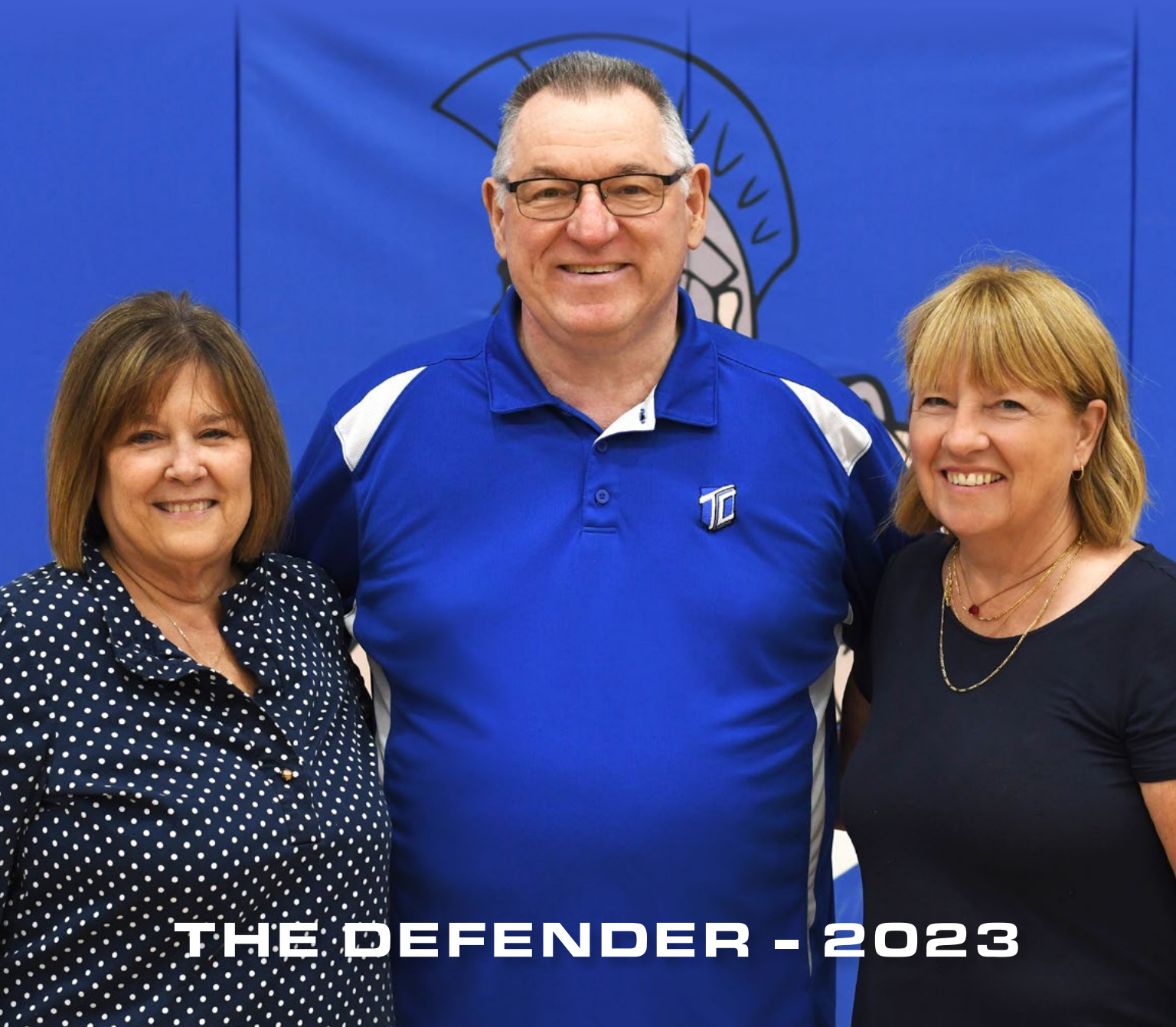


A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF INFLUENCE + IMPACT



THE DEFENDER - 2023

CONTENTS

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP.....	4
DEFENDER ATHLETICS.....	10
SPRING AUCTION.....	12
CITY ON A HILL UPDATE.....	14
CLASS OF 2023.....	16

SAVE
THE DATE!

GOLF

Scramble Fundraiser

•FORE•

TRI-UNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETICS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd

Games, Hole-in-One, Food, & More!



