Walled Lake, MI, March 30, 2016 – Sarah Klein, parent of 6th and 7th graders at Clifford H. Smart Middle School in Commerce Township, held the grand prize winning 2016 Tuition Expedition 50/50 Scholarship Raffle ticket drawn by the Foundation for Excellence – Walled Lake Schools at the Walled Lake Consolidated School District PTA Reflections Celebration held on March 28. A total of 308 tickets were sold and raised $30,800. The raffle’s secondary raffle prize, tutorial services package donated by Sylvan Learning of West Bloomfield, was won by Barbie Green, Walled Lake Central High School French teacher.

“I wish to extend the Foundation’s sincere appreciation to our raffle sponsor, Walled Lake School Employees Federal Credit Union; to Sylvan Learning of Wet Bloomfield for their donation; and to our District, community, and neighbors for supporting our 11th Annual Tuition Expedition Raffle. It is through these partnerships, that our Tuition Expedition has been sustained and has generated $446,200 in total ticket sales during its tenure,” states Michelle Bianco, Foundation executive director. “Placing the call and delivering the news to Sarah was an outstanding moment as I experienced her true elation. We congratulate Sarah on being our 2016 Tuition Expedition grand prize winner.”

Walled Lake School District’s nineteen PTA/PTSA groups and the Walled Lake District PTSA Council each received one Tuition Expedition ticket donated by the Foundation for Excellence for awarding within their school community. Klein was the recipient of the ticket issued to Smart Middle School and is planning to use her winnings to offset future college expenses for her son and daughter.

“I am honored and proud to be part of such an amazing school community. Thank you so much to the Foundation for all that you do for our schools, and for our family!” states Sarah Klein. “The Foundation’s commitment to providing educational opportunities for the Walled Lake District is to be commended and is deeply appreciated.”

Klein is provided the option of choosing either 50% of the raffle’s ticket sales in the form of scholarship funds for postsecondary education or to elect a 40% lump sum payment.

Funds raised by the Tuition Expedition raffle are channeled into the areas of technology, literacy, leadership and community for Walled Lake District’s K-12 students through the Foundation’s annual grant program. The Foundation has disbursed $769,306.43 in grants over the course of 25 years. This school year over $36,000 in grants were issued to benefit Walled Lake schools, which provided support for classroom technology and literacy; anti-bullying and Religious Diversity Journey’s programs; professional development, for the procurement of science instruments for chemistry and physics classes and much more. Grant awards are made annually by the Foundation to WLSCD faculty for qualifying requests which align with District curriculum and goals and fall within one or more of the Foundation’s stated areas of priority.
The Foundation, celebrating its 25th anniversary, is sustained by the generous donations received from Walled Lake District staff members, its supportive communities and businesses, and through honorariums, memorials and fundraising efforts. The Foundation will be hosting its 7th Annual Golf Scramble on June 20 at Edgewood Country Club, Commerce Township. Visit the Foundation’s website for outing details and to register online: www.wlcsd.org/foudnation.cfm.

The Foundation’s board of trustees is comprised of (14) members dedicated to extending its reach into as many classrooms as possible to enhance the educational experience of Walled Lake students. The board is open to the addition of community members wishing to lend their talents to help further its mission and building a strong foundation…one child at a time. Contact the Foundation for Excellence to learn more and to register for its upcoming golf scramble; phone 248.956.2116 or email michellebianco@wlcsd.org.

About the Foundation for Excellence – Walled Lake Schools:
The Foundation for Excellence – Walled Lake Schools is dedicated to advancing ways for children to learn. We are a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation. Gifts are tax deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent of the law. The Foundation subsidizes a variety of activities and programs in our schools which are not funded by tax dollars and the district budget. For more information, visit www.wlcsd.org/foundation.cfm or contact Michelle Bianco at 248.956.2116. Building a strong FOUNDATION…one child at a time.

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