

SPREADING
LOVE,
FAITH
LEARNING
FRIENDSHIP
& LAUGHTER



2023 ANNUAL APPEAL



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



THANK YOU!

Your support during 2022 helped FIRE ignite life-changing opportunities for students with disabilities and learning differences to grow together with their peers.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Reflection on FIRE Foundation's work and its impact on children's lives during the past year brings to mind a popular folk-style hymn from years ago. Perhaps you remember the song: "They will know we are Christians by our love." As we walk together and work together on this inclusion journey, it's the love of Christ within us that moves us forward.

Love is truly the fuel that keeps FIRE's mission of inclusive Catholic education burning brightly in the minds and hearts of our friends and supporters. With each passing year, it seems that the love for children whose lives are touched by our work continues to grow and overflow. How grateful we are for your faithful support. Your love, through Christ, increases the capacity of FIRE to ignite learning, faith and friendship among students of all abilities who attend Catholic schools located in the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph.

As Catholic Christians, we're called to love each other in extraordinary ways. A few decades ago, the notion of welcoming and supporting young learners with intellectual and developmental disabilities and learning differences seemed beyond our reach, but love and faith helped FIRE's founders find a way. Today, inclusive education has become a defining feature of many Catholic schools - here in our Diocese and beyond.

Inclusion provides daily, hourly and even minute-by-minute opportunities to live our faith and demonstrate our belief in the dignity and value of all humans who are created in God's

image. Consider the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Willed. Loved. And necessary. When we invite our brothers and sisters who have disabilities to join us, God's love shines through all of us. Your prayers and gifts of time, talent and treasure are blessings that light the way for children, families and educators.

Through the years, we have learned that knowledge and resources are the foundation of successful inclusive Catholic education. That's why FIRE's efforts matter so much. With your support, FIRE helps partner schools cover the costs of essential resources such as professional staff, training and technology that create success for students with special learning needs. Not only do you ignite FIRE's mission; you light the way for students to reach their God-given potential.

Gratefully,

Erin Neuburger
BOARD PRESIDENT

M. Lynn Hire
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12



LEARNING

By the Numbers

2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

4,495

Students enrolled at 14 schools whose lives are enhanced by inclusive education

588

Students benefit from enriched special education support

14

Partner Schools

26

Years that FIRE has supported inclusive Catholic education

342

Students with significant support needs learning alongside their peers with direct support from trained staff

7

Million dollars granted by FIRE to support inclusion



MISSION

To provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive education in the Catholic schools they attend.

Partner Schools

FIRE, an independent nonprofit foundation, is pleased to partner with and make grants to 14 schools located in the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph.

HOLY CROSS ★ NATIVITY OF MARY

NOTRE DAME DE SION ★ OUR LADY OF HOPE

OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION ★ ST. ELIZABETH

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL

ST. PATRICK ★ ST. PETER'S

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL ★ ST. REGIS ACADEMY

ST. THERESE ★ ST. THOMAS MORE ★ VISITATION

LAUGHTER





Taking our Mission to Heart: 2022 Accomplishments

Revenue continued to grow, making it possible for FIRE to **invest over \$764,000** in inclusive Catholic education. Support included grants for academic support, professional development for educators, student and teacher scholarships as well as speech/language and occupational therapy services. In total, students at 14 partner schools benefited from FIRE support.

FIRE Board and staff engaged in an extensive **strategic planning process** utilizing input from a range of stakeholders including parents, educators, volunteers and donors. The final plan (approved in January 2023) will guide FIRE's financial, geographic and program growth during the next three to five years.

FIRE expanded delivery of **Speech-Language and Occupational Therapy** services to seven partner schools. Further expansion is planned for the 2022-23 school year. The Therapy Program, made possible through a partnership with Speech and Language Solutions, has received highly favorable response from partner school communities. Therapy services are customized to meet the unique needs of classes and students.

FIRE continued to work with individuals and groups across the country, sharing our model of inclusion support and advocacy. FIRE partners with eight affiliates:

- FIRE FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF DALLAS
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF DENVER
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF MILWAUKEE*
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST IOWA
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF NORTHWEST INDIANA
- FIRE FOUNDATION OF NORTHWEST IOWA

*New in 2022



2022 Annual Report

This report reflects income and expenses July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The financial results for this fiscal year reflect our commitment to strategically increase FIRE's support for inclusive education in our partner schools.

