

## David Showers '60 Named Outstanding Philanthropist

Congratulations to David Showers, St. Sebastian Parish School Class of 1960, who



was awarded the 2016 Outstanding Philanthropist Award for Summit County by the Association

of Fundraising Professionals, Northeast Ohio Chapter.

Throughout his successful career as President of Wayne Homes, Dave began fostering philanthropy through his business, for example, by becoming the title sponsor of the Akron Rotary Chili Open, benefitting the Akron Rotary Camp for children with special needs.

Dave's generosity did not stop there. After his grandson experienced health issues and after surviving a bout with cancer himself, Dave donated \$3 million to Akron Children's Hospital. This lead donation enabled the creation

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## Maria Paparella '12 Creates Charity for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care

As an only child, Maria Paparella, a 2012 graduate of St. Sebastian Parish School, always dreamed of having a sibling. With her family, she had often volunteered to help fill and distribute backpacks full of school supplies for clients of Summit County Children's Services, which coordinates care for children with a variety of needs, including those awaiting adoptions and in foster care. Maria dearly wanted to adopt one of the kids in foster care, but since she could not, she adopted them as a cause close to her heart.

While growing up, Maria kept tabs on the foster children awaiting adoption, especially hoping that one girl that she had always wished could be her sister had been adopted. As Maria was approaching college, she wondered what would happen to this girl. "I was getting ready to head to college, I had the support of all my friends and family, and I wondered what happens to her when she turns 18?" Maria found out that when a young person ages out of the foster care system at the age of 18, Children's Services helps them with many things, including finding a job and an apartment, but Children Services does not have the resources to help purchase furniture or funding for space to store donated furniture.

Maria wanted to help these teenagers, so she got to work and started a charity to provide each one with all the household goods and furniture they need to strike out on their own, from sofas, dressers and beds, to lamps, kitchen tables and chairs. She created a business plan, presented it to Children's Services, filed 501(c)3 papers, received approval as a Children's Services supplier, and held a launch party to raise funds



*Maria Paparella '12 delivers furniture donated to young people who have aged out of the foster care system.*

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# *We Will Remember*

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org).

(October 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017)

† Please keep these friends in your prayers †

Robert Maher '34, November 11, 2016  
Charles Beringer '38, November 2, 2016  
Robert Horning '39, October 30, 2016  
William Walker '41, November 23, 2016

Mary Jane Camp '52, November 3, 2016  
Gerald Burch '60, December 21, 2016  
Edward Sovacool '78, December 18, 2016  
Sean Leonard '80, October 21, 2016

## *Maria Paparella '12 continued from page 1*

and awareness. Maria secured the use of a delivery truck from Chez-Del Interiors, where her mother, Jackie DelMedico Paparella '75, is employed at the family business. When Maria receives a referral from Children's Services, she contacts the individual, creates a list of needed items, gathers them from the warehouse, and works with a volunteer team to deliver and set up the furniture.

Maria launched "Chair-ity" (she chose a name and logo that incorporates a chair to highlight the charity's focus on furniture) in 2014 while she was still in high school at Western Reserve Academy. And remarkably, she has been able to keep it running while she attends Kenyon College and maintains a busy schedule as a full-time student and two-sport athlete (soccer and lacrosse). "This year has actually been the busiest [for Chair-ity] so far," says Maria, reporting that about 11 young people had been helped this year, with four more in process. Using a comprehensive inventory list, Maria can plan for each delivery from afar, but she still tries her best to be in town for the actual delivery.

Maria says people usually hear about Chair-ity from word of mouth, and then they will contact her and ask what's needed. Donations come from many sources, often when people are moving, downsizing, or simply just buying new furniture. Since the charity was established in 2014, Chair-ity has helped about 40 young people and provided approximately 450 pieces of furniture. Chair-ity has also raised about \$40,000, which is used to buy a new mattress, box spring and bed frame for each recipient. Maria was recently honored for her charitable efforts with the 2016 Summit for Kids Russ Pry Youth Award. Congratulations, Maria! St. Sebastian Parish School is proud to call you an alumnus.

