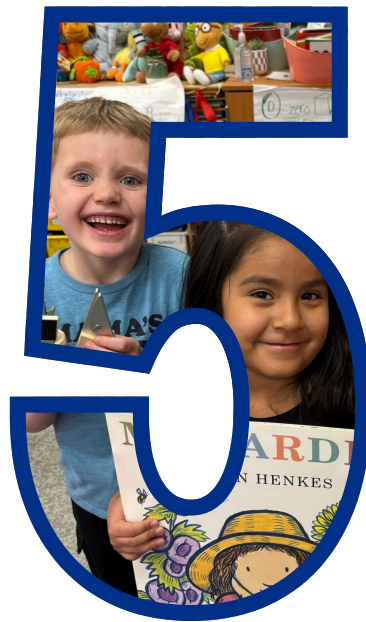




CLARK-PLEASANT EDUCATION FOUNDATION YEAR IN REVIEW





About CPEF

Investing in Students. Supporting Educators. Strengthening Community.

The Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation (CPEF) connects community support with meaningful opportunities for students and educators across Clark-Pleasant Community Schools.

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, CPEF has continued to grow its impact through innovative grants, intentional partnerships and community-driven events all designed to support student success today while investing in the future of our schools.

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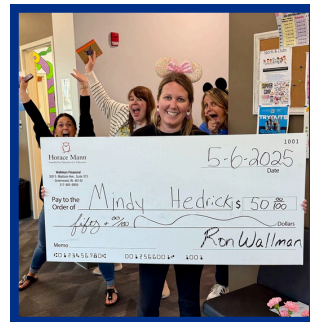
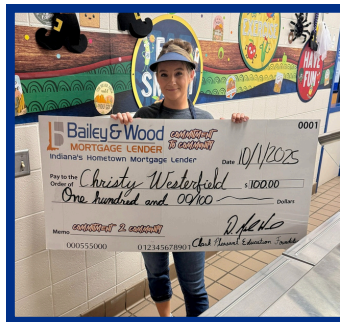


A Year of Impact

The 2025–2026 school year has been defined by growth, generosity and connection. With the support of community partners, donors, volunteers and educators, CPEF has:

- **Funded** innovative classroom projects across all grade levels.
- **Celebrated** educators and staff who make a difference every day.
- **Expanded** student opportunities through scholarships and leadership programs.
- **Strengthened** existing events while launching new community traditions.

This work continues throughout the year as CPEF introduces new initiatives and grows flourishing partnerships.



Grants: Ideas in Action

Classroom grants remain central to CPEF's mission. This year, educators brought forward ideas that increased engagement, supported diverse learners and connected learning to real-world experiences.

Grant-funded projects included:

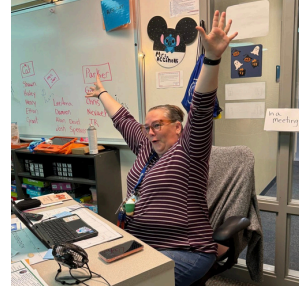
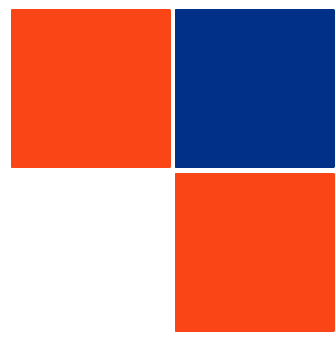
- Hands-on instructional tools supporting literacy, math and STEM.
- Sensory-friendly and inclusive classroom spaces.
- Experiential-learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- Career-connected and life-skills programming.

2025–2026 Grant Giving:

- **\$14,693.90** awarded in Fall Teacher Grants
- **\$6,131.55** awarded in additional grants through the Branigin Foundation
- **\$1,000** awarded in Spring Fine Arts Grant



Classroom Grants Awarded



Grant Impact Across Our Schools

Coffee Cart Career Skills – WCHS

Students in Amy Bennett’s class operate a staff coffee cart twice each week, learning real-world job skills, such as taking orders, handling money and delivering products.



