

60 Years of Investing in Students. Strengthening Carmel.

CARMEL EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

2025 - 2026 Impact Report

Letter from the CEO

Investing in our *students*.
Uplifting our *community*.

Dear Carmel Community,

For 60 years, Carmel Education Foundation has been built on a simple idea: when our schools and community come together, students benefit.

That idea feels just as relevant today as it did in 1966. The opportunities - and the needs - of our students continue to change. This year, CEF helped educators bring new ideas to life, connected thousands of students with real-world experiences, invested in students taking their next steps after graduation, and helped remove barriers to critical support and services.

But the numbers on these pages tell only part of the story. Behind each one is a student who discovered something new, an educator who had the resources to try an idea, a family who received support when they needed it, or a community member who chose to invest in what comes next.

As we celebrate 60 years, I am incredibly grateful for all who have shaped CEF - and even more excited about where we go from here. Our role is to listen, connect resources with opportunity, and help our community invest in the success of every Carmel Clay student.

Thank you for being part of that work.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Penix

Jennifer Penix
Chief Executive Officer
jpenix1@ccs.k12.in.us



Jennifer Penix

YEAR AT A GLANCE

$280,000
invested in students and schools

111
scholarships awarded totalling
$167,000

16,032
student experiences through CEF supported programs

$30,000
awarded through 20 Great Idea and 14 Goblin grants

52
company partners engaged

230
volunteers

CARMEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

GREAT IDEA GRANT PROGRAM

Classroom Readiness

CEF grants turn ideas into impact by funding educators, students, and schools across Carmel Clay Schools.

773	Students Benefit from a Grant
34	Great Idea & Goblin Grants Awarded
$30,000	Awarded
14	Schools Received Grants
43	Educators Involved



3rd Grade Teacher
West Clay Elementary

"One of my students came to our school from another country at the beginning of the year. He was the most excited when our grant-funded resources were delivered from CEF. He asked questions and wanted to use them daily. He ended up exiting the Multi Language Learner (MLL) program by the end of the year and his confidence has soared!"

Student-Led Grants

Student-Led Grants empower students to turn their ideas into action. With CEF support and an educator mentor, students lead projects that create meaningful change in their schools and community.

Investing in What's Next

Scholarships

For generations, Carmel families, educators, businesses and community leaders have invested in students through CEF scholarships. These awards recognize achievement, character, service, talent and perseverance - while helping students take their next step.

CARMEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

$167,000
Awarded

111
Scholarships

449
Applications

40%
Of the Senior Class Applied



Community Partners

CEF Community Partners invest in our mission year-round, supporting student opportunities while receiving recognition across CEF programs, events, and communications.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CIRCLE

FANNING HOWEY

CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION

City of Carmel
Ed Martin Automotive Group
Skillman Corporation
State Bank

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Summers Plumbing Heating & Cooling
Everwise Foundation

DEAN'S LIST

Duke Energy I Carmel Rotary I Dean Dorton
CoasterStone/Buttons Galore

HONOR ROLL

Fineline Printing I Church Church Hittle & Antrim
Current in Carmel I Indie Coffee Roasters

FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION

Clay Terrace I Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation
Kroger Gardis & Regas, LLP I PNC

Real World Readiness

CEF connects classroom learning with experiences, employers and skills that help students imagine—and prepare for—what comes next.



JA BizTown

1,240

5th Grade Students

49

Teachers

11

Schools

225

Parent and Community Volunteers



CEF Business Challenge

400

Students Participated

5

Finalists

$3,000

Awarded in Partnership with State Bank



JA CareerIgnite

83

Companies

43

Carmel High School Teachers

3,000+

Students

Why is investing in students' preparation for life beyond the classroom important to the future of our community?

"When students have opportunities to solve problems, collaborate and turn their ideas into action, they develop skills that extend far beyond the classroom. These experiences prepare confident, capable young people to pursue their goals and contribute to the future of our workforce and community."



Andy Pinegar
President, State Bank
& CEF Board Member

Access, Belonging & Student Support

Joseph Maley Foundation



Through CEF's partnership with Joseph Maley Foundation, Disability Awareness programming helps students build empathy, respect and understanding through engaging, age-appropriate experiences. **The result is stronger school communities where every student has the opportunity to feel valued and included.**

10,811 Students participated in Disability Awareness programming

689 Educators continued related lessons in their classrooms

Rise and Grow

Rise & Grow removes financial barriers that can prevent Carmel Clay students from accessing needed mental and behavioral health care, helping students receive timely support so they can thrive at school, at home, and in their community.



