION

VARSITY VOICES

-DINNER-

EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE STUDENT AND MENTOR RECOGNITION

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW SCHOLARSHIPS SIGNIFY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

CONCLUDING REMARKS



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Blake Harms, Class of 2017
Wood TV 8 Meteorologist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2026 HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:
- Nicole Hansen, President
- Brent Balkema, Vice President
- Deb Watson, Secretary
- Drew Ysseldyke, Treasurer
- Dr. Doug VanderJagt, HPS Superintendent

Directors:
- Dave Feenstra, Director
- Shawn Hamacher, Director
- Joy Hemmes, HPS Board of Education Trustee
- Henry Samaniego, Director
- Jordan Beel, HPS HS Principal

HEF Staff: Lacey Dixon (Executive Director) and Heidi Leggett (Donor Relations Assistant)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deb Watson, Chairperson
Sharon Blom
Dave Bolhuis
Dave Feenstra
Shawn Hamacher
Joy Hemmes

HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Need Wifi?
Click the QR code, or select: Pinnacle Center Guest
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Students & Mentors


8th

Ayaan Babar
Class of 2031
Riley Street Middle School


7th

Brianna Baugher
Class of 2032
Baldwin Street Middle School


8th

Talia Beauford
Class of 2031
Riley Street Middle School


8th

Vivian Bendekgey
Class of 2031
Baldwin Street Middle School


11th

Avery Bernard
Class of 2028
Hudsonville High School


11th

Madelyn Bilberry
Class of 2028
Hudsonville High School



Shawn Brdlik
Teacher, Social Studies
Riley Street Middle School



Toby Custer
Teacher, Second Grade
Alward Elementary School



Jenna Adema
Teacher, English
Riley Street Middle School



Lisa Keskitalo
Social Worker
Baldwin Street Middle School



Chris Nyenhuis
Security Team
Hudsonville High School



Sarah Lenhart
Teacher, Orchestra
Riley Street Middle School



Hekar Bingol
Class of 2028
Hudsonville High School



Harpreet Chawla
Class of 2032
Riley Street Middle School



Sofie Ferchland
Class of 2032
Riley Street Middle School



Chase Hersberger
Class of 2031
Baldwin Street Middle School



Iskandar Hindeleh
Class of 2029
Hudsonville High School



Irelyn Jeltema
Class of 2027
Hudsonville High School



Tim Wysocki
Teacher, Social Studies
Baldwin Street Middle School



Mike Price
Teacher, Woodworking
Riley Street Middle School



Olivia Mazur
Teacher, Social Studies
Riley Street Middle School



Giovanna Estefan
Teacher, Fourth Grade
Georgetown Elementary School



Zack Jacobs
Teacher, Band
Baldwin Street Middle School
The 5/6 Building at Georgetown