SLICE INTO FALL WITH OUR GOLF SCRAMBLE TOURNAMENT

REGISTRATION
8:00 - 8:45 am
SHOTGUN START
9:00 am

THE LINKS AT BOWEN LAKE: 12990 Bradshaw St. NE, Gowen, MI

Ticket Price: \$100/golfer • 18 holes of golf & cart included • Assemble your own foursome

Register by email to athletic.office@triunitychristian.org All proceeds will benefit TCS School Athletics

The golf fee includes a lunch served at the end of the round, snacks, and water.

VARIOUS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE - EMAIL FOR INFO

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF INFLUENCE + IMPACT



Leadership expert John Maxwell says that one of the marks of a great leader is the state of the organization they leave behind. If this is true, then the word “great” quickly becomes insufficient in reflecting on the leadership of Deb Blanker as she retires from 32 years of total service to Tri-unity Christian School. Throughout her tenure as Special Ed. Teacher, K-12 Principal, and eventually Superintendent, Mrs. Blanker has faithfully guided the school through past seasons of considerable challenge and adversity, and into the present season of unprecedented growth and expansion. Regardless of population, policy, or pandemic, her leadership has been marked by an unwavering commitment to standing firm on Biblical principles despite wave after wave of temptation for cultural compromise. The result is a Christian School void of mission drift, preserved and poised to continue the call to educate future generations, both spiritually and academically. Perhaps the true extent of Deb’s impact on the families and students at TCS over the course of her leadership will probably not be fully realized on this side of eternity. Only then will the full breadth of her compassionate care, tender discipline, and courageous leadership be completely revealed. In short, the defining significance of Deb’s leadership will always be summed up by this simple truth: “We followed her as she followed Him.”

Deb
BLANKER



Thank you Mrs. Blanker for your tireless and selfless leadership of Tri-unity Christian School. We honor you for a legacy that will continue to impact generations to come.

“June 30th is around the corner...my time as elementary principal, middle/high school principal and school superintendent officially ends. I can say without reservation, the influence of this community has helped shaped me into the person I am today. I have learned more life lessons and spiritual truths than I could have imagined. I have accumulated more hugs than any other administrator (so I believe!). My heart is rejoicing and breaking at the same time. How can that be?”

The final farewells at the retirement open house cocooned me with immeasurable love and support. The toughest week of my tenure ended with two of the best days of my life. Tri-unity Christian families are the best! We, together, have built an institution in which the essence of us is woven together by God’s Love and Grace. One of our defining moments came with the onset of the pandemic. We, together, rose up and said “We Do Not Walk In Fear, but in God!” I may have been on the frontline, but you were the powerful army of support that gave me strength.

My prayer is and always will be, “Father, lead us with your Holy Spirit. Keep your truth the cornerstone of our mission. Help us to always listen for your voice and remain steadfast in the call. Protect our families and lead them according to your purpose. With you all things are possible.”

In closing... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 AMEN!”

With much love,

Deb Blanker





Mark KEELER



40 years is a long time in any context. Whether you're talking years wandering in a desert, days and nights on an Ark, or simply in a High School classroom, doing the same thing for forty years requires unwavering commitment, deep passion, and incredible faithfulness to a calling. Mark Keeler has all of these things. Over the course of four decades as a Math and Bible teacher, Athletic Director, Senior Trip leader, Basketball coach, Dean of Students, and countless other roles as needed, Mark Keeler has poured into the lives of hundreds of students challenging them to live their lives totally abandoned to Jesus and His call on their lives. Because of his selfless faithfulness, God has greatly blessed Mark's efforts at TCS spiritually,

academically, and on the hard court. While many outside of TCS may measure Mark's impact strictly through his success on the basketball court, his consistent focus on pointing his students towards Jesus will be what defines his lasting legacy.

We honor and thank you Mr. Keeler for a lifetime of faith, commitment, and influence on the lives of the students and families at TCS.

"Thank you, Jesus, for the privilege to have taught at Tri-unity Christian for the last 40 years. I could not begin to tell all the wonderful experiences and people I have seen during that time here at TCS. I was called to teach, but I feel I have been taught so much more. The adage that says, "Time goes by fast when you are having fun," is so true. The years have flown by teaching at TCS. What I have loved most about this school is that Jesus Christ is the center of our School. I also know that will continue in the future because of the individuals leading our school.

Again, I say "Thank you, Jesus" for placing godly men and women to lead our school as they follow you! I am so happy that TCS has been left in very capable hands. My prayer for the future of TCS is Micah 6:8, that our community 'acts justly, loves mercy and walks humbly with our God.'"

