

# MILWAUKEE

## FRENCH IMMERSION FOUNDATION

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### Your Help Is Integral to the Success of the Foundation!

We can't say it enough. Each and every contribution of time, talent or treasure, no matter how small you think it may be, helps the Foundation (and ultimately the staff and students at MFIS and MSL) enormously. The Foundation was started by parents and we need more parents to be involved. If you've hesitated about getting involved, talk with us or send us an email at [info@frenchimmersionfoundation.org](mailto:info@frenchimmersionfoundation.org) and find out where your talents can be put to use. As we found out this year, we can do great things when we work together for a common purpose.

## Goodbye to Our Amity Language Models

With the school year nearly complete, it is a good opportunity to take stock of what the Foundation accomplished in our first full year as well as what we expect to accomplish in the future. During the 2012-2013 school year, the Foundation successfully accomplished our mission by investing over \$20,000 into the French Immersion Programs in Milwaukee Public Schools. The primary investment was the placement of Amity language models Aline Leang, Antoine Barré, Antoine Simon, Valentin Loudenot, Sarah Metzger and Audrey Fily at Milwaukee French Immersion School and Milwaukee School of Languages.

These young adventurers became a part of the Milwaukee French

Immersion community and we are sad to see them depart soon. While here, the language models provided increased exposure to native French language and accents, provided additional one-on-one reading time, allowed teachers the opportunity to implement additional reading instruction and programs, created an after school drama program, and assisted in directing students (in French, of course) in the classrooms, the lunchroom, and on the playground.

Many parents and teachers have told us that there simply aren't enough words to express what an

impact these intelligent, dedicated men and women have made in the classroom with the students.

We are excited to report that, in the next school year, the Foundation is supporting up to five language models at Milwaukee French Immersion School and one language model at Milwaukee School of Languages. This, of course, is because of the support we have had from you, the French Immersion community in Milwaukee. We all agree that the French Immersion Program is an outstanding program for children in Milwaukee Public Schools. Thank you for your generosity as we continue to support this amazing program and as we grow in the years to come.

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## Thank You to Our Board of Directors

We have been extraordinarily lucky to have an outstanding group of people serving on our board and committees. Any discussion of our first full year success is incomplete without recognizing the talent, dedication and hard work of our board.

Our MFIF Board Members are Jason Pilmaier (president), Gina Dee (vice president), David Guthery (vice president), Stephanie Wesselowski (treasurer), Kate Gaudreau (secretary), Lori Banks, Patrick Callahan, Delara Chaoui, Tyra Merriweather, Russell Morgan, Stephanie Purvis, and Cara Thenot.

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## Annual Appeal

As we grow, we understand that coordinating and donating to various fundraisers throughout the year can be difficult. For this reason, we initiated an Annual Appeal. With the continued decline of state and district funding, our schools need your financial support more than ever to uphold the integrity of our superior language immersion program. The directors of the Foundation are working with the administration and staff at MFIS and MSL to

develop a prioritized wish list of items (i.e. French text books, French learning DVDs, Smart Boards, etc) should the Foundation raise enough funds to support these much needed items that are not covered in the school's yearly budget. For our Annual Appeal to be successful, we are counting on the support of French Immersion families.

Every donation adds up. Even if every family gives just \$5.00 per month, the Foundation could fund five Amity language

models without any additional fundraising. Can you commit to \$5.00 per month? Swapping the cost of *one* fast food meal or *two* specialty coffee drinks for a contribution to the Foundation each month could significantly impact your child's education. Of course, anything you are able to contribute will make a difference. Please visit our website at [www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org](http://www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org) to learn more and to begin your monthly donations or make a one-time donation.

## Congratulations to Sarah Metzger!

How many times in your life have you been told (besides by your mom) that you are the best in the world? Well, our own Sarah Metzger was awarded the first ever Emily Stowell Scholarship Award by the Amity Institute, which honors the contributions of an outstanding participant in the Amity Cultural Exchange Program. Amity Institute places participants around the world, but only one scholarship was awarded, and that was to our Sarah Metzger for her contributions at Milwaukee French Immersion School. Congratulations, Sarah! We wish you all the best!

