

FY19

# YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019







# Reflections from Munir

### **Dear AMS Members and Community,**

The American Montessori Society exists because of each and every one of you. You provide our sense of purpose; you are our "why." You inspire us to think bigger, better, and bolder.

Because of you, we push limits and encourage our members to do the same. We are always dreaming and planning for what is next. For example, we are now moving full speed ahead with a yearlong celebration of Maria Montessori's upcoming 150th birthday to support her legacy, preserve her work, memorialize her achievements, and fuel the future of Montessori education.

We are also continually building our professional development programming far beyond what we ever imagined was possible; for example, through our new AMS Teacher Education Instructor Academy, for enhancing the preparation of Montessori teacher educators. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities we offer to grow your skills with us in person and online.

We are driven by our mission, vision, and values.

Mission: Empowering humanity to build a better world through Montessori.

Our Vision: Montessori for all, embraced around the globe.

Our Values: Respect. Integrity. Diversity. Inclusivity. Responsibility. Service.

A strong foundation has helped get us where we are today. We are inspired to take a step back, and reflect upon our accomplishments.

In Fiscal Year 2019, we received the largest anonymous gift to the AMS Annual Fund in our organization's history: \$18,000! We are grateful to those of you who believe in what we do, and select AMS as your nonprofit of choice. When you give to AMS, you support entire generations of children around the world.

Over the course of four seasons, a lot can happen, and indeed, a lot has happened. We invite you to review what we accomplished in FY19, thanks to the support of our dedicated staff, board, and you.

You hold the future in your hands. It's what you choose to do with it that makes you a champion!

Sincerely.

**Munir Shivji**Board President

# Resources



We introduced a new and enhanced online AMS Jobs Board, to which all member schools and teacher education programs may post listings free of charge. Features include geographic mapping, job alerts, and even résumé-uploading opportunities.









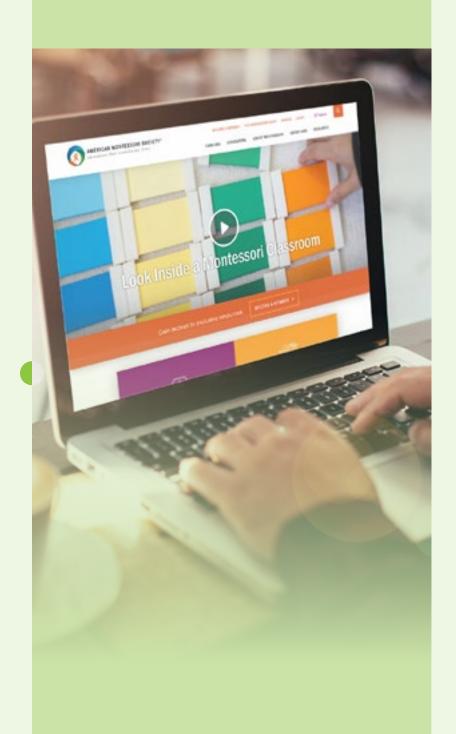
Online Onboard made its big debut. This series of training courses supports AMS-affiliated teacher education programs in designing, developing, and teaching online learning courses.

We launched AMS Connect, an online platform for facilitating member communication and collaboration. One of the things members like most about it is that conversations are archived and easily accessible for future reference.

We launched our spectacular **new AMS Website**, amshq.org. The site features a unique web page for each of our member schools and teacher education programs, resources specifically for members, a Montessori Marketplace, and much more.

We premiered our Facebook Live video series, featuring AMS staff talking about innovations in their areas. It is a pleasure connecting with you in real time to share updates, answer your questions, and give away prizes. Facebook Lives are now a regular part of our programming.

In recognition of our annual conference as the global force that it has become, we rebranded it as The Montessori Event and gave it its very own website—the first of its kind in AMS history. Visit TheMontessoriEvent.com.



# The Montessori Event 2019

More than 4,000 passionate educators joined us in March for our annual professional development and community-building extravaganza, The Montessori Event. Held in Washington, DC, it was the second largest conference in AMS history, eclipsed only by our Montessori Centennial conference in 2007. The schedule was jam-packed with over 175 events to inspire our global community of thinkers, doers, action-takers, and world-changers.





