

New Albany Floyd County  
Education Foundation

**2024 Annual Report**



*A Transformative Year*

# A Message

## From Leadership

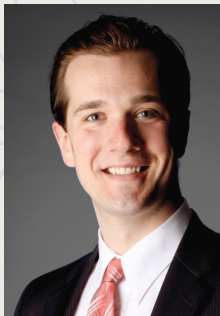
As we reflect on another transformative year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective achievements and unwavering support that have propelled our mission forward. Your Education Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the educational experiences of K-12 students in our New Albany Floyd County Schools, and this year has been a reaffirming testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and commitment to excellence.

We have experienced firsthand the impact of our collective efforts—from new and transformative funding opportunities like our Mental Health Grants to strengthening our existing cornerstone initiatives like Great Classroom Grants, Blessings in a Backpack, Imagination Library, and much more.

Our successes are a direct result of the dedication and passion of our educators, the steadfast support of our donors, and the active involvement of essential groups like families, alumni, and local businesses. Together, we have cultivated an environment where every child has the opportunity to thrive, learn, and achieve their fullest potential.

As we share this annual report, we invite you to reflect on the stories of growth, innovation, and success that fill these pages. These stories are not just about the accomplishments of our students, but about the community that supports them and believes in the power of education to transform lives.

We are excited to continue this journey with you, committed to breaking down barriers, fostering equity, and ensuring that every student has the resources and support they need to succeed. Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. Together, we are shaping the future, one student at a time.



Tyler Bliss  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Bliss".



Allen Platt  
2023-2024 Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Platt".



**Top row left to right:** Carl Williams, Josh Kornberg, Allen Platt, Ray Lucas, Julie Larner, David Bauer  
**Bottom row left to right:** Ruth Heideman, Molly Ruebesh, Elizabeth Hilbrich, Jessica Pugh

**2023 - 2024**

**Board of Directors**

**Allen Platt, *President***  
**Julie Larner, *Vice-President***  
**Elizabeth Hilbrich, *Treasurer***  
**Laura Muncy, *Secretary***

David Bauer  
 Michele Day  
 Tanisha Frederick  
 Joe Glover  
 Ruth Heideman

Josh Kornberg  
 Ray Lucas  
 Robin McCollough  
 Amanda McMonigle  
 Jessica Pugh

Molly Rubesh  
 Ashley Davis Sigman  
 Kelly Trask  
 Carl Williams

***Ex-Officio Members***  
 Linda Speed, CEO, Community Foundation  
 of Southern Indiana

Lisa McIntyre, President NAFC Education  
 Association

John Elliot, CFO, Community Foundation of  
 Southern Indiana

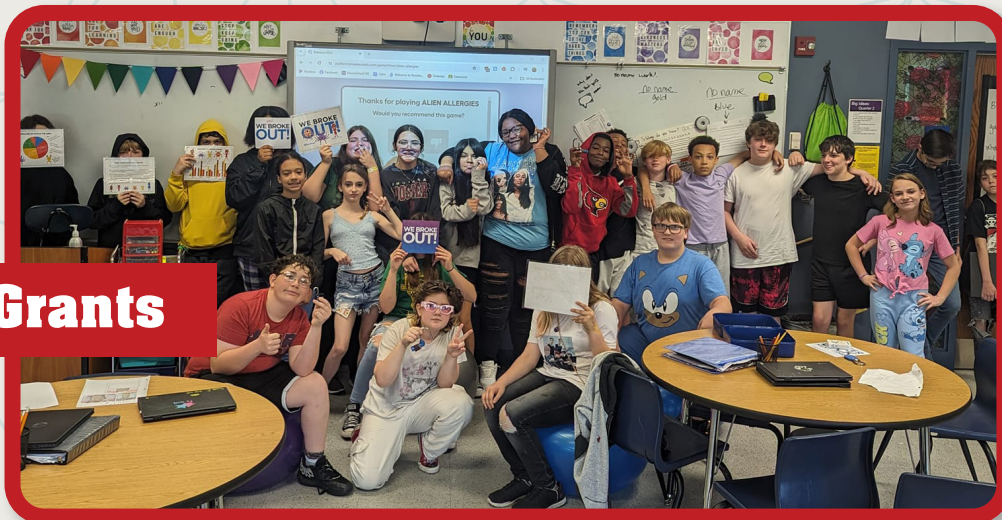
Jenny Higbie, School Board of Trustees  
 President

