

## Our Mission:

FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa's mission is to provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education in their home parish schools.

## Partner Schools

All Saints – Cedar Rapids  
Blessed Maria – Waterloo  
Immaculate Conception – Charles City  
Newman Catholic School – Mason City  
St. Athanasius Catholic School – Jesup  
St. Cecelia – Ames  
St. Edward Catholic School – Waterloo  
St. Francis De Sales – Ossian  
St. Joseph Community School – New Hampton  
Xavier High School – Cedar Rapids

## Board of Directors

Erin Schmitz, President  
Tom Novotney, Co-Vice President  
Kristi Holien, Co-Vice President  
Kim Grzywacz, Co-Secretary  
Bruce Schmitz, Co-Secretary  
Teresa Schmitz, Treasurer  
Braxton Chicchelly  
Julie Drake  
Becky Schmelzer  
Craig Reindl  
Vicki Ries

*\* The FIRE Board of Directors is a Dedicated Working Board, All Volunteer*



# 2019 Annual Report

*Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education*

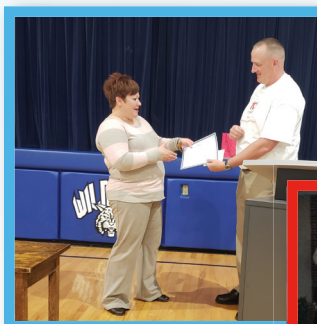


**Follow Us:**

facebook.com/firefoundationneiowa  
twitter.com/FIREneiowa

## Contact Information:

FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa  
PO Box 211, Raymond, Iowa 50667  
319-529-1109  
info@firefoundationneiowa.org



## FIRE Affiliates

FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa was the first FIRE affiliate to ignite in 2016. Today the FIRE is spreading!

- FIRE Foundation of Kansas City (est. 1996)
- FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa (est. 2016)
- FIRE Foundation of Central Illinois (est. 2018)
- FIRE Foundation of New Hampshire (est. 2019)
- FIRE Foundation of Dallas (est. 2019)



## Dear Friends and Supporters of Inclusive Catholic Education:

As we reflect on the highlights of fiscal year 2019 and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead, our hearts are set on FIRE. Through the generosity of donors, the dedication of outstanding educators and the energy of volunteers, FIRE's flame is illuminating the hearts, minds and spirits of our youngest generation. We are humbled by the blessings, surprises and opportunities the Holy Spirit presents to us as we strengthen and expand the impact of FIRE's mission.

It is our hope that the results of our efforts set your hearts on FIRE as our mission of inclusion encourages more young people to live the Truth of the Gospel more fully – with love, respect and care for their peers.

We ask for your prayers as we continue this journey – that FIRE may continue to be blessed with sufficient resources to help schools open their doors and hearts to students with special learning needs. We remain grateful and hopeful that your hearts are set on FIRE as we respond to ever-growing requests for support.

In Peace and Gratitude,

Teresa Schmitz

Co-Founder of FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa

## 2019 FIREball Inclusion Leaders

*This award recognizes educators that lead inclusion strategies and implementations while going above & beyond to grow inclusion efforts within their school and Archdiocese of Dubuque. Each FIREball leader receives a plaque of appreciation and \$250 for their school to use towards their inclusive Catholic education program.*

- Diane Dalton—All Saints Elementary School (Cedar Rapids)
- Kim Hopp—St. Joseph Community School (New Hampton)
- Katie Jarvill—Immaculate Conception Catholic School (Charles City)

## 2019 FIRED Up About Inclusion School of the Year

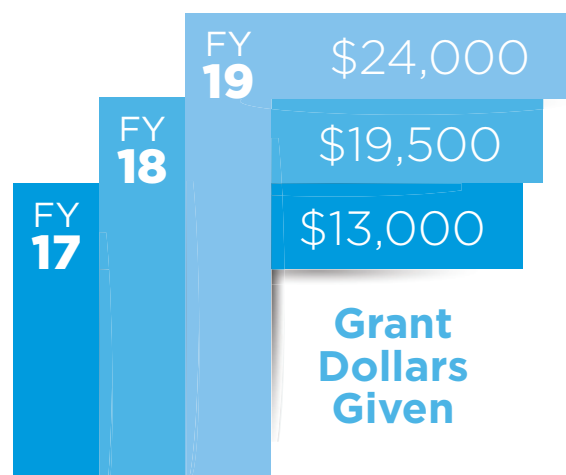
*This award recognizes only ONE Catholic school, per year, that is practicing inclusion. The school receives \$1,000 to be use towards their inclusive Catholic education program.*

- Immaculate Conception Catholic School (Charles City)

## 2019 Highlights

- FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa has awarded over \$24,000.00 in grants to Catholic schools in in Northeast Iowa in 2019.
- The FIRE Logo was trademarked this year.
- Mustard Seed Conference was held in Chicago, IL in October 2018. FIRE NE Iowa hosted two professionals at the event.
- FIRE Inclusion in Action Conference was held in Kansas City, MO in February 2019. FIRE NE Iowa hosted four professionals at the event.
- The Ignite Inclusion Committee met monthly. The goal of NE Iowa Ignite Committee is to provide a system of knowledge and support necessary to empower Catholic educators in their efforts to provide an inclusive, Christ-centered education.

*"Through the support FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa we have been able to hire a full time paraprofessional for one of our students. Through this opportunity we have been able to offer a truly inclusive experience at our school building. I look forward to seeing him enter and leave school each morning with large grin across his face. He is an integral part of our school community."* – **MR. SATTERLEE, Principal at Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School**



**Grant Dollars Given**

## How can you support FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa?



### Click:

It is quick, easy and safe to donate online at [firefoundationneioa.org](http://firefoundationneioa.org)



### Mail:

Yes we accept (and welcome) checks. Whether it is \$5, \$50, or \$500, we love receiving money in the mail to support our mission.



### Tell:

If every one of our friends and supporters told just one person about FIRE and invited that person to learn of our important mission, we would double our support.



### Include:

Please remember FIRE in your estate planning. We are happy to work with you to discuss gifts of stock, annuities as well as wills and trusts and other options.