## Love to Eat (and Serve) Pizza? We Need You!

We need people to eat (and serve) pizza! Please join us once again at Pizzeria Piccolo. Volunteers are needed from 3-9 pm while diners are needed from 4-9 pm on **Saturday, July 21**. On Mother's Day, many of us volunteered for a couple of hours and then met our family for a delicious and fun dinner alongside other French Immersion supporters. The

event generated approximately \$600 for the Foundation and it was a lot of fun! Volunteering is a snap—set tables, run food and most of all, enjoy the camaraderie of your friends and other volunteers. Please consider volunteering your time and coming out to support this important event.

## A Splendid Evening at Ray's

A capacity crowd of Milwaukee French Immersion Foundation supporters enjoyed the Second Annual Wine tasting at Ray's Wine and Spirits tasting room.

Participants enjoyed an evening of French wine and Belgian beer tasting as well as appetizers prepared by the Board and Mme Michelle Sment. French-themed

baskets were auctioned at the end of the evening and, all together, the event raised over \$3,000.00, which is an increase of \$1,000 over last year's event. Thank you to the Fundraising Committee, especially Chair Gina Dee, for coordinating this great event and to all who attended. We look forward to seeing you next spring!

Gina Dee, Carolyn Faust and David Faust enjoy the festivities at the Ray's wine tasting event.



## Sneak Peak to 2013-2014

The Amity Committee has been busy interviewing Amity language model candidates and host families. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have invited five language models—four from France and one from Senegal. We can't wait to introduce you to the new language models in Fall!

## How Much Do Our Teachers Support this Program?

Many of you realize how committed our teachers are to the French Immersion Program. Just this spring, Jennifer Krutina, First Grade teacher at MFIS, made a donation that will fully fund an Amity language model for 2013-2014. We thank Madame Krutina for her generosity. If

you see her, stop and say thank you because now we'll have an additional language model at Milwaukee French Immersion School for 2013-2014. Merci, Mme. Krutina!

Also, special thanks go to Mme Katie Rudig (K4 teacher at MFIS) and Ms. Kelly Guthery

(Special Education teacher at MSL), the two newest volunteers on the Amity Committee. We greatly appreciate the time they take outside of school hours to provide input and keep the Amity committee in touch with happenings within the schools.

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Visit us on Facebook



We're on the Web!

[www.frenchimmersion  
foundation.org](http://www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org)

## Thank You to Our Host Families

2012-2013 saw our first group of host families welcome our first Amity language models to Milwaukee. These host families have enjoyed experiences and started relationships that will last a lifetime. Thank you to our first group of host families who took a leap of faith in agreeing to open their homes in this, our first year:

- Duke and Kelly O'Keefe-Boettcher, who hosted Antoine Simon
- Susan Klumb, who hosted Valentin Loudenot
- Jason and Valerie Pilmaier, who hosted Sarah Metzger
- Stephanie Purvis and Ted Kraig, who hosted Antoine Barré
- Kris and Cully Carstens and Chuck and Sarah Willems, who hosted Aline Leang
- David and Kelly Guthery, who hosted Audrey Fily

## Host Families Needed for 2013-2014

Although we have a growing batch of families who have agreed to open their homes to next year's language models, in order to continue to bring Amity Language Models to the program, we need more host families. MFIF pays the fees and stipends for the Language Models, but we need host families to provide a home.

### What it takes to be a host family:

- Have a private room for the Language Model (Do you have a room you're currently using as an office? It would make a fine bedroom!)
- Are able to provide three meals per day (sack lunch during the week)
- Want a valuable cultural experience
- Can volunteer for at least a semester (September through January or February through June/end of school). To learn more, please contact us at info@frenchimmersionfoundation.org.

The mission of the Milwaukee French Immersion Foundation, Inc. (MFIF) is to support French language immersion programs in Milwaukee public schools by supporting a challenging and enriching educational experience that maximizes the learning potential of every student and prepares them to excel in the competitive global economy.