## *How You Can Help*

If you have new or gently used furniture you'd like to donate to help teenagers successfully transition from foster care to independent living, please contact Maria Paparella at [Chairity.summit@gmail.com](mailto:Chairity.summit@gmail.com) or visit the website for more information: <http://www.chair-ity.org/>

## *David Showers '60 continued from page 1*

of a new pediatric oncology ward, which is named The Showers Family Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders. He also served on the hospital's Board of Directors, and when he was honored with a \$100,000 award from Hearthstone Builders, he donated that money to the hospital as well. In addition, Dave and his wife, Martha, created The Showers Family Foundation to engage their children in giving back to their community, primarily through causes that help children. Dave has also been a long-time board member at Archbishop Hoban High School and leader of a campaign to raise \$2.2 million for a school in Tanzania. In accepting his award, Dave cited Mother Theresa, "It is not how much you give, it is how much love you put into giving," an inspiring sentiment that Dave clearly lives out in his daily life.

# Alumni Updates

## Class of 1948

Marge Wozniak Burkley received the Marjory B. Wheeler Service Award from the Stan Hywet Needlework Guild on Nov. 15, 2016. Her daughter, Peggy (who is a 1973 alumna and so are her siblings!) writes, "She logged in many volunteer hours over the years at Stan Hywet, and it was really a labor of love for her." Marge received a pin with the Stan Hywet rose along with her award, which is given in recognition of outstanding service to the Needlework Guild. Pictured here, Marge (standing) speaks to the group after receiving her award.



## Class of 1948

George Schumacher included a heart-felt letter along with a recent donation to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment, which provides financial aid for students to attend St. Sebastian Parish School. In his letter, he says his contribution is a way to help ensure that the "tradition of excellence" at St. Sebastian Parish School lives on. He writes, "It started out as a dream of Father Hilary Zwisler. His dream has become a reality due to the hard work, dedication of sharing of time, talents, treasures, and some tears of so many people... I am pleased to be a proud product of this basic education, with respect and discipline." George also noted that the Class of 1948 formed a reunion committee in 1998, and about 15 members still regularly meet for lunch twice a year.



## Class of 1967

Bill Helmkamp received the 2016 Father Thomas E. Mahar Outstanding Alumni Award from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School for his many years of active involvement at STVM. Bill's family has a long history with St. Sebastian Parish School. Not only did Bill and all five of his siblings attend St. Sebastian, Bill's father William was a 1935 St. Sebastian graduate, and two of Bill and Debra's three children are also graduates of St. Sebastian, William '91 and Elizabeth '92.

## Class of 1976

Brian Thomas, President and Chief Executive Officer of the AAA Akron Auto Club, was featured in the Akron Beacon Journal on November 11, 2016. The article covered the AAA office's new home in downtown Akron at 100 Rosa Parks Drive, near the Metro regional transit station on South Broadway. Congratulations to Brian on the opening of this beautiful new facility!

## Class of 1980

Michele Smith recently moved back to the Akron area and was hired as Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Hunger Center, which is housed on St. Sebastian's campus in Byrider Hall. Welcome home, Michele!



## Class of 1981 35th Reunion

About 20 members of the Class of 1981 enjoyed a night out on December 26 at Arnie's Public House in Wallhaven. Pictured here are Karen Marshall Kaim, Kris Murphy Rosenfeld, and Katie Dannemiller. Kris writes that Katie even flew in from Greensboro, NC just to hang out and have fun reminiscing about their days at St. Sebastian!

## Class of 2012

Patrick Walter (pictured at right) received the 2016 Bruce Buchholzer Scholarship from the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame. Patrick, who graduated from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, is currently a freshman at Ohio State University.



## Alumni Updates (continued)

### Class of 2013

Mitchell Adamczyk, pictured at right, was named a 2016 National Merit Finalist. Only one percent of high school students nationwide earn this honor! Mitchell, a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, will find out in March if he is a recipient of a Merit Scholarship.



### Class of 2013

Victoria Fallucco is an ambassador for Soles4Souls, a non-profit committed to fighting poverty through the collection and distribution of shoes and clothing. Victoria spearheaded a shoe drive from Jan. 7-29 at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, where she is a senior, in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul elementary school and parish.

### Class of 2013

Olivia Petit (soccer, St. Louis University) and Dylan Radik (track and field, Ohio Northern University) signed national letters of intent. They are both seniors at Archbishop Hoban High School. Olivia is pictured here between her parents, Allie and Jerry Petit, with her sisters standing in the back Madison '09 and Sholar '08. Dylan is pictured with his parents, Shelly and Randy Radik.



