

# Dart Foundation<sup>SM</sup>

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





# MESSAGE FROM JIM LAMMERS

*Dart Foundation Vice President*

## Looking back and looking forward: The Dart Family Philanthropic Legacy

**T**hirty-five years have passed since W.A. and Claire Dart established the Dart Foundation and set in motion a philanthropic legacy built on their values and passion for improving communities.

It's been a personal privilege for me to work alongside the Dart Family the past 30 of those years and watch the Foundation grow and adapt while staying true to the Family's vision. This edition of the Annual Report is dedicated to honoring that legacy.

As a Board, we're grateful to all the entities—our Giving Committees, funding partners, staff and, most importantly, to the many organizations we've supported over the years - that have made and continue to make the Dart Foundation what it is today.

For 2019, we're highlighting several grants that exemplify the Dart Family's philanthropic legacy and causes that form the basis for our mission and charitable work. The grants support:

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education:** Elementary students in urban Illinois work in a multi-purpose, flexible STEM lab that serves as a hands-on, collaborative learning environment. Meanwhile, across the country in rural Washington state, elementary students prepare for the District's upper-level STEM curriculum by honing their computer science skills early on.

**Community Enhancement:** Summer camp attendees and others in Florida benefit from an outdoor shade deck built at a YMCA that provides protection from the elements while supporting programming.

**Workforce Development:** High school students in North Carolina train on state-of-the-art machinery that helps develop their critical thinking skills and prepares them for highly sought-after local jobs.

**And finally, a special tribute to the Dart Family Legacy:** In Michigan, teens at a residential rehabilitation home receive therapy and education designed to strengthen the entire family unit at a new treatment and educational center on campus.

It's inspiring to reflect on and celebrate the tangible philanthropic influence of the Dart Family over the years through this Foundation. It's also exciting to look ahead to the future as we continue providing financial support to our Giving Communities while preserving the Dart Family legacy. ■



◀ Jim Lammers visits Highfields, a youth services organization near Lansing, MI.

Front Cover: Dart Foundation Manager Emily Matthews at George Washington Elementary School, Chicago, IL.



# EXPANDING A TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX

## Long-term funding helps build STEM lab • Chicago, Illinois

Providing long-term grant support to a single organization or project is key to establishing a philanthropic legacy. The exponential growth of the financial impact over time allows the grantee's program to blossom into a significant and lasting community asset. The STEM program at George Washington Elementary School is just such an asset, having made a difference in the education of classrooms of students year after year.

The school received one of the first grants ever awarded by the Foundation in our Chicago Giving Community. Since that time, school staff have made a convincing case each year for further enhancing existing STEM equipment and curricula, and the Foundation has responded by awarding five additional grants that brings our overall total support to \$26,400.

As a result, the school of more than 800 K-8 students is transitioning its traditional computer lab to a multi-purpose flexible STEM lab. The STEM lab promotes a hands-on, interactive learning style for students at each of the school's grade levels. It also is particularly conducive to group work, with the goal of having each student become a technology creator instead of simply a technology user.

This year's Foundation grant funded 10 iPads to augment an array of equipment – including 30 Chromebooks with carts, adjustable furniture modules and a 3D printer – purchased with previous grants. Taken together, the equipment funded through the years has created an impressive stable of technology that is available to all the school's students. Such accumulating support reflects the Dart Family's commitment to awarding grants that positively affect large groups instead of a select few.

Members of the Chicago Giving Committee and Dart Foundation staff recently visited the school to experience the flexible STEM lab in action.

"It was amazing to see our Chicago Public School students using the equipment made possible by grants from the Dart Foundation," Chicago Giving Committee member Vern Scholl said. "I feel like we're really making a difference for these kids and their futures." ■

► Members of the Chicago Giving Committee check out the growing stable of technology at George Washington Elementary School.





# RAISING A ROOF

## Covered deck allows a YMCA to expand programs • Plant City, Florida

Throughout the years, the Dart Foundation has honored the Dart Family legacy by remaining steadfast in its support of youth and family organizations. This commitment is evidenced by the more than \$400,000 donated by the Foundation over the years to YMCAs across the country, with the first grant being awarded to the Barren County Family YMCA in Kentucky in 1998.

The grants have continued because the YMCA's mission of strengthening and improving the quality of life in local communities mirrors the Dart Foundation's core values. YMCAs offer programs that support a healthy spirit and mind and help children in our Giving Communities grow into healthy, successful adults while still enriching the broader membership population.

In 2019, the Foundation Board added to the Dart's Family legacy in this area by awarding a community enhancement grant for \$3,285 to the Plant City Family YMCA. The resources allowed the YMCA to build a covered outdoor deck that is used primarily during summer camps under the hot Florida sun. Without the deck, the YMCA had to significantly limit its outdoor programming due to the intense heat.

The summer camps teach healthy habits and teamwork through STEM lessons and enrichment projects, academic activities, group games and physical activities. In addition, the YMCA can use the flexible space for activities for the full membership population, including adults and seniors.