Rick Bolhuis
Counselor
Hudsonville High School

Students & Mentors



Treyton Kelder
Class of 2032
Baldwin Street Middle School
7th



Jordan Wiebenga
Teacher, Fifth Grade
The 5/6 Building at Georgetown



Yuna Kwon
Class of 2029
Hudsonville High School
10th



Adam Davis
Teacher, Music
Hudsonville High School



Luke McCarty
Class of 2027
Hudsonville High School
12th



Christie Klaasen
Teacher (Retired), Math
Hudsonville High School



Jacquelyn McDonald
Class of 2029
Hudsonville High School
10th



Erica Hoff
Counselor
Hudsonville High School



Landon Meduna
Class of 2029
Hudsonville High School
10th



Chris Bowen
Teacher, Science
The 5/6 Building at Georgetown



Rosalyn Mendez-Cole
Class of 2030
Hudsonville High School
9th



Brad Sall
Teacher, Science
Riley Street Middle School



Carter Norman
Class of 2030
Hudsonville High School



Elisabeth Doerr
Teacher, English
Riley Street Middle School



Evelyn Peck
Class of 2030
Hudsonville High School



Tyler Hinton
Teacher, Social Studies
Hudsonville High School



Maria Rodrigues Ronha
Class of 2027
Hudsonville High School



Paul Zielinski
Teacher, English
Hudsonville High School



Ryan Schmidt
Class of 2028
Hudsonville High School



Casey Reicha
Teacher, Math
Hudsonville High School



Bradley Smies
Class of 2027
Hudsonville High School



Chris Bolhuis
Teacher, Science
Hudsonville High School



Eli VanEerden
Class of 2030
Hudsonville High School



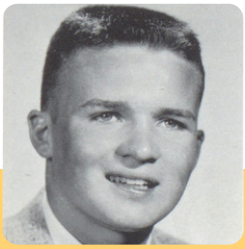
Yvonne Gillis
Parapro
Baldwin Street Middle School

Distinguished Alumni

HALL OF FAME

2026 Inductee





RONALD VANDER MOLEN, M.D.

Class of 1958

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

When Ronald Vander Molen sat across from his principal, Marvin Overway, in 1958, he pictured a future in the classroom, following the example of the very educator advising him. Mr. Overway saw another potential and urged the young Hudsonville graduate to consider medicine instead.

Dr. Vander Molen took that counsel to heart, and he never looked back. In a fitting twist, the boy who once dreamed of teaching would go on to build an enduring teaching legacy.

After graduating from Hudsonville High School, Dr. Vander Molen earned his B.A. from Hope College in 1962 and his M.D. from the University of Michigan in 1966. He completed an internship at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor before pursuing a General Surgery residency at the University of Missouri, where his work was recognized with an Outstanding Teaching Resident honor and the J. William Hinton Research Award.

During the Vietnam era, he served in the U.S. Army at Kimbrough Army Hospital at Fort Meade, Maryland, providing surgical care to active-duty personnel and military retirees, and he later completed advanced medical training at the University of California.

In 1973, Dr. Vander Molen joined St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, where he practiced General and Peripheral Vascular Surgery for more than three decades. He led the institution as Chief of the Department of Surgery from 1985 to 1994 and was honored repeatedly for his skill in the operating room and his gifts as a mentor, including the hospital's Surgical Resident Teaching Award, which he received an extraordinary seven times.

Across his 32-year surgical career, Dr. Vander Molen's hands healed countless patients. Yet the accomplishment he treasures most is the one Mr. Overway might have predicted all those years ago: teaching. Through St. Joseph Mercy's four-year General Surgery residency program, he guided young surgeons in the office, at the operating table, and through teaching rounds and conferences. In all, he played a major role in training 64 surgeons, nearly all of them now board certified and practicing across the country. Each carries his guidance into operating rooms every day, multiplying his reach across thousands of lives he will never meet.

That ripple effect is the quiet measure of an extraordinary life and career: one Hudsonville student, redirected by one Hudsonville educator, going on to train generations of healers.

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Distinguished Alumni

HALL OF FAME

2026 Inductee





PAUL DEBOER, CPA

Class of 1981

SERVICE TO HPS & COMMUNITY

Some people give their time to a community. Paul DeBoer builds the structures that let a community thrive, and he has done it on three continents. The framework he carries, a belief that careful stewardship, sound systems, and steady presence can strengthen any group of people, took root in Hudsonville and has traveled with him ever since.

A 1981 graduate of Hudsonville High School, Paul earned his degree in Business Administration from Hope College in 1985 and quickly put it to work, helping launch the CPA firm of DeBoer, Goodyke, Kahler and Tuttle. Over the next three decades he built a respected accounting practice in West Michigan, later serving as chief financial officer for a Zeeland manufacturer and eventually opening a Grand Rapids satellite office on Fulton Street, where he continues to work today.

The profession suited him, because it rewards the very qualities that define him: meticulous attention to detail, unwavering integrity, and a deep conviction that sound financial structures are never an end in themselves but the foundation that propels good work forward. For Paul, a carefully kept ledger has always been a quiet form of service, the scaffolding that allows people and organizations to do their best work and flourish.

