

"We must strive to do ordinary things extraordinarily well"  
-Catherine McAuley, RSM



# Mercy Education Project

## Annual Report 2021-2022





# COVID CAUSED CHANGE... and *SOME* of it was GOOD!

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## WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Although traditional education calls for in-person learning as the ideal, COVID caused a pivot to remote learning. In the 2021-2022 program year, MEP reopened its doors to our women, but also realized the need to continue remote learning and introduce hybrid learning to allow women to attend class on days they may not be able to make it into the building.

Taking it a step further, by video recording some classes, MEP began offering asynchronous learning opportunities for women whose work or care schedules make it impossible to be in the building or online during the class period. While traditional educational institutions eventually returned to full in-person learning, MEP recognized the needs of our students, met them there, and expanded our learning opportunities, making room for all to succeed.

From now and into the future, MEP offers four learning opportunities: in-person classes, hybrid synchronous, full-remote synchronous, and finally, guided and tracked independent learning. The number of women we reach and serve is growing by leaps and bounds. COVID caused change... and it's Good.

Amidst the challenges and setbacks of COVID, the 2021-2022 program year brought us 14 GED Graduates! With the 12 graduates from the previous two COVID years, MEP decided to celebrate all three years together with a grand celebration of 26 women who passed four incredibly difficult exams in Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. On October 6, 2022, at PAL Detroit, we celebrated 26 strong, dedicated, and intelligent women, each of whom has a particular story and journey, and who individually and collectively represent greatness and success!

For more information on our Women's Program, contact Rosanne Plasky, Director of Women's Programming, [rplasky@mercyed.net](mailto:rplasky@mercyed.net).





# COVID CAUSED CHANGE... and *SOME* of it was GOOD!

## GIRLS' PROGRAM

Prior to COVID, MEP's after-school Girls' Program ran two sessions with the girls in the building for a maximum of two hours. After many months of virtual tutoring, the girls were invited back into the building in the fall of 2021, but due to COVID concerns, including social distancing, and lower numbers, MEP "temporarily" pivoted to one session and extended the time girls spent at MEP. Although the plan was to move back to the traditional two-session format, the benefits of having the girls in the building for three-plus hours per evening were evident.

After being picked up from their schools, the girls unwind and share a community meal at MEP. At 4:30, the girls experience a STEAM learning or social-emotional learning activity for one hour (40 minutes longer than before). At 5:30, girls and tutors begin the hour-long one-to-one tutoring in reading or math that MEP has championed for 30 years.

