



**NAFC**  
alumni



# LEGACY LEDGER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC ALUMNI



**Dolly Parton's  
Imagination Library**

*Books in the Mailbox*  
**PHOTO CONTEST**

June 3 - July 31, 2025

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

School may be out for the summer, but the celebration of learning continues! This month, we're excited to highlight the incredible work of our educators through a year-end look at the innovative projects funded by our 2024–25 Great Classroom Grants. And while students enjoy their break, the joy of reading doesn't have to stop. We're also kicking off our *Books in the Mailbox* Photo Contest to spotlight young readers enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Floyd County. This beloved early literacy program, offered through the NAFC Education Foundation, mails free, age-appropriate books each month to children under five in Floyd County. Keep reading to learn how to register a child, snap and share your favorite mailbox moments, and join us in fostering a love of reading from the very start.

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Amanda Beam, Guest Contributor**

New Albany Floyd County Schools has a long history of its graduates serving the public in various capacities. Our spotlights for June focus on two alumni who have made a positive impact through their elected office.

Floyd County Councilman **Tony Toran (NAHS '87)** continues a legacy of trailblazing and service in New Albany started by his fire fighting grandfather in 1957. In his roles as a Floyd County Councilman and Deputy Executive Director of the New Albany Housing Authority, Tony advocates for fairness while addressing obstacles faced by underserved members of our community.

**Floyd County Superior Court Judge Carrie Naville Stiller (FCHS '90)** practiced family law for 20 years with the hope of improving her clients' lives even in the most difficult of times. Elected to the bench in 2020, Carrie offers support and healing to defendants through criminal justice initiatives she helped design and implement.

We salute Carrie, Tony, and all of our civic leaders for their selfless service.

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## County Councilman Tony Toran (NAHS '87): *Continuing a legacy of public service*

When the bell blared from the neighboring firehouse, a young Tony Toran would rush out of his grandparent's home and watch the fire truck roll by. Like most kids, he loved the shiny, red engine, but for Tony, the real hero was the man inside the truck- his grandfather- who rushed to save others in times of need.

This strong family tradition of public service, combined with a profound devotion to God, helped shape the Floyd County Council member into the man, minister, and civic leader he is today.

"I love public service because it allows me to make a meaningful difference in people's lives," Tony said. "I feel like that's where I'm at my best, whether it's in the pulpit on Sunday morning or out in the community during the rest of the week."

All of his young life, Tony witnessed his family giving back to their community. Four generations of Torans have served in the New Albany Fire Department. Hired in 1952, Tony's grandfather became the city's first African-American firefighter. His father holds the distinction of being the only African-American fire chief in New Albany's history, and his brother and nephew continue the Toran firefighting legacy.



Moreover, in 2021, Tony made history of his own as the first and only African-American to sit on the Floyd County Council.

But his commitment to serving others didn't start with this elected role. From an early age, the 1987 New Albany High School graduate felt driven by something greater than himself. His mother helped nurture this by providing her children with a strong religious foundation.

"My mother made sure that we had three houses for us to work in: our house, the school house and the church house," Tony said.

After graduating from NAHS, he attended Indiana University Southeast. However, the call to serve God led Tony to Simmons College of Kentucky, a historically black college in Louisville. Here, he served as student body president while he gained his Biblical fundamentals.

At the age of 27, Tony was installed as pastor of Galatian Missionary Baptist Church, the congregation in which he grew up. He's ministered there for 28 years. Additionally, the 55-year-old serves as president of the Indiana Missionary Baptist State Convention.

While tending his church flock takes full-time dedication and commitment, Tony also worked for the City of New Albany in several roles. In 2003, he worked as the Director of City Operations. He has also served as the Director of Solid Waste, and with the Floyd County Prosecutor's Office.

Tony's journey came full circle when, in 2010, the New Albany Housing Authority hired him. He was eventually promoted to his current position as Deputy Executive Director in 2017. Growing up, his home was provided by the very organization in which he now works. He described his mission as highly rewarding, giving him the opportunity to help those who are underserved. Since he was once in their shoes, he better understands the challenges that residents encounter and uses his own life story to provide hope.

"People can look at me and see that your condition doesn't have to be your conclusion," Tony said. "If you work hard, you can be anything that you want to be. This is probably one of my greatest joys, being able to give back."

Likewise, Tony's duty as a councilman brings him a sense of satisfaction while also continuing his family's tradition of community service.

"Being a public servant allows me to make a tangible impact in people's lives, especially those who need support the most," he said. "I find deep fulfillment in working towards solutions that improve our communities, promote fairness and uphold the values of integrity and accountability."

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# Superior Court Judge Carrie K. Naville Stiller (FCHS '90): *Transforming lives through care and criminal justice reform*



Not too long ago, a woman approached Carrie Stiller while she was eating at a local eatery and asked if she could please give the Floyd County Superior Court Judge a hug.

“You changed my life. You gave me an opportunity when I thought the only life was using drugs,” the once defendant, now restaurant manager, said to Carrie. “I’ve turned everything around. I took the chance that you gave me, and I made the most of it.”

That means a lot to the 1990 Floyd Central High School grad who continues to better the community both on and off the bench.

Carrie has always been a doer. Becoming involved in theater, student government, and academics, the oldest of four siblings quickly acclimated to FCHS when her family returned to the area before her sophomore year. By her senior year, her extroverted nature allowed her to have friends from many different circles.