What sets Paul apart is how far he has carried that framework. Twice he and his wife, Cindy, stepped away from the comfort of an established career to serve communities abroad. In 2002, they moved their four young children to France for faith-based service across Europe and North Africa, learning a new language and a new way of life.

From 2007 to 2011, the family relocated to Morocco, where Paul joined the finance team at an international school. Living as newcomers in a community that welcomed them warmly, the DeBoers came away with deep humility, lasting friendships, and an enduring love for the people who took them in.

Back home, Paul has poured the same talents into organizations working for justice and opportunity. He gave 13 years to the Association for a More Just Society, which promotes peace, justice, and transparency in Honduras, serving on its finance and audit committees and training local accounting staff.

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HALL OF FAME continued

Dr. Vander Molen- continued from page 9

Dr. Vander Molen and his wife, Gerri, whom he met as a student at Hope College, share a deep love of art. Together they assembled a distinguished collection of Japanese woodblock prints and helped lay the groundwork for the Kruizenga Art Museum at Hope College, where much of their collection will ultimately reside.

In retirement, Dr. Vander Molen took up voice lessons and now sings with the choir at First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, proof that a life of service always leaves room for new beginnings.

Paul DeBoer - continued from page 10

He chaired the board of Potter's House of Grand Rapids for six years and served on its finance committee for a decade, strengthening a school that welcomes students of every background and income level. He has also lent his time and talents to Camp Geneva, Bridge Street Ministries, Manos de Jesús in Guatemala, and his home congregation, Servants Church.

Through every move and every board table, Paul's gift has remained the same: turning care into something lasting and well built. It is a way of thinking that began in Hudsonville and has since strengthened communities around the world. He and Cindy, a 1984 Hudsonville graduate, have raised four children, the youngest adopted from Guatemala, and they have always stayed open to wherever service might lead them next.

FEELING INSPIRED?

Join the Hudsonville Education Foundation's work through a volunteer committee role. As a member of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame committee, grants committee, or scholarship committee, you play an important role.

Share your interest in the volunteer roles with HEF Executive Director Lacey Dixon at ldixon@hpseagles.net.

Are you a donor to these initiatives? Thank you. Your support creates opportunities.

THE EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE GALA: INCREDIBLE PEOPLE, IMPACTFUL LEGACIES

Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

The Hudsonville Hall of Fame honors individuals who have excelled in their professions, made meaningful contributions to their communities, or selflessly served Hudsonville Public Schools. Through these selections, the Hall of Fame celebrates a tradition of excellence, achievement, commitment, and dedication that inspires future generations.

This tradition began in 2017 and was further commemorated in 2023 with the installation of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame at Hudsonville High School. The installation was made possible through a generous gift from the Wierda family in memory of Marcia Wierda, a 2017 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductee and graduate from 1958.

2027 A DECADE OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI INDUCTIONS

• SCAN HERE • SCAN HERE • SCAN HERE •

As we prepare for the 2027 Eagles of Excellence Gala and the induction of the 10th class of the HEF Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, we need your help. As educators, leaders, family, and friends, you can identify those that have shaped their communities, provided influential service to their field, and achieved remarkable milestones.

Help HEF recognize impactful alumni in the areas of: Career Achievements, Cultural and Performing Arts Accomplishments, and Service to the Hudsonville Public Schools and Community.

Submit your nominations via the QR Code link or through hudsedfound.org.

Lifetime Legacy Awards

The Lifetime Legacy Award was created to honor individuals who are not alumni but have made a lasting impact on Hudsonville Public Schools and the broader educational community. This category, while not included in each gala season, recognizes distinguished leaders whose contributions and character reflect the core values of an Eagle.