61	Students and Families Supported
$24,000	In Financial Assistance
412	Therapy Sessions
~400%	Growth in Utilization in from Prior Year

Rise and Grow is one of our fastest growing areas of support.

Community Powers the Impact

1966 Society

Created in celebration of CEF's 60th anniversary, the 1966 Society honors our history while building the philanthropic support that will carry our mission into the next 60 years.



The Bradford-Detmer Family

"We believe investing in today's students - ensuring they lead with dignity, respect, and integrity - is one of the most meaningful ways we can shape tomorrow's leaders."

Andrew Bradford
Bradford Consulting



1966 Society
CARMEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ghosts and Goblins 1M/5K



Ghosts & Goblins brings students, families, educators, businesses and neighbors together for one of Carmel's favorite traditions - turning one morning of community fun into year-round opportunities for Carmel Clay students.

100%	**School participation**
1,997	**Registrants**
$60,000	**Funds raised**



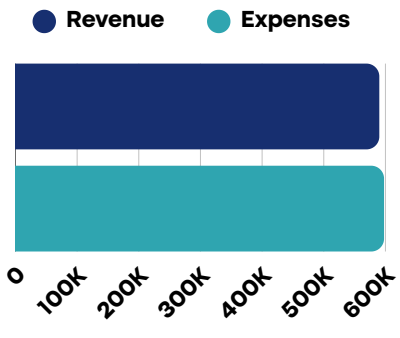
2025
GHOSTS & GOBLINS
1M/5K | WALK/RUN

The impact returns to our schools through CEF grants, programs and student opportunities. Through Goblin Grants, a portion of that impact goes directly back into Carmel Clay schools.

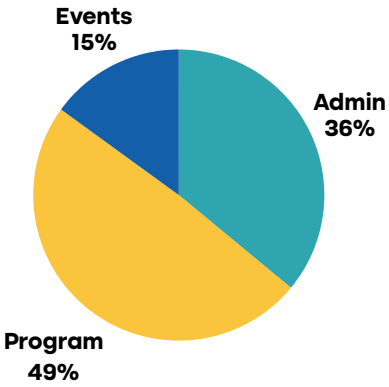
Stewardship & Leadership

CEF's FY26 financials reflect our continued commitment to thoughtful stewardship. With active Finance Committee oversight, we manage resources responsibly while balancing current investments with the long-term sustainability of our mission.

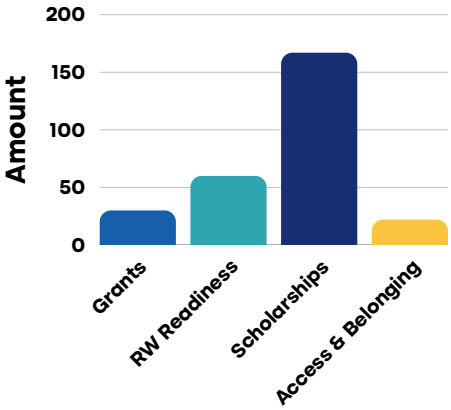
Revenue & Expense
(Thousand $)



Expense Allocation



Program Investment
(Thousand $)



GET INVOLVED

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Help shape CEF's work by joining a committee, connecting with others, and sharing your skills to make an impact.

VOLUNTEER

Support our programs, help at special events, assist with projects, and bring fresh ideas to life.

SHARE & CONNECT

Help us connect with donors and community partners who share our commitment to students and educators.

DONATE

Support from individuals, businesses, and grant partners brings CEF programs and opportunities to life.

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Kristine Amick
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Stacey Pomeroy
Peter Primason*
Maya Syzmanski
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*Executive Board Member

Our Staff

Chief Executive Officer — Jennifer Penix
Program Manager — Stacey Hetrick
Office Administrator — Jenny Redmon
Bookkeeper — Angie McIntyre
CHS Intern — Manvi Musunuru

Report designed and built by Emerson Barrett, Summer Intern.

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