



LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC

2023 NAFC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



*A Message from the NAFC Education Foundation
Alumni Coordinator, Sherri McKeen*

Each month, the Legacy Ledger arrives in your inbox, presenting an eagerly awaited column—the Alumni Spotlight. We are thrilled to showcase the inspiring stories of fellow schoolmates, dedicated teachers, and staff members who have been a part of the history of NAFC Schools. As valued alumni, you serve as a vital extension of our school community, and we hope you continue to enjoy these inspiring spotlights, along with updates on current happenings of our NAFC School community.

If you missed one of our previous editions, you can find all of the Legacy Ledgers archived on our website at www.nafcedfoundation.org/alumni-news.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We refer to Legacy NAFC as the “grassroots initiative” of the NAFC Education Foundation. There is a range of membership levels available. Your generous annual support helps sustain everything we do.

Our annual Alumni Royal Court event provides a fun way to join in. It’s tangible; it lets you put a face on the pride you have in your alma mater. But equally critical are some *less visible* heroes, hiding in plain sight. They *serve* the Foundation directly, with tireless dedication. Among them are our current Board of Directors and past board members, plus a small legion of special people who bring energy and enthusiasm that can’t be measured.

This month, we introduce two of them. They are both NAFC alumni and their “day job” stories alone would be reason enough to profile them. We’re sharing with you the fabulous work of Allen Platt FCHS ’87 and Becky King NAHS ’64, focusing on what they *do* for the Foundation. Their commitment helps make the accomplishments of “our team” solid and secure.

Introduction and spotlights by Rex Bickers, FCHS ‘70

Allen Platt joined the NAFCEF Board of Directors in 2019 and predictably, he was very eager to continue with a second term (2022-25). And it’s no surprise that he’ll cap it off as Board president 2023-25 (with two earlier years as board secretary). It’s become a pattern that he’s repeated in his service to other non-profit boards, almost too numerous to count.

You quickly get a good idea of who he is... from even a partial list of those groups... and the kind of company he keeps. Examples include Noah’s Ark Children’s Village (founding member and board president 1996-2000, rubbing elbows with Hall of Famer Dennie Jenkins) and the Floyd County Bar Association (member since 1995, president 2001-02). Add this as well... twenty-plus years as a member and leader in New Albany Rotary (past president 2005); the same is true for good friends (also both Hall of Famers) Sally Newkirk and Roger Whaley. Allen was inducted into the Floyd Central Hall of Fame himself in 2017.

In the performing arts world, there’s a similar list of organizations impacted by Allen’s leadership: the Discover Louisville Orchestra Board (1997-2004, president 2002), Arts Council of Southern Indiana (2000-06, president 2002-03) and Hayswood Theatre Group (2012-19, treasurer, then president, spanning six years). He’s especially proud of his two terms on the

ALLEN C. PLATT, III
FCHS 1987



Indiana Arts Commission (2014-21, serving as chair 2019-21), And that doesn't even count his impressive resumé in both amateur and professional theatre... **hands on**... producing, directing **and** acting. His creative side is nurtured by four other very special FC grads: wife Heidi Gibson Platt '88 and daughters Regan '13, Emma '16 and Grace '21.

You might wonder how he has time for a bona fide (and award-winning) professional career. He holds a very high profile position at Samtec, perennially recognized as New Albany's biggest private company, based on the number of employees (worldwide). He joined the Samtec team in 2014, as the first-ever general counsel. Before that, his legal experience was chiefly in business law, litigation, real estate, lending and risk analysis.

What kind of kid grows up to be such a high achiever? Ever modest, he says that he's received all the good fortunes and blessings that life can offer. He certainly "picked good parents", both of them NAHS grads from '57. His mother was a teacher (Lafayette, then Greenville Elementary). His dad's law career had a certain resemblance to Allen's path thus far... both working as in-house legal counsel in a technical environment, combined also with some years in private practice. He was in Floyd Central theatre, band (percussion, first chair), orchestra and Floyd County Youth Orchestra. He is an alumnus of IU Bloomington (1991) and Valparaiso (JD, 1995).

Where should you look to try to find Allen? Soaking up Hoosier basketball at Bloomington, when he can, but this year... you can also find him doing a regular IU podcast called Hoosier Town Breakdown with his friend Greg Nash. Perhaps his newest passion is in Lexington at the opera with Heidi... watching Grace perform!

BECKY SMITH KING
NAHS 1964



Let's just start with what Becky King does now: she ***IS*** the *Imagination Library* for thousands of local children and families. She oversaw its birth, and she has mothered it to its present-day awesome adolescence. The numbers are gigantic: 551,000 books delivered, touching over 18,000 children's lives. And the statistics don't even count the benefits to parents and grandparents.

Becky can tell one story after another... from her schoolgirl days, growing up in New Albany. Many involve one of the legends profiled here in Alumni Spotlight. She knew (Hall of Famer) Eddie Abell from the neighborhood firehouse, where he helped her (and many other kids) with homework. She was coached by Letty Walter, and she played summer softball on the BPW Hoosiers team... with (Hall of Famer) Diana Adams Keithley in the time before Title IX and the sanctioning of IHSAA girls' sports.

