

fire
FOUNDATION
Northeast Iowa

WELCOME



Welcome to the 2026 BonFIRE Benefit!

Tonight is about **celebrating YOU**! Because of your generosity and belief in inclusive Catholic education, doors are opening, barriers are being removed, and students of all abilities are finding a place to belong in our Catholic schools. Over the past ten years, your support has helped FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa expand opportunities for students with disabilities by providing essential classroom support, equipping educators with training and resources, and helping Catholic schools create environments where every child belongs. Your generosity is changing lives, strengthening schools, and building a culture of belonging.

As we celebrate all we've accomplished together, we are even more excited about what lies ahead. The need continues to grow, and **with your support, we can do more** — more opportunities, more resources, and more classrooms where every child is welcomed, valued, and included. **THANK YOU** for believing in our mission and making a lasting difference.

Together, let's **GET FIRED UP** for what comes next!

With heartfelt gratitude,



Bruce Schmitz
Co-Founder & President, FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa

OUR MISSION

To champion the inclusion of students with disabilities in Catholic schools by providing educational resources, fundraising, and promoting a culture of belonging.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to our Board of Directors for leading with faith, serving with purpose, and inspiring inclusion. Your dedication keeps the FIRE burning bright for every child.

Bruce Schmitz, President
Craig Reindl, Vice President
Kim Grzywacz, Secretary
Teresa Schmitz, Treasurer
Sara Ahlers
Wendy Clark-Lundy
Christy Naughton
Erin Schmitz

OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

To our educators: Thank you for teaching with purpose and leading with heart. Your dedication, compassion, and commitment to inclusion make a lasting impact and create classrooms where every child belongs.

Beckman Catholic High School, Dyersville
Bosco Catholic School System, Gilbertville
Cedar Valley Catholic Schools, Waterloo
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Charles City
Newman Catholic School System, Mason City
Saint Athanasius School, Jesup
St. Francis Catholic School, Marshalltown
Xavier Catholic Schools, Cedar Rapids

GET FIRED UP

YOUR GUIDE TO THE NIGHT

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Let's Get FIRED UP!
Cocktails, Connections & Celebration

6:05 PM | Ignite the Night
Welcome, Evening Program & Premiere of the
2026 FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa Video

6:45 PM | Dinner Is Served
Good Food, Great Company & a Mission Worth Celebrating

7:30 PM | Sweet Treat Auction Closes
Last Chance to Bid on Your Favorite Desserts!

7:35 PM | Turn Up the Heat!
Dueling Pianos Take the Stage

8:15 PM | Let the Games Begin!
50/50 Raffle Drawing & Heads or Tails – Round 1 (Red Beads)

8:30 PM | Going, Going, Gone!
Silent Auction Closes – Get Your Final Bids In!

9:15 PM | Keep the Excitement Going!
Raffle Winners & Heads or Tails – Round 2 (Gold Beads)

9:45 PM | The Grand Finale
"Piano Man" Performance by Ryan Weber

10:00 PM | Until Next Year!
Thank You for Getting FIRED UP for Inclusion!

BONFIRE EMCEE



John Huff is the Chief Operating Officer at Huff Contracting, Inc. and a former KWWL broadcast executive. A lifelong Catholic educated in Catholic schools, John's commitment to inclusion is deeply personal. His nephew Jake, who has Down syndrome and underwent a heart transplant, was unable to attend Catholic schools because of limited resources. This experience continues to inspire John's passion for expanding inclusive Catholic education. He remains active in the Waterloo community, generously sharing his leadership experience in support of faith-based and community initiatives.

WESTON FAMILY



Liam is in PK4 at St. Josephs Preschool in Raymond. For Liam, St. Joe's is more than just a preschool. It's a place where he belongs, where he is loved, and where he has the opportunity to shine. Liam absolutely loves attending school with his siblings, Cecelia and Jameson, his peers and the dedicated staff. Liam was diagnosed with Spina Bifida at his 20-week anatomy scan and underwent in utero surgery at 25.5 weeks gestation. Liam has faced many hurdles in his life but having people who love and support him will never be an issue, especially with organizations like FIRE NE Iowa making a Catholic education more accessible. Their support allows him to learn, grow, and thrive in a faith-filled environment where he is not defined by Spina Bifida, but instead is embraced for who he is, included in every opportunity, and encouraged to reach his fullest potential.