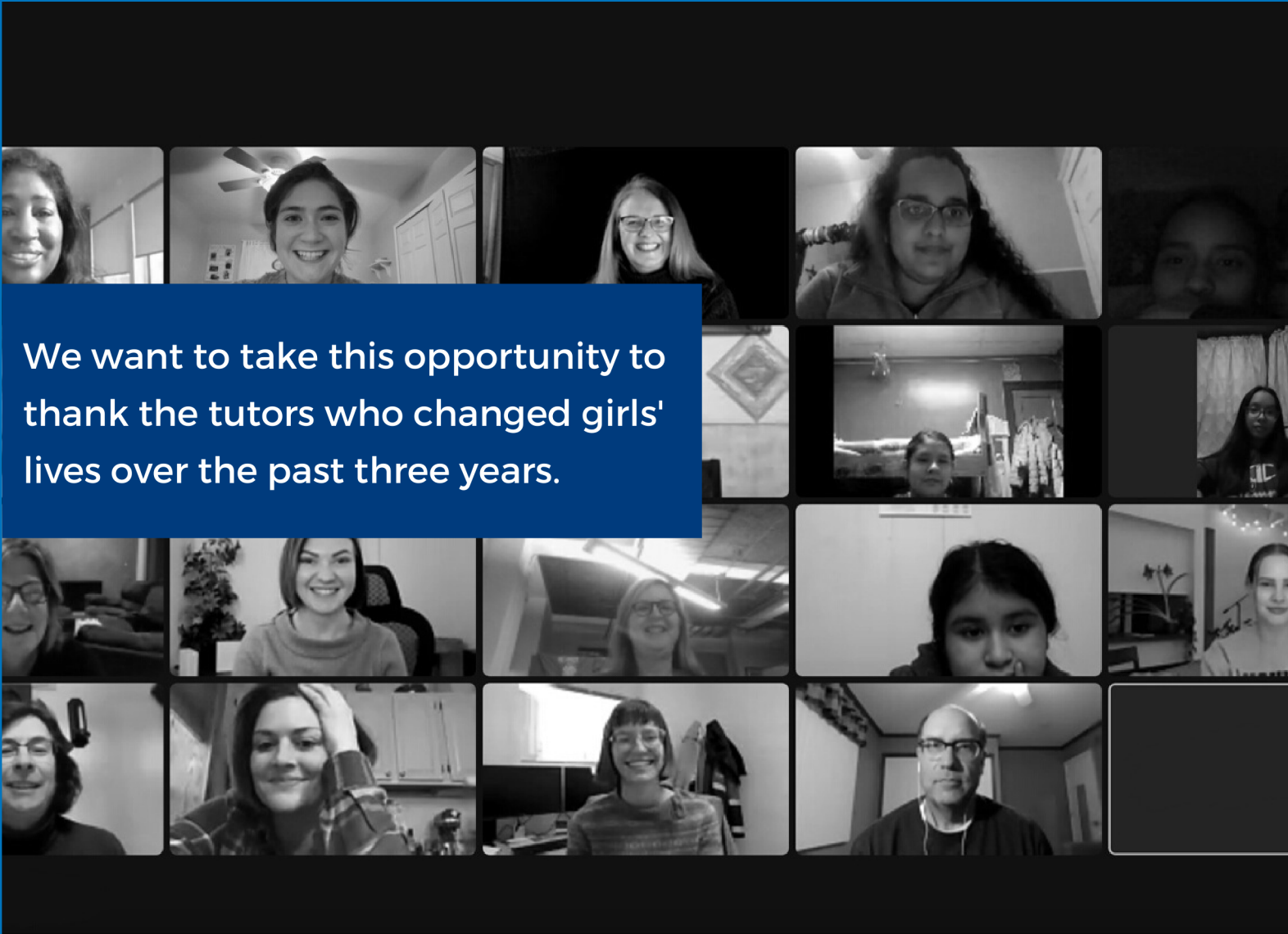
Instead of rushing and scrambling to fit in two sessions, more time is given to quality programming and relationship building, including opportunities to divide girls into age-appropriate learning activities. COVID caused change...and it's Good! COVID brought a new schedule and unexpected life into our Girls' Program.

Near the end of the 2021-2022 program year, the decision was made to continue the one-session format in future years. Now we're in the process of space adaptations to accommodate the influx of girls into the program. More girls mean more tutors. Consider becoming a volunteer tutor.

For more information on our Girls' Program or to inquire about becoming a tutor, contact Itzel Salinas, Director of Girls' Programming, [isalinas@mercyed.net](mailto:isalinas@mercyed.net).



# MEP VOLUNTEER TUTORS ARE LIKE NONE OTHER



We want to take this opportunity to thank the tutors who changed girls' lives over the past three years.

The backbone of MEP's Girls' Program has always been its tutors! Volunteer tutors make a weekly commitment to tutor the same girl, one-to-one, in either reading or math. When Detroit Community School District is in class, MEP tutors and students

are in their respective tutoring "pods" building a life-transforming relationship from which our girls not only improve their reading or math skills but also increase their confidence and realize their worth.

See our list of tutors on page 5.



