

GATHER AROUND OUR

# FIRE



**fire**  
FOUNDATION

2019 FIRE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

# MAKE LOVE YOUR AIM

(1 CORINTHIANS 14:1)



*Dear Friends and Supporters of Inclusive Catholic Education:*

*Thank you for gathering around our FIRE. We're so glad you're part of our circle. You come from many walks of life and from communities near and far. You're parents. You're grandparents. You're brothers and sisters. You're educators, friends and neighbors. Around this FIRE, we join together as friends and supporters, united by our desire to light the way for God's children – all of God's children, perfectly made in His image and likeness.*

*As a FIRE family, we make love our aim, united by our mission to build God's kingdom.*

*Your prayers, your presence and your gifts – of time, talent and treasure – are the fuel that keeps our FIRE burning brightly. We're passionate about our mission to support Catholic schools as they open wide their doors to welcome and support students with disabilities.*

*We know that you're passionate about inclusive Catholic education, too.*

*What a blessing it is that God has called us all together to ignite inclusion and to bring forth His kingdom, shining a light on the value and potential of all children.*

*We are grateful that you choose to make love your aim. And to be a spark in our FIRE.*

*In Peace and Gratitude,*

Mark Ungashick  
BOARD PRESIDENT

M. Lynn Hire  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# ADVANCING FIRE'S MISSION

*Thanks to the vision and guidance of FIRE's Board of Directors, the tremendous generosity of loyal friends, and the ambitious engagement of volunteers and staff, the mission and impact of the FIRE Foundation advanced on several fronts during 2018-19:*

Revenue continued to grow, making it possible for FIRE to grant over \$495,000 to 14 partner schools in support of inclusive Catholic education. This amount represents a 10% increase in support over last year.

By employing best practices in governance and fiscal management, FIRE was recognized as a responsible, effective steward of resources and received a 2018 Excellence in Nonprofit Management Award from Support Kansas City.

FIRE Foundation planned and presented a three-day conference entitled "Inclusion in Action in Catholic Schools" that drew nearly 200 educators, parents and inclusion advocates to Kansas City to learn best practices in inclusive learning/teaching. Attendees gained insight on how/why Catholic schools are called by our faith to welcome students with disabilities. The conference featured tours of schools in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph that embrace inclusive practices. Attendees traveled from 20 states.

FIRE implemented a communications strategy designed to build awareness of the Foundation's Endowment Fund initiative. The Endowment was created to ensure that FIRE is able to support inclusive education for generations to come and to secure FIRE's long-term capacity to invest in inclusive Catholic education. The first goal is to build a \$500,000 corpus. The five-year goal is to increase the fund to \$1,000,000.

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 – FIRE launched three new affiliates: FIRE Foundation of New Hampshire, FIRE Foundation of Central Illinois and FIRE Foundation of Dallas.

OUR  
**FIRE**  
PARTNER SCHOOLS  
2018-2019

HOLY CROSS

NATIVITY OF MARY

OUR LADY OF HOPE

OUR LADY OF THE  
PRESENTATION

ST. CHARLES  
BORROMEO ACADEMY

ST. ELIZABETH

ST. MICHAEL  
THE ARCHANGEL  
HIGH SCHOOL

ST. PATRICK

ST. PETER

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL

ST. REGIS ACADEMY

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 \$5 million has been granted 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, technology and resources, as well as professional development, empowering schools to educate children with disabilities 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. When there is a culture of belonging for all students, children grow up knowing and appreciating each other’s unique gifts.

# FIRE BY THE NUMBERS

# 237

Students with significant special needs received direct support so they could attend a Catholic school.

STUDENTS' LIVES WERE ENRICHED BY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.