Eagles of Excellence Student and Mentor Recognition

Students are chosen as Eagles of Excellence by administrators based on their dedication to academics and their demonstration of positive character traits both in and out of the classroom. The Eagles of Excellence mentors are Hudsonville Public Schools educators and leaders selected by the students for their positive influence on lives and educational journeys.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

2025 Inductees

Lieutenant Commander Lauren T. Baguley, USN Class of 2010
Career Achievements

David DeJong, Class of 1987
Cultural and Performing Arts Accomplishments

Dylan J. Taatjes, Ph.D., Class of 1990
Career Achievements

2024 Inductees

Sandra Van Dam Anderson, PhD, MS, BSN, RN
Career Achievements

Colonel Peter J. Gryzen, Class of 1993
Career Achievements

Roger D. Miller, M.D., Class of 1958
Career Achievements

2023 Inductees

Craig Hoppen, Class of 1982
Career Achievements

Henry Luttikhuizen, Ph.D., Class of 1982
Cultural and Performing Arts Accomplishments

2022 Inductees

Ken Sikkema, Class of 1969
Career Achievements

Matt Smith, Class of 2009
Career Achievements

Larry Byle
Honorary & Posthumous
Service to HPS and Community

2020/2021 Inductees

Henry Scholten, Class of 1938
Posthumous
Service to HPS and Community

Elmer Vruggink, Ph.D., Class of 1945
Service to HPS and Community

Ken Goff, Class of 1979
Career Achievements

Kimberly Koster, Class of 1986
Career Achievements

Samuel Maluil, D.O., Class of 2003
Career Achievements

2019 Inductees

Marshall Elzinga, Class of 1956
Career Achievements

Stanley Emelander, Class of 1977
Career Achievements

Steven Byle, Class of 1986
Career Achievements

Howard Perrin
Honorary
Service to HPS and Community

2018 Inductees

Thomas W. Warke, Ph.D., Class of 1958
Career Achievements

James W. Serum, Ph.D., Class of 1961
Career Achievements

Larry Gemmen, Class of 1966
Career Achievements

Kurt VanderSchuur, Class of 1981
Service to HPS and Community

2017 Inductees

Harrison Visscher, Ph.D., Class of 1947
Posthumous
Career Achievements

Robert Visscher, Ph.D., Class of 1947
Career Achievements

Marcia Wierda, Class of 1958
Posthumous
Service to HPS and Community

Dave Bolhuis, Class of 1959
Service to HPS and Community

Esther Luttikhuizen, Class of 1969
Cultural and Performing Arts Accomplishments

Marvin J. Overway
Honorary
Service to HPS and Community

SUPPORTING EDUCATION THROUGH HEF

hef | HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Hudsonville Education Foundation makes critical investments into our district through teacher grants and student scholarships.

TEACHER GRANTS

From resourceful tools to innovative applications, the Foundation financially supports educators in creating dynamic and engaging student experiences.

Today, our donors position the organization to fund $20,000 per year in grant awards. Increasing funds to this program means items like adaptable seating, new musical instruments, and plentiful program supplies are part of a student's experience.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduating seniors are selected to receive HEF scholarships for their pursuit of higher education—be it at a trade school, college, or university—and their role as a first-time post-secondary student in their families.

Today, our donors position the organization to fund up to five $1,000 scholarships. Increasing funds to this program means more Eagle graduates receive financial support for their post-secondary plans.

"The dedicated community of HEF donors and supporters empowers our students and teachers to stretch their limits, embrace innovation, and create remarkable impacts that transform lives and inspire futures."

Nicole Hansen, HEF Board President

Impact starts with our community of donors and supporters. Thank you for your contribution.

HEF IMPACT: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Hudsonville Education Foundation exists because this community believes deeply that every student deserves an extraordinary education. Our mission is to invest in academic opportunities for Hudsonville Public Schools students by providing funding for resources that enrich education, and scholarships like this one are among the most meaningful ways we fulfill that mission.

We thank donors for financial gifts that make scholarships possible.

Since the creation of the Hudsonville Education Foundation Scholarship in 2019, 25 Hudsonville Public Schools students have received a combined commitment of $52,000 for their post-secondary education. Recipients are selected through a competitive application process with community review. The selection process includes student applications and input from mentors and educator advocates.