-Mark Keeler

Jeanne HARVEY

It's been said that many impact some...and some impact all. Jeanne Harvey is clearly in the latter group. Beginning as a volunteer before joining the staff in 2013, Jeanne has served TCS for the past decade as the MS/HS Administrative Assistant. In her role, Jeanne has been the first touch for literally hundreds of students and parents entering TCS, whether starting their first day, beginning yet another day, or completing their last day. Through it all, she never failed to masterfully blend the delicate art of often being both school secretary and school mom. She faithfully handled the morning phone rush, wrote every notice from excused to tardy to detention, and made sure all visitors wore the appropriate lanyards. All while making time to pray with sick students, provide snacks for hungry bellies, and comforting those kids just needing a listening ear.

Mrs. Harvey...while your presence at TCS will be greatly missed, your genuine love and care for our students will never be forgotten. We honor and thank you for all you have done.



"After having sent my three awesome kids through TCS from Preschool-HS Graduation and serving the school as a volunteer in so many different capacities, I was very happy to accept the job Mrs. Blanker offered me as office support person. I have had the privilege of getting to know so many classes of students and watching them grow and mature (most of the time!) from 7th grade to graduating seniors. I have had the best people to work alongside and Tri-unity has given me the opportunity to share my faith in lots of different ways. I am forever thankful for my time here as a parent, volunteer, and employee. God is so good!"

- Jeanne Harvey

FOREVER A DEFENDER.



DEFENDER ATHLETICS



The winter and spring seasons for TCS athletics were full of memorable performances and experiences. The boys' basketball team made it back to the Breslin Center for the State Championship game, ultimately coming up short to Munising in a close game. The spring season brought our girls soccer, boys' baseball, and golf teams the opportunity to compete, and our golf team qualified for the state championship for the first time since 1999! What an accomplishment for our coach (Bennett Sinner) and the 5 golfers who represented us: Hezekiah Nobel, Owen Rosendall, Lincoln Eerdmans, Joel Eerdmans, and



Dylan Bruinsma. In the state finals rounds, our boys golf team finished 11th in the state, with Owen Rosendall and Hezekiah Nobel both tying for 13th place out of 104 golfers. Summer time brings the opportunity for youth development, with many of our coaches holding youth camps, and the occasion for our HS athletes to work out, become better versions of themselves, and take their game to the next level. Thank you for your continued support of Tri-unity athletics. It was a great year to be a Defender and we look forward to what the Lord has in store for 2023-2024.







SPRING AUCTION

RAISED OVER **\$130K** THIS YEAR!

Auction 2023 is officially in the books! Everyone in attendance echoed feelings of overwhelming community and support that directly led to a historic record-breaking evening for TCS. The patriotic theme 'One Nation Under God' was felt the moment you entered the building and God's presence was undeniable from start to finish. The auction committee put in countless hours of planning and execution offering 508 donations up for bid from 165 different donors, local businesses and families in our community! There were appearances from some very special guest auctioneers who brought laughs and have legendary ties to Tri-unity, which was such a special surprise addition to this year's event. Thank you to everyone who prayed for, supported, donated, and attended the 2023 auction. With over 550 guests in attendance and over 221 bidder numbers assigned, a total amount of \$131,121 was raised towards the mission that God is accomplishing through the faithful efforts of Tri-unity Christian School.

- 2023 TCS Auction Committee



blessed



CITY ON A HILL VISION UPDATE

It has been nearly a year and a half since we launched our City on a Hill Vision Campaign and in that time we've made great progress! To date, we have completed the construction of 5 additional elementary classrooms, added another set of bathrooms for upper elementary, expanded and resurfaced our parking lot, and have begun to pay down the balance on the 30 acres of new land across the street on Wilson Ave! This has proven to be very timely as enrollment continues to grow and more and more families are looking into TCS as the school for their child's Christian Education.

We are so thankful for the support of our current Community and the selfless giving of so many donors that have funded our progress to date and there is still much work to be done! As you may have noticed in our monthly updates, in addition to the remaining cost for the new

construction and new land, we also have loans on the original Elementary campus and current MS/HS Building that will need to be paid off before we can put a shovel in the ground for our new 9-12 High School. Of further urgency is the fact that the current MS/HS Building loan is due for refinance in January 2024. Urgency is the operative word as interest rates are much higher to date than in our original loan which will lead to additional interest owed so the incentive to pay it off before then is great.

While our need is great...we know our God is Greater and has faithfully provided all that we have needed to this point and will not fail to do so with what lies ahead! It is His leading that has birthed this Vision and it will be His Provision that will make it possible from whomever, wherever, and whenever He brings it. Please continue to pray and join our faith in this promise!



**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING
TCS!**

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2023!



TRI-UNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL