

# A Legacy, A Library

## The Helen Boley Trust gift supports learning and building community at Aldo Leopold Elementary School

By Kate Bast



Rejuvenated library space at Leopold Elementary

Libraries. They are filled with countless fascinating stories, big adventures, inspiring ideas and inventions, creativity, and the beauty of the written word. All to fortify and nurture minds, old and young, throughout a lifetime.

Today, libraries are more than repositories. They are networks of connection, webs of support and hubs for community, offering computer access, media, workshops, events, gatherings and more.

Aldo Leopold Elementary School, too, is a confluence. As one of MMSD's four Community Schools, its mission is to serve teachers, students, staff and the community. Its library needed a transformation to fulfill that mission.

A generous legacy gift from the Helen Boley Estate has helped the school complete its three-phase transformation into a beautiful multi-purpose and forward-thinking space.

"We want all children to thrive and grow in their learning, and to do this, we need resources on many different levels. Public schools fund the basics for teaching and learning. The Helen Boley Estate gift allows us to be creative and engage our community in planning for Leopold in ways that build community and develop trust among many stakeholders," says Principal Peg Keeler, "Without this gift, we would not be able

to engage in innovative thinking that is based on our equity vision and beliefs."

That vision involves purchasing culturally relevant instructional materials—texts with diverse characters, color printing and images that showcase the Leopold community that learns, plays and works together, as well as welcoming, multipurpose furniture. The vision also includes creating affinity groups for children, such as Black Boys United, which provides field trips, materials, and importantly, opportunity for the student scholars to, says Keeler, "see their brilliance and future selves."

With her generous bequest in her will to benefit the school, Helen Boley joins a circle of meaningful support for Leopold, whose Adopt-a-School Partners include Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin—the longest-standing Adopt-a-School partnership in the Foundation's signature program. Other partners include Associated Bank's Fish Hatchery Road Branch, Capital Wealth Advisory Group, the Church, City on a Hill Church, State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue, YMCA of Dane County and Blackhawk Church—Fitchburg.

A Madison resident, who sadly passed away in 2017, Boley, by all indications, believed strongly in public schools, not only for their capacity to shape young minds, but also to help grow the academic, democratic, athletic and passionate community leaders of tomorrow.

Her gift conveys belief in the school's potential to educate students, to support learning communities today and to shape the leaders and dreamers of tomorrow.

*You, too, can leave a legacy as meaningful as Helen Boley's. To learn more about making a gift in your estate plan, contact Melinda Heinritz at [mheinritz@fmps.org](mailto:mheinritz@fmps.org) about our Madison Public Schools Legacy Circle.*

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