# THANK YOU 2019-2022 TUTORS:

- |                         |                     |                      |   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| Christine Allen         | Claire Gembrowski   | Diana Mercery-Pryor  | Catherine Sobeck, RSM   |
| Cindy Allison           | Marla Gibson        | Nicole Meunier       | Marisa Sochacki   |
| Christine Alverno       | Karen Gilkey        | Gail Miciunda        | Rebecca Stockbridge   |
| Alondra Amaro           | Jill Goryca         | Cindy Miotto         | Cassie Sugarman   |
| Ashley Altizer          | Sarah Grammel       | Helina Misikir       | Mary Jo Sullivan  |
| Patti Baranyai          | Sarah Greenwood     | David Morales        | Katie Sweet   |
| Claire Barrett          | Kaitlin Grzybowski  | John Morris          | Yvonne Talmadge   |
| Nichole Becker          | Elizabeth Guterrez  | Nadia Muhammad       | Regina Tan  |
| Susanne Bennett         | Maureen Heary       | Divya Nelluri        | Sandra Tatum  |
| Anitra Blake            | Sarah Hildebrandt   | Beth Newberg         | Mary Taylor   |
| Ann Byrne               | Jennifer Hutchinson | Anne Nichols         | Lauren Thomas   |
| Serena Bonarski         | Jim Johnson         | Saran Nimmagadda     | Lily Tubbs  |
| Sajje Lee Laririt Calfy | Jane Kersjes        | Peggy O'Neill        | Leigh Ann Ulrey   |
| LaTonya Causey          | Noah Kleedtke       | Lori Ostrow          | Colette Verch   |
| Katha Chockley          | Savannah Krall      | Daniel Paquin        | Angela Walters  |
| Tiarra Cody             | Michelle Kurtjian   | Lauren Parr          | Trevor Walters  |
| Dennis Costello         | Aniela Kuzon        | Chinmay Patil        | Bonita Watkins-Gamble   |
| Stuart Crump            | Christy Le          | Susan Pearl-Geisling | Ventress Williams   |
| Julia DeLapp            | Rachel Lissner      | Leslie Rabaut        | Lindsey Witte   |
| Anthony Dillof          | Adrienne Long       | Mahesh Ramgopal      | Madison Wolkov  |
| Domeda Duncan           | Mackenzey Maddock   | Ashley Reibel        | Angela Xu   |
| Cynthia Eleweke         | Mariah Mallet       | Caitlin Rivera       | Olivia Xu   |
| Hannah Ferree           | Mark Mals           | Anngeliz Rodriguez   | Rich Zdun   |
| Myrna Fernandez-Lynch   | Sandy Mals          | Sam Russel           | To become a tutor,<br>contact Itzel Salinas,<br>Director of Girls'<br>Programming,<br>isalinas@mercyed.net. |
| Mary Fisher             | Bob Maxwell         | Elizabeth Scicluna   |   |
| Erin Fishman            | Maridy Mazaira      | Stephanie Schuldt    |   |
| Kayla Franklin          | Gail Miciuda        | Linda Silvasi        |   |





# IN-PERSON DOORWAY TO THE FUTURE GALA: MAY 19, 2021 @THE EASTERN

After canceling the Doorway Gala in 2020 and pivoting to a Virtual Doorway Gala in 2021 due to COVID, "Oh What a Feeling" to return to an in-person event on May 19, 2021, to celebrate MEP's mission and accomplishments. It was such a good, good night!

Be sure to Save-the-Date for the **2023 Doorway to the Future Gala - May 11**. This year, we will be just down the street from last year's venue, The Eastern, at **Shed 5 of Eastern Market**. It's a much larger venue with dedicated paved parking. Be one of the 300+ to celebrate with us. Sponsors and Underwriters are needed.

We hope to see you **Thursday, May 11, 2023** at Eastern Market's Shed 5 for the 2023 Doorway to the Future Gala. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.mercyed.net/doorway](http://www.mercyed.net/doorway).







## 2022 SPIRIT OF MERCY AWARDEE

### Sister Charlotte Young, RSM

Mercy Education Project has a tradition of presenting a Spirit of Mercy Award at the Doorway to the Future Gala. There are so many friends and supporters to choose from. The fact is, we all enliven and embody the Spirit of Mercy. This year, MEP honored Sister Charlotte Young, RSM who has embodied the Spirit of Mercy from MEP's beginnings through her volunteerism. She has served as a volunteer tutor in the Women's Program and is responsible for helping to lay the groundwork for our Endowment, but she is probably best known for her tireless work to make MEP's Golf Outings successful. Mark Mals, Executive Director, had this to say about Sister Charlotte's commitment to MEP, "I don't think a day goes by during which Sister Charlotte is not thinking of ways to help MEP succeed. She takes advantage of every opportunity, every encounter, and every conversation to share MEP's story, promote its work, and connect new people to its mission. Sr. Charlotte is MEP's preeminent influencer."

*"I don't think a day goes by during which Sister Charlotte is not thinking of ways to help MEP succeed...Sr. Charlotte is MEP's preeminent influencer."*



# THE MERCY EDUCATION PROJECT ENDOWMENT FUND

The MEP Endowment Fund was established in 2014. It is a permanent endowment with the goal and purpose of providing a consistent source of income for the programs of Mercy Education Project. The current goal is to achieve a principal value of \$2 million before beginning to make distributions to support programs. We are about a quarter of the way there.