"The covered deck is an amazing addition to the Plant City Family YMCA," said Executive Director Paul Conley. "It maximizes the use of our outdoor space, provides essential protection from the elements and allows everyone to engage in activities in a comfortable, open-air setting." ■

◀ The new covered roof is allowing the YMCA in Plant City, FL, to expand programming outside its walls.

**"The covered deck is an amazing addition to the Plant City Family YMCA."**

Executive Director Paul Conley





# COMMITTING TO A COMMUNITY

## Long-term support helps a youth services organization grow • Onondaga, Michigan

Highfields, an organization that provides services to youth and families in need in Mid-Michigan, demonstrates how long-term commitment and continued investment can form the basis of a legacy.

Highfields is one of a select few organizations to have a historic link to the Dart Family that spans several decades and impacts multiple aspects of the operation. W.A. and Claire Dart were among the institution's early supporters, and the Foundation has donated more than \$2 million to support the program over the last 30 years.

Highfields' main campus remains on its original 140-acre rural parcel south of Lansing in Onondaga. In its infancy, a single building housed student living quarters, staff offices, cafeteria and – perhaps most noteworthy – the place where the boys received their education. It was also in this original building that Claire Dart offered the deeply personal gift of volunteering her time as a tutor.

Like most successful organizations, Highfields evolved to meet changing needs. Today, the multi-purpose human services charity serves more than 7,000 individuals annually through community, educational and residential programs.

When Highfields embarked on a recent capital campaign to upgrade its facilities, the Dart Foundation contributed \$750,000 to build a new

training and treatment center near the building where Claire volunteered. Highfields also used a portion of the grant to remodel and upgrade the kitchen and cafeteria in another building.

The new Dart Family Treatment and Education Center provides flexible, multi-purpose space and also serves a special purpose for the residential program, which prides itself on inviting residents' families to stay on campus and participate in treatment sessions designed to strengthen the entire family unit. The new facility provides modern, comfortable overnight accommodations along with space conducive to interactive learning and group dialogue.

W.A. Dart once said the Dart Family supports Highfields because it's an important part of the community. Decades later, Highfields continues to build strong, sustainable families, and – in turn – helps the Dart Foundation improve the quality of life in one of the communities we serve. ■



Vice President Jim Lammers and Manager Emily Matthews visit the newly opened Dart Family Treatment and Education Center.



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# INSPIRING AN INVENTIVE SPIRIT

High-tech equipment is preparing students for high-demand jobs • Asheboro, North Carolina

Outside the Foundation, W.A. Dart built his legacy on an ability to create useful items from scratch and a willingness to get his hands dirty.

Formally trained as an engineer, he labored alongside those in the manufacturing company he founded with his father and worked wonders with metals, plastics, paper and combinations of all those materials.

He knew the value of a creative and trained mind, and the Dart Foundation has always supported efforts to put the right tools in people's hands along with the education to use them effectively.

This past year, the Dart Foundation honored W.A.'s legacy by granting \$5,000 to Southwestern Randolph High School in Asheboro, NC, to help pay for a Lincoln Torchmate 440 CNC plasma table. The school added the design and cutting equipment to its metal fabrication lab and expanded its curriculum in the machining trades.

Like so many communities across the country, the Asheboro region has a shortage of workers trained to operate high-tech machinery used in many different industries. The grant is exposing local high school students to those high-demand jobs and helping them gain the necessary skills to head into the workforce after graduation or seek further training in other careers.

"It's so exciting to see students using their hands and their minds to develop their own creations using the new plasma table," said teacher Andrew Atwell of the Agricultural Mechanics division of the school's Career and Technical Education Department. "Innovation is at work every day in our lab." ■

**"It's so exciting to see students using their hands and their minds to develop their own creations using the new plasma table."**

Teacher Andrew Atwell



◀ The new grant-funded plasma table will help North Carolina high school students learn key career skills.

# IGNITING A SPARK IN YOUTH

Grant helps turn students on to computer science • Tenino, Washington

**W**.A. and Claire Dart have always believed educational opportunities improve the quality of life for an entire community regardless of demographics or geographic location. And that belief permeates all aspects of the Dart Foundation's giving and its focus on STEM education as a crucial component for community growth and prosperity.

STEM education has been of particular importance to the Dart Family because it teaches the critical-thinking skills industry needs and empowers young people to compete in the global economy.

We've already highlighted how a STEM lab is making a difference for all students at an urban school on Chicago's southeast side. But due to its importance to the Foundation's legacy, we also wanted to showcase the impact a STEM grant is having on a Giving Community in the rural northwest.

Through a \$3,265 Dart Foundation grant, the Tenino School District recently bought SAM Labs computer science kits for its two elementary schools to spark the interest of its early learners while preparing them for STEM courses in middle and high school.

