

# ANNUAL REPORT



## THE GREG JENNINGS FOUNDATION



***“TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED.”***

## A Message from Greg & Nicole

Dear Friends,

In May, I had the opportunity to visit Paw Paw Middle School, where the entire 6<sup>th</sup> grade class was awarded the winner of the 2015 BE GREAT School Challenge. As I began speaking to the students about my failures, successes and what it takes to BE GREAT, I realized my purpose. My purpose in life is to utilize my professional platform so I may empower others to trust in their ability to obtain success. As a result, they will develop their professional platform to produce and retain a revolving cycle of success. ~ *Greg*

At The Greg Jennings Foundation, we believe in our youth and are pleased to continue our mission to provide students with the necessary resources to reach their academic potential. You often see and hear the word “impact” associated with the culture of The Greg Jennings Foundation. We believe that actions speak louder than words, which is the true essence of our existence. Our report highlights youth interaction and youth engagement, which ultimately makes a difference and we will continue to *impact through action*. Each year, our BE GREAT After School Program Grant Committee Members and foundation staff make consecutive visits to the after school programs in which we fund to witness the impact of each program. We couldn't be happier with the results and positive feedback received from after school program participants and their parents; and the direct correlation to improvements in: student behavior, social competence, peer relationships, academic achievement, and confidence. ~ *Nicole*

This year was an exciting year of changes. Our annual fundraiser, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Greg Jennings Celebrity Golf Classic, was hosted outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota for the first time and we were pleased with the support and kindness from the Minneapolis community. Our programs and culture remains deeply rooted in the Greater Kalamazoo and Minneapolis communities and we could not be more grateful for the actions of our stakeholders, community partners and volunteers. The Greg Jennings Foundation is truly blessed by your generosity and will continue to remain a catalyst for our community and hope you continue to join us as we continue to leave a lasting legacy.

Greg Jennings  
*Founder*



Nicole Jennings  
*President*



Since 2008  
**over \$615,000**  
has been funded

## 2015 Impact

### Age Groups Served



Preschool - 15%



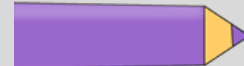
Elementary - 28%



Middle School - 25%



High School - 32%



"In just nine years, over 15,500 youth have benefited from our support! This is a GREAT achievement and we are so blessed to be involved in the lives of so many students."

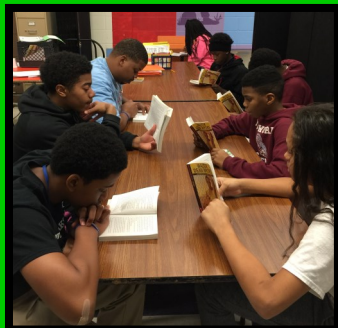
~ Nicole Jennings



## BE GREAT Youth Initiative



The BE GREAT Youth Initiative is comprised of 3 integral programs that drives our passion for academic success. These initiatives include:



### BE GREAT After School Program Grant

Up to \$50,000 distributed annually to fund high-quality & learning-centered after-school programming.

### BE GREAT School Challenge

Annual program inviting schools to submit projects displaying how they are and will continue to BE GREAT. Up to \$3,000 is awarded for classroom supplies and books, as well as a personal visit from Greg Jennings at their school.



### BE GREAT Back to School

Since 2012, The Greg Jennings Foundation has partnered with the Family Health Center at the annual Back to School Bash and has distributed over 9,000 school supplies to over 6,000 Kalamazoo County youth.



Delivering high-quality, learning-centered results that empower and equip youth in greater Kalamazoo and Minneapolis for greatness while raising the capacity of *Excellence, Educational Achievement, Leadership, Advancement and Effectiveness.*

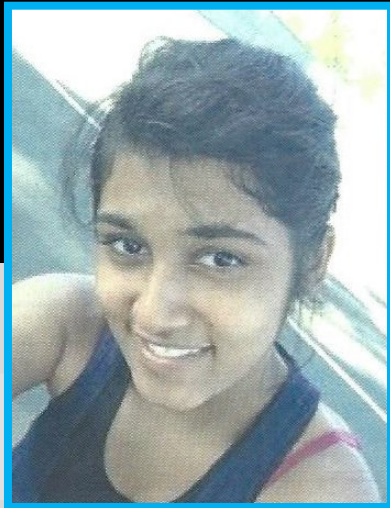


## AFS - USA *Faces of America*

Annual program that partners with AFS-USA *Faces of America* to provide \$15,000 funding opportunities for two students from greater Kalamazoo and Minneapolis communities, whose families are facing economic hardship, to participate in an educational, life changing intercultural exchange experience.



