



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **Waterford Foundation Mary Lou Simmons Performing Arts Experience Brought *The Sound of Music* to Waterford Students**

**January 28, 2022, Waterford, Mich.** – The Waterford Foundation Mary Lou Simmons (MLS) Performing Arts Experience brought *The Sound of Music*, performed by Waterford Kettering's Drama Club, to Waterford elementary and middle school students. The MLS Performing Arts Experience was made possible through the Waterford Foundation Mary Lou Simmons Legacy Endowment.

Students celebrated the return of theatre with this classical musical which brought youth together from all over the Waterford community. The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. The performance featured a trove of cherished songs, including "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "My Favorite Things," "Do Re Mi," "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" and the title number, *The Sound of Music*, won the hearts of audiences worldwide, earning five Tony Awards and five Oscars. The inspirational story, based on the memoir of Maria Augusta Trapp, follows an ebullient postulate who serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain von Trapp, bringing music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, Maria and the entire von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

Mary Lou Simmons was an educator, volunteer, and philanthropist who possessed a passion to provide innovative and creative experiences for Waterford School District students. She spent 32 years dedicating her life and career to children and did so through her work as a teacher and member of the Waterford Foundation for Public Education.

The non-profit Waterford Foundation, established in 1984, is proud to proclaim it has an endowment just over \$2,000,000. Foundation trustees, volunteers, sponsors, and patrons have raised or donated money for many worthy projects with the Waterford School District. The Foundation exists to promote and recognize excellence in teaching and learning. Funding, derived strictly from donations or fundraising activities, supports teacher and student recognition events such as the grant program for District staff; Select Fifty for high school seniors, Durant Most Improved Program, scholarships for high school seniors, and outstanding teacher of the Year Award and Reception. More information about the Waterford Foundation is available at [www.wsdmi.org/wfpe](http://www.wsdmi.org/wfpe).

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