Livestock Management Simulation – Agriculture Program

Animal Science students are able to practice livestock identification techniques using cow and pig ear simulation models, preparing them for real agricultural work.

Out of This World Problem Solving – Grassy Creek Elementary

Students became astronauts and engineers while solving space-themed math challenges and writing opinion pieces tied to their missions.



Wonders Engagement Project – Clark Elementary

Hands-on materials funded through a foundation grant help kindergarten students explore vocabulary and storytelling through interactive learning.

Board'om Busters – Whiteland Elementary

Contribution: \$125 per month

In celebration of its 125th anniversary, JCBank committed to donating \$125 each month to a deserving club or group within Clark-Pleasant Community Schools, creating ongoing support for student organizations.



Interactive Learning Activities – Whiteland Elementary

New games and activities help students practice academic skills through engaging, collaborative learning experiences.



Fuel the Experience Field Trips – Clark Elementary

Students explored their community through field trips to an Indy Fuel hockey game, an Indianapolis Indians baseball game and the historic Artcraft Theater.

Guiding Little Minds: Preparing the Educators of Tomorrow – Whiteland Community High School & Whiteland Elementary

Students in the Education Pathway program at Whiteland Community High School partnered with Pre-K students from Whiteland Elementary for a hands-on field trip to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. During the experience, high school students took on the role of teacher, guiding activities and supporting exploration, while younger students learned through interactive, hands-on discovery. This partnership provided meaningful real-world experience for future educators and created engaging learning opportunities beyond the classroom.



Grant Writing Success

Grant writing continues to be a key strategy for expanding the Foundation's impact while maximizing donor support.

2025–2026 Grant Writing Results

- **Grant Goal:** \$20,000
- **Total Secured:** \$40,054

Grants Awarded

- \$20,000 – **Branigin Foundation** (Teacher Grants & Professional Development)
- \$9,200 – **Endress + Hauser** (VEX Robotics)
- \$2,954 – **Forum Credit Union** (Unified eSports – Thomas Rohlf & Taylor Elamon)
- \$1,900 – **JCREMC** Operation Round-Up (WCHS Essential Skills CampTown)
- \$6,000 - **Johnson County Community Foundation** (Ruth Callon Center Library)

These grants directly support classroom innovation, student engagement and inclusive programming across the district.



Investing in Students' Futures



At the conclusion of the 2024–2025 school year, the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation awarded **\$34,000 in scholarships** to graduating seniors across the district. We are proud to share where those students are today.

Whiteland Alumni Scholarship

Supporting students who demonstrate growth and perseverance in their academic journey. Recipient **Jasmine Sandhu** is attending **Indiana University Indianapolis**.

Alaina Day Scholarship

Supporting students pursuing careers in medical and helping professions. Recipients **Reagan Hill (Trine University)** and **Lana Johnson (Indiana University Indianapolis)**, are preparing to make a difference in the lives of others.

Sharon Conner Scholarship

Investing in students pursuing four-year college pathways. Recipient **Jacob Witherington** is attending **University of Southern Indiana**.

James Sleighter Endowed Scholarship

Celebrating leadership, involvement, and academic commitment. Recipient **Gracie Serrano** is attending **Ivy Tech Community College**.

Michael L. McElwain and Donna J. (Esteb) Scholarship

Supporting careers in law enforcement, criminal justice and healthcare. Recipient **Lana Johnson** is attending **Indiana University Indianapolis**.

Doub Family Scholarship

Honoring a legacy of faith, family, hard work, integrity and responsibility. Recipient **Gracie Serrano** is attending **Ivy Tech Community College**.

Pathways to the Future Scholarship

Made possible through the generosity of our donors and community partners, this scholarship supports students pursuing four-year degrees and future career pathways. The recipients:

- **Espoir Emmanuel** – attending **Franklin College**
- **Haroon Mardanzi** – attending **Indiana University**

WROC (Whiteland Remembers Our Classmates) Scholarship

Honoring the memory of students lost too soon while supporting those who carry forward a spirit of resilience and community. Recipient **Annabelle White** is attending **Johns Hopkins University**.

