



### THE SHARING CONTINUES: 10 YEARS OF GRANTS

*The East Rochester Alumni Foundation formed in 2005, seeking “to unite the school district, community, and students, and to raise funds and provide grants for programs critical to the education system that are not funded by the school budget.” Since the 2006-07 school year, when the Foundation began awarding grants, more than \$115,000 has been donated to help with a variety of diverse and worthy programs, benefiting students from Pre-Kindergarten right up through senior year. The summary below illustrates the numerous long-standing programs and new initiatives for which funds were provided this past school year. These grants continue to demonstrate what a supportive ER family we’re extremely proud to be a part of.*

**AfterSchool Advantage:** Funds were again donated to help support this popular and highly effective after-school academic-enrichment program for grades 6-12, run by teachers and volunteers.

**Aquatics Special Olympics:** Money was once again provided for t-shirts for ER Bomber athletes and the volunteers/supporters representing our school at the April swim competition.

**‘Building Minds in South Sudan’:** Funds were granted for this special visit from a young man – one of the Lost Boys of Sudan – to speak to our middle- and high-school students in late April about the challenges he faced and overcame in his long journey to America, and how he has shaped his life here. In his honor, our donation went toward the ongoing construction of schools in South Sudan.

**Elementary Family Superheroes Learning Night:** The goal of this initiative, in its second year, is to engage families in different fun learning opportunities. This year we provided a grant for math, science, and sensory materials and games, along with backpacks and refreshments.

**FITS (Fun in the Sun) scholarships:** Money was again provided for kids entering grades 1-7 to attend this fun and educational summer-enrichment program.

**Girls with Goals:** The Alumni Foundation was proud to provide a third year of funding for this initiative, which serves to empower girls in grades 7-10 to make important decisions with increased confidence, through intervention and support. This year, two of our Distinguished Alumni Award recipients – the Hon. Vicki Argento ’80 and Mary Steigerwald Whittier ’83 – also generously donated their time to be guest speakers.

**High School Science Olympiad Team:** For the eighth year, funds were granted to this award-winning team to pay for materials used in competitions. Each year members of the team come to an Alumni Foundation Board meeting to demonstrate some of their entries. Their talent, ingenuity, and hard work is clearly evident.

**Middle-Level Alumni Connection Day:** Funds were donated for t-shirts for this special day in June, when students in grades 6-8 meet with alumni, compete in fun grade-level contests, and enjoy a picnic. (For more information, see page 3.)

**Quarterly recognition of Honor Roll students:** Money was again given for lunch-time ice cream sundaes for Junior/Senior High students who earned a spot on the honor or credit rolls.

**Second-grade smoke detectors:** As in 2015-16, funds were provided to help pay for new smoke detectors for our second-graders. This partnership with the ER Fire Department – started as a way to remember and honor Tyler Doohan, who died in January 2014 – allows each child to receive a smoke detector during their annual October visit to the firehouse.

**Senior Bash:** Again this year, funding was granted to help seniors who couldn’t otherwise afford to attend this year-end overnight celebration, which encourages them to have safe, responsible, substance-free fun.

**Student of the Month backpacks** – Funds were again used for orange ER backpacks for this program, which honors Junior/Senior High students for making positive contributions to the school community.

**Washington D.C. trips:** Money was donated to the Class of ’21 and the Class of ’18 (who were unable to go three years ago, as eighth-graders) for admission to the National Aquarium, in Baltimore. This excursion on the way home from our nation’s capital has proven to be one of the most popular aspects of the traditional trip.

**‘Welcome to ER’ Urban-Suburban Picnic:** Funds were once again provided for an August picnic for our new Urban-Suburban students and their families as a way to welcome them to our ER family.

The Alumni Foundation sincerely appreciates all who have supported us, whether through our fundraisers or donations. Together we are providing our students with opportunities that truly help make our District special.

– Anita M. Mance ’65, Grants Chairperson

### ANTHONY CILENTO '57 RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

*As part of our Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic awards luncheon on Friday, Aug. 4, the Alumni Foundation proudly honored acclaimed photographer Anthony 'Sonny' Cilento, from the Class of 1957, with its annual Distinguished Alumni Award. A brief biography follows....*

From humble beginnings, Anthony Cilento went on to become a major influence in photography and the photographic arts.

Raised by hard-working Italian parents, and struggling academically with what is now known as dyslexia, coupled with the onset of polio in his youth – before any vaccine was discovered – Tony defied all odds when told he



would never walk again. His determination to overcome daunting challenges is something that has never left him.

