



Au Gres-Sims School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Au Gres-Sims Named as Recipient of the Catherine and John Maser Endowed Charitable Trust

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AU GRES, MI – Catherine and John Maser, distinguished, visionary entrepreneurs of the original Au Gres Telephone Company, and respected residents of Au Gres, partnered with the Bay Area Community Foundation to create the Catherine and John Maser Trust. The Maser family’s total gift of \$911,860 was donated to ensure the established support of four specific purposes within the community where they lived, worked, and raised their family.

The four funds include; the *Catherine and John Maser Field of Interest Fund for the Au Gres-Sims-Whitney Volunteer Fire Department* (\$66,948), the *Catherine and John Maser Scholarship Fund* (\$181,490), the *Catherine and John Maser Library Field of Interest Fund* (\$173,490), and the *Catherine and John Maser Field of Interest Fund for Historic Preservation* (\$415,930).

Au Gres-Sims School District is a directly named beneficiary within both the *Scholarship Fund* and the *Library Field of Interest Fund*. The two funds total a remarkable \$354,980 of endowed financial gifts for the students and community of the Au Gres-Sims School District.

Beginning in 2017, the *Catherine and John Maser Scholarship Fund* has established that five (5) \$1,000 scholarships will be made available annually for qualifying Au Gres-Sims graduating seniors. Further, the *Catherine and John Maser Library Field of Interest Fund* has established that approximately \$9,000 per year will be shared in partnered projects between the Au Gres Public and High School Libraries.

Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent of the Au Gres-Sims School District, stated, “The focused scholarship and library field of interest funds will provide incredible opportunities for the students at Au Gres-Sims. We are extremely appreciative of the Maser family for championing higher education and helping us continue to reduce barriers to collegiate access. These intentionally designed trust funds will provide a lasting legacy to help ensure sustainability for future successful endeavors for the greater Au Gres community in perpetuity. On behalf of the entire Au Gres-Sims School District, I wish to express our humble gratitude to the Maser family and their heirs for these thoughtful and generously established endowment funds.”