DUELING PIANOS

A special thank you to Cole Thomas & Mick Staebell for bringing the energy, music, and fun to our BonFIRE Benefit! Your incredible talent and enthusiasm help make this a night to remember!





BONFIRE VOLUNTEERS

To our amazing volunteers: thank you for generously sharing your time and talents to make the BonFIRE Benefit possible. We couldn't do it without your hard work, dedication, and willingness to help. We are so grateful for each of you!

Kim Fettkether
Rob & Melissa Huffman
Kaylee Humphrey
Bryon & Shelley Manternach
Joe & Renee Steffen
Nic & Allison Stone
Amy Peyton
Josh & Jill Waddle

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Pixel Labs for creating our 2026 FIRE video, Patty's Party Booth for the photo booth fun, and Zach Etringer Action Photography for capturing the BonFIRE moments. Your talents make this evening memorable!

SWEET TREAT AUCTION

A special thank you to our Sweet Treat Auction sponsors! Your generosity helped bring this fun addition to the BonFIRE Benefit to life. We couldn't do it without you!

Dana & Michelle Damme
Jeff & Amy Frost
Stephanie Greene
Kevin & Tiffany Houser
Brian & Jill Huebner
Vern & Samantha Kalkbrenner
Joe & Brenna Schaefer
Joel & Brenda Schares
Chris & Bobbi Schmit
Mike & Michelle Sweeney
Ann & Keith Valesh

Made with love, donated with generosity, and enjoyed for a great cause! Thank you to the businesses that provided the delicious treats for tonight's auction!

DINNER MENU

House Salad, Dinner Rolls and Butter

Chicken Supreme Plated Dinner
Lightly breaded chicken breast finished with a creamy garlic sauce, Zucchini Medley, Mashed Redskin Potatoes

Assorted Mini Cookies

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Your generous donations help make our auction a success and raise important funds to support inclusive Catholic education

Blank Park Zoo
Bruce & Erin Schmitz
Cedar Falls Community Playhouse
Chad & Abbey Weber
Chicago Cubs
Dan Gable Wrestling Museum
Des Moines Playhouse
Des Moines Symphony
Don & Carol Kleis
Dubuque Fighting Saints
Faith & Four Letter Words
Field Museum, Chicago
FIRE NE Iowa
FRELSI HEALTH
Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center
Gina Schmitz
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
Iowa Cubs
Irish Fest
Jean Etringer
Kayla Craig
Kayla Rohlfsen
Larry & Karen Howard
Maple Lanes Bowling Center
Minnesota Twins
Move with Miah Pilates Co.
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Oh Grace Boutique
Palmer's Family Fun
Panera Bread
Principal Charity Classic
Quad Cities Fun Station
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort
Roch Schmitz
Saint Joseph Preschool
Science Center of Iowa
Silver Spur Saddle Shop
SingleSpeed Brewing
Teresa Schmitz
Waterloo Black Hawks

Please note: Additional contributions may have been received after the program's printing deadline.

FIRED UP FOR INCLUSION!
CELEBRATING OUR 2025-2026 AWARD WINNERS

Each year, FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa honors educators & Catholic schools making a difference through their commitment to inclusion.

FIREball Inclusion Leader Award

Recognizing outstanding educators, nominated by their principals, whose dedication, compassion, and leadership make a lasting difference in the lives of students of all abilities.



Liz Hoselton
Saint Edward Elementary School
Lead Teacher



Lisa Junk
Saint Athanasius School
5th Grade Teacher

FIRED Up About Inclusion School of the Year

Honoring one Catholic school that demonstrates an exceptional commitment to inclusive education by creating opportunities for every student to learn, grow, and thrive.



Saint Joseph Preschool
Part Of Bosco Catholic School System

A Strong Foundation Makes Everything Possible.

Just as every great building begins with a strong foundation, every child deserves a foundation of faith, education, and opportunity.

Huff Contracting is honored to support The FIRE Foundation and its commitment to inclusive Catholic education.

