



fire[®]
FOUNDATION

Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters of Inclusive Catholic Education:

As we reflect on the highlights of fiscal year 2018 and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead, our hearts are on FIRE for the generosity of donors, the dedication of outstanding educators and the energy of volunteers. FIRE's flame continues to illuminate 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 seems fitting to share this prayer that is often recited at FIRE gatherings:

*Father of ALL that is good and holy,
We ask that You bless us with Your infinite love and mercy
As we work with all students made in your image
Those students that read with grace
And those that need grace to read.
Those that lift others up,
And those that need to be lifted up.
Those that embrace learning,
And those that need to be embraced to learn.
Those that make us smile,
And those that need a smile.
Grant us the knowledge, patience and compassion
to serve all students in our care for they have Your gifts to celebrate.
We ask this in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Credit: Dr. Christie Bonfiglio, Program for Inclusive Education, University of Notre Dame

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 2017-18:

- FIRE Foundation continues to work with individuals and groups across the country, sharing our model of inclusion support and advocacy. In addition to our first affiliate partner – FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa in the Archdiocese of Dubuque – plans are underway to ignite additional affiliate partnerships in Illinois and New Hampshire.
- Revenue continued to grow making it possible for FIRE to grant over \$477,000 to 14 partner schools in support of inclusive Catholic education.
- FIRE initiated a long-term strategy to save for the Foundation's future through investment in an endowment fund.
- Planning for a 2019 inclusion conference presented by the FIRE Foundation are underway.

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



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, over \$4 million 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.

OUR SCHOOLS

- Holy Cross
- Nativity of Mary
- Our Lady of Hope
- Our Lady of the Presentation
- St. Charles Borromeo
- St. Elizabeth
- St. Gabriel
- St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School
- St. Patrick
- St. Peter’s
- St. Pius X High School
- St. Therese
- St. Thomas More
- Visitation

