

The Destin Log

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021 | THEDESTINLOG.COM

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Mills Heating & Air makes donation to Destin High

Special to The Destin Log
USA TODAY NETWORK

DESTIN — Mills Heating & Air associates Jackson White donated \$25,000 and Larry and Pam Batchelor donated \$25,000, for a generous total of \$50,000 to benefit Destin High School (DHS).

This is the company's second donation to DHS in the past year. Since 1984, Mills Heating & Air has been pro-

viding residential and commercial services in Destin and neighboring communities in Okaloosa, Walton, Santa Rosa and Bay counties. As well, they have been and continue to be great supporters of the communities they serve.

The much-anticipated DHS is slated to open for 9th and 10th graders, and possibly 11th graders, in August

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Mills Heating & Air recently donated \$50,000 to the new Destin High School, a free public charter high school slated to open for the 2021-22 school year. From left are Deena Hall; Denise Fountain; Lauren Martin and her father, Larry Batchelor; DHS Principal Christine Cruickshank; Jackson White; Sarah Stone and Myra Williams. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Donation

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2021. The tuition-free public charter school is under contract to purchase the Grace Lutheran property, located at 4325 Commons Drive West, next to the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village. DHS will be a model for innovation providing unique educational opportunities for both college-bound and career-minded students living in Destin and along Florida's Emerald Coast.

Fundraising is a critical component of opening the school. The renovation and start-up costs are significant.

Long-term, the more revenue raised by the community helps toward those expenses, and enables DHS to put additional revenue into student programming and opportunities.

When DHS is fully operational, as with all public educational institutions, the school will receive state and federal government funding.

Area businesses and individuals interested in supporting the school with a financial donation can contact the DHS fundraising chair and Governing Board Treasurer Sarah Stone at 850-598-6888 or, email her at Sarah@destinhighschool.org.

"Fundraising is my biggest responsibility to the principal and students of DHS. Jackson White and Larry Batchelor answered the call and said yes, not once but twice," Stone said. "I am blown away by their generosity as well as their enthusiasm to contact other business owners to help me raise money for Destin High School. It will be great to see their grandchildren in the halls of Destin High School one day."

Student registration is now open. For additional information on registering or volunteering, please call Principal Christine Cruickshank at 850-225-7620, email info@destinhighschool.org, or visit www.destinhighschool.org.