### Class of 2013

Ben Stiller, pictured at left, completed a one-month solo cycling trip from Akron to Miami last August, the summer before his senior year at Archbishop Hoban High School. Ben's trip was featured in the West Side Leader on August 18.

### Send Us Your Alumni Updates

The St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni Newsletter is published three times a year by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, where the alumni association offices are housed. We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at [alumni@stsebastian.org](mailto:alumni@stsebastian.org) or fill out the **NEW** online form at <http://alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html>.

## Tim Beringer, Sr. Named to CYO Hall of Fame

Tim Beringer, Sr., pictured here seated far left, was recently honored by the Diocese of Cleveland as a member of the 2017 CYO Hall of Fame. Many of our alumni and parents know him as the Terriers' athletic director. Tim served two terms as athletic director, from 1978-1993 and from 2002-2006, for a total of 20 years. During that time, Tim also served on the CYO board as a member of the athletic advisory committee and as board president, and he also coached football and basketball teams at St. Sebastian Parish School. In addition to his many other community activities, Tim is a current member of the board for the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. Now that's Terrier pride!



## Alumni Scholarship Endowment

Thank you so much to everyone who recently sent in a donation for the Alumni Scholarship Endowment. This endowment was established in 2013 to provide financial assistance to students attending St. Sebastian Parish School. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the St. Sebastian community, in 2016 this scholarship fund received enough donations to become fully-endowed. This endowment is a wonderful way to make a lasting contribution for the benefit of St. Sebastian Parish School. Listed below are donors who gave to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment from September, 2016 to February, 2017. The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation – and the parish school families who benefit from this endowment – are deeply appreciative of your generosity!

The H. E. Graves, Jr. Family Foundation  
Anonymous

**1940** Jeanne Ott, in memory of Conrad C. Ott  
**1943** David Keeney  
**1943** Charles Kincaid, in memory of Betty Ann Kincaid  
**1947** Michael Stiller, in memory of Ruth Stiller  
**1948** George Schumacher  
**1949** Edward Dannemiller  
**1949** Toni Schapansky, in memory of Stanley and Bertha Augustyn  
  
**1951** Richard McGuckin, in memory of Cletus and Kathryn McGuckin  
**1952** Vince and Karen Thompson Gibaldi, in memory of Mary Jane Finley-Camp  
**1953** James O'Connor, in memory of Kathleen O'Connor Lushbaugh and Nancy O'Connor Vaughn  
**1954** James McDonald  
**1955** Barbara Brizes  
**1955** Thomas Riegler  
**1958** Dennis McAleese, in memory of departed classmates of the Class of 1958  
**1958** Katherine Walsh, M.D.  
**1959** Peter and Donna Baldacci

**1961** Michael and Virginia McGuckin  
**1962** Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Glazer, in memory of Mercedes and Ralph Lipps  
**1963** Robert Budd  
**1963** Barbara Kelly, in memory of Robert, Jane and John Zachardy  
**1963** Dennis Whisler  
**1964** Susan Korosa  
**1967** John Jost

**1967** Paul Murrow  
**1969** Stephen Jost, in memory of Eileen Hudson  
  
**1970** Thomas Bray  
**1971** Stanley Bernat, in memory of Stanley and Irene Bernat  
**1971** Stephen Buschko, in memory of Patricia Buschko  
**1971** Robert Zwislser, in memory of Robert Zwislser, Jr. and Joyce Zwislser  
**1972** David Marshall  
**1973** Teresa Brostowitz  
**1973** Antonella Pianalto, in memory of Gino and Adele Pianalto  
**1974** Thomas Bauer, in memory of Nancy and Frank Bauer  
**1978** Michael and Michelle Traverse Huber  
  
**1984** Amy DiFilippo  
**1986** Paul Hergenrother  
  
**2001** Maximilian Bedell, in honor of Mike and Pat Bedell  
**2001** Lauren O'Neill  
**2002** Luke O'Neill  
**2004** Mari O'Neill  
**2009 & 2012** Janet, Jimmy '09 and Julie '12 Ciotola, in memory of Catherine Paparella

