

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

fire
FOUNDATION

Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

Dear Friends and Supporters of Inclusive Catholic Education:

As we reflect on the highlights of fiscal year 2017 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.

Here are some highlights of 2016-17:

- FIRE Foundation welcomed a new partner school – St. Patrick– further expanding opportunities for inclusive Catholic education in the Northland.
- FIRE Foundation continues to work with individuals and groups across the country, sharing our model of inclusion support and advocacy. As our first affiliate partner – FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa in the Archdiocese of Dubuque – takes off, plans are underway to ignite more affiliate relationships.
- Revenue grew by 9 percent over 2016 making it possible for FIRE to grant an unprecedented \$400,000 to 14 partner schools in support of inclusive Catholic education and up to \$50,000 in additional grants to support educators' professional development, scholarships for students and grants for special programs during the 2017-18 academic year.
- FIRE hosted its first-ever Catholic inclusion conference in February 2017. The event drew more than 150 participants representing 10 states for a two-day learning and networking experience in Kansas City.

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 deeply grateful and hopeful that your hearts are set on FIRE as we respond to ever-growing requests for support.

In Peace and Gratitude,



John Joyce, Board President



M. Lynn Hire, Executive Director

SHINE, SPIRIT,

SHINE;

Fill our schools with God's glory;

BLAZE, SPIRIT,

BLAZE;

Set our hearts on fire.

FLOW, RIVER,

FLOW;

Flood our parishes with grace and mercy;

Send forth your Spirit, Lord,

And let there be

LIGHT

OUR FIRE

PARTNER SCHOOLS

JULY 2016 – JULY 2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

ARCHBISHOP O'HARA

HOLY CROSS

NATIVITY OF MARY

OUR LADY OF HOPE

OUR LADY OF
THE PRESENTATION

ST. CHARLES
BORROMEIO

ST. ELIZABETH

ST. PATRICK

ST. PETER'S

ST. PIUS X

ST. THERESE

ST. THOMAS MORE

VISITATION

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education in their home parish schools.

OUR STORY

The FIRE Foundation (aka: Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education) was founded in 1996 by a group of parents who shared a common dream – for their children with special needs to attend their parish schools with siblings and friends. Since that time, through the efforts of parents, dedicated board of directors, exceptional educators and community members who embrace inclusive Catholic education, nearly \$3.4 million dollars have been raised and countless lives have been impacted in a powerful and positive way. FIRE offers financial grants for qualifying schools within the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. These grants assist with the cost of special education teachers, para-professionals and resources, enabling schools to educate children with special needs alongside their peers. The FIRE Foundation raises money and raises awareness and advocates for inclusion of ALL God's children in Catholic schools. We believe that inclusion enhances the education of all children, regardless of ability, by teaching acceptance, compassion and the value of every child of God. Children grow up knowing and appreciating each other's unique gifts.

4,864

STUDENTS WITH
SIGNIFICANT SPECIAL NEEDS
RECEIVED DIRECT SUPPORT
SO THEY COULD ATTEND
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