Dr. Travis Madison, Superintendent, New  
 Albany Floyd County Schools



**Great**

## **Classroom Grants**



Mrs Grasty's 6th Grade Math Class at Hazelwood Middle School, recipient of a Great Classroom Grant

Autumn Grasty, 6th grade math teacher at Hazelwood Middle School received \$500 for her classroom.

"I was awarded a grant this year that has allowed my students to excel beyond what I could have provided. Throughout the year, they've participated in various "escape room" style puzzles that encouraged problem-solving, aligned with our math state standards, and kept them off of technology and up and moving in the classroom. I am so thankful for the Foundation and all it does for our students, teachers, and the community!!"

We know the exceptional educators in NAFC schools give all they can to make sure their students succeed. To help them along in their effort, we are proud to offer the opportunity for any educator in the district to apply for up to \$500 a year in Great Classroom Grants. These classroom grants are used to provide additional resources to creative teachers for learning opportunities that enhance the educational and curricular objectives of their classrooms.

Since 2011, the Education Foundation has invested \$1,080,000 in classroom resources through Great Classroom Grants

- During the 2023-2024 school year, the Foundation funded \$80,000 in Great Classroom Grants
- Over 150 individual projects funded

**NAFCS**

## **By the Numbers**

**16 schools**

- 9 Elementary
- 3 Middle
- 2 High
- Children's Academy
- Early Learning Center
- Prosser Career Education Center

**11,814**  
Students

**42.37%**  
of students qualify for  
free or reduced price  
lunch

# MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS



The NAFC Education Foundation Board of Directors identified Mental Health as an opportunity of new impact during strategic planning. After surveying NAFC educators, they were reinforced by overwhelming feedback that additional support was needed. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we were excited to boldly invest in a multitude of projects to help support the Mental Health of NAFC teachers and students, with a total funding of \$50,000 awarded to inventive projects tackling diverse mental health challenges.

In the first year, 18 exceptional projects were selected for funding, each demonstrating a commitment to enhancing mental health support within NAFC

Schools. The initiatives covered a range of schools and grade levels, highlighting creativity and innovation in addressing mental health issues. Projects funded include:

- “Teddy Bear Clinic” to promote self-value and compassion in local Title I schools
- Funds for special needs students with sensory or anxiety issues
- Construction of an outside classroom area to support teachers’ and students’ mental health
- Implementation of monthly mental health days for staff, providing guidance/ education/support



Teddy Bear Clinic at S. Ellen Jones Elementary in partnership with Prosser Career Education Center, recipient of a Mental Health Grant



“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,” NAFC Education Foundation Board Member and CEO of BAYA, Tish Frederick.



# Imagination

# Library



23 - 24 Total Books Delivered	▶ 42,372
23 - 24 New Children Enrolled	▶ 1,160
23 - 24 Program Graduates	▶ 856
Total Books Delivered to Date	▶ 583,331
Total Children Served	▶ 19,167

This year, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Floyd County marked over 580,000 free books delivered to the children of Floyd County since 2009. Each book delivered represents a family who makes reading a part of their daily routine, a community partner who prioritizes funding early literacy, and a child who will find a spark to ignite a life-long love of reading. The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to The Caesars Foundation of Floyd County, the City of New Albany, Metro United Way, Samtec, and countless individuals for their ongoing support.

