ANNUAL REPORT
2025-2026



New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation

Investing in students.
Supporting teachers.

STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS.

A MESSAGE FROM

LEADERSHIP

Our support starts early and stays with NAFC students every step of the way. It reaches children as babies and continues through their very first school bell. It's there on field trip days, on weekends, and throughout all the ordinary moments that make up a school year. For students, teachers, and families, the NAFC Education Foundation is a partner along the entire journey.

You can see our impact in the moments that matter most to a child. A free book that becomes a bedtime favorite. A Friday backpack that means a weekend without hunger. A field trip that transforms a classroom lesson into something students can see, hear, and experience firsthand. And for teachers, it's the encouragement to prioritize their own well-being and the resources to make their classrooms everything they envision.

None of this happens on its own. It happens because this community continues to show up, in ways both big and small, year after year. It happens because alumni step forward to lead, bringing their relationships, influence, and voices together to inspire others to support this work. It happens because individuals throughout our community gather to celebrate the people who teach, encourage, and shape our students, while generously investing in their success. And it happens because local businesses and corporate partners contribute their time, talent, and resources to a shared purpose, demonstrating that the success of our schools is a responsibility and an opportunity we all share.

The impact of this work comes to life throughout this year's annual report. Each story reflects what's possible when we turn empathy into action and see every child not simply for who they are today, but for everything they have the potential to become.

We are deeply grateful for the passion and dedication of our teachers, the leadership and loyalty of our alumni, the generosity of our donors, and the commitment of the businesses and community partners who believe in this mission as much as we do. Your support makes these moments possible, and your belief in our students makes an impact that will last far beyond a single school year.

Here's to another year of investing in students, empowering teachers, and strengthening our schools — building a brighter future for our entire community, one moment at a time.



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Executive Director



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2025-26 Board President

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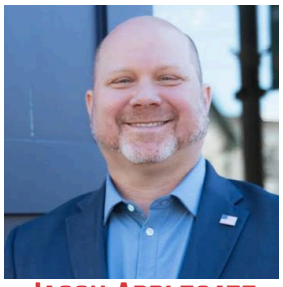

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Dr. Mark Eastridge, Interim Superintendent, New Albany Floyd County Schools
Becky Gardenour, NAFCS Board President

Great Classroom Grants

FUNDING INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN EVERY NAFC SCHOOL

168

GREAT CLASSROOM GRANTS FUNDED IN 2025-26, TOTALING $105,000 AWARDED

During the 2025–26 school year, the NAFC Education Foundation awarded 168 Great Classroom Grants across all 16 schools totaling $105,000. Since 2010, the Foundation has awarded more than $1.3 million in Great Classroom Grants.

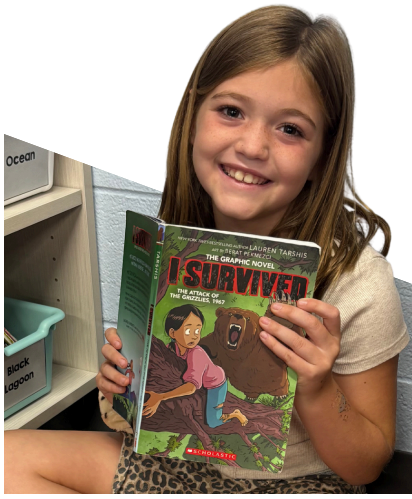
Each grant began with a teacher's idea for helping students learn, participate, or feel more confident at school.

At Hazelwood Middle School, eighth graders used new digital microscopes to examine microbes in pond water and watch cells divide. Large screens made the observations easier to share and helped students who have difficulty using a traditional microscope's eyepiece take part independently.

At Green Valley Elementary, first graders practiced reading with books matched to the phonics skills they were learning. By the third quarter, eight of the 12 students in one reading group were reading at grade level.

The grants also made room for students to find their voices in other ways. At Slate Run Elementary, students in a new guitar club learned to play together and accompanied classmates at the spring concert. At Floyd Central High School, musical theatre students created costumes for *Finding Nemo Jr.* and performed alongside students receiving special education services.

Those are a few of the ideas our teachers brought to life this year. With support from our donors, they had the resources to put them into practice.



Mental Health Grants

$114,200

AWARDED THROUGH 74 MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS IN 2025-26

GIVING STUDENTS & STAFF ACCESS TO CRITICAL SUPPORTS

Since 2023, our Mental Health Grants have put more than $200,000 directly into the hands of educators and counselors who know exactly what their students and colleagues need most. Across NAFC Schools, these grants have built calming corners, reset rooms, and sensory spaces, funded self-love retreats and hygiene stations, and brought kindness initiatives into classrooms at every grade level.