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

192

4,699

students' lives
were enriched by
inclusive education

477,000

dollars were granted to
schools for special education
staff and resources

STUDENTS WHO BENEFITED
FROM THE AVAILABILITY OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT

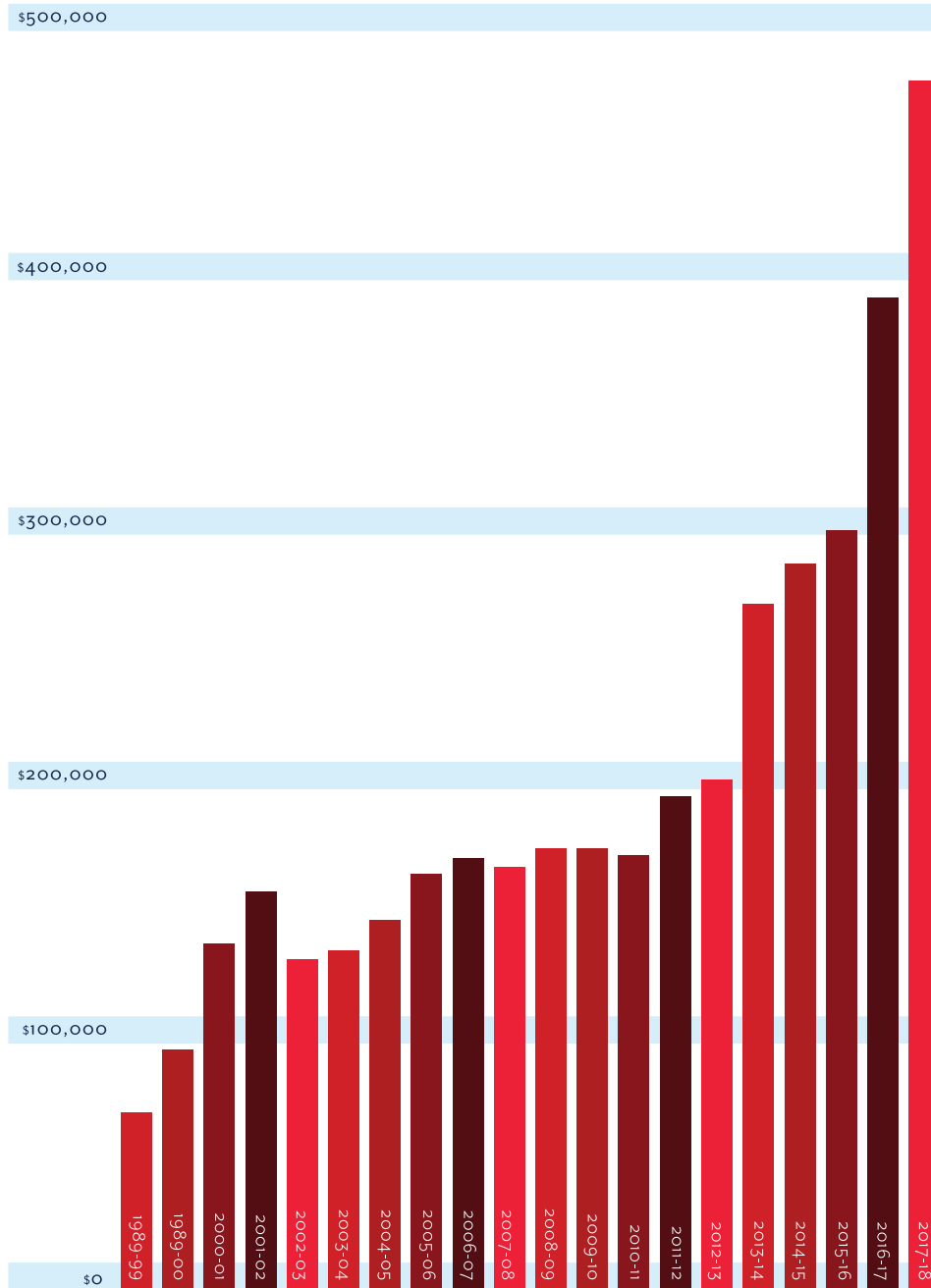
474

FOURTEEN

schools received grants to defray the cost
of offering special education services

EDUCATION GRANTS

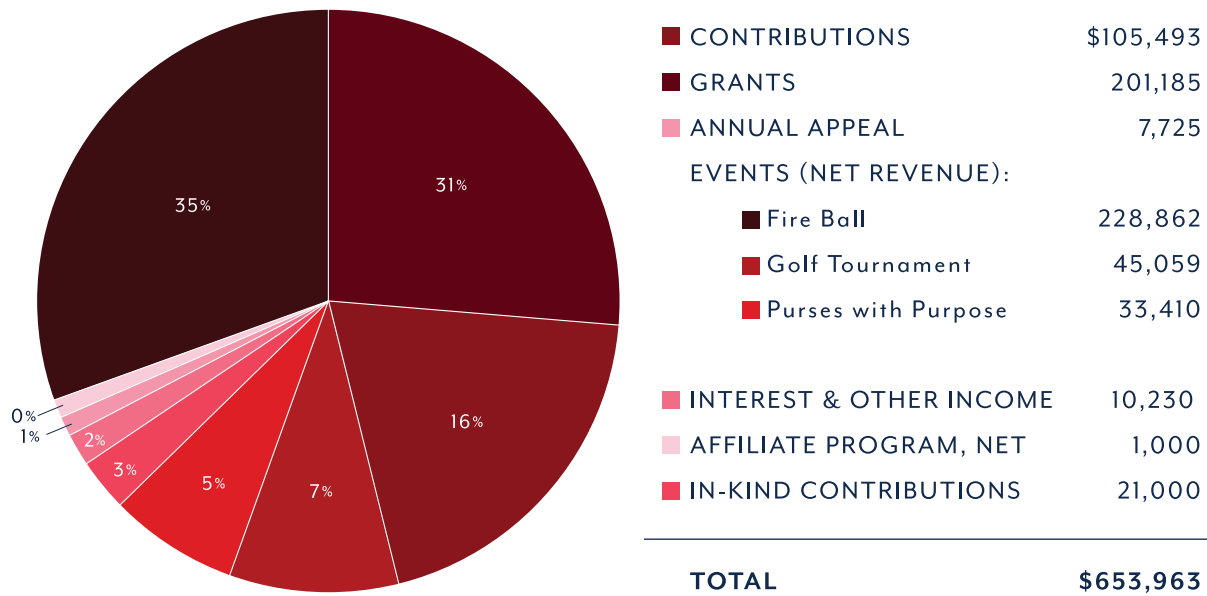
FIRE grants to support inclusive Catholic education total nearly \$3.4 million.



FIRE FINANCIAL REPORT

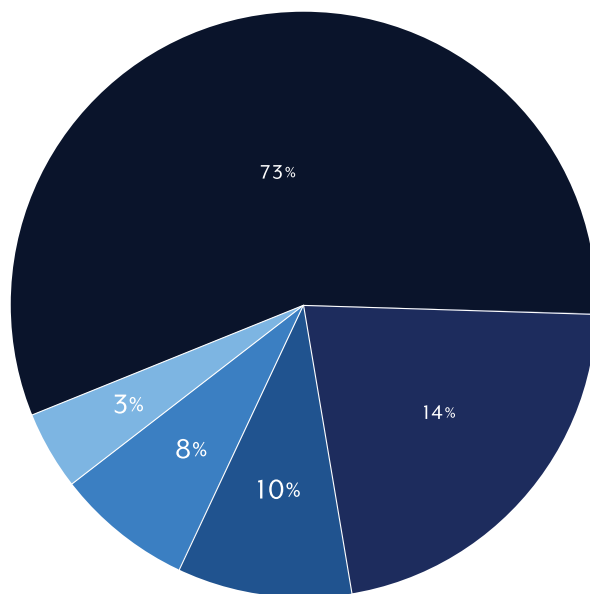
This report reflects income and expenses July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

INCOME



EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$477,592
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	28,239
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	88,549
IN-KIND EXPENSE	21,000
TOTAL	615,380
NET INCOME*	\$38,583



*Net Income of \$38,583 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.

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.

ATTEND

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

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+.

FIRE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 2016 – July 2017

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