158

380,000

Students' lives
were enriched by
inclusive education

Dollars were granted to schools
for special education staff and resources

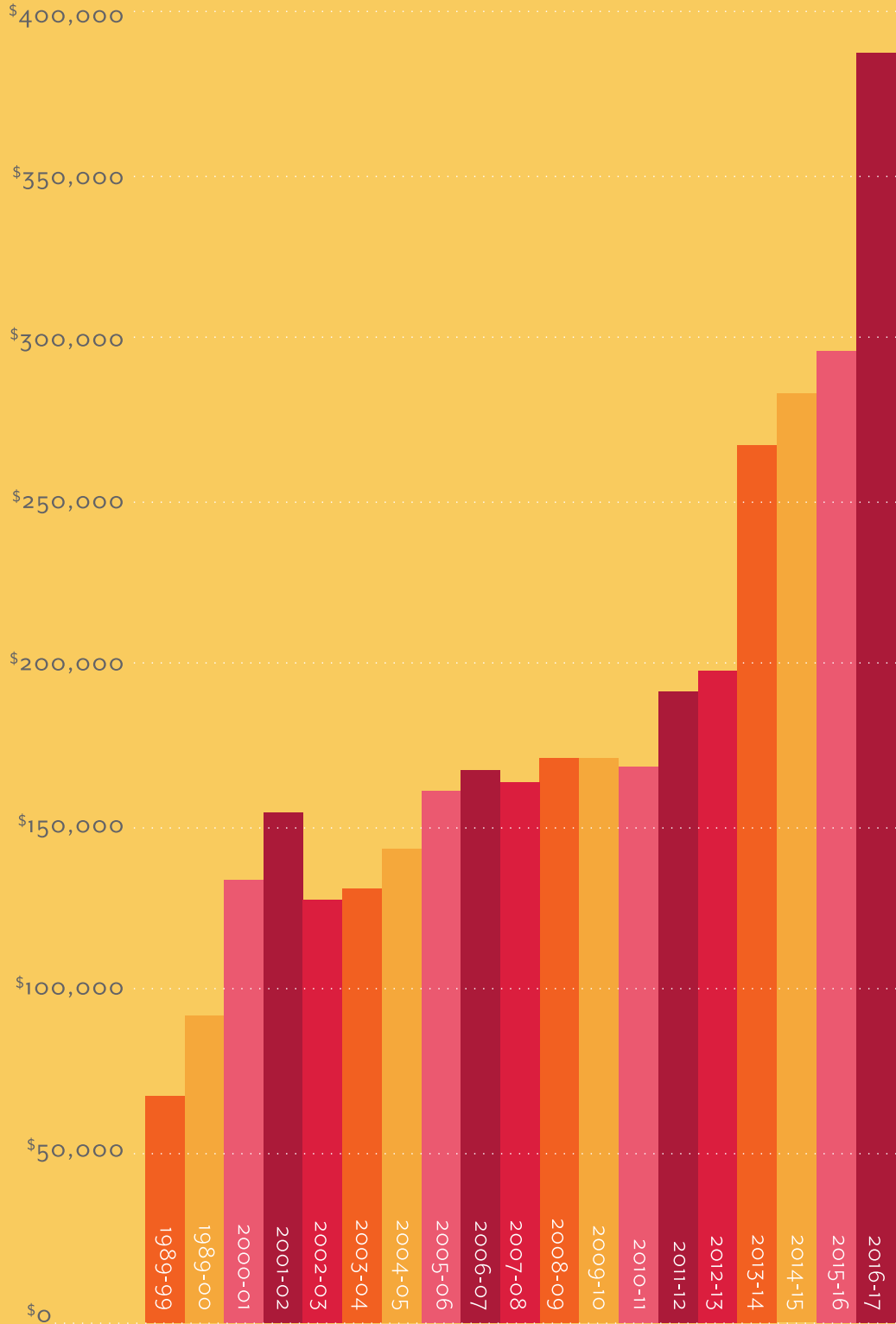
SCHOOLS RECEIVED GRANTS
TO DEFRAY THE COST
OF OFFERING
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