**17**5 EVENT

### **Public Schools**

Our first "Championing Montessori in the Public Sector" event brought together public school superintendents from around the country in acknowledgment of their commitment to Montessori in their districts. The day featured a research panel, case study, and more. A special thank you to Wend Ventures for their generous sponsorship.

**Keynote Speakers** 



### **Daniel Goleman, psychologist:**

"Focus & Emotional Intelligence"

### Pedro Noguera, sociologist:

"Building a Foundation for Early Learning: Maximizing the Potential & Power of Preschool"

### Scilla Elworthy, peace activist:

"Empowering Young People to Be Agents of Change"





### **Montessori Voices**

This debut program featured a diverse group of Montessori masters and aficionados sharing personal stories from their life and work.

### **Biff Maier,**

director of faculty and curriculum development, Lexington Montessori School; and co-director, Montessori **Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative** 

### **Catherine** McTamaney,

associate professor, Vanderbilt University's Peabody College; author, Montessori Daoshi blog, The Tao of Montessori, and more

### **Anna Perry,**

executive director, Seton Montessori Institute and Schools

### **Brandt Smith,**

instructor, Clark Montessori High School; teacher trainer, Cincinnati Montessori Secondary Teacher Education Program; teacher trainer, Cincinnati Montessori Secondary Teacher **Education Program** 

### Sandra M. Stevenson,

assistant editor. Photography Department, NY Times; AMS Board director





In-person attendees



182

**Exhibitors** 



Attendees via the Virtual Pass



\$175,000

Raised in sponsorships



Countries represented



\$90,000

raised at our speakeasy-themed **Springtime Fancy** 



states represented



5,000 + 300

Toiletries

Pounds of food donated to DC's homeless

population

# Community



### The AMS Board of Directors

committed to becoming a more visible and accessible part of the community—for example, through growing their presence at events hosted by regional Montessori organizations. Meeting members in person helps us understand their interests and needs, so that we can better serve them.





We hosted an exhibit booth at the

# National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference.

It was a prime opportunity to share Montessori information with thousands in the wider education community.

AMS continued to advance policy change through the **Montessori Public Policy Initiative**,

our ongoing collaboration with AMI/USA. In FY19, MPPI's work touched 27 states on issues from child-care licensing and quality rating and improvement systems (QRISs) to teacher credential recognition, to ensure that Montessori schools don't have to compromise practice because of policy obstacles. MPPI is now a 501(c)(3) organization serving as the joint policy arm of AMS and AMI/USA, with the executive directors and representatives from both

organizations serving on the MPPI board.



A joint collaboration of AMS and AMI/USA





### We hosted the largest Annual Meeting in AMS history!

Held during The Montessori Event, and crafted by AMS Board president, Munir Shivji, the meeting drew hundreds of attendees. It was an a memorable mix of state-of-the-organization presentations and entertaining, audience-participation activities.



Under the leadership of AMS senior researcher, Dr. Angela Murray, along with other university-based individuals in Montessori research, including those on the AMS Research Committee, a Montessori Education **Special Interest Group** (SIG) was launched with the American Education Research Association (AERA). This monumental step will result in increased support, promotion, and dissemination of information and research about Montessori education and philosophy.





# AMS 2019 Living Legacy Honoree: Marta Donahoe

Among Marta's many accomplishments, she was a founder of the nations's first public Montessori high school—Clark Montessori High School, in Cincinnati, OH—and the Cincinnati Montessori Secondary Teacher Education Program.

The Living Legacy Award recognizes an individual whose dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on the AMS community.

# **Dr. Nancy McCormick Rambusch Pioneering Award: Martha McDermott**

A Montessori educator and curriculum developer for more than 60 years, Martha founded the Elementary program at Xavier University Montessori Lab School in Cincinnati, OH, and was instrumental in developing public Montessori schools.