Mental Health Grants are the reason a Fairmont kindergartner has a calm, trauma-informed classroom, and the reason a Floyd Central High School student has a Wellness Hub where they can reset before heading back to class. At Prosser Career Education Center, students facing clothing insecurity now have free workwear, shoes, and hygiene items to help them step into the workforce with confidence.

This year, we introduced Pre-Certified Programs, giving educators a shorter path to funding for programs already proven to support student well-being. Current Pre-Certified Programs include Play It Safe!®, LOOK OUT FOR THE LEFT OUT, B.A.Y.A. (Beautiful As You Are), and The DUDE Project.

When a need shows up in our schools, our Mental Health Grants are there, giving students and educators the support they need to heal, grow, and thrive together.



First Year Teacher Gifts

HELPING NEW EDUCATORS START STRONG

New teachers walk into their classroom for the first time facing a long list of needs. Walls that need decorating. Shelves that need filling. And that supply list that just keeps growing. Many end up spending hundreds of dollars of their own money before a single student even shows up.

That's why we started our First Year Teacher Gifts program, to ease some of that financial load for the people who give so much to our kids.

The Education Foundation awarded 57 teachers $100 each, and we're excited to keep that support going.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

FREE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO 5 EACH MONTH IN FLOYD COUNTY

MORE THAN
3,500
CHILDREN IN FLOYD COUNTY RECEIVE A BOOK EACH MONTH

A single donated book can create endless possibilities. From the program's earliest founders, Lilly Endowment Inc. and Caesars 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 reached 668,888 free books delivered to Floyd County children since 2009. Since 2023, the State of Indiana has been a matching donor, covering 50% of the cost of the program across the state. Today, more than 3,500 children across our county receive a free book in the mail every month.

This year also brought a loss felt far beyond Tennessee. On August 25, 2026, we said goodbye to Dolly Parton, the woman whose promise to her father grew into a program that has now sent millions of free books to children around the world. Here in Floyd County, we have been part of that story since 2009, and we have loved every bit of it. Her legacy lives on in every child who opens a new book, and in the words she left for all of us to carry forward: **Dream More, Learn More, Care More, and Be More.**



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.

Blessings in a Backpack Floyd County

WEEKEND FOOD FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED IT

117

NEW STUDENTS SERVED WITH THE PROGRAM EXPANSION INTO 7TH & 8TH GRADES

Every kid *should* look forward to the weekend. More than 42% of NAFC students qualify for free or reduced meals, and for many of them, school meals are the ones they count on. When Friday comes, that support stops until Monday. Blessings in a Backpack Floyd County fills the gap.

This year, thanks to the generosity of our community partners, Blessings in a Backpack Floyd County reached a goal years in the making. In January 2026, we began serving 7th and 8th graders for the first time. Just a few years ago, the program only reached elementary students. Since then, we've added fifth grade, then sixth, and now we cover kids all the way through the end of middle school! This is exactly the age when kids are going through some of the biggest changes of their young lives.

By making sure hungry kids get fed, Blessings in a Backpack Floyd County and our community partners aren't just filling backpacks. We're helping build a healthier, more educated, and happier community, one weekend at a time.



WHAT CHANGES WHEN KIDS AREN'T HUNGRY*

- **78%** **FEEL CARED FOR** by their community
- **70%** **ATTEND SCHOOL** more often
- **69%** **FIND IT EASIER** to learn
- **60%** **HAVE FEWER** behavioral issues

FLOYD COUNTY, INDIANA
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK









BIAB Floyd County couldn't do this without our sponsoring organizations.
www.nafcedfoundation.org/blessings-in-a-backpack-sponsors

**Results from the Blessings in a Backpack national program survey.*

Education Tours

Learning Beyond the Classroom

7,844
STUDENTS LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Field Trips

Just outside our school doors, a world waits to be explored. Funds from the Education Foundation give our kids the chance to see and experience places and people that inspire and teach them.

You can find NAFC students at the Louisville Zoo, hand-feeding lorikeets at Lorikeet Landing, or meeting King Louie, the resident white alligator, in the HerpAquarium. At the Kentucky Science Center, kids trade textbooks for lab coats and goggles, and at the Derby Dinner Playhouse, they guess what happens next as a story comes to life before their eyes. Field trips to historic sites like the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Culbertson Mansion, the Corydon State Capitol, and the Scribner House teach lessons from those who came before us.

The Education Foundation is grateful to the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County, whose continued partnership makes these field trips possible.



Junior Achievement

Students are also preparing for success in the business world. Every year at Junior Achievement's (JA) BizTown, the entire fifth-grade student body becomes 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 spend four weeks on financial literacy, then visit JA Finance Park to commit to a real budget and explore future careers with the help of trained volunteers.