13

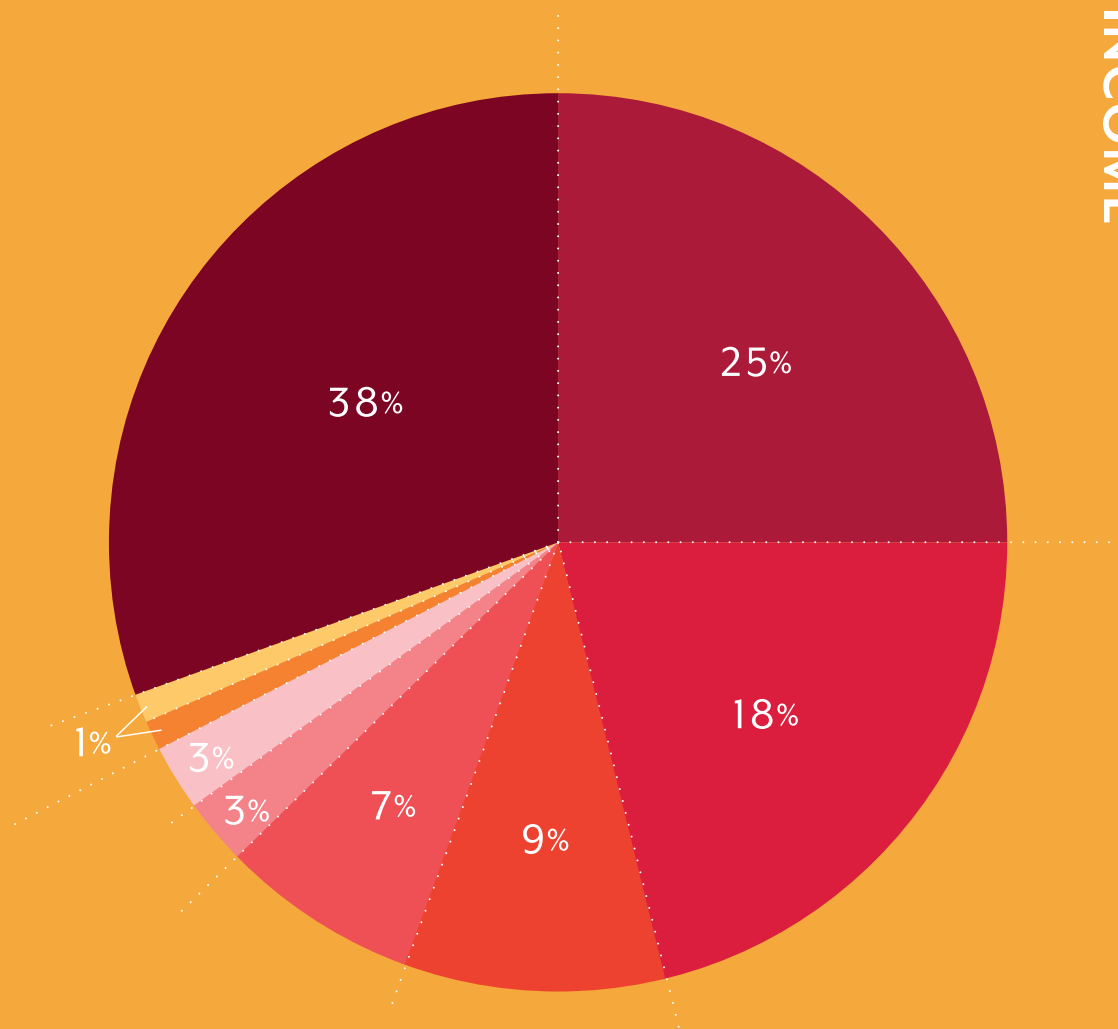
541

Students benefited from the availability of special education support

EDUCATION GRANTS

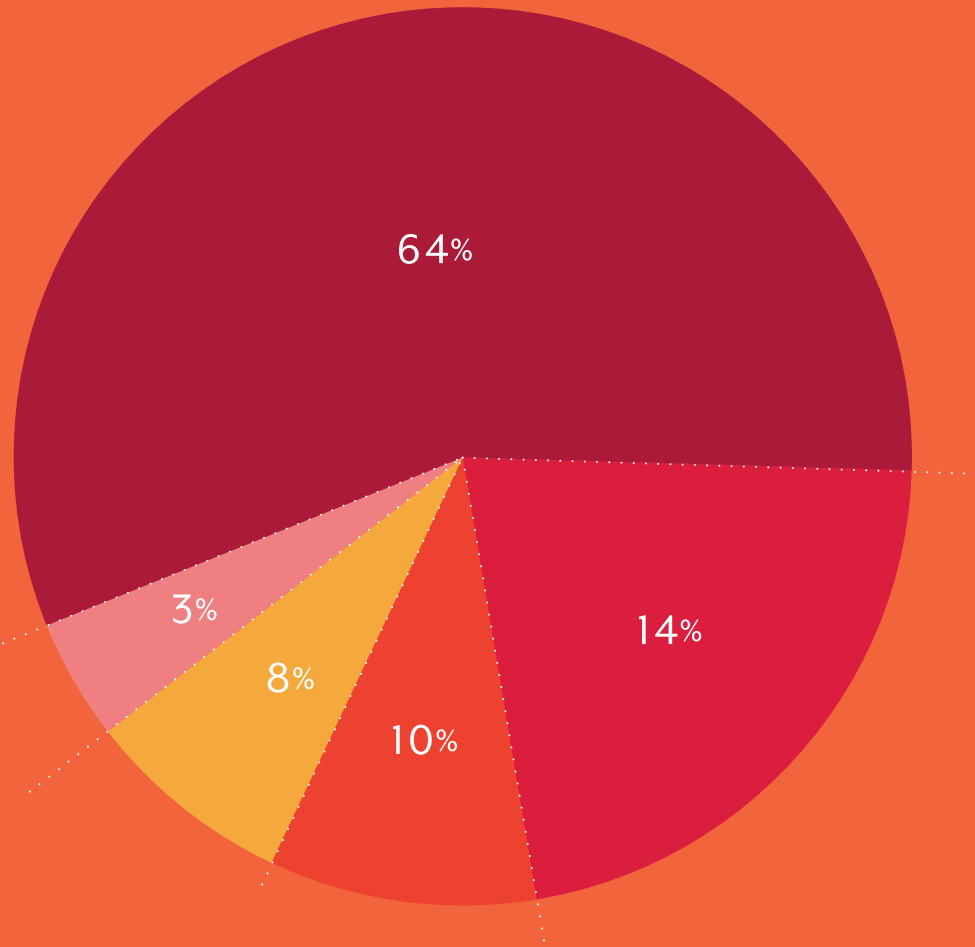


INCOME



■ CONTRIBUTIONS	\$162,837
■ GRANTS	113,570
■ ANNUAL APPEAL	18,829
EVENTS (NET REVENUE):	
■ Fire Ball	245,079
■ Golf Tournament	60,156
■ Purses with Purpose	44,880
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION CONFERENCE, NET	
	(32,553)
■ INTEREST & OTHER INCOME	8,103
■ AFFILIATE PROGRAM, NET	5,309
■ IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	18,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$644,211

EXPENSES



 PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$413,953
 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	91,185
 GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	67,239
 IN-KIND EXPENSE	18,000
<hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #000;"/>	
TOTAL	590,377
 NET INCOME	\$53,834

Net Income of \$53,834 was used to fund the FIRE endowment fund.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

VOLUNTEER

We're always looking for folks to serve on event committees and to help out in a variety of ways. What a great way to have some fun and meet people who are passionate about meeting kids' special needs. Call Susan at 816.756.1858 / x252.

JOIN

Become a Friend of FIRE! You'll serve on a team of parents from your parish community. Friends of FIRE meets six times a year to share ideas, help raise money and to expand awareness about FIRE's impact.

CLICK

It's quick, easy and safe to donate on line at firefoundation.org. You can make a one-time donation or set up monthly gift giving. Just click on the Donate button in the upper left corner of the screen and follow the prompts.

MAIL

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