# 5,256

# 513

Students benefitted from the availability of special education support

Schools received grants to strengthen inclusive education practices and capacity

# 14

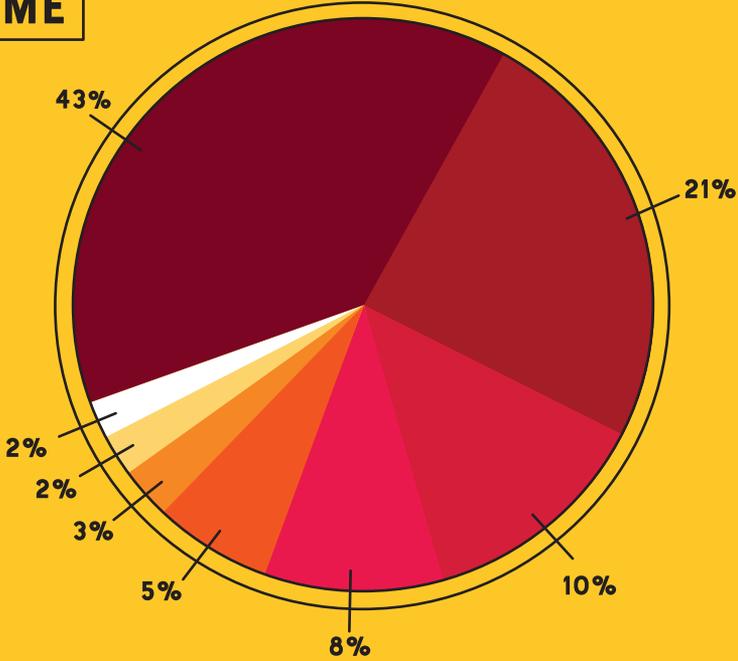
# \$495,000

GRANTED TO SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC EDUCATION PRACTICES

# FIRE FINANCIAL REPORT

*This report reflects income and expenses July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.  
The financial results for this fiscal year reflect our commitment to strategically increase FIRE’s support for inclusive education in our partner schools.  
Support to those schools grew 15% over the prior fiscal year.*

## INCOME



◆ CONTRIBUTIONS	\$58,001
◆ GRANTS	\$146,470
EVENTS (NET REVENUE):	
◆ FIRE BALL	\$301,299
◆ GOLF TOURNAMENT	\$65,972
◆ PURSES WITH PURPOSE	\$31,669
◆ CONFERENCE	\$45,351
◆ INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME	\$11,960
◆ AFFILIATE INCOME	\$14,500
◆ IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$18,000