Butch Zike Scholarship

Recognizing leadership, service and commitment to school and community. Recipient **Spencer Gillespie** is attending **University of Southern Indiana**.

Sharon Conner and Dr. James Shackelford Scholarship

Supporting students pursuing two-year or technical education pathways. Recipient **Lily Donica** is attending **Ivy Tech Community College**.

Kevin Starnes Memorial Scholarship

Honoring a legacy of friendship, hard work and service. Recipient **Freddie Bast** is attending **Vincennes University**.

Haveman Family Agricultural Scholarship

Investing in the future of agriculture. Recipient **Alexandra Thayer** is attending **Purdue University**.

Jerry Lasiter Scholarship

Supporting students who demonstrate compassion, community impact and a heart for serving others. Recipient **Jacob Witherington** is attending **University of Southern Indiana**. To date, \$59,967.07 has been raised toward the goal of \$100,000, bringing us closer to sustaining this meaningful opportunity for years to come.

Events That Build Community

Community events are a key way the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation brings people together while supporting students, educators and programs across the district. Each event is designed to create connection, visibility and meaningful impact.

Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship Pickleball Tournament

The Third Annual Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship Pickleball Challenge brought a record number of players and spectators together for a day of competition and community, all in support of the Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship.

The event generated a net profit of **\$12,076.28**, helping grow the fund to \$59,967.07 toward its \$100,000 goal.

Thank you to our sponsors: Innovative Casting Technologies, Grace United Methodist Church, Andrew Prince, Jessen Funeral Home, Ebeyer Realty, Koon Financial, Cana's Crew, Mutual Bank (Rick Brinkman), Dave McMillan, John Schilawski, Arete Purpose, Metro Printed Products, Brinkman Family and Bob Crowder.



Trunk-or-Treat

CPEF hosted its first Trunk-or-Treat event, welcoming hundreds of families for a night of candy, creativity and community connection. Local businesses, school groups and volunteers helped create a fun, family-friendly event while launching a new community tradition.

The event generated a net profit of **\$2,865.48**, supported by **Corient (Event Sponsor)** and **trunk participants** including MullnerFab, Chamberlain Chiropractic, Vet Guard Pest Solutions, JCFiber, The Mother/Daughter Team, Mathnasim, Brittany Gerald, Stover's Lawn Care, Petunia Blue, Pizza King Whiteland, Burlap 'N Hope, Bailey & Wood Insurance, Dry Duck Roofing, Child Time, Whiteland Baseball, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Resources of Hope, Silver Dragon Dojo, and additional support from school and community groups.



Harlem Wizards Game

The Harlem Wizards returned for a high-energy night of basketball and entertainment as Clark-Pleasant staff, students and community members took the court alongside the Wizards. The event brought families together for an evening of fun while supporting Foundation programs and initiatives.

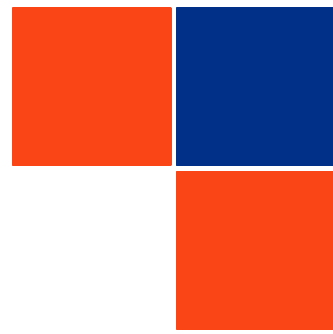
The event generated a net profit of **\$2,166.16**, with sponsorship support from **Bailey & Wood** and **Corient**.



Staff Volleyball Tournament

Clark-Pleasant staff members came together for a morning of friendly competition at the annual Staff Volleyball Tournament, with teams from across the district competing while supporting the Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship.

The event generated a net profit of **\$1,092.50**, with sponsorship support from **Warweg Irrigation**.



Kids Prom

Candyland Kids Prom took place on February 28 at Clark-Pleasant Middle School, bringing students, families and staff together for an evening of dancing, games and community fun.

The event raised **over \$16,000**, supported by sponsors **Bailey & Wood, Corient, Andrew Prince, PHD Carpet** and **Renewal by Andersen**, along with participation from Girl Scouts, Simply Sugar Boutique, Amy's Ice Paradise, Merchant Brothers, Celtic Pretzel, Marco's Pizza, Mother Daughter Team, CPMS Dance Team & Color Guard, NJHS, RCES PTO, Bouncers R Us, National Art Honor Society, and other community partners.