CLASS OF 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Evan Andre



Harrison Phillips

Ava Goven

Will Zuiderveen

2027 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eligibility

- Class of 2027 graduating Senior from Hudsonville High School
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.
- Has been or will be accepted to an accredited two or four-year trade school, college or university and will begin classes in the fall immediately following graduation.
- Will be enrolled in twelve (12) or more credit hours at the accredited institution.
- First-generation post-secondary education status may be a consideration in awarding this scholarship

Applications Open for the Class of 2027 in January 2027

HEF IMPACT: EDUCATOR VOICES

As a donor and supporter of the Hudsonville Education Foundation, your contribution results in powerful stories. You can make a significant impact on students.

"When I bring Play-Doh, chalk, beads, and other craft supplies into my AP Psychology classroom, I see students engage with the material in ways that a textbook alone can't provide. They build brains out of Play-Doh, piece together neurons with beads and pipe cleaners, and sketch memory systems with chalk. These hands-on activities make abstract concepts much more concrete and give students multiple ways to connect with the content."

Julie Tuuk
Teacher, AP Psychology and US History
Hudsonville High School

"Thank you so, so much for helping me provide better materials for my students so they can really succeed in learning digital art. I'm so excited to share with the HEF how this award impacts my students at Riley!"

Chloe Lynch
Teacher, Visual Arts
Riley Street Middle School

"Through scholarships and teacher grants, HEF makes a lasting impact on our schools. Scholarships give students the confidence and support to chase their dreams after graduation, while teacher grants provide the resources and opportunities that spark creativity and innovation in our classrooms."

Doug VanderJagt, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Hudsonville Public Schools









HEF IMPACT: STUDENT VOICES

HEF's Classroom Grant Program mobilizes innovative ideas to engage and excite learners. Whether learning new tools or new experiences, classroom grants make an impact that lasts.

We'll let them tell you what happened because educators could:

Implement wind turbine technology...

"It's really cool because we got to see how wind turbines actually work and be able to build them."

Use a 3D printer...

"I loved using the 3D printer for STEAM. We 3D-printed a rack and pinion and hooked it to a motor so the doors on my prototype could open and close. It was such a cool experience."

Provide a guest musician experience...

"Jazz will have you tapping your foot and grinning in seconds."

"Susan Mora was a great model and inspired us! She helped us experience playing better and to become better players."

Make games available for social language development...

"My favorite game is Chutes and Ladders...I learned that we have to zig-zag on the board. I learned about dealing with disappointment. I also learned about encouragement."







HEF MILESTONES

HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2004

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES

The Hudsonville Education Foundation officially launches with a mission of investing in academic opportunities that enrich education.

2008

GRANT PROGRAM BEGINS

Leaders of the Foundation recognize an important opportunity to invest in educators and reward the pursuit of creative classroom investments. An annual grant application process begins.

2017

FIRST GALA, EAGLES OF EXCELLENCE

After years of growing and celebrating the donor community at Family Fun Night, HEF's first gala becomes an annual event. There, student leaders, mentors, and alumni are honored.

2019

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BEGINS

HEF leaders and supporters launch the first scholarship application process focused on providing resources for first-time college students.

2023

SOAREE BEGINS

The value of an Eagle network is clear: area businesses, leaders, families, and supporters celebrate camaraderie and making an impact on scholarships and grants through launching an annual spring event.

2025

CALL TO ACTION: PROGRAM GROWTH

A record number of teacher grant applications catalyzes the organization's move to two application cycles. The need to fuel innovation calls supporters to action.

NEXT

TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

HEF is a multi-generational community of Eagle families and supporters dedicated to celebrating, innovating, and investing in transformational student experiences. Join us!

SAVE THESE 2027 DATES







WWW.HUDSEDFOUND.ORG
LINKEDIN
FACEBOOK

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