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fire FOUNDATION
Northeast Iowa
Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education®

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
FIRE NE IOWA - 2016 - 2026

OUR MISSION is to champion the inclusion of students with disabilities in Catholic schools by providing educational resources, fundraising and promoting a culture of belonging.



www.firefoundationneiowa.org

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF FIRE NE IOWA
10 MILESTONES. ONE MISSION.

2016 | A MOVEMENT BEGINS
FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa is established in August, becoming the nation's first FIRE affiliate and igniting a movement for inclusive Catholic education.

2017 | BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSION
Five pioneering Catholic schools and school systems embrace the FIRE mission, opening doors and creating opportunities for students of all abilities.

2018–2019 | INVESTING IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
FIRE launches its first grant cycle, investing in paraeducators, accessibility improvements, adaptive resources, and professional development.

2018 | IGNITING COLLABORATION
The Ignite Committee is established, bringing educators and school leaders together to share resources, strengthen partnerships, and advance inclusion across the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

2022 | EMPOWERING MORE THAN 200 EDUCATORS
FIRE NE Iowa hosts the Embrace Inclusion Conference in Cedar Falls, equipping more than 200 Catholic educators with practical strategies and faith-centered inspiration.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF FIRE NE IOWA
10 MILESTONES. ONE MISSION.

2023 | HELPING SECURE $1.25 MILLION FOR NATIONAL GROWTH
FIRE NE Iowa plays a key leadership role in securing a $1.25 million Lilly Endowment grant, helping expand inclusive Catholic education through the national FIRE Affiliate Network.

2023–2024 | PARTNERING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
A strategic partnership expands professional development opportunities, strengthens educator formation, and advances inclusive practices in Catholic schools.

2024–2025 | CONNECTING EDUCATORS NATIONWIDE
FIRE helps launch the first national Professional Learning Community focused on inclusive Catholic education, followed by two additional learning communities connecting educators across the country.

2025 | IGNITING COMMUNITY SUPPORT
The inaugural BonFIRE Benefit brings together supporters, families, and educators to celebrate inclusion and raise critical funds for Catholic schools.

2026 | CELEBRATING A DECADE OF IMPACT
FIRE NE Iowa surpasses $250,000 invested in Northeast Iowa Catholic schools, supporting essential staff, adaptive resources, educator training, and welcoming learning environments.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

To our sponsors: we are deeply grateful.
Your generosity ignites hope, builds brighter futures, and ensures that every child has a place to grow, learn, and thrive.

BONFIRE

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BLAZE

EB management

JACOB'S LADDER

Steve & Michelle Phillips

Ken & Tammy Schmitz

Teresa Schmitz

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Your future StArts with us.

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ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC

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Learning with a Higher Purpose!

SPARK





















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Bruce & Erin Schmitz
Roger & Gloria Schmitz
Randy & Janan Weber

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Bosco
Catholic School System

Preparing students to be the Light of Christ in the world!

Bosco Catholic School System
406 16th Avenue
PO Box 106
Gilbertville, IA 50634

We are proud to support the FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa





The Mission of Bosco Catholic Schools

With support from families, we respect and encourage students to reach their potential ***Spiritually, Academically, Physically, and Socially*** so they are the Light of Christ in the world.

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Celebrating Differences, Inspiring Learning.

At St. Athanasius Catholic School, we celebrate the unique gifts of every student as a child of God.

Through faith, kindness, and mutual respect, we build a welcoming community where everyone belongs and is valued.

Saint Athanasius

Proud Supporter

fire FOUNDATION
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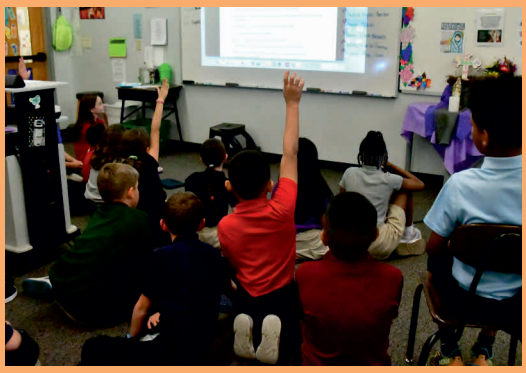
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Our mission is to keep nonprofit organizations
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Inclusion in Action

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www.firefoundationneiowa.org

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