If you would like to continue to grow the Alumni Scholarship Endowment to assist even more students, please send your tax deductible gift to:  
*St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Alumni Association*  
476 Mull Avenue • Akron, OH 44320

## Anne Morgan Dennée '85 Hired as Development Assistant

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation welcomes Anne Morgan Dennée as our new Development Assistant. Anne will coordinate alumni and foundation publications as well as manage the foundation database and website. Anne grew up in Akron and is a 1985 graduate of St. Sebastian Parish School. Anne and her husband Andy are members of St. Sebastian Parish and are parents of three students who attend St. Sebastian Parish School. She is a graduate of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and John Carroll University and also earned her Master's in English from Portland State University in Oregon.



## 1973 Alumni Ready to Rock the Civic April 21-22

Two consecutive concerts at the Akron Civic Theatre will feature alumni from the St. Sebastian Parish School Class of 1973: Marc Lee Shannon and Mark Blinkhorn. Anne Giffels wrote to the Alumni Association, "All of us in the Class of 1973 are enormously proud of Marc Lee and Mark, and we're hoping to get a group together to celebrate that weekend. Many of us have tickets to the concerts to support our fellow Terriers. We have a St. Sebastian Class of 1973 Facebook page, or classmates can contact me at amgiff@hotmail.com."

### Michael Stanley and The Resonators, featuring Marc Lee Shannon '73 Friday, April 21, 2017, 8:00 PM Akron Civic Theatre

Marc Lee Shannon '73 will be playing guitar with The Resonators, the backup band for local legend Michael Stanley, when Stanley takes the stage at the Civic on April 21. According to The Akron Civic Theatre website, the last time Michael Stanley played the historic Civic was in 1978 – and the opening act was a little known piano player named Billy Joel. Michael Stanley will be promoting his latest CD, "In A Very Short Time."



### Decades Rewind, featuring Mark Blinkhorn '73 Saturday, April 22, 2017, 7:30 PM Akron Civic Theatre

Mark Blinkhorn '73, an EMT with nearly 28 years on the job in Sarasota County, FL has turned his side gig as a drummer into his main job. With keyboardist Peter Gatti, Mark is co-founder of Decades Rewind, a live concert experience featuring hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s. This April 22, Mark is bringing the show to his hometown. Decades Rewind features over 60 songs played live by an 8-piece rock band, 6 vocalists and over 100 costume changes.



## Brenda Pier Beck Joins Parish Foundation Board



The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is pleased to announce that Brenda Pier Beck has joined the foundation's board of trustees. Brenda joined St. Sebastian Parish in 1987 when she and her husband, Jim, moved into the neighborhood. As the mother of two boys at St. Sebastian Parish School, she volunteered for a wide variety of projects and committees, from member of the School Advisory Council and president of Sanctuary Society, to coordinating the building of the first playground (beyond "the tire"). In the past, Brenda has also served on the CYO board and as a co-chair of the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School Showcase fundraiser, and she continues to volunteer at St. Sebastian Parish as a Mass Coordinator and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Brenda worked behind the scenes during the renovation and expansion of the parish and school under Fr. Karg with her husband Jim, St. Sebastian Parish Foundation members, and many parishioners. Together they fashioned the Center for Early Learning from the former convent, transformed Zwisler Hall, and completed the computer lab and junior high science lab. Jim served on the parish foundation from 1998 until his death in 2007. He would be immensely pleased to see how the parish has flourished and expanded, and Brenda looks forward to continuing the work that has carried the parish to this point.

Brenda has two sons, Brian '00 (Emily) and Gregg '05, and has been continually blessed to have met Mike Beck and married him in 2014. Brenda and Mike have a combined family that includes five St. Sebastian Parish School graduates and an ever-growing number of grandchildren who they hope to see attend the school as well. The generosity of Brenda and her family and their dedication to catholic education is evident in their philanthropy. The James M. Pier, Jr. Scholarship Endowment, which is managed by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, was established in 2007 to benefit the students and faculty of St. Sebastian Parish School. A separate fund also named in memory of Jim provides financial support to students of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. Mike Beck and his children also established The Beck Family Foundation, which provides tuition assistance to students from St. Sebastian Parish School who choose to attend Walsh Jesuit High School and Our Lady of the Elms High School.