Board of Directors 2021-2022

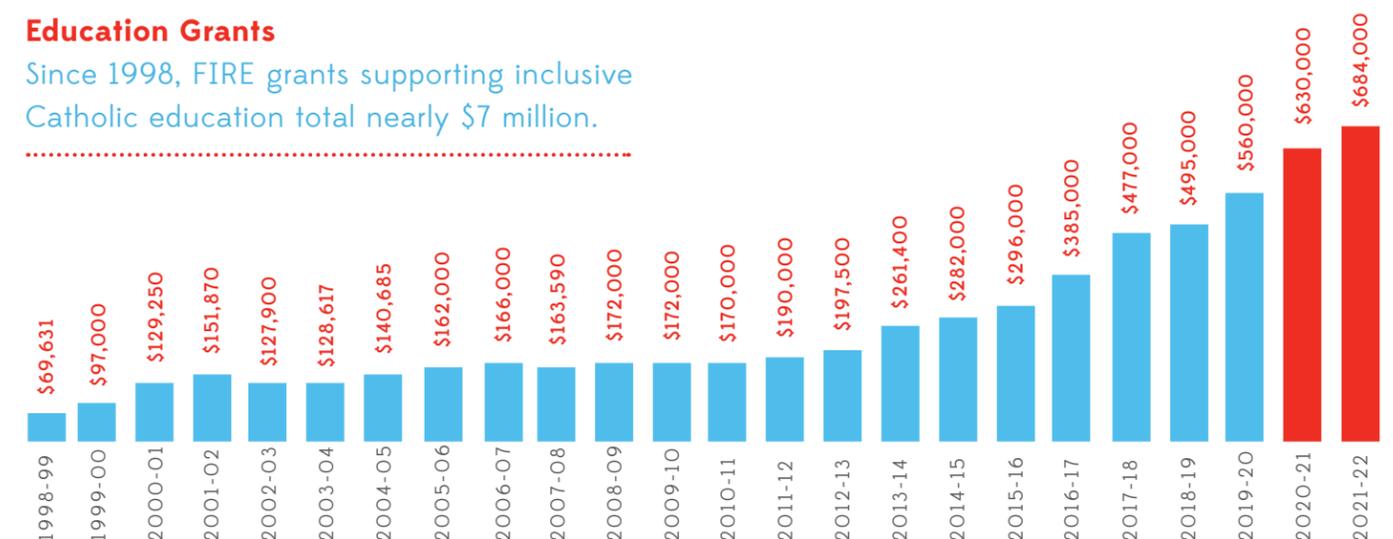
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Financial Report FISCAL YEAR JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022

INCOME	
Contributions	\$ 149,042
Grants	\$ 288,199
Events Net Revenue	
FIRE Ball	\$ 385,339
Golf Tournament	\$ 97,737
Purses with Purpose	\$ 89,502
Conference	\$ 0
Interest and Other Income	\$ -41,549
Affiliate Income	\$ 7,100
In-Kind Contribution (phone/rent)	\$ 18,000
TOTAL	\$ 993,371
EXPENSES	
Program (School Grants, Initiatives)	\$ 764,186
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 95,264
General and Administrative	\$ 116,546
In-Kind Expense	\$ 18,000
NET INCOME	\$ -625
TOTAL	\$ 993,371

Education Grants

Since 1998, FIRE grants supporting inclusive Catholic education total nearly \$7 million.





We're Igniting Support for Inclusive Catholic Education All Year Long - Join us!

April 21

**PLAY WITH FIRE
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

June 21

**PURSES
WITH PURPOSE**

October 21

**FIRE BALL
2023**

816.226.4365

The Catholic Center 20 W. 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105



[Firefoundation.org](https://www.firefoundation.org)



HELP FIRE SPREAD **LOVE, FAITH,
LEARNING, FRIENDSHIP AND LAUGHTER**
AMONG STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.



**By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another. JOHN 13:35**

**Your tax-deductible gifts ensure FIRE partner schools have
the knowledge, staff and resources to welcome and support
students with unique learning challenges.**

**I/we want to invest in this special mission that ignites
love, faith and belonging in Catholic schools.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

PLEASE ACCEPT MY/OUR GIFT!

AMOUNT \$ _____ (one-time gift) monthly

I WISH TO GIVE:

Online. Go to firefoundation.org/donate. You can make a one-time gift or choose to donate monthly.

(over)

Check. Complete this donor card and mail your check payable to FIRE Foundation in the enclosed, pre-addressed envelope.

Credit Card. Provide card information and send in the pre-addressed envelope.

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____ CVV# _____

**KEEP FIRE'S FLAME BURNING BRIGHTLY
WITH A GIFT TO THE ENDOWMENT**

The gift you make to FIRE's endowment is a spark that will ensure future generations of students will experience the blessings of inclusive Catholic education. If you write a check or name the FIRE Foundation Endowment as a beneficiary of a trust or insurance policy, please specify: FIRE Foundation Endowment Fund.

Call Lynn Hire, 816.520.2619 to learn more about investing in FIRE's future.

THANK YOU!

Your gifts ensure FIRE partner schools have staff and resources to create successful learning opportunities for students with special needs. By embracing inclusive practices, FIRE partner schools enrich learning for every single student. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.