Blue Jeans Ball 2025

The Blue Jeans Ball on May 16, 2025, brought together community members, partners, and supporters for an evening dedicated to celebrating and supporting Clark-Pleasant students and educators.

The event generated a **net profit of \$27,679.64**, with sponsorships led by **Lancer + Associates Architecture, Skillman Corporation, Bailey & Wood, Corient, AssuredPartners, Rascal's Fun Zone, Dolen Tools, Ice Miller, Matt McGovern, JCBank, Ron Wallman/Horace Mann, Modern Woodmen, Asher Conveying, Benefield & Buss, Everwise, ClaimShield, Deaton's, Gorman & Bunch Orthodontics, Lewis Kappas, Stifel, Policy Analytics, Honey Grove, Endress + Hauser** and **Payroll Deduction** supporters.



Legacy Awards

The 2025 Legacy Awards brought the Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp. community together to honor **51 staff members** who made a lasting impact on graduating seniors. Nominated by students, each honoree received a personalized letter recognizing the role they played in helping students reach graduation.

The evening highlighted the meaningful relationships that define our schools and the lasting influence of those who support student success. The event was made possible by **Ron Wallman of Horace Mann**, with support from **A Cup Above** and **HandMade by Anne**.

Fundraising Campaigns & Initiatives

In addition to events, the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation relies on ongoing fundraising campaigns that provide consistent, sustainable support for students and educators throughout the year.

Payroll Deduction Campaign

Funds Raised in 25-26 School Year: **\$16,500+**

Payroll deduction allows staff members to support students year-round through automatic contributions. Funds raised support teacher grants, scholarships and recognition programs.



United Way Campaign

The United Way Campaign **exceeded its goal**, raising **\$1,627.07** through staff and community contributions. These funds support CPEF initiatives and help expand opportunities for students and educators across the district.

Major Saver Card Sales

The Major Saver campaign once again partnered with Clark-Pleasant schools to raise funds that benefit both individual school PTOs and the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation. A portion of each card sold went directly back to participating schools, while the remaining proceeds support teacher grants, student programs and scholarships across the district. This year's campaign generated the following profits for school PTOs: **BES – \$651.60, CES – \$25.20, CPELC – \$236.25, GCES – \$277.65, PCES – \$563.40, RCES – \$107.10 and WES – \$216.90**



Pacers Ticket Sales

Pacers ticket sales provided an opportunity for families and community members to support CPEF while enjoying a professional sporting event. The campaign generated **\$306**, contributing to student programs and initiatives across the district.

Amazon Shopping

Amazon Fullfilment centers donate much needed supplies such as food, clothes, household cleaning products, school supplies and more. These items are of **no cost** to our CPCSC Employees and Families.





JCBank 125th Anniversary Giving

In celebration of its 125th anniversary, JCBank committed to donating **\$125 each month** to student groups within Clark-Pleasant Community Schools, providing ongoing support for student involvement and activities.

This year's recipients included Best Buddies, Investment/Business Club, eSports, Spanish Honor Society and Punjabi Club, helping expand opportunities for students across the district.



Recognize Excellence

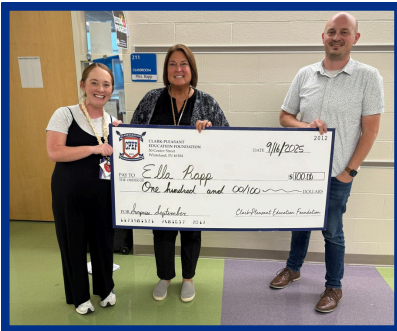
A **monthly recognition** initiative honoring staff members who go above and beyond in service to students and schools. This program reinforces appreciation and staff morale throughout the year.



Surprise September

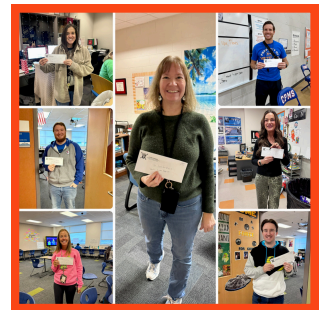
Throughout September, one educator or instructional assistant was randomly selected each week to receive a **\$100 surprise**, courtesy of **Andrew Prince**, recognizing their impact across the district.