Tony – also known as 'Sonny' – earned a bachelor's degree from Marquette University, but received his education in total from New York University, Germain School of the Spectrum (now Germain School of Photography), School of Modern Photography, Marquette University, Layton School of the Arts, and Winona School of Photography.

Photography by Cilento opened its doors in Milwaukee in 1962, specializing in school portraiture, weddings, and special events. By the time he sold his company in 1987 to Lifetouch Inc. – the largest photographic company in the world – Tony employed more than 100 individuals. He's served in the prominent role of Lifetouch's Vice-

President of Photographic Development, and has influenced the photographic arts field for more than 50 years.

During his tenure at Lifetouch, Tony was the voice of the company's 30,000 full-time and seasonal photographers – an achievement of which he is most proud. He consistently emphasized *why* to photograph over *how* to photograph, creating a culture of "the best photography starts with the heart of photography." People are what matter – and that's precisely what he cared about most.

Tony's spirit is guided by a strong faith, which he has often turned to throughout his career. Mind-over-matter, inner strength, and his personal faith in God are what have propelled Tony Cilento to help revolutionize an industry, paving the way for countless future photographers.

A representative sample of Tony's celebrity, political, and religious clients includes Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, Sting, Diana Ross, Cher, Whitney Houston, The Bee Gees, Fleetwood Mac, Presidents Ford and Reagan, evangelists Dr. Robert A. Schuller and Billy Graham, St. Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis I. For a number of years Tony, who is retired and lives near Milwaukee, was also the official photographer for the Green Bay Packers.

– Carl Tobin '59

In receiving this award, Mr. Cilento joined a prestigious group of other ER alumni who have been so honored. DAA recipients from 2009 to '16, respectively, have been **Nick Verzella '44**, co-honorees **Brig. Gen. Richard McPhee '74** and **Rear Adm. Don Quinn '75**, **Sam Urzetta '44**, **Larry Weise '54**, the **Hon. Vicki Argento '80**, **Tom Connors '44**, **Mary Steigerwald Whittier '83**, and **Jeanette D'Agostino Banker '49**.

### SAVE THE DATE! SEVENTH-ANNUAL ER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SATURDAY, DEC. 9

*Much more info to come as the date approaches – please check [www.erchamber.org](http://www.erchamber.org) for updates!*

The East Rochester Christmas Festival (at the Eyer Building and school campus) is sponsored by the ER Chamber of Commerce, with assistance from the ER Alumni Foundation, the Town/Village of ER, the ER Association of Churches, the ER Rotary, and the ER School District. For the past six years, the Festival has provided visitors with activities such as music, children's stories, food and item vendors, games and crafts, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and horse-drawn wagon rides around Edmund Lyon Park. *Organizers are working to make our seventh-annual celebration even bigger and better! We look forward to making this an enjoyable event we can all be proud of.*

*more ERAF information on next two pages....*

~ ALUMNI CONNECTION DAY ~



Sixth-grade English teacher Kerry Walsh coaches Emilia O. and a blindfolded David Thering before the Rolly Slalom race – one of several class-vs-class contests. (The seventh- and eighth-graders tied for first overall.) More photos from the day are at [www.tinyurl.com/y7sscnaaj](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7sscnaaj).

and from the first three Alumni Connection Days:

- Friday, June 6, 2014 – [www.tinyurl.com/pqtdy2z](http://www.tinyurl.com/pqtdy2z)
- Friday, June 5, 2015 – [www.tinyurl.com/om6jges](http://www.tinyurl.com/om6jges)
- Friday, June 3, 2016 – [www.tinyurl.com/jq5kprp](http://www.tinyurl.com/jq5kprp)

We proudly sponsored our fourth-annual ‘Middle-Level Alumni Connection Day’ on Wednesday, June 7. After the 6-8 students started the day at an awards ceremony in the auditorium (at which the *Crossroads* yearbook was dedicated to the late Bomber team manager/supporter **Dan Marra**, with a recognition for communications director **Doreen DiNardo**), more than 20 alumni of all ages visited with them in their classrooms to discuss how their ER education and experiences helped prepare them for their lives after graduation, and advised students on how to make the most of their years in ER. That was followed by grade-vs-grade games and contests in the gym (at which the seventh- and eighth-graders tied for first), then a picnic lunch, outdoor competitions, and yearbook distribution.