Through the Dr. Nancy McCormick Rambusch Pioneering Award, AMS recognizes individuals who have made significant advances in raising the profile of Montessori education. It is named in honor of education visionary Dr. Nancy McCormick Rambusch, whose vigorous efforts were vital to the founding of AMS and the growth of the Montessori Movement.

# Douglas M. Gravel Benefactor Award: Judith McCartin-Scheide

Judith has been a steadfast supporter of AMS for over 20 years, donating approximately \$750,000. Judith and her late husband, Bill Scheide, provided initial funding to create the Douglas M. Gravel Fund in support of preserving AMS's history, and the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector.

AMS acknowledges those whose generosity has contributed to the sustainability and growth of the organization through an annual award named in honor of the late Douglas M. Gravel, one of AMS's most consistent and generous benefactors. Doug, along with his wife, Maria Gravel, provided strong and unwavering support to the American Montessori Society from its earliest days.

# Montessori Innovator Award: Catherine McTamaney

An associate professor of the practice of education at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, Catherine is author of the blog *Montessori Daoshi* and the books *The Tao of Montessori* and *A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path*.

This annual award honors up-and-coming individuals for their original and inventive contributions to the practice and experience of Montessori education.

# Dr. Maria Montessori Ambassador Award: Senator William C. Smith, Jr.

Maryland State Senator William Smith (D-Montgomery) was heralded for his work to advance a bill that would enable qualified individuals to become eligible for teacher certification in Maryland Montessori schools.

The Dr. Maria Montessori Ambassador Award honors individuals who, through their work in a variety of arenas, are fostering a landscape in which Montessori education can flourish.

"The education I received as a Montessori student served as the foundation for my career as a lawyer, a state senator, and an officer in the Navy. More important, the lessons I learned as a Montessori student taught me to think critically, with creativity and compassion."



# **Grants**

In Fiscal Year 2019, AMS awarded \$113,930 in grants, scholarships, and awards to individuals around the world to support education for peace, teacher education, and research. We also recognized outstanding members of our community with awards that celebrated their exceptional contributions to the Montessori Movement.

### **AMS Research Mini-Grants**

Mini-grants support research that brings fresh insight to Montessori education.

Fall 2018:

# **Luz Casquejo Johnston, EdD,** and **Ayize Sabater I, EdD**

"Effective ways Montessori schools engage parents in student learning: A mixed-method study"

\$2,000

**Spring 2019:** 

### **Brooke Culclasure, PhD**

"An Exploration of Teacher Satisfaction and Retention in South Carolina's Public Montessori Classrooms"

\$3,450

### **AMS Peace Seed Grants**

These grants help fund projects that promote peace education. They are presented in memory of educator Ursula Thrush, whose dedication to the concept of peace through children inspired many to advance peace education in their classrooms and communities.

### **Amy Borak**

### Montessori Community School of Rhode Island Providence, RI, for anti-bias and anti-racist workshops

\$1,000

### Chinyere Eziuzor

Blossom Fount Model School Awka, Nigeria, for materials and books that promote peace

\$800

# Lacey Feeley Ouest Montessori

School
Narragansett, RI,
for nonviolence
training and
a peace and
nonviolence library

\$500

### Brooke Fly Spears

Magnolia Montessori School Oxford, MS, for expansion of the school's garden to yield food to local organizations in need

\$420

### Tabitha LaChance

Kennebec Montessori School Fairfield, ME, for materials that cultivate inner peace

\$830

### Chris Youngston Gray

Greenspring Montessori School Baltimore, MD, for diversity, equity, and inclusion training

\$750



# Scholarships

### **AMS Teacher Education Scholarships**

Every year, we award teacher education scholarships to aspiring Montessori teachers in support of their professional growth. In FY2019, we awarded 21 scholarships for the 2019 – 2020 academic year.

The total amount of the scholarships was \$28,000.

### **Registration & Travel Stipends**

Underwriting from AMS helped 17 Montessori teachers attend The Montessori Event 2019, in Washington, DC.

The total amount of the stipends was \$30,980.

# Research Awards

These awards support graduate-level research that furthers the understanding of Montessori education.

