



Michigan Association of
Retired School Personnel



Leadership Webinar Series

How to make an impact
with DonorsChoose

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

2:00pm EST

**DONORS
CHOOSE**



Mandy Hitsman

- Received her Bachelors and Masters from Central Michigan University
- Has worked for MARSP for over 12 years and has held several positions including:
 - Events Coordinator
 - Communications and Member Advocacy Coordinator
 - Finance Coordinator
- Has been involved with DonorsChoose project funding since 2018 when MARSP began utilizing the tool to donate to public school classrooms



Why DonorsChoose?

- Online application process available from any device at any time
- Streamlined process for:
 - Identifying needs for classrooms in the area
 - Communicating to and from the teacher
 - Projects are reviewed and validated by DonorsChoose (Public school, contact hours, etc.)
 - Validating the individual expenses and sources
 - Project materials are purchased and sent directly to the teachers (not a check)

About DonorsChoose

- Leading the way to give to public schools
- Founded in 2000 by a Bronx history teacher
- \$1,092,956,333 contributed in support of 1,928,257 teacher requests for resources and experiences



About DonorsChoose

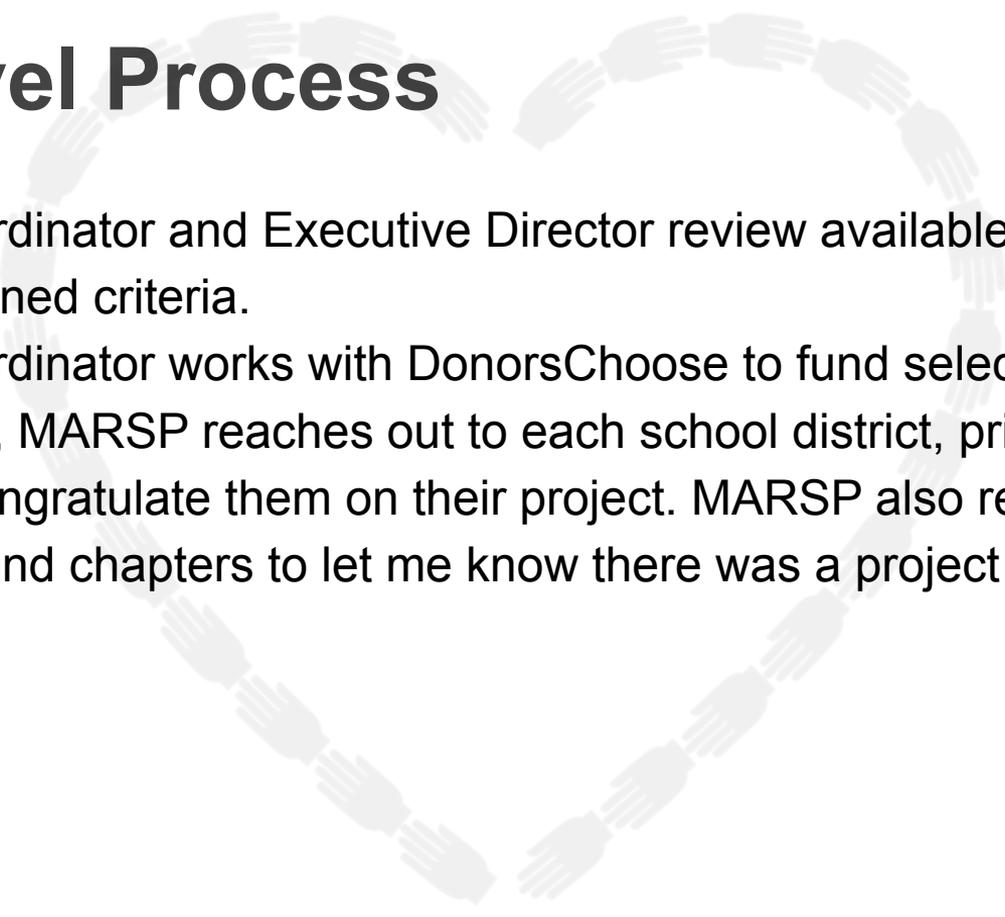
- Trusted crowdfunding platform for teachers, donors, and district administrators
- DonorsChoose is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization
- Charity Navigator and GuideStar have awarded DonorsChoose their highest ratings for transparency and accountability



How teachers get projects funded

- Teachers apply to DonorsChoose in as little as 20 minutes and project is posted within 3 days
 - Teachers select materials and answer questions about their project
 - Upon completion of funding, materials are sent directly to the teacher
 - Teachers and students prepare and send thank you notes to the donors
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- ❖ Must be employed full-time in a US public or public charter school, and work directly with students at least 75% of the time.
 - ❖ Projects kept on the DonorsChoose website for up to 4 months

State Level Process



- Finance Coordinator and Executive Director review available projects that fit predetermined criteria.
- Finance Coordinator works with DonorsChoose to fund selected projects.
- After funding, MARSP reaches out to each school district, principal, and teacher to congratulate them on their project. MARSP also reaches out to local media and chapters to let me know there was a project funded in their area.