In 1967, she began her interwoven life as a wife, mother, full-time elementary teacher and part-time substitute teacher. Her husband Jim (NAHS '61) also worked in the school system as a PE teacher at FCHS and then at NAHS for thirty-three years. The couple raised two sons, Brad NAHS '91 and Andy NAHS '95.

She began a career transition in 1984 as an Instructional Technology Consultant/Trainer at the Wilson Education Center (Jeffersonville) of the Indiana Department of Education, developing and delivering workshops for 2,500 teachers and administrators. In 1990, she joined the founding staff at the non-profit National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), based in Louisville. By 2006, she had risen to Senior Director, a liaison between NCFL and the U.S. Department of Education.

She returned to Floyd County as director of Community Alliances to Promote Education (CAPE). It put down the bedrock for launching the Imagination Library locally... and forming its liaison with the Education Foundation. A five-year grant had already been awarded to the NAFCS schools by the Lilly Endowment. The application was written by Teresa Perkins (NAFCS) and IUS Dean (School of Education) Gloria Murray when Dennis Brooks was superintendent. Drawing on her NCFL years, Becky focused on young children's reading readiness before kindergarten. Her working group had many good ideas and pitched to countless potential stakeholders. These things are never the work of one person.

Becky was determined not to let the energy fizzle out. She gathered up the tools and laid out the roads. She located the right vehicle in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL), created initially to serve one county in eastern Tennessee. DPIL was beginning its fifteenth year in 2010; it was perfect timing to extend the work of the CAPE project. Jerry Finn was the director at Caesars Foundation of Floyd County, and he'd recently been chosen to take the reins as president of the Education Foundation Board of Directors. In 2011, a "bridge" grant from Caesars preceded the completion of an NAFCS arrangement... employing Becky with ongoing Foundation support.

Thirteen years later, it's a well-oiled machine. DPIL has now distributed over 226 million books, operating in more than 1500 counties and communities across all fifty states, with recent entries into four other countries. Indiana enacted legislation in May 2023 to bring the program statewide to every county.

Is Becky King in this for life? Will the U.S. Postal Service ever stop coming to our homes? Use your own judgment on which wager to take, for either question.





Education Celebration! 2024 GALA

Mark your calendar for the NAFC Education Foundation's upcoming annual gala, The Education Celebration!, on Friday, February 23, 2024 at Huber's Plantation Hall. We look forward to celebrating and showcasing the ever-important initiatives of the foundation while lifting up our NAFC teachers, students, and schools. This year the event will feature a robust silent and live auction, live entertainment by the Juice Box Heroes, a Dream Vacation Raffle, and so much more!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When and where?

Friday, February 23rd at 5:30 pm at Huber's Plantation Hall
The silent auction will be open for bidding on Monday, February 19th.
Register for bidding now at www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration.

Who should attend?

Everyone! Parents, Grandparents, Educators, Alumni, Business Leaders, Community supporters, please join us!

Why should I attend?

To show your support for our remarkable public schools in Floyd County and to give back to the schools that have given us so much. The Education Foundation funnels hundreds of thousands of dollars to support our students, teachers, and schools annually through donors like YOU. We need your help to continue to make an impact. What better way to support the Education Foundation and our schools than a party? Remember, it's a Celebration!

How much are tickets?

There are many ticket and sponsorship opportunities. Individual tickets are \$75 per person and a table Sponsorship for 8 is \$1,200. Join us later in the evening to party with the Juice Box Heroes for \$35!



For tickets and more information, visit www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration.





\$47,000 in Mental Health Grants Funded

The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation just announced the recipients of its inaugural Mental Health Grants. These grants are dedicated to fostering the well-being of students and educators throughout NAFC Schools, with a total funding of \$47,000 allocated for inventive projects tackling diverse mental health challenges.

Following a thorough review by the Foundation’s Board of Directors, 18 exceptional projects were selected for funding, each demonstrating a commitment to enhancing mental health support within NAFC Schools. The initiatives cover a range of schools and grade levels, highlighting creativity and innovation in addressing mental health issues.

“This funding reflects our commitment to creating a nurturing environment where every student can thrive emotionally and academically. These grants will help cultivate resilience, empower young minds, and foster a community where the mental health of our youth is a priority,” said board member, Tish Frederick.

Congratulations to each of the grant recipients. For a complete list of the grant recipients and projects, [read more online](#).



JOIN NOW

When alumni donate to the New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation, you are investing in the success of all NAFC students and educators. Alumni donors become Legacy NAFC members through an annual donation.

Make your impact today and become a Legacy NAFC Alumni Member!

The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works in conjunction with NAFC Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. Legacy NAFC is the official alumni support group of the NAFC Education Foundation and New Albany Floyd County Schools.

www.NAFCEdFoundation.org/alumni

For more information, contact contact Sherri McKeen at smckeen@nafcs.org or 812-542-2242.



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