

# Celebrating 20 Years of Supporting Students, Empowering Educators, and Inspiring Success



**2025 Annual Report**

# A Message From Leadership

**F**rom the day they're born, through their first day of school, to field trip days, weekend days and all the days in between, the NAFC Education Foundation is here to create possibilities for our community's students, teachers and families.

We're the book that arrives to ignite a love of reading. The blessing of food that turns an anxious weekend into a worry-free one. The field trip that opens a world beyond classroom walls. The support that helps overwhelmed teachers recharge. And the resources that empower them to teach without limits.

We're proof that when a community comes together, no one has to face their challenges alone.

In this annual report, we're proud to share the stories that remind us why we do this work. Each one shows what's possible when we put our empathy into action — when we choose to see every child not just as they are, but as who they can become.

As we mark our 20th year of service, we're reminded that we couldn't do what we do without your support. We're grateful for the passion of our teachers, the partnership of our local businesses and the generosity of our donors.

Here's to many more years of making a difference — one student, one moment, one life-changing opportunity at a time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Shane Stuber".

Shane Stuber  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Robin McCollough".

Robin McCollough  
2024-2025 Board President

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors



**Left to right:** Jason Applegate, David Bauer, Brad Benson, Tish Frederick, Robin McCollough, Michele Day, Taylor McDaniel, Carly Launius, Lindsay Coffman, Molly Rubesh, Jessica Pugh, LaMicra Martin

**Robin McCollough, President**

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Lisa McIntyre, President, NAFC Education Association

Linda Speed, CEO, Community Foundation of Southern Indiana



“That’s the first bike I’ve ever had in my entire life. It’s doing so much better than just running.  
‘Cause I like to go fast”  
— **Easton**

**S**ince 2010, our Great Classroom Grants have put more than \$1.2M directly into the hands of teachers who know exactly what their students need most.

Across New Albany and Floyd County, the supplies and support provided by these grants help our students overcome adversity, build confidence and find joy in learning.

Great Classroom Grants are the reason Easton, a spunky kindergartener, can be seen gliding down the hallway on his brand-new bike. Its special features help him navigate his school with confidence, despite his vision impairment.

The same grants help stock classrooms with supplies like Scholastic® books and magazines, adaptive learning materials and STEM bins that help students build their skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

Flexible seating options funded by grants provide anxious or stressed students an environment that supports their sensory needs. As their comfort levels rise, so does their ability to understand and retain what they learn.

These are just a few of the ways Great Classroom Grants have made a positive impact on our community. During the 2024/2025 school year, we awarded \$92,000 to teachers. We plan to award \$100,000 more in 2025/2026.

Every day, our teachers dream of new ways to enhance the learning experience of every kid who’s a member of the NAFC school system. With the help of our donors, we can make those dreams come true.

## NAFCS By the Numbers

Nearly 1 in 3 students qualify for free or reduced price lunch

11,500 Students  
800+ Teachers

16 schools  
• 9 Elementary  
• 3 Middle  
• 2 High  
• Children’s Academy  
• Early Learning Center  
• Prosser Career Education Center

## First Year Teacher Gifts

When they enter their classroom for the first time, new teachers are often overwhelmed with responsibilities. Empty walls are waiting to be decorated. Bare shelves must be filled with supplies. And the list of materials they need seems to grow by the hour. Many spend hundreds of dollars of their own money before a single student walks through the door.

This is why we created our First Year Teacher Gifts program — to help relieve some of the financial burden carried by the people who do so much for our kids.

The Education Foundation has awarded nearly 60 teachers \$100 each so far this school year, and we look forward to supporting many more.



Our Mental Health Grants recognize a simple truth: when we care for the hearts and minds of our teachers and students, everyone thrives.

For our teachers, Mental Health Grants provide the space and support they need to care for themselves. Schools have used funding to give staff extra time to focus, plan and recharge while students keep learning. Grants also make it possible for teachers to participate in wellness activities and professional development programs. These experiences help build the strength and resilience teachers draw on to support students who have experienced trauma. By investing in their mental wellbeing, we send a clear message to every staff member: we care for the people who care for our students.

These grants make a difference in the lives of our students, too. Mental Health Grants have helped create outdoor spaces where kids can move their bodies, build friendships and blend learning with play. They've supported Kindness Clubs and other peer-led initiatives that teach kids the power of compassion, belonging and respect. They've also brought in guest speakers and programs that help students talk openly about mental health and understand that it's okay to ask for help. Together, these initiatives create an environment where students understand their voices matter, and support is always within reach.

When a crisis hits or emotions run high, our Mental Health Grants are there — connecting our teachers and students with the support, skills and hope they need to heal and grow stronger together.