ATTEND

Our FUNdraising events are open to everyone. Join us at the Play with FIRE golf tournament, Purses with Purpose or FIRE Ball gala.

DESIGNATE

Every fall, the United Way launches its giving campaign through area employers. You can write in Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education, and your pledge will benefit FIRE.

TELL

If every one of our friends and supporters told just one person about FIRE and invited that person to participate in an event or fundraising campaign, we would double our support.

DONATE

If that junker in your driveway has lost its get-up-and-go, consider donating it to FIRE. Simply call 1.800.237.5714 and we'll get the wheels in motion for your car donation (and tax deduction).

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.

TAKE

(us to the cleaners)! Hangers Cleaners, that is. They donate 10% of your total bill to FIRE when you sign up by calling 816.941.2262. With just 150 participants spending an average of \$500 per year, FIRE can earn \$7,500+.

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2018 EVENTS

PLAY WITH FIRE GOLF TOURNAMENT
April 30 — Hillcrest Country Club

PURSES WITH PURPOSE — GIRLS NIGHT OUT
June 14 — at the home of Rebecca and Trey Bowen

FIRE BALL 2018
October 20 — Arrowhead Stadium

FIRE FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 2016 – JULY 2017

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Peggy VanDyke
PRESIDENT

John Joyce
VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Madden
SECRETARY

Debbie Whittaker
TREASURER

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Caitlin Kaczmarczyk

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Darren Prenger

Jenny Stasi

Mary Stuckey

Chad Meyer

Mark Ungashick

Lynn Hire

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