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION** 



### Ann D. Sutton, PhD

"Perspectives on Montessori: Indigenous Inquiry, Teachers, Dialogue, and Sustainability"

\$1,000

### **MASTER'S THESIS**



### Kirstin A. Nordhaus, MAED

"Supporting Narrative Writing Proficiency and Engagement in a Montessori Upper Elementary Classroom through the Writing Workshop Model and 6+1 Traits of Writing"

\$750



### Marcela L. Corona-Villarreal, MS

"Acquisition of English as a Second Language for Hispanic Immigrant Adults with Low Academic and Socioeconomic Levels in the U.S.A through a Proposed Montessori Approach" \$250





Leadership Development



We secured a grant from a major education foundation to help finance an AMS **Teacher Education Instructor** Academy, designed to enhance the preparation of those who instruct future Montessori teacher educators; and we lay the groundwork for a fall 2020 launch date.

Stome A Ashmar

The AMS Board of Directors continued its training in diversity, equity, and inclusion with consultant Dr. Derrick Gay, and set the foundation for bringing the same to AMS staff in Fiscal Year 2020.

# **Emerging Leaders Fellows**

We welcomed a new cohort group to our Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program, and said a fond farewell to the 16 graduates in Cohort 1.

Participants are Montessori-credentialed teachers who are determined to take their involvement in Montessori education to new levels through a year of structured learning, mentoring, and networking opportunities.



### **Congratulations, Cohort 1!**

### **Rachel Cole**

Bauhaus Montessori of New Orleans New Orleans. LA

### **Rocio Janette Garcia**

Hill Country Montessori School

Boerne, TX

### **Mary Frances Gibson**

Clark Montessori Jr. & Sr. High School Cincinnati, OH

### **Anne Hewetson**

Montessori School of Denver Denver, CO

### **Gwen Howard**

Hull-Jackson Montessori Magnet School Nashville, TN

### **Heather Krom**

Kingsley Montessori School Boston, MA

### Kim McMaken-Marsh

Lexington Montessori School Lexington, MA

# Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri

Montessori School of Denver Denver, CO

### **Jacque Paulsen**

Riverway Learning Community

### **Amanda Hollenback**

Inly School Scituate, MA

### Liza Scholl

Penn-Mont Academy Hollidaysburg, PA

### **Melissa Snyder**

West Side Montessori

### Hiromi Sudachi

Harborlight Montessori Beverly, MA

### **Justin Tosco Sterling**

Montessori School Morrisville, NC

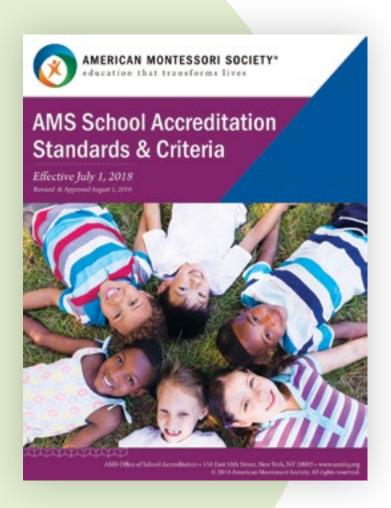
### **Stephanie Van Fleet**

Adventure Montessori

### **Sarah Zolan**

University of Washington Children's Center Seattle, WA

# **Ouality Improvement**



# We released a new **School Accreditation Handbook**

with updated standards, including the requirement that, effective July 1, 2020, newly hired Infant & Toddler and Early Childhood lead teachers must have a bachelor's degree.

### We added information to our Handbook for Teacher Education and Affiliation

about the new Montessori Inclusion
Endorsement and specifics about the
minimum number of hours required
for studying course components in
each of the different program levels.
And, we revised the number of hours
required for online learning, allowing
for easier access to high-quality
Montessori teacher education.