All Floyd County children under the age of five are eligible to receive books each month mailed to their home mailbox. Go to [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com) to register online. You may also call the Imagination Library's local office at 812-542-4001 or email [bking@nafcs.org](mailto:bking@nafcs.org) to request a brochure or for more information.

# Junior

# Achievement



Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana is the region's leading provider of life-changing economics programs for students. During the 2023-2024 school year, the entire 5th-grade student body, about 900 students, participated in Junior Achievement's BizTown, and the entire 7th-grade student body, about 900 students, participated in JA Finance Park through funding from the Education Foundation. The Education Foundation is proud to send our young entrepreneurs through this program every year.

**JA BizTown** is a state-of-the-art interactive free enterprise laboratory located in Louisville where students play real-life roles as citizens of their very own mini-town.

**JA Finance Park** is a month-long economics education program that culminates with a visit to a simulated city where students put into practice what they've learned about economic options and the principles of budgeting.

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



These field trips are made possible by funding from:

**CAESARS**  
**FOUNDATION**  
OF FLOYD COUNTY

**Educational**

**Tours**



The Foundation is proud to provide funding to elementary students for admission and transportation to numerous educational tours to local historical and cultural experiences. K-5th grade students were able to make visits to important locations like the Louisville Zoo, Stage One Family Theatre, Derby Dinner Playhouse, Kentucky Science Center, Scribner House, Culbertson Mansion, Town Clock Church, and Corydon State Capitol.



**Blessings**

**in a Backpack**

The NAFC Education Foundation is an official partner with the Floyd County Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack. This group of volunteers is dedicated to making Floyd County a “hunger-free zone” for Pre K-6th grade students in NAFCs. In conjunction with the national Blessings in a Backpack organization, the Floyd County Chapter aims to ensure that over 1,800 NAFC school children who rely on the federal free and reduced lunch program for their weekly meals, don’t go hungry on the weekend when school is closed.

Once a week during the school year, volunteers pack backpacks of food to send home with eligible NAFC students. This food keeps hunger pangs at bay so the students can return to school Monday morning nourished and ready to learn. However, the impact goes beyond that day. Student survey results show that children fed by Blessings in a Backpack Floyd feel cared for by their community, have better attendance at school, and find it easier to learn.

\$150 a year will provide hunger-free weekends to a child in need

Blessings in a Backpack Floyd County is committed to creating a county-wide “hunger-free zone” by providing food to qualifying pre-K through 6th grade students at all NAFCs elementary and middle schools.



# First Year

# Teacher Gifts



Many Education majors finish college and move into their first positions as teachers with little to no help. Can you imagine being responsible for purchasing the numerous supplies and materials needed for a classroom with 20-30 students? This is why the Education Foundation chose to award 65 educators, new to NAFCS, with \$100 gift cards to Teachers Pay Teachers. Teachers face hundreds of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses to provide for their students. The Education Foundation is proud to facilitate a smoother transition to becoming a NAFCS educator.

# 100 100 100



# LEGACY NAFC alumni

Legacy NAFC Alumni is the official alumni support group recognized by NAFC Schools. Gifts to this Annual Membership Campaign allow the Foundation to provide for the emerging needs and challenges of all NAFC classrooms. These unrestricted funds give the Foundation the flexibility to meet the greatest needs of our students while allowing you to support the schools that made you!

While membership to Legacy NAFC Alumni provides essential support for the Foundation, it also gives alumni various ways to stay connected. A membership to Legacy NAFC Alumni is one way to maintain a lifelong connection to your Alma Mater and help to strengthen our community.



2023

## Alumni Royal Court

The 2023 Legacy NAFC Alumni Royal Court was a huge success, raising over \$55,000 for the Education Foundation. Eight outstanding alumni from Floyd Central and New Albany High School competed against each other to raise funds for NAFC students and teachers. Congratulations to Vicki Hays-Pierce (FCHS '71) for winning the “top fundraiser” crown awarded at the NA vs FC basketball game at FCHS.