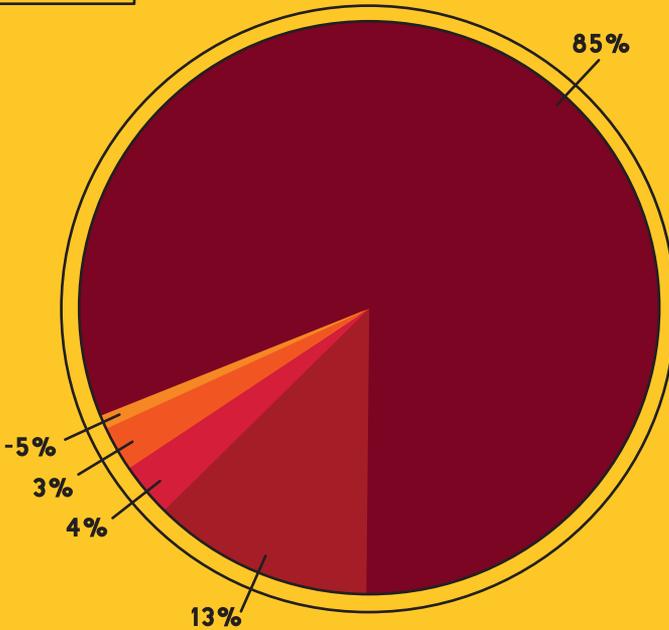
**TOTAL**

**\$693,221**

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## EXPENSES

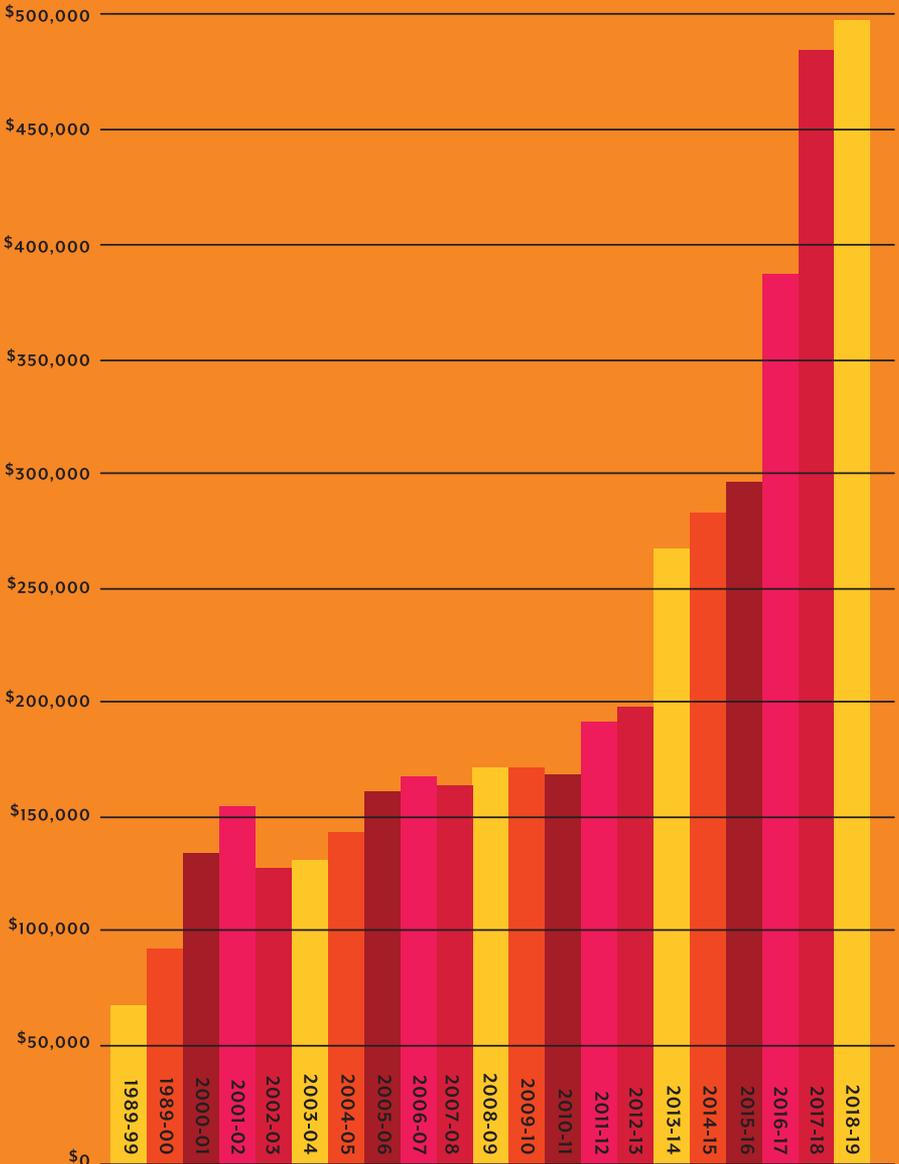


◆ PROGRAM EXPENSES (grants to schools and inclusion support)	\$589,286
◆ FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$30,395
◆ GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$92,923
◆ IN-KIND EXPENSE	\$18,000
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$730,603</b>
<hr/>	
◆ NET INCOME	\$(37,382)

# EDUCATION GRANTS

*FIRE grants to support inclusive Catholic education total over \$4.3 million during the past 20 years. (1998-99 to 2018-19)*

*During the past five years, the annual amount of funds granted by FIRE has increased 89%, from \$261,400 (2013-14) to \$495,000 (2018-19).*



# GATHER ROUND OUR FIRE

**VOLUNTEER.** We're always looking for folks to serve on event committees and to help out with various projects. What a great way to have some fun and meet people who are passionate about meeting kids' special needs. Contact Susan at 816.756.1858 / x252 or swilliams@diocesekcsj.org.

**JOIN.** Become a Friend of FIRE!  
Connect with parents and educators from schools throughout the Diocese. Be an ambassador for FIRE to your school. 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 online at [firefoundation.org](http://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.

**PRAY.** We ask for your prayers that God continue to bless FIRE's mission and open the hearts and minds of more leaders to embrace the blessings of inclusive Catholic education.

**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.

**INVITE.** If every one of our friends and supporters invited just one person to a FIRE event, we would double our support.

**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).

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

# FIRE FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS JULY 2018 – JULY 2019

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John Joyce  
PRESIDENT

Mary Madden  
VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Stuckey  
SECRETARY

Debbie Whittaker  
TREASURER

### BOARD MEMBERS

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Erin Duba  
Pat Fanning  
Buffy Gunter  
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Michele Markey  
Adriana Martinez

Erin Neuburger  
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Jenny Stasi  
Sean Switzer  
John Tyner  
Mark Ungashick  
Peggy Van Dyke  
Gretchen Vosburgh  
Lynn Hire, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## CONTACT US

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## FOLLOW US

 facebook.com/firedupinkc/

 twitter.com/FIREdupinKC

  
fire  
FOUNDATION

## SAVE THESE 2020 DATES

Join us as we *FUN*raise to support inclusive Catholic education.  
Keep your eye on your mailbox and social media for details as dates draw near.

EVENT  
POSTPONED

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Play with FIRE Golf Tournament at Swope Park Golf Course

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Purses with Purpose at the home of Ann & David Eckels

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

FIRE Ball 2020 at the new Loews Kansas City Hotel