A huge thank you to **Tom Quinzi '80**, sixth-grade teacher **Barbara Cira Miller '87**, and everyone else who helped organize the day, along with these alumni for their time and dedication: **Peter Obourn '59**, **Anita Mance '65**, **Rocco Platino '66**, **Rene Capponi Madara '73**, **Gene Filiaci '77**, **Dan Parshall '78**, **Tim Henry '79**, the Hon. **Vicki Argento '80**, **Al Cohen '83**, **Marc Mingoia '83**, **Steve Doyle '87**, **Mike Romach '96**, **Karrie Louis Beehler '00**, **Kim Romach '00**, **Jenalee Bates Herb '01**, **Melissa Greco Lopes '01**, **Mike Wegman '02**, **Andrew Morabito '05**, **Tommy Quinzi '09**, **Julia Benson '10**, **James Bates '11**, and **Noelle Morabito '12**.

Photos from the Monday, June 12 Baccalaureate ceremony, at which numerous ER alumni participated and retired Elementary Principal Linda Marino was the featured speaker, are at [www.tinyurl.com/yc5x8gqs](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5x8gqs).

**CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST ALUMNI:** At the conclusion of graduation rehearsal on Thursday, June 22, the members of the Class of 2017 were welcomed to the ranks of alumni. Board members **Katie Connors DeVito '86** and **Anita Mance '65** distributed brown and white ER mugs as gifts to the graduates.

Addressing the Class of '17, Miss Mance said, “Many people have given of themselves to support you along the way. As you look back to your time in our school, please know you are part of our ER family, and even though you graduate, you remain part of us. In the future, we hope you’ll find a way to give back to our ER community.”

*Congratulations and best of everything to our newest alumni!*







**We plan to add a veterans page to our Website this coming fall**, to honor and thank current and former area residents who have chosen to serve and protect their country as members of America's armed services. While our focus will be on servicemen and women from East Rochester, we've decided to also include veterans from nearby communities – because they, like our ER brothers and sisters, are neighbors who have given selflessly for the good of our country and our world.

We began this project earlier this year with very little information about who all these people are, where they lived, and when they served. Over the next couple of months we'll be working with school personnel to design the new page, while collecting the names of veterans whose information will be included when it becomes a reality. Because we haven't really found a reliable, updated source for compiling a comprehensive list, we're asking for everyone's help in its creation. To add someone (yourself, a family member, or a friend), please e-mail as much of the following information as you have to Kimberly Romach '00 at [kimberly.romach@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.romach@gmail.com).

**Mr./Mrs./Ms.; last name (and maiden name if applicable), first name; branch of service  
years of service** (for example, 1963-67)

**theater of operations** (for example, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Okinawa, Desert Storm, Fort Sill, Andrews AFB, Continental U.S.)

**high school(s) attended**, and year(s) of graduation or attendance

**other relevant information** (for example, B-17 Navigator, USS America CV-66, 1st Marine Regiment, 82nd Airborne, 1st Infantry, USNA)

*Our goal is to formally introduce this page on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 – Veterans Day.*

*Your help is greatly appreciated by the Alumni Foundation, and our local veterans and their families.*

### Forgot what you and your classmates looked like as seniors?

Now on the Alumni Foundation's Website: an 'E.R. Connections' page, where you'll find several useful links – including one to the ER Local History Office's searchable database of ERHS graduates going back to 1910, and the senior portraits of almost all classes since '31. Just go to [www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm](http://www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm) and click on 'E.R. Connections.' (The features are also easily accessible from the District's homepage – just go to the 'Alumni' tab to access the pull-down menu.)

*Please visit the Alumni Foundation's Website, at [www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm](http://www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm)!*

### \* ERAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS \*

**Board members:** Chris Argento '86, the Hon. Vicki Argento '80, Denise Litzenberger Ash '86, Dan Bates '07, John Baynes '71, Jake Calabrese '10, Jerry Cilento '57, Mary Hopkins Cooney '56, Katie Conners DeVito '86, Mary Burton Estey '56, Linda Forbes '75, John Griffith '87, Jenalee Bates Herb '01, Anita Mance '65, Pam Narsisian, Peter Obourn '59, Patty Pullano '63, Tom Quinzi '80, Carl Tobin '59, Helen Urzetta Tortorici, and Dr. Mark Linton (ex-officio)

**Former members:** Terry Brown-Steiner, Jim Burlingame '54, Tim Henry '79, Marilyn Tuttle Lopez '63, Dr. Howard Maffucci, Dina Marcoccia '86, David Morabito '72, Sam Morabito '61, Peter Nicolucci '50, Fred Ricci '65, Barbara Steve Stoner '45, Patrick Tobin '58, Sam Urzetta '44, Nick Verzella '44, and Richard Stutzman