After excelling at FC, Carrie enrolled at Indiana University Southeast. Her love of biology guided her to pre-med, but her focus soon shifted to political science and the study of law. Around the same time, her uncle, a partner in a local insurance defense practice, was seeking a paralegal. Excited for more experience, Carrie took the job.

Once she completed her undergraduate degree, Carrie enrolled in the University of Louisville’s Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. Her busy life between school and her part-time job became even busier when she and her husband welcomed their firstborn child during her second year. In 1999, she graduated law school cum laude.

And thus began her legal career. For 20 years, the mother of two maintained her own practice specializing in divorce, custody, guardianship, and other forms of family law.

“I felt like I was helping people. These are really sad and difficult types of cases that people are dealing with. It’s pretty much the worst time in their life,” Carrie said. “So, I was able to be there along side of them and help them through those problems.”

But at the zenith of her profession, Carrie opted for a change. In 2020, Judge Susan Orth retired, leaving the Floyd County Superior Court vacant. Although she had limited experience in criminal law, the family attorney decided to run for the elected position. She won and was sworn into office in January of 2021.

“That was going to be totally new to me and something different. But I decided, you know what? I’m ready for the challenge. I want to make a difference,” said the judge. “One of the things that I’ve loved about this experience is the opportunity to learn more, to meet new people, and to just become a better person myself.”

Through her work on the bench as well as her chairmanship of the Floyd County Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (FC-JRAC), the Honorable Judge Stiller is leading local criminal justice reform. In collaboration with other agencies and community stakeholders, she’s helped institute changes in the judicial system that have led to greater treatment access for offenders with mental and substance use disorders. Since the implementation of the initiatives, case filings for level 6 felonies and misdemeanors are down 25%.

“We are so blessed to have some really incredible, passionate people in important offices who do their best every single day. The really do things that help me do my job,” Carrie said. “But I did embrace this. I was willing to convene all the essential parties, bring them together, and create a space for people to feel comfortable and to start doing the work. It’s been so rewarding.”

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## FUELING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION GREAT CLASSROOM GRANTS



New Albany-Floyd County  
Education Foundation

Since 2011, the NAFCS Education Foundation has proudly supported the innovative ideas of New Albany Floyd County Schools educators through the Great Classroom Grants initiative. For the 2024–25 school year, over \$92,000 was awarded through 159 individual grants. Every school in the district—16 in total—received funding this year, bringing our overall grant total to more than \$1.2 million.

Teachers across the country often spend hundreds of dollars out of pocket to make learning meaningful. Thanks to our donors, NAFCS teachers can shift that burden and instead focus their energy on what really matters: creating engaging, student-centered classrooms.

This year’s grants made a real difference. Teachers used funding to introduce flexible seating, boost classroom libraries, provide speech and sensory supports, set up math and literacy stations, and bring new tools and technology into the classroom. These projects reflected a deep understanding of students’ needs and an incredible level of care and creativity from our educators.

Teachers told us the impact went beyond just new materials. Students were more engaged, more confident, and more eager to learn. They stayed on task longer, explored new interests, and started to see themselves differently—as capable learners, creators, and problem-solvers. In many cases, these projects helped teachers reach students in ways that just weren’t possible before.

The Great Classroom Grants continue to be a powerful reminder that small investments can lead to lasting change. They give educators the tools they need to meet students where they are and to create learning environments that are welcoming, inclusive, and inspiring.

We’re proud of the impact these grants have made, and we’re grateful to every donor who helped make them possible. Because of you, our teachers can dream bigger and our students can go further.



“You can never  
get enough  
**books**  
into the hands  
of enough  
**children**”  
*Dolly*



# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: *Books in the Mailbox* Photo Contest

There's something special about opening the mailbox and finding a brand-new book addressed to your child. It's a simple moment that brings big smiles—and this summer, we're celebrating that joy with our first-ever Books in the Mailbox Photo Contest.

This contest is open to families currently enrolled in **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Floyd County**, a free early literacy program that delivers monthly books to children from birth to age five who live in Floyd County, Indiana. The program is made possible locally through the NAFC Education Foundation and generous community partners.

## Contest Details

**Submission Window:** June 3 – July 31, 2025

### Who Can Enter:

- Families enrolled in the Imagination Library of Floyd County
- Children must be under age 5 and reside in Floyd County, Indiana

Not enrolled yet? If you live in Floyd County and have a child under five, it's free to join! [Enroll here.](#)

### How to Enter:

Submit a photo online showing how your child enjoys their monthly book—whether it's reading with a sibling, smiling with their latest delivery, or cozying up with a favorite story.



### Want to enroll or see if the program is available in your area?

If you have a child under five, [check availability and register for the program today.](#)

Even if you're not eligible to participate, we invite you to spread the word. You never know who in your circle might benefit from this free and joyful program that fosters a lifelong love of reading.



**#FloydCountyReadsTogether**

New Albany-Floyd County  
Education Foundation



## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Stay updated on your Floyd County classmates, discover thrilling events in your NAFC school community, and learn firsthand about the NAFC Education Foundation by connecting with us at [facebook.com/LegacyNAFCAlumni](https://facebook.com/LegacyNAFCAlumni).

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New Albany-Floyd County  
Education Foundation

LEGACY  
NAFC  
*alumni*

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.

For more information, contact Sherri McKeen at [smckeen@nafcs.org](mailto:smckeen@nafcs.org) or 812-542-2242 at the NAFC Education Foundation.

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[www.NAFCEdFoundation.org/alumni](http://www.NAFCEdFoundation.org/alumni)



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