Alumni & Friends

NEWS LETTER

Fall Edition 2026

FOOTPRINTS

ALUMNI WHO GIVE BACK

KEEPING THE MARQUETTE TRADITION STRONG



Marquette Academy is more than a school—it is a community built on generations of faith, tradition and a shared belief in the importance of Catholic education. One of the greatest strengths of that community is the many alumni who continue to give back, helping ensure that future generations have the same opportunities they once had.

Our alumni give back in countless ways. Some provide financial support through scholarships and donations. **The Class of 1959,** for example, made an impact for nearly a decade by supporting students through scholarships totaling **$50,000**. **The Class of 1956** has also made a lasting impact, giving more than **$60,000** to support Marquette students. Others choose to honor the people and experiences that shaped their own Marquette journey. **Jim Hoffman, Class of 1979**, recently honored his parents and their lasting influence on his faith and education through his generous support of Marquette.

Families, too, have found meaningful ways to give back. Members of the **Don C. Anderson family** have funded a continuing scholarship, financial aid, and donated the funds possible for a new grade school gym floor, creating a lasting legacy that will benefit Marquette students for years to come. Today, that space proudly carries the name Anderson Gym.

The **Durdan** families have found many ways to support Marquette over the years, including volunteering in numerous ways, Go Club support, and sharing their professional expertise services. Their willingness to give both their resources and their time is another example of the many ways alumni families can make a lasting impact.

But giving back doesn't always come in the form of a financial gift. Some of our most dedicated alumni give something equally valuable—their time and talents by volunteering and supporting events.

Each of these contributions matters.

As we look toward the future of Marquette Academy, we need our alumni community more than ever. The strength of our school depends it. There are many ways to stay connected and make a difference at Marquette. If you're interested in volunteering, starting a scholarship, supporting a specific need, or have another idea for how you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Julie Verona or Kristal Nodland at 815-433-0125 to learn more about how you can continue making an impact on the Marquette community.

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A LEGACY OF FAITH, A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

Jim Hoffman, Class of ’79, honors his parents, William and Joan Hoffman, Class of ’50, with a gift that is transforming Marquette for generations to come.



The James Hoffmann family



Joan O’Donnell



William Hoffmann

Marquette has long been part of the Hoffman family story. **James Hoffman, Class of 1979**, and his sister, Laurie (Hoffman) Poelking, Class of 1975, represent decades of connection to the school, along with their parents William and Joan Hoffman.

Jim has chosen to honor the two people that had an integral part in shaping his faith and education through their own experience and love for a solid Catholic education. Jim’s parents, **William Hoffman** and **Joan O’Donnell** were proud members of the Class of 1950. In fact, they were members of the very first co-educational graduating class of what was then called Ottawa Catholic High School, long before it became the Marquette Academy we proudly know today. During their time here at Marquette, they witnessed the addition of key campus landmarks, including the construction of the gymnasium and football field, both investments that enriched student life and strengthened the school community. Like many students of their time, they were involved in extracurricular activities that helped build community and school spirit. Their engagement reflected a deep pride in their school and a willingness to help shape traditions that would endure for generations.

In tribute to his parents’ legacy, Jim has made an extraordinary and heartfelt donation to the school in their honor. His gift is more than generous—it is deeply personal, reflecting gratitude for the faith, values, and education that have been passed down through his family.

This meaningful donation has already been put to work in several impactful ways across campus. A portion of



Grotto Improvements

Techonology Upgrades



Commons Refresh



the gift supported enhancements to our main entrance, and grotto area, a sacred space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance at the heart of our school community.

The generosity of this gift also helped us upgrade technology throughout the school, providing students and faculty with modern tools that enhance learning, encourage innovation, and support academic growth. In addition, the outdoor Student Common area has been enhanced, creating a welcoming space where students can gather for lunch, spend time together, and even take their learning beyond the classroom by enjoying lessons in the fresh air and shade of the trees.

These completed improvements are a wonderful reflection of our continued commitment to nurturing the whole student – mind, body, and spirit. We are grateful for the generosity that made these enhancements possible and for the lasting impact they will have on our students and school community.

