



EDUCATION FOUNDATION
OF
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Annual Report

Thank You for Your Support!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we want to thank you!

Because of your generous gifts, we are celebrating 25 years of service to students and teachers in Indian River County. Thanks to your contributions we are able to provide meaningful services and programs that develop students academically, socially and emotionally, as well as provide professional development opportunities to those we teach and mentor our students.

In this Annual Report, we are proud to share our success stories. We are also excited to share with you our new initiative, “The Education Foundation of Indian River County Endowment Fund.” This fund is helping meet the growing educational needs in our community. Our partnership is making a tremendous impact on the students of Indian River County and we couldn’t be more excited.

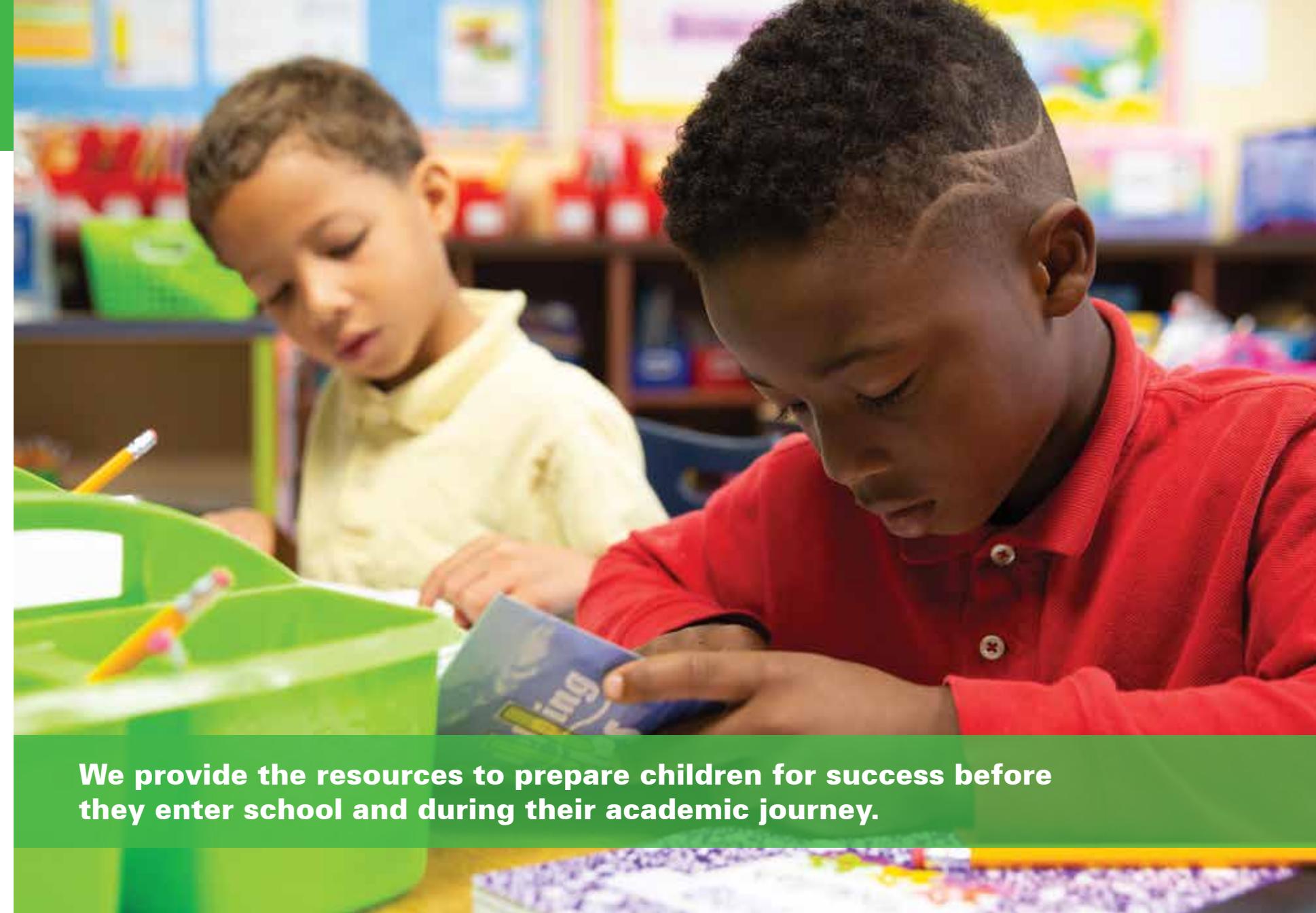
Sincerely,



Cathy Filusch, Board President



Cynthia Falardeau, Executive Director



We provide the resources to prepare children for success before they enter school and during their academic journey.

About Us

Vision Statement:

We seek to support students' opportunities to achieve school success and to develop the skills needed to meet the challenges of higher education or the pursuit of vocational interests.

Mission Statement:

The Education Foundation of Indian River County funds school programs and services that support opportunities for students to achieve academic success in grades Pre-K through 12th grades.

History:

Founded in 1991 by Mrs. Marion Block, Miss Alma Lee Loy and Mr. Dan Richardson, the Education Foundation of Indian River County, Inc. was created as a non-profit organization to provide funding to help meet academic needs, provide essential services and offer enrichment opportunities for students in Indian River County.

The founding members realized the importance of collaboration between schools, business partners and private philanthropists. In other words, they knew it takes the whole community to have healthy, happy, well-educated children. Proudly for more than 25 years we have been building on their vision.



We invest in schools and classrooms by providing grant funding for projects that make a meaningful impact and are results-driven.

Algebra Counts 2

Algebra Counts 2 is a professional development program that gives teachers opportunities to enhance their teaching of mathematics. It supports the important goal of the School District of Indian River County to identify where student achievement falls short in mathematics. Do you know that a student can't graduate from high school unless they pass the Algebra I end-of-course exam?