Now students in all 25 primary grade classrooms in the Tenino district – about 20 miles from Tumwater, WA – are learning computer science and other underlying STEM concepts as a result of the grant.

"This is especially valuable for rural communities like ours where students don't always have access to computer science and other cutting-edge STEM coursework," District Technology Integration Specialist Paula Perryman said. "We want our students to learn critical-thinking and computational skills that are useful in whatever field they choose to enter." ■



▲ Students from Tenino, WA, show off the technology in their STEM Labs.



# DART FOUNDATION

## History

The Dart Foundation is a private family foundation established in 1984 by William A. and Claire T. Dart. Headquartered in Mason, the Mid-Michigan area has long been a focal point of Dart Foundation philanthropy. Each year, grants are also awarded in other areas of the United States.

## Mission

The mission of the Dart Foundation is to advance and encourage youth education, primarily in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We also support projects that strengthen and improve the quality of life in numerous identified communities.

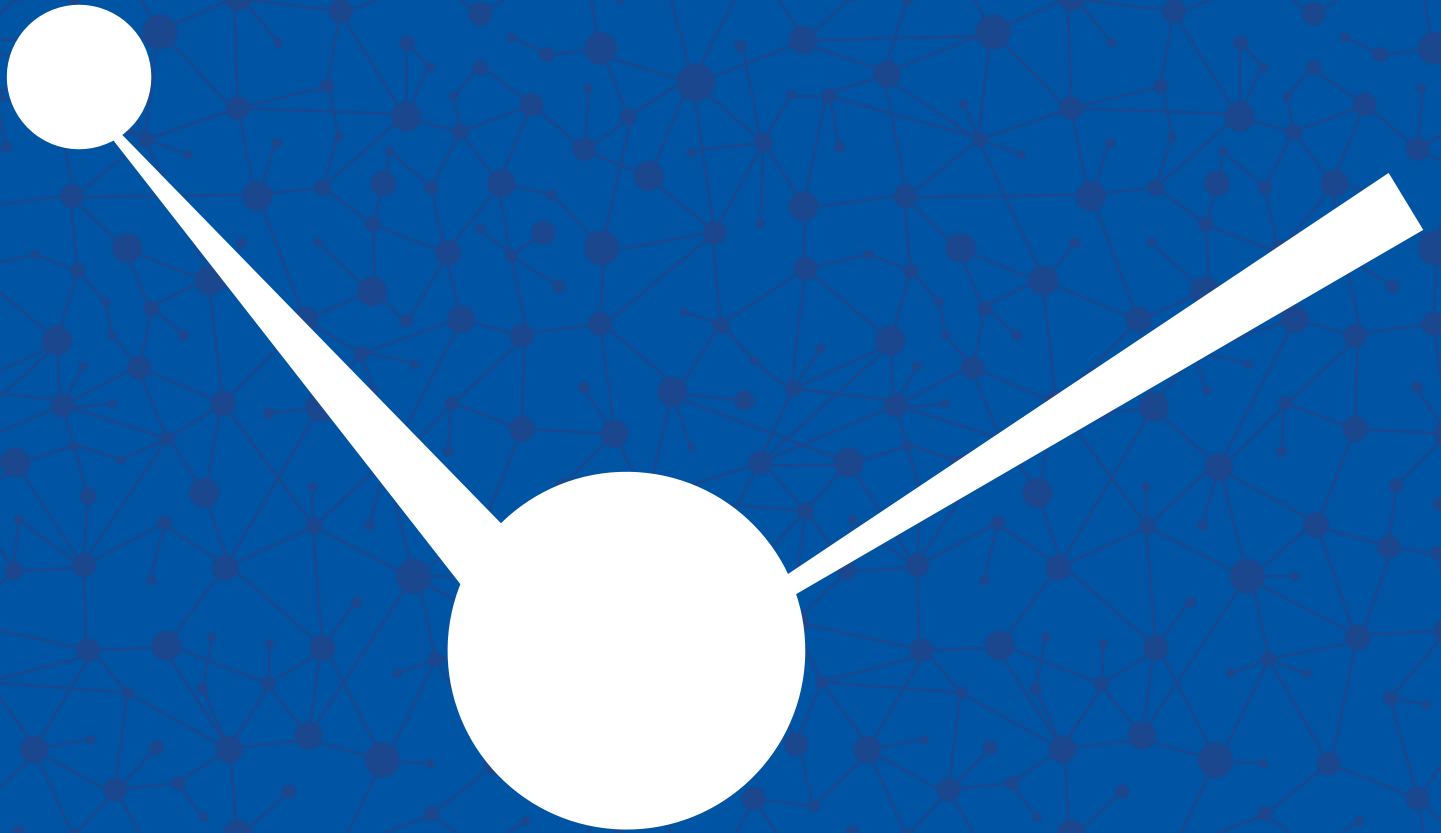
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Please visit our website at [www.dartfoundation.org](http://www.dartfoundation.org) to learn more about the great work being done by the Dart Foundation.



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