



EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
of Lake County

Powering Public Education

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025

WWW.EDFOUNDATIONLAKE.COM

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I was initially interested in joining the Education Foundation because my wife is a teacher and I believe that the educational system is a chief cornerstone of a community.

I have found that the impact that the Foundation makes on Lake County public schools is far greater than I could have ever imagined. From teacher grants - funding classroom projects - to giving out thousands annually in scholarships to well deserving students, every dollar donated furthers that cause.

The partnership that the Education Foundation has with Lake County Schools cannot be understated. The Foundation's dedicated team works hand in hand with key stakeholders in the school system to help further their mission and enhance educational opportunities for all students.

-Matthew Hackler

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For more than 37 years, the Education Foundation of Lake County, led by a Board of Directors and dedicated staff, has committed to serve as the connection between our community and Lake County Schools. Teachers, students, families, and community partners all play an integral role in creating strong schools and brighter futures. When we invest in classrooms, recognize our teachers & staff, fund innovative programs, and support student success, we strengthen our entire community. The challenges are real, but so are the opportunities. Together, we can provide the tools, encouragement, and resources every student needs to thrive. Last year's impact is a testament of our shared mission to enhance the quality of education in Lake County through strong partnerships and dedicated resources.

-Dr. Elizabeth M. Johnson



MATTHEW HACKLER
PRESIDENT OF BOARD
OF DIRECTORS



ELIZABETH M. JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS SNAPSHOT

5,833
FACULTY & STAFF

93%
GRADUATION RATE



41,894
STUDENT ENROLLMENT

A DISTRICT
GRADE
PER DOE

51
SCHOOLS



FOUNDATION INVESTED INITIATIVES

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION
DISTRICT SPECIAL PROJECTS
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
TEACHER RESOURCES
...AND MORE!



IMPACT IN ACTION

Empowering Educators Through Resources & Support

The Foundation allocated \$160,212 in 2024–25 for classroom support, program development, and instructional tools focused on literacy, financial literacy, CTE, and STEAM—prioritizing measurable impact and long-term benefit.

- \$46,440 was awarded through Classroom Grants to enhance learning experiences.

Apple-Mart, celebrating its 20th year, continues to reduce out-of-pocket costs by offering free classroom supplies to Lake County educators.

- In 2024–25, 959 visits were made to the three locations, with \$148,256 in supplies distributed—powered by community donations and volunteers.

Advancing Students' Futures

Scholarships, including renewable awards, support students beyond graduation and recognize academic achievement, leadership, service, and college goals. Additional initiatives promoted career exploration, financial literacy, and college access—empowering students to pursue brighter futures.

- The Foundation awarded \$322,562 in scholarships to the Class of 2025.
- \$79,900 in community-funded scholarships supported 63 students.
- 33 Take Stock in Children graduates received 2-Year Florida Prepaid College Plans valued at \$207,900.
- Volunteer mentors provided 1,088+ hours of one-on-one support and college readiness guidance.

Investing in Skills for Tomorrow's Workforce

For over 15 years, the Foundation has strengthened CTE programs that prepare students for college and careers through hands-on learning and industry certifications.

- In 2024–25, over \$65,000 supported Culinary Arts and Construction Academy programs at seven high schools.
- Investments included an EKG simulator, manikin trainers, and aviation and drone technology with real flight simulation.
- Five robotics teams received funding to compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship.
- At the 2024 Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Faire, 200+ students gained real-world skills.
- Additional funding supported Tavares Transition Training, including supplies to launch student-run businesses: Bulldog Baristas (coffee), Bulldog Bubbles (car wash), and Bulldog Bones (dog treats).
- In total, \$176,577 was invested through program funding, classroom grants, and equipment purchases.

TOTAL INVESTMENT
TO LAKE COUNTY
SCHOOLS 2024-2025
SCHOOL YEAR.

\$1,914,855

YOUR IMPACT



- Direct Teacher Support
- Direct Student Support
- Unrestricted Special Projects
- Employee Appreciation
- Senior Scholarships



408

APPLE-MART STORE
VOLUNTEER HOURS



\$176,577

INVESTED IN CTE PROGRAMS

Supporting Lake County Schools is the core of our mission. Every donation you make directly benefits students and teachers in our public school district. Our Board of Directors and staff members are all personal donors who are committed to our cause.



FOUNDATION EVENTS

Annual events play a significant role in advancing the Foundation's objectives. With the support of corporate partnerships, business owners, and dedicated donors, these events thrive and in turn we elevate our mission. There are various opportunities available, from volunteering to sponsorship, and we are eager to engage you in them.

Stepping Out For Education

Red for Ed - Community School Supply Drive

Scott A. Strong Memorial Golf Tournament & Clay Shoot

Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Faire

Ladies Fore Education

Volunteer Celebration

Scholars & Supporters Breakfast

A Celebration InspirED by Excellence

featuring LCS recognition for Teacher of the Year, Rookie Teacher of the Year & School-Related Employee of the Year

Lasting Legacy Celebration

featuring LCS recognition for retirees

YOU SHOULD
**JOIN
US!**

MEET THE TEAM

FOUNDATION STAFF

Dr. Elizabeth M. Johnson	<i>Executive Director</i>
Kacey Edmondson	<i>Donor Development Specialist</i>
Jennifer Grinnell	<i>Finance and Grant Specialist</i>
Kim Paulling	<i>Event Specialist</i>
Mandy Cooke	<i>Take Stock in Children</i>
Jennifer Julian	<i>Take Stock in Children</i>

2025-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Matt Hackler	<i>Edgewater Family Wealth</i>	2020
Vice President	Kasey Hobbs	<i>United Southern Bank</i>	2021
Secretary	Cindi Falanga	<i>Citizens First Bank</i>	2024
Treasurer	Rich Billings	<i>Citizens First Bank, ret.</i>	2017
Attorney to the Board	Kevin Stone	<i>Stone & Gerken, PA</i>	2017
Executive Advisor	Mike DeGraw	<i>DeGraw Properties, LLC</i>	2012
Executive Advisor	Loren Vasquez	<i>Skates Uhrik Vasquez Law</i>	2022
Past President	Lori Baker	<i>Premier Sotheby's International Realty</i>	2019
Jimmy Adams		<i>Electric Services Inc.</i>	2022
Rosanne Brandenburg		<i>Insight Credit Union</i>	1999
Sheriff Peyton Grinnell		<i>Lake County Sheriff's Office</i>	2017
Doris Jackson-Shazier		<i>Shazier Coaching and Consulting, LLC</i>	2025
Joe MacLaren		<i>Addition Financial</i>	2018
Don Marx		<i>Financial Services, ret.</i>	2021
Meeghan Moldof		<i>Office of the Public Defender</i>	2024
Kristy Parsons		<i>NFM Lending</i>	2014
Marc Robertz-Schwartz		<i>HHTV, LLC</i>	2022
Bobby Rhodes		<i>ECO Construction</i>	2017
B. E. Thompson		<i>LifeStream Behavioral Center</i>	2012
Cari Warnock		<i>CDW, LLC</i>	2025
Lee Woods		<i>Lee Woods Construction</i>	2020
Ex Officio	Diane Kornegay	<i>Lake County Schools Superintendent</i>	2017
Ex Officio	Dr. Stephanie Luke	<i>Lake County School Board</i>	2025
Ex Officio	Elisabeth Emery	<i>Lake County Education Association</i>	2025



YOU

**have the power to positively impact
students & teachers in Lake County!**



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GET
CONNECTED

352.326.1265



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