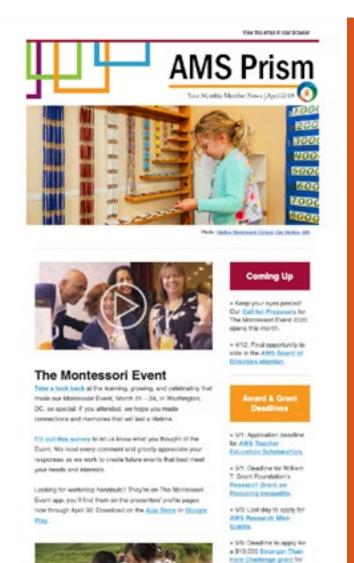


We set the groundwork for new membership tiers that would go into effect in Fiscal Year 2020. Among the changes: Effective July 1, 2019, only schools on the AMS Pathway of **Continuous School Improvement** at Steps 5 – 10 would receive an AMS School

Quality certificate, a signal of their fidelity to highquality Montessori practices.

To better serve those schools committed to achieving and sustaining new levels of quality, we published a comprehensive handbook about our Pathway of Continuous School Improvement.

We shared results of our 2018 Stakeholder **Survey**, a project of the AMS Board of Directors. Among the takeaways: AMS initiatives with the highest correlation of satisfaction and perceived value were the AMS Prism newsletter, "This Week at AMS" emails, the AMS Pathway of Continuous School Improvement, the Tuition Survey Report, and Montessori Teacher Educators Day.



# **Building a Better World**







On Valentine's Day, AMS staff participated in its first **Day of Love**, teaming up with City Meals on Wheels to deliver hot meals and handmade cards to homebound residents in NYC. The day would set the stage for more AMS staff volunteerism to come.





# We were designated a **World Citizen International Peace Site** by

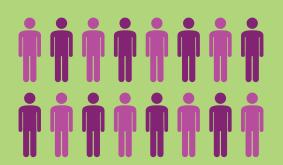
World Citizen, a nonprofit dedicated to invigorating and empowering communities to educate for a just and peaceful world. In accepting the designation, we committed ourselves to five peace actions, including being responsible citizens of the world and respecting diversity.

Members of the **Peace & Social Justice Committee** came together from across the country for a weekend of strategic planning at the AMS offices in NYC. They identified 6 areas of focus: **access**, **children and adolescents**, **education**, **promotion**, **research**, and **collaboration**. These, in turn, sparked new goals, such as improving access to peace education materials and strengthening resources about diversity, equity, and inclusion for teacher educators.

# **AMS** by the Numbers

By the end of Fiscal Year 2019, we had:

**Individual Members** 



**Affiliated Teacher Education Programs** 

1,461



650,0 **Website Visitors** 



Webpage Views



7,800

**Members in the Montessori Research Interest Facebook Group** 









**Inclusive Community of Global Montessorians** 

# **Financials**

In FY19, AMS generated its highest revenues on record at \$7M, benefiting in particular from a successful Montessori Event in Washington, DC, and steady growth in our membership base. On the flip side, our expenses rose to \$8.3M as a result of an increase in staff and resources required to support our growth, as well as a number of adverse exceptional items, such as the spin-off of the Montessori Public Policy Initiative and implementation/restructuring costs associated with our new strategic plan. Our liquidity and financial assets decreased to \$5.3M at year-end, a historically strong position covering over 4 times our total liabilities.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	FY 19	FY 18	FY 17
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Membership Dues and Fees	2,732,742	2,577,485	2,451,940
Teacher Education Dues and Fees	615,478	677,016	621,176
Conferences and Symposia	2,132,746	1,773,058	1,730,582
Webinars and Publications	232,846	205,757	196,966
Royalty Income & Advertising	272,618	255,391	278,075
Contributions	551,534	1,077,080	607,776
Investment Income	423,259	416,398	554,605
Miscellaneous Income	79,942	28,275	11,957
TOTAL REVENUE AMD OTHER SUPPORT	7,041,165	7,010,460	6,453,077
EXPENSES - PROGRAM SERVICES			
Membership	2,110,280	1,844,665	1,723,048
Teacher Education	884,932	827,941	670,069
Webinars and Publications	1,126,942	570,719	486,882
Conferences	2,917,933	1,610,155	1,484,439
Scholarship, Peace, and Research	112,922	210,933	135,000
Other (Public Policy, State Mapping, Advocacy)	523,993	277,434	154,844
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	7,677,002	5,341,847	4,654,282
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
Management and General	269,591	402,930	592,204
Fundraising	345,288	388,395	382,726
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	614,879	791,325	974,930
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,291,881	6,133,172	5,629,212
Increase in Net Assets	(1,250,716)	877,288	823,865
Restricted Release	(161,796)		
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	6,707,329	5,830,041	5,006,176
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	5,294,817	6,707,329	5,830,041