This program provides teachers with research-based classes and side-by-side coaching instruction. It allows them to collaborate and reflect on best classroom practices.

786

In 2017, this program impacted 786 8th-grade students. Close to 44% of them were performing at levels 3-5 (3 satisfactory, 4 proficient and 5 mastery) on the algebra test.

In 2018 with the help of this program, Indian River County went from having 49% of students passing the algebra exam to 62%. That's above the state average!

62%

We provide teachers with professional development, which in turn helps students to achieve their highest goals.



STEP into Kindergarten (Summer Transition Enrichment Program)

We fund this program to prepare four and five-year-old children for kindergarten. Without our involvement, the program could only serve two classrooms of children for two weeks during the summer. Through partnerships with several donors and funding organizations, we raise nearly \$240,000 annually for this program which helps 30% of our county's children who are from economically disadvantaged families, teaching them skills so that they will feel confident when entering kindergarten. To date, we have impacted over 1,000 children.

Julie Wright, STEP into K teacher, gives this testimony on the success of this program:

“This year, seven of my students participated in STEP into K before they entered my kindergarten class. They were so proud to be the “experts” at the beginning of the year since they already knew some of the classroom routines and procedures! Thanks again for your support! I could not do this without you!”

30%

We serve 30% of the entering Kindergarten Title I student population annually.

The program has increased readiness rates to 80%.

80%

We provide a six-week, evidence-based program that bridges the transition from Voluntary Pre-K to Kindergarten.



Indian River Regional Science & Engineering Fair

Since 1992, we have been proud to host and coordinate the Annual Indian River County Indian River Regional Science & Engineering Fair (IRRSEF) which involves more than 200 local volunteers, professionals and research scientists who mentor students and review science projects. Children from public and private schools participate in scientific research and discovery which reinforces math, reading, writing, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to create projects that illustrate their process and their results.