This year's recipients included **Erica Russell (RCES)**, **Rupinder Gadri (CES)**, **Ella Rapp (PCES)** and **Beth Ryshavy (RCC K-5)**.



Holiday Grams

Holiday Grams provided an opportunity for staff and community members to recognize colleagues prior to winter break while supporting CPEF initiatives. The campaign generated **\$125** to support students and programs across the district.



Teacher Appreciation Week

With support from **Ron Wallman of Horace Mann**, CPEF celebrated educators during Teacher Appreciation Week by surprising staff across the district with special giveaways, highlighting appreciation for those who make a difference every day.

This year's honorees included **Scotty Kern (CPMS)**, **Nicole VanHorn (CES)**, Melinda Hedrick (PCES), **Mary Davey (BES)**, **Amy Bennett (WCHS)**, **Courtney Wigginton (RCES)**, **Rebekah Groeber (GCES)**, **Lauren Goode-Collins (CPELC)**, **Molly Mattax (WES)** and **Nicole Osborne (K-5 Alternative)**, with additional support from **Everwise**.





Year in Numbers

Grants Awarded to CPEF – \$40,054

- \$2,954 Forum Credit Union for WCHS Unified ESports Team
- \$1,900 JCREMC Operation Roundup for WCHS Essential Skills Camptown Experience
- \$4,600 Endress + Hauser for Vex Robotics
- \$20,000 Branigin Foundation for Teacher Grants/Professional Development
- \$6,000 Johnson County Community Foundation for Ruth Callon Center Library
- \$4,600 Johnson County Community Foundation from Endress + Hauser for Robotics

Major Event Revenue Raised by CPEF – \$28,513.27

- Trunk or Treat Community Event - \$2,865.48
- Harlem Wizards Basketball Game - \$2,252.97
- Holiday Grams - \$125
- Major Saver Discount Card Sales - \$6,934.50
- Pacer Ticket Sales - \$306
- Candyland Kids Prom - \$16,029.32
- **Blue Jeans Ball - Coming Soon!**

Additional Giving to CPEF - \$20,723.87


- Payroll Contributions – \$16,544.58
- United Way – \$1,627.07
- Kroger Rewards – \$2,552.22

Grants Paid Out by CPEF – \$23,500

- \$14,693.90 awarded in Fall Teacher Grants
- \$6,131.55 awarded in additional grants through the Branigin Foundation
- \$1,000 awarded in Spring Fine Arts Grant
- \$1,000 Katie's Helping Heart
- \$1,500 Youth Leadership Academy Leadership Johnson County

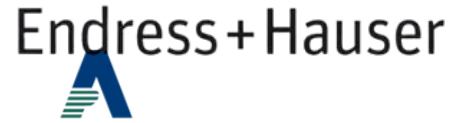
Scholarships Paid Out by CPEF – \$34,000 (To Be Awarded in May)

- Kevin Starnes Memorial Scholarship
- Pathways to the Future Scholarship including:
 - Doub Family Scholarship
 - Michael L. McElwain & Donna J. Esteb Scholarship
 - Haveman Family Agricultural Scholarship
 - Jerry Lasiter Scholarship Total Raised to Date \$59,911.07 of our \$100,000 Goal
- James Sleighter Scholarship
- Butch Zike Scholarship
- Alaina Day Memorial Scholarship
- Whiteland Alumni Scholarship
- Whiteland Remembers Our Classmates Scholarship
- Sharon Conner Scholarship
- Sharon Connor & Dr. James Shackelford Scholarship



CPEF Endowment Balance (as of 3/1/26): \$425,043.80

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Sharon Conner on behalf of the Teachers and Staff of Clark-Pleasant Community Schools

Keystone Group-Bob Crowder Cana's Crew Dave McMillan
Rick Brinkman-Mutual Savings Bank John Schilawski



If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or donor, please contact:

Jenny Zahm

317-535-5459

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