**“The healthier our staff is, the better they can show up for our children; the healthier our children are, the more equipped and prepared they are to learn. These grants have endless possibilities of impact on our district.”**  
—Molly Rubesh, Education Foundation Board Member



Thank you for the bags you give me on Friday.  
I really enjoy that you give this sometimes  
when I am hungry I can just eat some of  
the food at home and stay and healthy I also  
enjoy eating it.  
Sincerely Ernest

Every kid should look forward to the weekend. But every Friday, more than 30% of NAFC students leave school without knowing whether they'll have enough to eat until Monday.

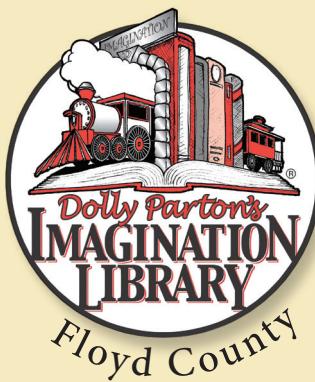
As an official partner of Blessings in a Backpack, we helped raise \$242,000 during the 2024/2025 school year.

That's nearly 2,000 weekly backpacks filled with nutritious, kid-friendly food for preschoolers through sixth graders. Instead of returning to school on Monday hungry, anxious and tired, these students walk into class nourished and ready to learn.

Beyond keeping hunger pangs at bay, Blessings in a Backpack lifts kids up in other ways. Here's what participating students have to say about their backpacks:

- 78% feel cared for by their community
- 71% feel they are helping their family
- 70% report that their school attendance is better
- 69% say it's easier to learn
- 67% say their family is happier
- 60% have fewer behavioral issues at school

While participation in the program grows every year, the Education Foundation believes there's more good to do. It's our goal to expand Blessings to NAFC students in seventh and eighth grade and beyond. With your support, we can create a community where no child spends their weekend hungry.



A single donated book can create endless possibilities.

From the program's earliest founders — Lilly Endowment Inc. and Caesar's Foundation of Floyd County — to the local investment of American Rescue Plan funding through the City of New Albany Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been built on the belief in the power of early literacy.

This year, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Floyd County marked more than 626,000 free books delivered to Floyd County children since 2009.

When kids receive free books, they're exposed to new worlds and ideas. Reading improves their language and thinking skills, awakens their imagination and ignites a love of learning that will benefit them the rest of their lives.

Families who read together build stronger bonds. Reading can help everyone relax and find comfort, and a great story will often spark meaningful discussions. Plus, a good book is a welcome break from the noise of a screen.

Since 2023, the State of Indiana has been a matching donor, covering 50% of the cost of the program across the state. Currently, more than 3,500 Floyd County children and their families enjoy the magic of reading without worrying about the cost, every month.

We're inspired by the generosity of individuals and organizations who support the program — including Caesars Foundation of Floyd County, the City of New Albany, Metro United Way, Samtec, and countless community members like you. The Education Foundation is deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

**“The books bring so much joy and delight to a little girl.  
She cannot wait for the mail each month!”**  
—Mother of Adaline, Dolly Parton Imagination Library recipient



## Field Trips

Just outside our school doors, there's an entire world waiting to be explored. Funds provided by the Education Foundation give our kids the chance to see and experience places and people that inspire them — and teach them about the community they call home.

You can find NAFC students at the Louisville Zoo, measuring their hands against a gorilla's, reading about conservation efforts in the Amazon rainforest, or locking eyes with a Bengal tiger for the first time.

At the Kentucky Science Center, kids swap their textbooks for lab coats and goggles and experience the joy of discovery firsthand. Their curiosity is also rewarded at the Derby Dinner Playhouse, where they try to guess what happens next as a story comes to life before their eyes.

Field trips to historic sites like the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Culbertson Mansion, the Corydon State Capitol and the Scribner House teach future generations valuable lessons from those who came before — and instill a deep respect for our community's rich history.

The Education Foundation would like to thank the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County for helping to make these field trips possible.



## Junior Achievement

In NAFC, student trips can also prepare them for success in the business world.

Every year at JA BizTown, the entire fifth-grade student body — roughly 800 students — become citizens of their very own town. Together, they learn the basics of economics and begin developing the life-skills they'll need to become confident, capable adults.

Seventh graders participate in JA Finance Park — a monthlong program that teaches them how to develop — and stick to — a personal budget and begin a career search. More than 900 students participate in the program each year.

Every field trip, every hands-on experience, every moment of wide-eyed wonder is an investment in our children's future. Because we believe that when students can touch, explore and discover the world around them, they flourish.

*All NAFCS students are sent through Junior Achievement in memory of James Robinson.*

The most powerful gifts are the ones that keep on giving, long after we're gone.

This year, the Education Foundation is proud to introduce the Ruth Heideman Legacy Society — created to honor those who have included the Education Foundation in their estate plans.

## **The Ruth Heideman Legacy Society**

### Ruth's Living Legacy

Ruth Heideman shows us what true philanthropy looks like. She's been a steadfast supporter of the Education Foundation since the very beginning, and her commitment to our community's students and teachers has never wavered. Her example reminds each of us that our gifts have the power to make a lasting impact.

