

PSFTC



Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings from PSFTC!

I have had the good fortune of being part of the PSFTC board since 2015. I am continually impressed & pleased with all that is happening in the public schools within our Greater Lafayette area.

Our Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County is now entering our 39th year & we continue to raise money to award to our local educators. With the financial support from individuals & businesses in the Greater Lafayette community, we have raised over \$850,000 to area teachers through our Seeds for Excellence Grant program & will continue to raise even more! It is a blessing to everyone involved with our non-profit to see the hundreds of teachers & thousands of students & families who have benefited from projects funded by PSFTC.

This past year we had a successful 8th annual Cupcake Run/Walk for Public Education consisting of a fun-filled Kid's 80 yard dash, a 5K, & a 10K, filled with enthusiastic participants, volunteers, & spectators! Next we embarked on our Bake Off at the Greater Lafayette Career Academy with our area high school's culinary education students & a record crowd! We also had two excellent grant cycles full of applications & award winners in November of 2023 & May of 2024. It has been exciting to see those grants come to fruition!

My suggestion to you is – if you have not yet attended one of our events – visit our website or FB page & attend an event or contact us to set up a time to see what we are all about. I believe you will discover right away our daily intentions match our mission, which is to promote excellence in education & encourage classroom innovation by providing grants in academics & the arts to the teachers in the public schools in Tippecanoe County.

In conclusion, if you have been part of the PSFTC in the past, thank you. We appreciate all help whether it is in person or through financial contribution. We are always looking for additional supporters & donors too, so please share our name & mission with a friend, neighbor, or coworker. Thank you!

EMILY DOWNEY, PSFTC President

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Congratulations

TO THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS FOR WRITING AWARD-WINNING GRANT PROPOSALS!



L. BETH MOORE

Unleash the Ukes

Oakland Elementary

PATRICK MEADOR

Ukeleles for Fourth Grade

Edgelea Elementary

ALEX GREEN

Black History is Sew Interesting!

Vinton Elementary

AMANDA BECK

Growing Their German Skills Through an Expanded Free Choice Library

Harrison High School

JESSE KING

Urban Butterfly and Insect Garden

Oakland Academy

MACY SMITH

Energy Exploration Experts

Edgelea Elementary

Made possible with support from Tate & Lyle

DIANA REIF

TAM Merchandising Project

Jefferson High School

MATTHEW PENDLETON

Water Monitoring and Fresh Water Activity

Miller Elementary

Made possible with support from Primient

MATTHEW SKIBA

Jazz Band and Choral Department Partnership

McCutcheon High School

MIKE PINTO & ELLEN DEFREESE

Winchester & Everest Need a Home: A Barnyard Airbnb Classroom Learning Lab

Made possible with support from Tate & Lyle

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Fire and Rescue

Greater Lafayette Career Academy

MARIAH SCHAEFER / NATALIE KIDD

Homegrown Connections

McCutcheon High School

Made possible with support from Primient

KALISA BAKER

Enhancing Classroom Environment for Cognitive Clarity

Oakland Academy

OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
AND ENCOURAGE CLASSROOM INNOVATION IN THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY THROUGH OUR SEEDS FOR
EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM.

Grant Spotlights

MATTHEW PENDLETON: MILLER ELEMENTARY

Water Monitoring and Fresh Water Activity



This immersive project transported third graders to Camp Cullom in Frankfort, IN for a day filled with learning and exploring. Students conducted tests on two sources of water: Spring Creek, a free-flowing waterway, and an irrigation drainage tile which drained water from a nearby, low lying area. Students compared various data points from the samples including temperature and pH. In addition, they collected invertebrate samples and learned how to classify the specimens. Two final activities, fishing with cane poles (which proved to be a challenge with the free-flowing creek) and a scavenger hunt hike rounded out the day.



