

Meet the 2018 CEF Honored Alumna, Mrs. Jane Good Greenfield

If you have attended any of the Caledonia Schools' concerts, chances are you may have experienced the talents of the accompanist, Jane Greenfield. This talented pianist has graciously played for the Caledonia Community Schools music programs for many years and has accompanied students at vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles. In addition, she is a pianist at Gaines Church and also plays at weddings and funerals. She is a sought-after piano teacher with 20 current students.

Jane's roots are firmly planted in Caledonia, as she grew up in the village and has stayed ever since. She was the youngest of six children, born to Mary Stauffer Good (Caledonia graduate) and Edison Good who worked for the John Deere dealership after serving in the Army during World War II. Jane attended Caledonia Elementary, Junior High, and graduated from the Caledonia High School in 1978. She was always involved in music from an early age. She played flute in the band under the direction of Ray Veeninga and sang in choir under Director Ken Stanek. Even in school, Jane accompanied choirs, vocalists and instrumentalists as well as Caledonia's musical productions. "I loved growing up in a small community, which gave me many opportunities for my musical growth. All of the businesses were on Main street during my growing up years and I have great memories of walking around the village and to the park with my friends."

After high school, Jane attended Grand Rapids Junior College for two years and then transferred to Michigan State University. She graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy. She and two of her siblings had the honor of being first-generation college graduates in their family.

Her career took off as she taught private lessons, played for churches, accompanied many music groups and judged for piano competitions, festivals, and testing programs. Jane comments, "I feel that music is the gift that

God has given me and it was a clear direction for my life." Having grown up in Caledonia, she has never had to advertise for piano students and is in high demand by those who know her talent. Jane reflects, "I enjoy seeing all of the fine musicians develop in the greater Caledonia area. We have such a tremendous amount of talent in our small community. It is a privilege to be involved in



Students Eliza Henry and Eden Witvoet with Jane at a recent recital.

Jane encourages her students to reach a level of excellence in their playing and performing. She has them take part in the MMTA (Michigan Music Teachers Association) student achievement testing program. Her students consistently receive high scores and some are eligible to go on to the semi-finals. The program



Jane and her family pictured from the left: daughter-in-law, Ashley (Jacob), sons, Joshua and Jacob (in hat), grandchildren, Elijah and Eden, Jane, and her husband, Mike.

"Mrs. Greenfield has been patient, kind, and attentive. She has helped me grow not only as a musician but as a person and has helped to prepare me as I consider majoring in music therapy when I go to college. Mrs. Greenfield has taught me not only scales and theory but how to express myself through the music and really make it come alive".

Amanda Bursch,
piano student of six years

enables Jane to teach a well-rounded course of study. She works hard to bridge the gap between classical instruction and jazz, pop, rock and improvisation techniques. She shares her joy and love of music with her students and takes a genuine interest in them while helping them excel.

One of her students suggested that she should meet her brother-in-law, Mike, and go on a blind date. Jane agreed and it led to a dating relationship. They fell in love and were married in 1982. Mike owns Relevant Networks, a technology company, and helps Jane with anything involving the computer. He is a talented page-turner and can often be spotted on stage with Jane. They have two talented sons who are also musical. Joshua lives in Byron Center and is an excellent pianist. Jacob and his wife Ashley reside in Jenks, Oklahoma and have two children, Elijah and Eden. Jacob is an accomplished guitar player. Jane's sons grew up seeing their grandparents often and worked on Jane's brother's farm, Mead-O-Bloom, during their teenage years. It was an invaluable work experience for them.

Giving back to the community is important to Jane. At age 13, she became the church pianist for the Caledonia United Brethren Church. She also counts it a privilege to have played at Gaines Church, Maplelawn Baptist Church, and Ada Bible Church. When her mother was a resident, she played piano and ukulele at Emerald Meadows Nursing Home as well as others. Jane also played for a youth group that traveled around Guatemala on a mission trip.

When she is not involved with music, Jane likes to spend her time reading, knitting, kayaking, and walking her dogs. Mike and Jane enjoy traveling, especially in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. They have also traveled to Australia, Alaska, Guatemala and the Caribbean.

Many Caledonia Alumni have been called away to make a difference in other parts of the world; but, it is an honor to have Jane serving students and the community right here in Caledonia. She is using her talents to benefit her community by bringing a love of music to others.

Greet Jane at Foundation Fest on October 5th