Each individual school hosts their own science fair between November and December. On the last Saturday in January, the top finalist of each school advances to the School District Fair. At this fair competition is rigorous as students in the IRRSEF are competing for over \$1 million in college scholarships and academic awards. The judges select 20 of the best projects to advance to the State of Florida Science & Engineering Fair and one project to advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

10,000

10,000 Indian River County children participate in school-based fairs.

The top 550 compete for over \$1 million in college scholarships and awards at the state fair.

550



We develop partnerships in the community to increase programs and funding to schools, students and teachers that would otherwise not be available.

Building Transition Skills at the Wabasso School

Preparing all students for success is our mission. This goal is evident at the Wabasso School, a K-12 school for children with special needs.

The school is also an educational center that prepares young adults (ages 18-22) with transitional skills to live independently and gain employment. Our donors have funded several projects at the Wabasso School. One such project that has had a huge impact is the Room of Engaging Ability Learning (R.E.A.L. Lab) – an area with a fully equipped kitchen, living room and laundry room. The Lab also includes three functioning businesses: a sign shop, laundry service, and puppy pastry bakery.

Today, with a new passenger van, students can take the skills they learn in the Lab and practice them in a real-world setting.

56

Each of the 56 Wabasso School students benefit.

100% of students that participated learned independent living skills.

100



We increase student independence in academic, residential and vocational settings for children with special needs.

Sneaker Exchange and Vision for Reading

We are proud to have hosted and coordinated the Sneaker Exchange program for the past 16 years. We provide economically disadvantaged children a pair of durable sneakers to help them participate in all school activities. They wear their new shoes with comfort and pride! We have 26 scheduled exchanges for elementary students at the Payless Shoe Source store every September through May. Secondary students receive vouchers that are redeemable for a new pair of sneakers. School coordinators help identify children in need.

We also coordinate another successful program, Vision for Reading. We help provide vision screenings and glasses for those students who cannot afford them. All of this is made possible from generous donor contributions.

