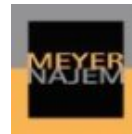


# Brownsburg Education Foundation Newsletter

May 2026

*Enhancing Education Together*

## 2026 Visionary Partners and Newsletter Sponsors



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**Thank you to our  
May Partner  
of the Month**



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# *Congratulations!*

# 2026 Brownsburg Education Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Elizabeth Lantrip - Four-year Renewable Scholarship  
Ifeoluwa Olokode - Four-year Renewable Scholarship

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Bella Balmaseda - Baron Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Clark Miller - BHS DECA Cadre Leadership Scholarship  
Aakash Shah - BHS DECA Cadre Scholarship  
Cale Heffernan - BHS DECA Member Scholarship  
Hailey Prather - BHS DECA Member Scholarship  
Rebecca Rogers - BHS DECA Member Scholarship  
Funmilayo Awoniyi - BHS Math Department Scholarship  
Jayson Cambisi - Deputy Jake Pickett Brownsburg Sertoma Memorial Scholarship  
Oluwapelumi Olatunbosun - Falcone Family Scholarship  
Kylie Larkey - Judy Acton Memorial Scholarship  
Logan Polen - Julie Bond Memorial Scholarship  
Hunter Sardinias - Maria West Memorial Scholarship  
Jocelyn Hornett - Nathan Gentry Memorial Scholarship  
Ella Crane - Peg Gordon Memorial Scholarship  
Andrew Pepmeier - R. E. Dimond Engineering Futures Scholarship  
Grace Eads - Staff Legacy Scholarship  
Zoe Newton - Student Legacy Scholarship

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Toluwanimi Ajewole	Spencer Gaylen	Delaney Miller
Chase Artmeier	Tyler Gregg	Joshua Nugent
Mary Bain	Benjamin Grout	Faith Opafola
Rosebiri Bhullar	Kellan Harless	Addison Preston
Michelle Bortey	Rachel Hylton	Mariah Rendell
Lillian Clark	Kaden Johnson	Ella Roesch
Brody Davis	Rylan Knouse	Elliott Smith
William Dixon	Zoey Kriech	Connor Thomas
Clark Finn	Victoria McCarty	Brooklee Wagers
Coraleen FitzRoy	Grace Mendenhall	Tikilya Zheng
	Nathaniel Mendenhall	

*\*Harris Academy recipients will be announced on May 27, 2026.*

BEF is proud to have awarded **\$84,000** in scholarships to the graduating class of 2026, thanks to your generous gifts! Visit our website soon to learn more about these students, their majors and where they will be attending post-secondary school. (*Harris Academy recipients will be announced in the June newsletter after their awards ceremony on May 27, 2026.*)

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## It's Teacher Appreciation Week!

Show your gratitude by honoring an educator or staff member with an [Apple for Excellence](#).

# LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT YEAR-END THANK YOU GIFT?



*Take a minute to tell a teacher or  
BCSC staff member  
that they made a difference.*



**Visit the BEF website  
to send an Apple for Excellence!**

**Write a message to any current BCSC teacher or staff member.**

**Make a donation to BEF to have a golden Apple for Excellence  
sent to this person with your message.**



**Make someone's day.**



**YOUR DONATIONS  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
**Adapted Materials for  
Early Childhood  
Development**  
*at the Brownsburg Early  
Childhood Center*

sponsored in part by





For the youngest learners in the Brownsburg Community Schools, play is not just fun, it is the primary way they develop foundational communication skills and begin to understand the world around them. But for preschool and Pre-K students with limited physical abilities, something as simple as activating a toy has historically required waiting for an adult to help, creating an invisible barrier between the child and the independent discovery that drives development. Thanks to the generous support of BEF donors, that barrier is coming down. A recent grant to the Early Childhood Center provided adapted toys and switches that allow students of all physical abilities to engage with learning materials entirely on their own; pressing a button, activating a toy, and experiencing the cause-and-effect moments that build critical thinking from the very beginning.