Thailand



**Gowshika Kamalanathan:** John F. Kennedy High School student from Bloomington, Minnesota, awarded \$7,500 for her Thailand cultural experience.

"I had many life-changing moments while in Thailand. I tried unusual foods, different types of clothing, different manners of talking, etc., and I learned I could adapt to new experiences. Whether it is living in my home or somewhere else, I can use what I learned about myself. Now I want to travel more and see the world." ~ *Gowshika*



France



**Natasha Mahonie:** Loy Norrix High School student from Kalamazoo, Michigan, awarded \$7,500 for her France cultural experience.

"I had so much fun meeting new people, trying new activities, new foods and visiting different places like Monaco & Italy. While I was there we had to attend a French class for three hours a day so that we so we could receive school credit. Having this experience, I may continue taking French class at school. I thank you so much for giving me this experience."

~ *Natasha*





# Annual Greg Jennings Football & Cheer Camp



## Serving over 500 youth each year!

- ▶ FREE, no cost high engagement camp to sharpen athletic skills
- ▶ Sportsmanship & teamwork positively emphasized
- ▶ Community leaders provide motivation & inspiration
- ▶ Academics strongly encouraged

*"Awesome experience for all the young people. Incorporating skill building, life skills and introducing the kids to positive role models is essential to our kids growth and development. Thank you." Parent*

*"Your camp was really fun!! I like doing all the drills and getting to do everyone of them. The speeches were cool because it inspired us." Youth Camper*

*"The fact that the camp is free that all children are able to participate and it doesn't make a difference where they come from that they can come and enjoy and be stress free because there's no cost ." Parent*

*"It was awesome and I had so much fun at your camp, and the goody bags had some really cool stuff in them. I really want to come back next year. Thank you!" Youth Camper*

*"It was organized and well run and the kids responded to Mr. Jennings. From a fathers point of view the way Mr. Jennings spoke to the kids and watching them react to him made me proud to have a representative in the area like Mr. Jennings." Parent*

*"I liked that I got to learn about how to be a cheerleader and I liked messages the speakers gave." Youth Camper*



*"Every year camp is a priority and I'm committed to be hands on and to continue this event with the youth in my community."*

*~ Greg Jennings*

# Annual Greg Jennings Celebrity Golf Classic



**THE GREG JENNINGS**  
CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC



**Funds The Greg Jennings Foundation  
programs, including the BE GREAT  
Youth Initiative**



**Brings Celebrities and Golfers together  
to promote academic achievement**



**Partners with businesses, organizations  
& sponsors for the advancement of  
youth education**



**Advocates comradery and relationships  
while engaging support through net-  
working**



*" My Annual Golf Classic fills me with a sense of accomplishment in knowing that I've played an integral role to benefit youth from this amazing event." ~ Greg Jennings*



# With Appreciation

► **Donors** ► **Sponsors** ► **Volunteers** ► **Community Partners**

“Without community support we would not be able to continue to make a difference in the lives of so many children. We are very grateful for the collective effort from all those who have contributed to The Greg Jennings Foundation.” ~ *Nicole Jennings*



## Thank you.

It is my immense pleasure to extend a special thanks to our donors, community partners, and volunteers as we continue to support youth as they strive for academic excellence. As we approach our 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am elated to witness the steady increase of enthusiasm and dedication towards our goal. However, there is still much work to be done and we hope we can count on your support as we endeavor to impart the necessary tools for educational success.

Ebony Engram  
*Director of Programs & Events*



For involvement opportunities, contact  
The Greg Jennings Foundation.



# The Greg Jennings Foundation

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[www.GJenningsFound.org](http://www.GJenningsFound.org)



## Board of Directors

**Greg Jennings** - *Founder*

**Nicole Jennings** - *President & Co-Founder*

**Sydney Waldorf** - *Secretary*  
*Lake, Waldorf & Schau PLC*

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*Kalamazoo Public Schools*

**Marilyn Schlack**  
*Kalamazoo Valley Community College*

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## Core Values

- Excellence
- Educational Achievement
- Leadership
- Advancement
- Effectiveness

## Mission

The Greg Jennings Foundation strives to partner with and assist other organizations in educating youth by providing the necessary resources in order for them to reach their academic potential.