All financial information presented here is based on the financial statements provided in the Independent Auditors Report prepared by Bernstein Rosen & Company CPAs PC for the American Montessori Society.



**8%** FUNDRAISING: \$551,534

30% CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIA: \$2.132.746

39% MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES: \$2,732,742

9% TEACHER EDUCATION
DUES AND FEES: \$615,478

3% WEBINARS AND PUBLICATIONS: \$232,846

4% ROYALTY INCOME & ADVERTISING: \$272,618

**7%** OTHER: \$503,201



15% FUNDRAISING: \$1,077,080

25% CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIA: \$1,773,058

270/ MEMBERSHIP DUES

37% MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES: \$2,577,485

10% TEACHER EDUCATION DUES AND FEES: \$677,016

3% WEBINARS AND PUBLICATIONS: \$205,757

4% ROYALTY INCOME & ADVERTISING: \$255,391

6% OTHER: \$444,673



9% FUNDRAISING: \$607,776

**27%** CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIA: \$1,730,582

38% MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES: \$2,451,940

10% TEACHER EDUCATION
DUES AND FEES: \$621,176

3% WEBINARS AND PUBLICATIONS: \$196,966

4% ROYALTY INCOME & ADVERTISING: \$278,075

9% OTHER: \$566,562



1.2% FUNDRAISING: \$345,288

3.3% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: \$269,591

92.6% PROGRAM: \$7,677,002

2019 NET ASSETS \$5,294,817



6.3% FUNDRAISING: \$388,395

6.6% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: \$402,930

**87.1%** PROGRAM: \$5,341,847

2018 NET ASSETS **\$6,707,329** 



FUNDRAISING: \$382,726

**10.5%** MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: \$592,204

82.7% PROGRAM: \$4,654,282

2017 NET ASSETS \$5,830,041

# Donors

The American Montessori Society raises funds to support the organization's programs and services, which further Montessori education. To achieve our fundraising goals we rely on you— our dedicated members and friends. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Thank you for your generous support!

ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAION	CLAVION L PETDY A			
ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN	CLAYTON J. PETRY ▲  DEBBIE SENOFF-LANGFORD ▲	ROSEMARY QUARANTA	ANNABEL J. CIEPLY	WENDY KALICHSTEIN A
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JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019. We have made every effort to be

accurate in acknowledging all who have contributed to our organization. If your name has been overlooked, please accept our apologies and contact Kristine Cooper at Kristine@amshq.org. Thank you.

### **Strategic Priorities**

- Inclusion/Equity: AMS will model and ensure the advancement of principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion by creating an environment in which all feel welcomed, respected, valued, and empowered.
- Quality: AMS will define, promote, advocate for, and help its members deliver quality Montessori education and services.
- 3. Membership: AMS will provide a professional environment, rich in services, so that members grow and thrive as a strong and expanding global Montessori community.
- 4. **Communication:** AMS will raise awareness and understanding of the organization's mission, vision, and actions to all stakeholders for the purpose of strengthening the Montessori collective voice.
- 5. Institutional Advancement: AMS will ensure that it has significant resources, practices, programs, and facilities to deliver services and cultivate relationships in order to expand and strengthen its position as a voice for Montessori.

### **AMS Board of Directors**

The AMS Fiscal Year 2019 encompassed the period July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. This overlapped with the work of two consecutive AMS boards, whose terms of office had March start and end dates.

We are grateful to all of our board directors for their enduring guidance, dedication, and generosity.

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