Bequest

Information

### Language for IRA or insurance beneficiary designation

Beneficiary: New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation (Tax ID # 20-2552199).

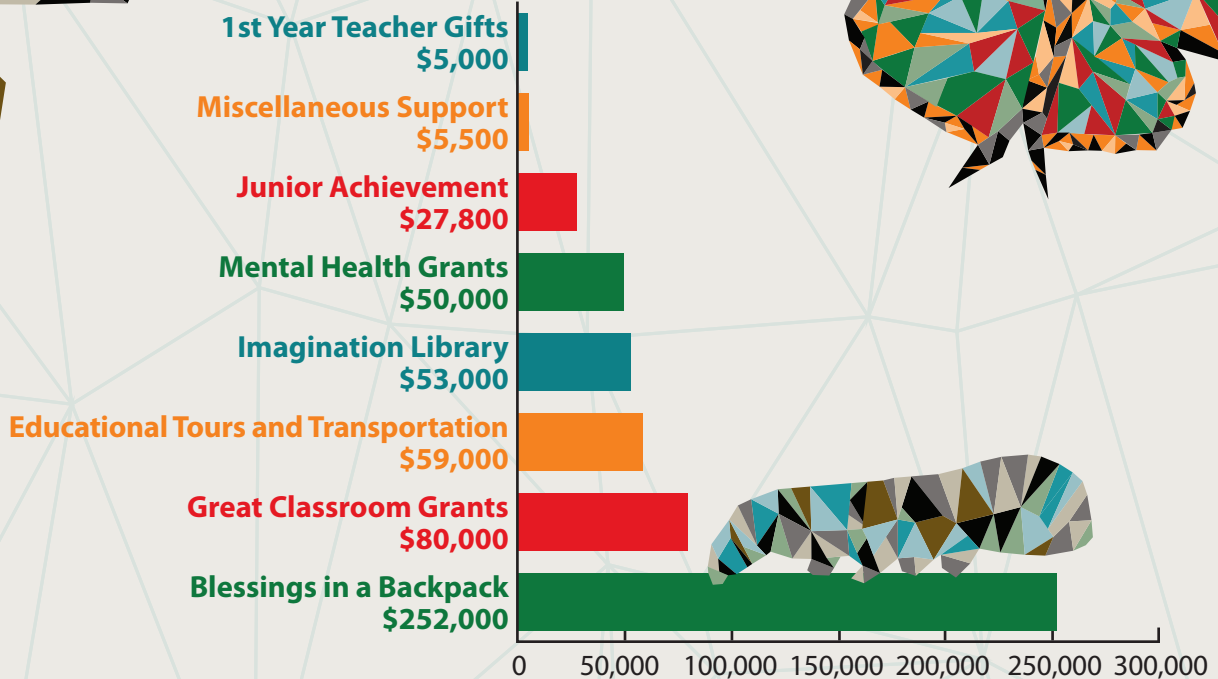
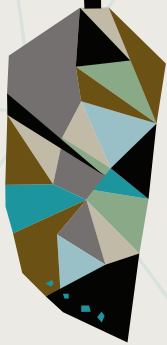
### Language for bequest

I give and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ (describe gift) to the New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation, of New Albany, Indiana, to be held as a component fund known as the “\_\_\_\_\_ Fund.” This fund was separately created for the charitable purposes agreed to by me and New Albany-Floyd County Education Foundation.

If you would like to know more, please contact Tyler Bliss, Executive Director, at [TBliss@NAFCedFoundation.org](mailto:TBliss@NAFCedFoundation.org) or (812) 542-2228. You may also visit our website at [www.NAFCedFoundation.org](http://www.NAFCedFoundation.org).

# Financial

## Highlights



Total Program Expenses in the Fiscal Year 2024 **\$532,900**

## 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 2023-24 donors at [www.nafcedfoundation.org/about/our-donors](http://www.nafcedfoundation.org/about/our-donors).