“Based upon the papers the children wrote after the trip and anecdotal evidence, this trip was without a doubt a success, as judged by the experiences the children wrote about, the overall enjoyment of, and engagement with, the activities, and ability to make an overall determination of the quality of the creek based upon the data collected. I look forward to leading another class on this adventure.” ~ Matt Pendleton

DIANA REIF: JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

TAM Merchandising Project

This project was a student-driven, real-world experience for 2nd and 3rd year fashion students to practice the marketing concept. After studying several marketing concepts, students chose to produce and market terrarium kits complete with handmade macrame holder, terrarium ball, dirt and accessories packaged in a hand-printed gift box. Through the semester long process, students produced and sold 40 kits. The sales allowed for seed money for the next year of students.



“While the students original plan was lofty and they did not quite meet the expected goal of product produced, it was a great real-world experience that could not have been achieved without the support of the grant. This was a new course with new curriculum and the grant gave me an opportunity to evaluate the supporting teacher and establish a plan for future course work that gives future students the same opportunity. In reflection, it was a very successful outcome.” ~ Diana Reif

**MARIAH SCHAEFER / NATALIE KIDD:
MCCUTCHEON HIGH SCHOOL**

**With Lisa Merryman at Woodland Elementary
Homegrown Connections**



Building connections through people and community is a valuable skill and lesson to learn. Through three grant funded activities spanning the 2024-25 school year, high school and kindergarten students will visit an apple orchard, collaborate to make food items from local businesses, host a demonstration by Primient and grow their own tomatoes and herbs to make pizza sauce. There are tangible benefits with these activities and many learning standards will be addressed as students study the life cycle of an apple tree, make apple turnovers, design a gingerbread house and grow plants and herbs. Most importantly, I want my students to learn to work with others, to learn integrity and empathy. Every day I see students who struggle with not only confidence, but the fear of failure and judgment. Students need boosts in confidence for their own wellbeing and mental health, and I feel these activities and the partnership with kindergarteners and community partners will do just that.



**LOOK WHAT
OUR DONORS
ACCOMPLISHED
IN FALL 2023 AND
SPRING 2024**



**13
PROJECTS
FUNDED**



**\$17,192
DOLLARS
AWARDED**



**62
TEACHERS
COLLABORATING**



**1,504
STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING**

Eight is Great for the Cupcake Run for Public Ed!

Our eighth annual Cupcake Run was held on September 17, 2023 at Cumberland Park in West Lafayette. Over 850 walkers, runners and volunteers participated and help raise \$24,500 for our Seeds for Excellence grant program. We are so proud of the success of our signature event that brings together classrooms, community and, of course, cupcakes!



Congratulations to West Lafayette Elementary School, 2023 school participation champions! Special thanks to Gigi's Cupcakes for baking and delivering over 900 cupcakes to the park!



A Recipe for Success



In January and February of 2024 culinary students at Greater Lafayette Career Academy, Harrison High School, Jefferson High School and McCutcheon High School spent time in the kitchen developing and testing original cupcake recipes for entry in the Cupcake Bake Off competition.

Representatives from Primient, a local producer of food and industrial ingredients made from plant-based, renewable sources, visited classrooms to share information about careers in food manufacturing. After helping students with a hands-on activity that had teams deconstruct and then reconstruct the sweetener used in Sprite, they left students with a task: develop a cupcake recipe using soda pop and candy as two of the ingredients.

Cupcake entries were presented at the Bake Off & Tasting Party on February 15 at GLCA. A record crowd attended and helped select the People's Choice winner: Harrison High School and their Shirley Temple cupcake.

A panel of culinary experts: Sierra Morin of Sierra's Sweet Shoppe, Emily Horn of Emily's Eats and Janice Buckles retired Purdue Nutrition Science Department evaluated all the entries and crowned Best in Show and a \$1,000 prize to **Greater Lafayette Career Academy First Year Team**. Their winning recipe was titled "Popping Strawberry Soda Cupcake" and included grape pop rock candy, strawberry soda and homemade macrons.



Want to try your hand at making them? The recipe card is provided to all PSFTC donors. Hop online today to make a donation and receive a recipe card.

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