From running their own mini businesses in BizTown to building a personal budget line by line in Finance Park, students bring math, civics, and financial concepts to life through hands-on experiences that prepare them for success beyond the classroom.

Every NAFCS student takes part in Junior Achievement in memory of James Robinson, a businessman, philanthropist, and former Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana board member. His commitment to young people lives on in every student who walks through BizTown and Finance Park.

Ruth Heideman Legacy Society

Your Legacy. Their Future. Endless Possibilities.

The Ruth Heideman Legacy Society recognizes individuals and families who believe investing in our students, teachers, and schools is a commitment that can last a lifetime—and beyond. Through estate planning, their passion for education creates opportunities for generations to come.

A planned gift can take many forms, including a bequest in a will, a charitable trust, or naming the NAFC Education Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. Each gift is an investment in the future, helping students and educators have the resources they need to thrive.

Membership in the Legacy Society reflects a belief in the power of education and giving back. These individuals and families are planting seeds of possibility today that will keep growing for years to come. That is a remarkable gift, and one we are honored to recognize.

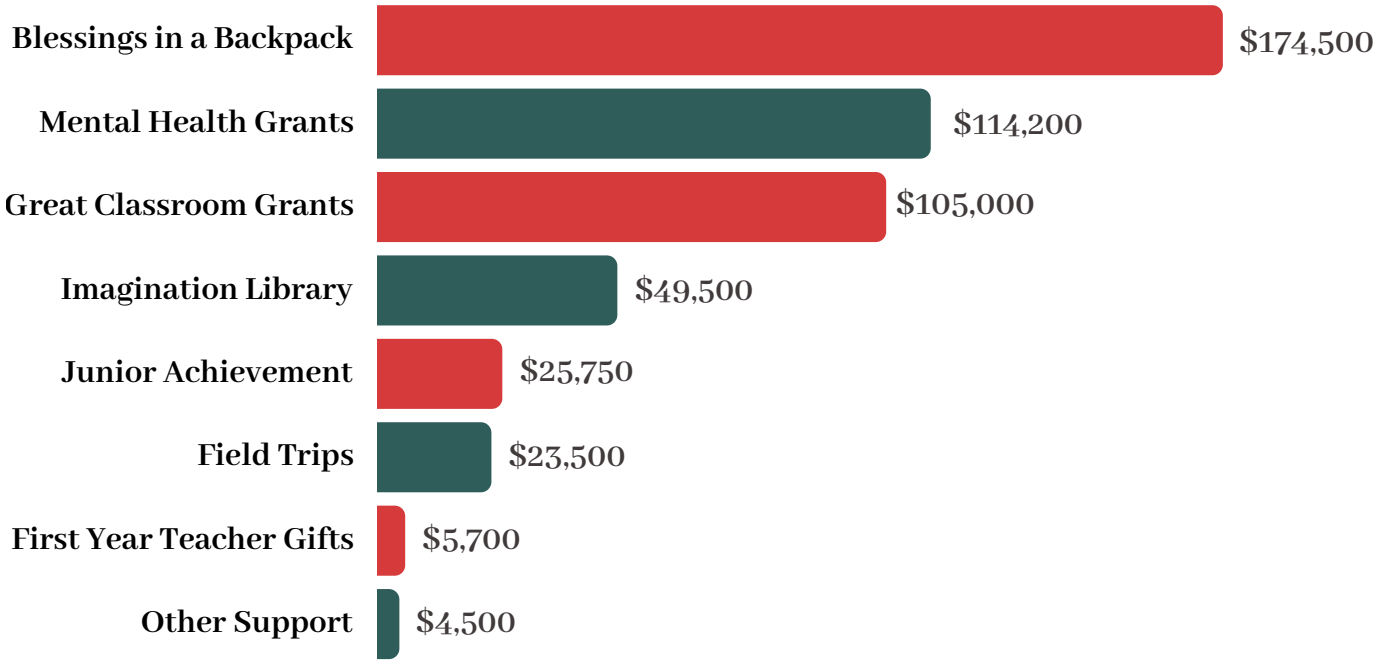
We are deeply grateful to everyone who has already included the Foundation in their estate plans. If you would like to learn more, or have already made arrangements and haven't told us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Shane Stuber, Executive Director, at SStuber@nafcs.org.

$502,650

INVESTED IN NAFC STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Where Your Gifts Went in 2025-26



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

Every number on this page started with a gift. Thank you to the individuals, families, and businesses who made this year possible.

Find a complete list of our 2025-26 donors at
www.nafcedfoundation.org/about/our-donors