The impact of this grant reaches beyond individual accessibility. By incorporating adapted toys and materials into all preschool classrooms, not just those serving students with identified needs, BEF is helping Brownsburg's youngest learners grow up understanding that every child belongs at the table. When a three-year-old sees a classmate use a switch to light up a toy, inclusion becomes intuitive rather than instructed. Your giving makes that possible. These are not just toys on a shelf; they are tools that tell every child in the room that they are seen, capable, and an equal participant in the joy of learning.



Learn more about grants awarded for this school year [HERE](#).

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE  
BROWNSBURG EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO  
SUPPORT OTHER GRANT PROJECTS LIKE THIS?**

**DONATE NOW**

*Congratulations*  
to the 2026-2027 BEF Officers!



**Melissa Middleton**  
*President*



**Dale Sharpe**  
*President-elect*



**Dana Thomas**  
*Secretary*



**Kat Fenoglio**  
*Treasurer*



## **BHS Alumni Connection**

Join the growing Brownsburg High School alumni community in 2026! BEF is creating exciting ways for BHS graduates to reconnect and celebrate their shared legacy. Through new networking initiatives and community events, you'll have

opportunities to discover what your fellow Bulldogs are up to today. Help us build a comprehensive alumni directory by [sharing your current information](#) and spreading the word to other graduates. Together, we're strengthening the bonds that make the Brownsburg community special.

## Did You Know Bill Wilson?

### *BHS Class of 1965*

Sometimes a single phone call can change your mood, your minute, your week, or your life. We have all been there. This one changed mine.

The call came into the BEF office on an ordinary day. On the other end of the line was a robust, warm voice belonging to Phillip Wolfe, a Brownsburg High School graduate from the Class of 1965 who was looking to reconnect a piece of his friend's legacy with the family to which it belonged. Phil had found some old cassette tapes of original music recorded by his dear friend Bill Wilson, and he wanted to make sure they ended up in the right hands. [READ MORE HERE](#)



**Senior Cords painted by Bill**  
*photo courtesy of Gail Wilson Medcalf*

**Bill Wilson**  
*photo courtesy of Sonobeat Records*

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# Pioneer Camp

# is Filling Up!

Registration closes 5/31/2026

Learn more here!



**22 - 25 JUNE 2026**

Brownsburg Education Foundation

**Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm**

**\$200**

**Pioneer Camp**

Looking for a great summer experience?  
 JOIN US for hands-on fun and learning!  
 Spend a week as a pioneer child, participate in engaging activities, and make new friends!

Register at [www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org](http://www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org) by May 31, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

Camp takes place at 310 South Stadium Drive.  
 Open to all EXITING 3rd - 5th grade students.  
**LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 REGISTRANTS!**  
 Once registered, there are **NO REFUNDS.**  
Funds will support the SEF Long Cabin Renovation Project.

Cooking  
 Building  
 Insect Study  
 Fishing  
 Crafts  
 Games  
 Tree Identification  
 Music and Dancing  
 Gardening  
 Bird Watching  
 Sewing

All exiting 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are invited to attend!

Enjoy cooking, sewing, building, nature study, crafts, gardening and learning about life as an Indiana child in 1850.

**SO MUCH FUN!**

*"I love that it was hands-on and educational! My kids actually want to do chores and help with cooking at home now. They really loved the woodworking projects, fishing, and field trip to the farm!"*

*-parent of previous camp participants*

**CHIP IN FOR THE KIDS**



**BROWNSBURG EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

presented by **SUMMERS™**  
Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling



**June 12, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.**  
*at West Chase Golf Club*  
**REGISTER HERE**

# THANK YOU 2026 CHIP IN FOR THE KIDS PARTNERS

*Presenting Partner*



*Founding Partner*



*Purple Partners*



## WHITE PARTNERS



West Hospital



SWARTZOUT DENTAL  
317-482-3174



Hendricks Regional Health



**LUNCH PARTNER**



First Merchants.  
Helping you prosper

**BEVERAGE CART PARTNER**



## FOURSOME PARTNERS

Arni's Restaurant  
BrightView Landscapes  
Busenbark, Clark & Associates  
Delta Dental of Indiana  
Dennis Dawes - Hendricks County  
Commissioner  
Es2 Insurance  
First Merchants Bank  
Hendricks County CONNECT  
Hometown Insurance  
LeBlanc Nettles Law  
Safety Resources, Inc.