## **MAJOR ENDOWMENT GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE FOLLOWING...**

- CONRAD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- SR. CHARLOTTE YOUNG, RSM
- SISTERS OF MERCY, WEST-MIDWEST

## **MEP's Largest Endowment Gift:**

The Charles Paul Werthman & Doris Steinhauer Educational Trust was given through the generosity of the estate of Charles Paul Werthman (1950-2006) in loving memory of Doris H. Steinhauer's (1952-2005) dedication to secondary education at Brighton High School.

A minimum commitment of \$100,000, which can be paid over a five-year period, is required to establish a named fund. A named fund may be designated to support a specific program.

## **PLANNED GIVING & MEP**

**Plan Your Legacy:** You can continue giving to Mercy Education Project (MEP) while benefitting yourself and your heirs. When you make your will, your trust, or other estate plans, please consider including Mercy Education Project.

- Making a bequest to MEP can be as easy as including a sentence in your will saying, "I give \$25,000 to Mercy Education Project," or designating Mercy Education Project for all or a portion of your IRA or other retirement accounts, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Your bequest can be a percentage of your estate or a stated dollar amount. Or your gift can be a percentage of the "residue," or what remains after paying all inheritances, debts and costs. Finally, there are special arrangements that allow you to make a gift that can provide income to your family and later be used by MEP.
- A bequest, a gift in your Will or Trust, is an opportunity to make a difference in the quality of life for women and girls served by MEP and continue the support you have provided during your lifetime.

**For more information on the Endowment and Planned Giving, contact Mark Mals, Executive Director, [mmals@mercyed.net](mailto:mmals@mercyed.net), or talk with your estate planning attorney.**



## FEATURE FOUNDATION - THE DTE FOUNDATION

The DTE Foundation has been supporting Mercy Education Project since 2009 through grants, sponsorships, matching gifts, and matching volunteer-hour gifts.



**On November 4, 2021, The Women of DTE** held their annual **Wine Down** event, a fun networking event that raises money for a local charity through ticket sales, raffles, and bids on donated auction items. Proceeds from the 2021 virtual (due to COVID) event benefited Mercy Education Project.

MEP was both honored and grateful to be chosen as the local charity for the 2021 event. **THANK YOU Women of DTE** for your \$21,500 donation and **THANK YOU DTE Foundation** for the matching gift of \$21,500!

If you, your business, company, or organization is interested in hosting an event to support Mercy Education Project, please contact Erin O'Mara, Director of Community Engagement [eomara@mercyed.net](mailto:eomara@mercyed.net).

## MATCHING GIFTS - DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Did you know that thousands of companies match donations by employees to our organization?

Go to [www.mercyed.net/matching](http://www.mercyed.net/matching) and use the search tool to see if your company will match your donation and to access the forms, guidelines, and instructions that you need to submit a matching gift.

For more information, contact Julie Gillikin, Development Data Coordinator, [gifts@mercyed.net](mailto:gifts@mercyed.net).

With the spiking inflation numbers in 2022, many nonprofits saw declines in giving from individual donors, some upwards of 40%! This downward trend in giving is detrimental to nonprofits like MEP. We count on individual donations to fund one-third of our total yearly budget.

**Please continue to support MEP the best you can.**

Thank you for anything and everything you do for Mercy Education Project. Your support helps us continue to be a thriving learning community that promotes access to boundless opportunities for women and girls.

MEP is honored to acknowledge these annual donors from fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

### **McAuley Circle**

*Gifts of \$25,000 or more*

City of Detroit Neighborhood Opportunity Fund  
 DTE Energy Foundation  
 The Leibowitz & Greenway Family Charitable Foundation  
 Mercy Ministry Corporation  
 The Elizabeth, Allan, & Warren Shelden Fund  
 State of Michigan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

### **Sister Canice Circle**

*Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999*

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 Esther and George Jaruga Foundation  
 MAGNA  
 Trinity Health  
 Women of DTE

### **Founder's Circle**

*Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999*

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### **Baggot Street Circle**

*Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999*

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## Howard Street Circle

*Gifts of \$750 - \$2,499*

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*Gifts of \$250 - \$749*

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- Mentor a college-bound student
- Speak to our CCR students
- Mentor our 4-6 grade LEGO League team
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- Shop our Wishlist and Amazon Charity List
- Be an event committee member
- Follow, like, share our posts on social media. We are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube as **@MercyEdProject**

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- Host a 3rd Party Fundraiser
- Adopt MEP as your charity of the year
- Explore Company Matching

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