### Your Opportunity to Give Back

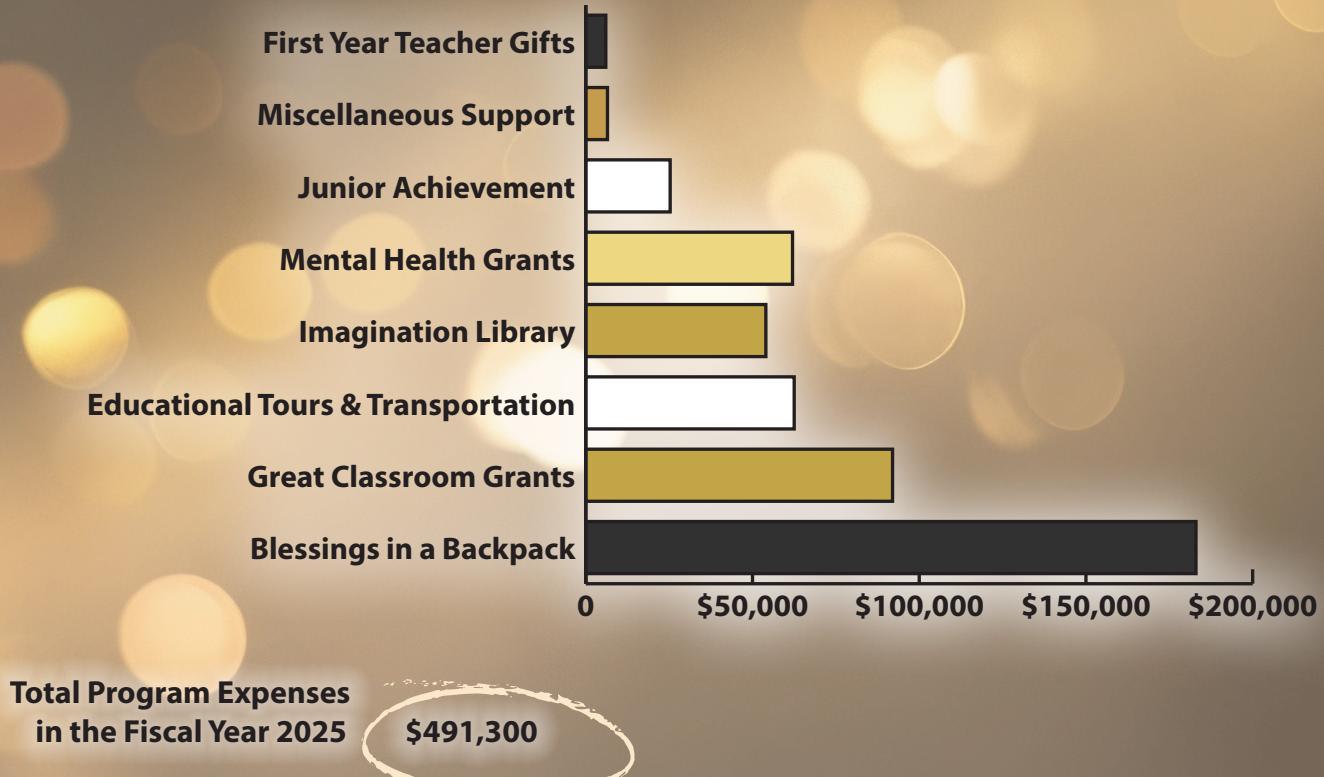
Many of you have already taken the meaningful step of including the Education Foundation in your estate plans. The Ruth Heideman Legacy Society gives us the opportunity to celebrate and thank you now, while you're here to see the impact of your generosity. It also allows us to understand your wishes and honor them — ensuring your gift serves the purpose that matters most to you.

As a member of the Ruth Heideman Legacy Society, you can designate a portion of your legacy gift to support a specific program that's close to your heart. Whether it's field trips, teacher support, weekend food programs, or another initiative, your gift will reflect your values and passions.

Joining The Ruth Heideman Legacy Society is a simple decision with a lasting impact, and a powerful way to write your own legacy alongside Ruth's.

If you already have the Education Foundation listed in your estate plans, or would like to know more, please contact Shane Stuber, Executive Director, at [SStuber@nafcs.org](mailto:SStuber@nafcs.org) or (812) 542-2228.

## Financial Highlights



## Our Mission

The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is an independent fundraising organization providing impactful resources and experiences to the students and teachers of Floyd County public schools.

## Our Vision

The NAFC Education Foundation is the endowment-driven funding facilitator for the educational achievement of students and the support of teachers and administrators in New Albany Floyd County public schools.

## Our Donors

The NAFC Education Foundation is grateful to our donors who help us achieve our mission and vision of supporting our students and teachers. Find a complete list of our 2024-25 donors at [www.nafcedfoundation.org/about/our-donors](http://www.nafcedfoundation.org/about/our-donors).