## HOLE PARTNERS

Citizens Bank  
Green Street Cleaners  
Hendricks Power Cooperative  
Indiana Members Credit Union  
Team Turley - Fairway Mortgage



## THE GALLERY

Heinekamp Financial Services  
Mowery Heating & Cooling

**Thank you, Brownsburg Meijer!**



A HUGE THANK YOU to our new Brownsburg neighbor, Meijer, for their generous support of education and the Brownsburg Community Schools through their gift to BEF! Welcome to the neighborhood – and thank you for investing in our kids from day one!

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A purple-themed advertisement for "The Bulldog Spirit Shop". On the left, large white text reads "20% OF EVERY PURCHASE GOES TO THE BROWNSBURG EDUCATION FOUNDATION". To the right is the shop's logo, which includes a bulldog head and a megaphone with the words "The Bulldog SPIRIT SHOP". Below the logo are three people wearing school spirit apparel: a man in a purple t-shirt, a woman in a black t-shirt, and a woman in a grey hoodie. At the bottom, it says "TEES 🐾 HOODIES 🐾 HEADWEAR 🐾 GIFTS WWW.THEBULLDOGSPRITESHOP.COM".

**THANK YOU, Bulldog Spirit Shop, for donating a portion of your proceeds to BEF YEAR-ROUND!!**  
**Check out all of their great items here:**  
**<https://thebulldogspiritshop.com/>**

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CLUB

Thank you to these donors who have committed to recurring monthly support for BEF! Members of the 1987 Club also receive monthly updates about the impact of their gifts as well as special invitations to events.

## 1987 CLUB MEMBERS

*Bill and Rene Behrend*

*Joel and Tara Casey*

*Jenny Davidson*

*Bob and Becky Duncan*

*Tarah Fettig*

*John Feister*

*Amber Hageman*

*Jamie Hall*

*Brogan Hayden*

*Todd and Theresa Jackson*

*HaiQuynh Jamison*

*Jamie Keeler*

*Chad and Melissa Middleton*

*Pamela Miller*

*Brian and Laura Petraits*

*Tim and Denise Zahrn*

*Andrew and Alicia Zeller*

**Click Here to Join The 1987 Club Now!**

*Check the box next to  
"Show my support by making this a monthly donation".*

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[Donate to the Essentials for Excellence Fund Here](#)

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## Strategic Ways to Support Brownsburg Students

At the Brownsburg Education Foundation, we're dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for students in our community. Your generosity makes it possible to fund classroom grants, scholarships, and innovative programs that empower students and teachers alike. While many supporters contribute through traditional donations, there are several strategic giving options that can maximize your impact while providing potential tax advantages.

### **Donate Appreciated Assets**

Contributing stocks, bonds, or other appreciated securities allows you to support Brownsburg students while potentially avoiding capital gains tax. You can also claim a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the asset, making your gift work harder for both you and our students.

### **Grant from Your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)**

If you have a donor-advised fund, recommending a grant to the Brownsburg Education Foundation is a simple and efficient way to invest in local education. You may also consider naming BEF as a beneficiary of your DAF to create lasting educational impact for generations of Brownsburg students.

### **Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**

Individuals age 70½ or older can direct up to \$108,000 annually from their IRA directly to qualified charities like the Brownsburg Education Foundation. This QCD counts toward your required

minimum distribution while excluding the amount from your taxable income—a win for you and for our students.

### **Leave a Legacy Through Estate Planning**

Including the Brownsburg Education Foundation in your will, trust, or estate plan creates a lasting legacy of educational excellence in our community. Your planned gift ensures that future generations of Brownsburg students will benefit from enhanced learning opportunities.

*However you choose to give—whether through an immediate donation, investment assets, or future estate plans—your support directly impacts the quality of education in Brownsburg. For more information about strategic giving options, please contact Rene Behrend at [renebehrend@brownsburg.k12.in.us](mailto:renebehrend@brownsburg.k12.in.us) or 317-852-1056.*

*Please consult your tax or financial advisor to understand how your charitable contribution may benefit you. The Brownsburg Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID: 31-1228189.*