Just as the Class of 1950 embraced a time of growth and transformation, this gift helps ensure the same spirit of progress continues today, strengthening Marquette for current students and for generations yet to come.

Jim's story is a powerful reminder that Marquette is more than a school—it is a family, shaped by generations and strengthened through gratitude and generosity. We are profoundly thankful for Jim's gift and for the lasting legacy his family continues to build—one rooted in faith, tradition, and hope for future generations.

New Cement & Landscape



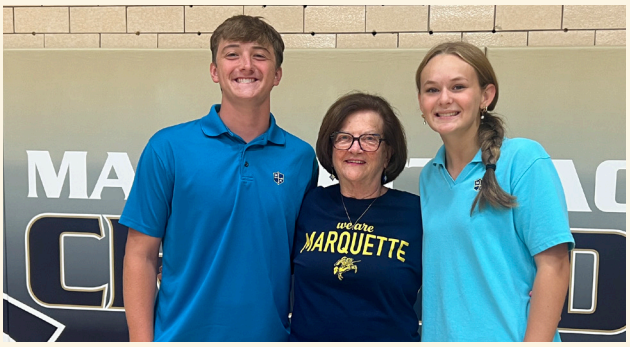
GIVE BACK. GET INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED. MAKE AN IMPACT.

Marquette's story continues through the alumni who carry its traditions, values, and memories with them. Your connection to Marquette doesn't end at graduation. There are many ways to stay involved, and every act of support makes a difference.

Alumni giving takes many forms. Financial gifts help provide opportunities for today's students, while volunteering, sharing talents, mentoring, attending events, cheering on our teams, or simply staying connected also make an impact. Together, Marquette alumni can help ensure today's students have the same meaningful experiences and memories that made Marquette special.

We asked one of Marquette's most dedicated volunteers to share why she continues to give back through her time, talents, and positive energy to our school community – and what keeps her coming back year after year.

Josephine (Jo) (Donahue) Parrott, Class of 1959



Q. Why is Marquette important to you?
A. Marquette has always been a part of my life and now realize how much it supported the values I was raised with. The education and support of my faith I received has helped me to have a great life.

Q. Why do you choose to give back?
A. I have made many lifelong friendships through Marquette, and I hope today's students have the opportunity to create those same lasting memories and connections. I enjoy staying busy, building relationships with the students, and helping wherever I can. Volunteering allows me to give my time and talents to a school community that means so much to me. In the end, I truly feel that I receive so much more from volunteering than I could ever give.

Q. What would you say to another alum who is considering getting involved?
A. If you're not sure where to start, reach out to Julie Verona in the Marquette Advancement Office. Staying connected to Marquette and helping current students is incredibly rewarding. There are so many ways to be involved, and you don't have to make a huge commitment to make an impact. For me, the relationships and satisfaction I get from giving back make every minute worthwhile.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30, 2026
6:00pm Homecoming Parade
Downtown Ottawa

October 2, 2026
4-6:30pm Homecoming
Alumni & Family Tailgate
7pm HOCO Game

October 25, 2026
Annual Rip's Trip
Meet at the Knights of Columbus

November 18, 2026
MAHS Freshman Open House
High School Campus

December 2026
Merry Everything Raffle 12/1-25
Holiday Home Tour Dec. 5

ALUMNI & Family TAILGATE
HOCO 2026 (Oct 2)









Celebrate Homecoming Week!

Join us Wednesday, September 30 in downtown Ottawa to support our current athletes and student clubs as we celebrate HOCO with our traditional parade. Immediately following the parade, we'll gather in the Grotto area for more Crusader spirit!

Then, keep the celebration going on Friday with our Homecoming Tailgate, beginning at 4pm across from Gould Stadium. Enjoy food, drinks, raffles, and plenty of Marquette spirit before the big game!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook for updates and additional Homecoming details. We hope to see you there!

www.marquetteacademy.net **815-433-0125** **Follow us on Social Media**

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