

Laura Stanton



Class of 1974

- Attended what was Jackson Community College from 1972-74, then continued her studies at Eastern Michigan University to become a teacher.
- Laura taught for 20 years with Jackson Public Schools. She completed her master's degree in reading, and served as a reading and instructional specialist.
- She retired from teaching in 1997, and in 1999, she and husband, David, finalized creation of the Stanton Foundation, dedicated to two very personal causes – education and adoption.
- Forming a friendship with Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's who himself had been adopted and formed the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Laura helped coordinate an "Only in America" presentation at Hillsdale College. The event welcomed 400 Jackson County high school students to listen to people who had overcome challenges to become successful. Thomas delivered the keynote address.
- She helped coordinate Wendy's Charity Classic golf tournaments held annually at the Country Club of Jackson. Over 15 years, the event raised \$2.5 million for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Wendy's Wonderful Kids programs.
- An annual contributor to the LPGA Pro-Am, the Stanton Foundation has helped more than 200 children in foster care find their "forever family."
- Laura and her golden retriever, Biscuit, visited residents at Vista Grande Villa of Jackson for several years. She also coordinated visits with Lumen Christi High School students and animals at Faith Haven.
- She has served as a Catholic lay minister, Eucharistic minister, lector and minister to the sick.
- Laura has written a bilingual children's book, "Animals/Animales," which is donated to children in need throughout the country.
- The Stanton Foundation started a scholarship at Jackson College benefitting non-adopted foster care children continuing their education.
- Stanton Foundation also sponsors a Teacher of the Year Award in Hillsdale County.
- She is the recipient of the 2016 Dr. Ethelene Jones Crockett Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by Jackson College.