Chapter Level Process

- Chapters may select projects on the DonorsChoose website or ask the state organization to pick the projects.
 - Chapter donation must fully fund the project and not be a partial donation
- Chapter leaders complete the [DonorsChoose MARSP Chapter Contribution Commitment Form](#) found on the MARSP website.
- Projects are funded from the state office and chapters are notified when the project has been funded. Chapters also receive thank you's directly from the teacher
- MARSP invoices the chapter for the project funding



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DonorsChoose
MARSP Chapter Contribution Commitment Form

The _____ Chapter has committed \$ _____ to fund classroom projects through MARSP and the MARSP Foundation's partnership with DonorsChoose.

Funding options:

- MARSP will select project(s) in the chapter's general geographic area that will fully fund or complete funding of the project(s).

Preferred school districts: _____

- Fully fund or complete funding of the specific project(s) listed below.
(If a project becomes fully funded due to other donations before the chapter's funds are allocated, MARSP will contact the chapter president to select an alternate project.)

Project name _____

Teacher Name _____ **Contribution Amount** \$ _____

Additional project(s):

Project name _____

Teacher Name _____ Contribution Amount \$ _____

Project name _____

Teacher Name _____ Contribution Amount \$ _____

Payment: MARSP will invoice the chapter for all funded projects. Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice.

Chapter President Signature Date Chapter Treasurer Signature Date

Chapter President Phone Chapter Treasurer Phone

**Since 2018, MARSP and the MARSP
Foundation have funded:**

**183 projects impacting
15,185 students,
164 schools, and
178 teachers.**

Past Projects that we have funded

- **Sew Much More: A Sewing Machine for Each Student**
 - Purchased two sewing machines for Ms. Ruiz's Life Skills class at Gwinn Middle High School so that each student could have a machine to work on and allow the class to stay on track
- **Salmon in the Classroom: Partnering with the Michigan DNR**
 - Program in which students raise salmon and are responsible for their survival and release.
 - Materials included items to help care for the fish, i.e. aquariums, filters, and test strips
- **Uke Can Let Us Make Beautiful Music**
 - Purchased 10 ukuleles for a music classroom at Sault Middle School
- **Stepping It Up!**
 - Purchased giant alphabet stepping stones for Kalamazoo KRESA's outdoor play area.



What teachers have to say

Wow! It's incredible to wake up and see that our SEL sensory garden project is funded.

While it started off as a small idea and now is progressing into a outstanding project for our school. We are beyond excited to get started and cannot wait to see the kids thumbs to green. This is going to impact so many. Thank you for everything!

With gratitude, Mrs. Wight

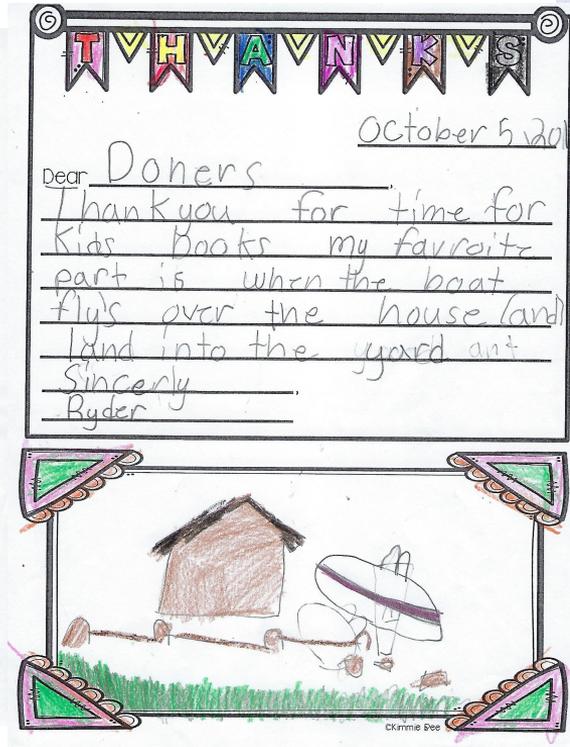
I am over the moon that my students will be able to participate in this DNR project in the fall! I know they will have fun with it, and hopefully they will become life-long learners and stewards of Michigan as a result of this experience. Thank you so much!

With gratitude, Ms. Polzin

When I arrived at school this morning and saw the fax from Donors Choose in my mailbox, I read it three times to make sure it wasn't a mistake! I am stunned by your generosity and my classroom will run ever so smoothly by having enough working instruments for every student to play and be successful. This is my first funded project. It feels like magic

With gratitude, Ms. Boucher

What students have to say



Questions and Answers



Questions?

You may contact:

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