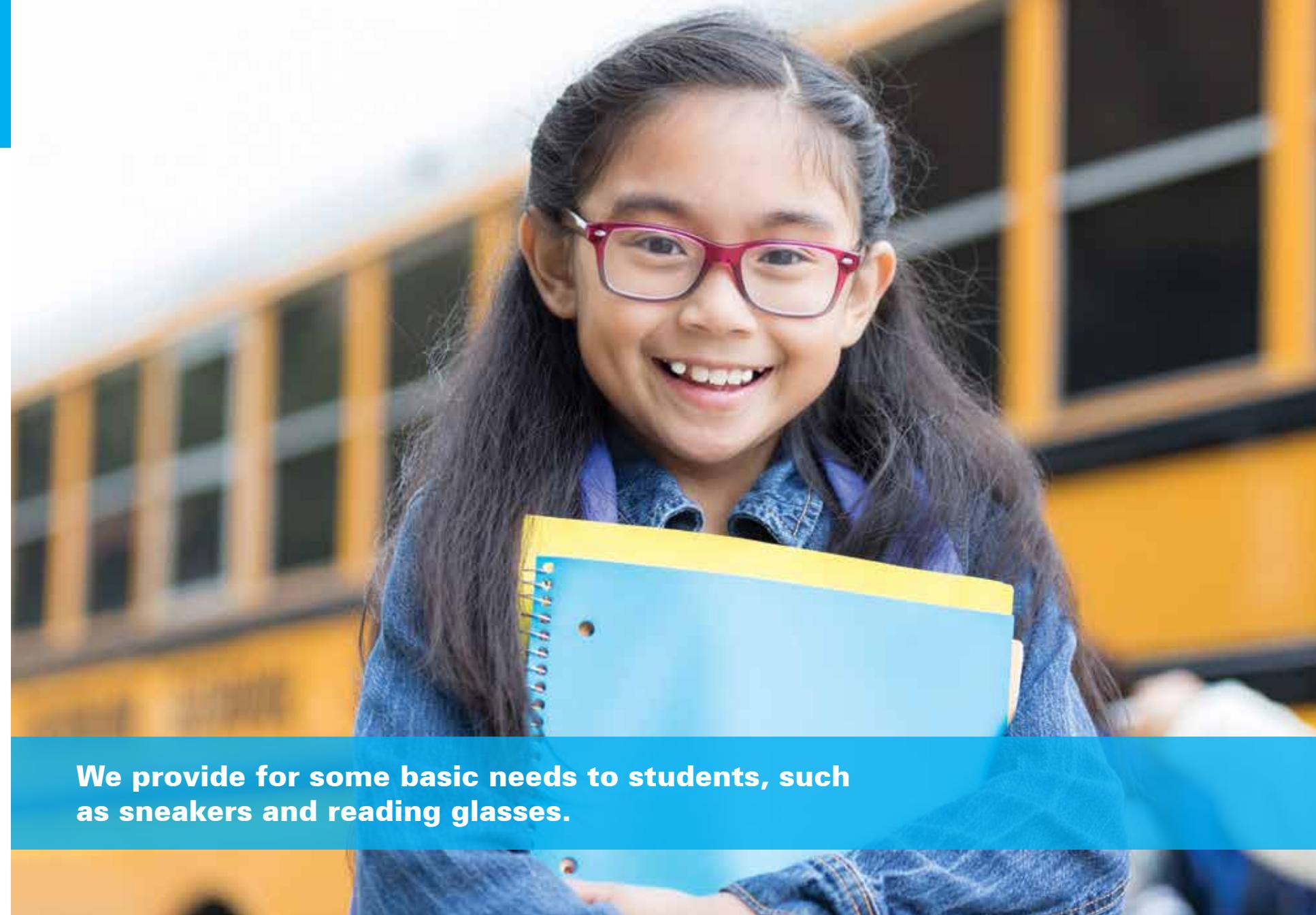
1,500

**1,500 pairs of sneakers (annually)
keep children on a path of learning
with renewed self-confidence.**

**The vision screening devices
funded by the Foundation
screen every child in the
school district.**

17,000

**We provide for some basic needs to students, such
as sneakers and reading glasses.**



High-Impact Innovation Grants

Each year we provide the opportunity for teachers to apply for funding to help them initiate innovative programs for their students.

- **School culture climate (social and emotional supports)**
- **Secondary science (8th and 9th Biology)**
- **Math (K-12th)**
- **Reading (K-12th)**

The process to attain a grant is rigorous. Teachers and administrators submit a written proposal outlining research-based, well documented and sustainable projects. The best projects are invited to a final round to present their projects to a panel of board members and educators. If they are awarded a grant, classroom visits, reports and results are required to ensure the grant money is used for the positive changes expected.

30,000

We distribute at least \$30,000 each year that funds projects that address the prioritized needs of our school district.



We provide an entrepreneurial opportunity for school teams to pilot an innovative concept that advances student achievement.

Our New Endowment

We are thrilled to announce that the Frances and Ronald Jaffe Foundation, along with another anonymous donor, has pledged to support our new endowment.

An investment in the Education Foundation of Indian River County is an investment in posterity:

Without the Vision for Reading program, an aspiring architect might lose sight of her goals.

Without Algebra Counts 2, a budding baker might put his eggs in the wrong basket.

Without the R.E.A.L. Lab, a promising printmaker might not get the picture.

Without Planting the Seeds of Knowledge, a blossoming agriculturist might twiddle her green thumb.

Without the Science Fair, a prospective pathologist might feel out of sorts.

Without the Sneaker Exchange, a future fitness trainer might be out of his league.

And without Integrating Robotics into Physics, an eager engineer might blow a fuse.

This is why we decided our family’s private non-operating foundation — the Frances and Ronald Jaffe Foundation — will be dedicated to supporting the Education Foundation of Indian River County endowment in perpetuity.

Founded in 1999, the Jaffe Foundation was imagined by Ronald Jaffe, immensely missed father and grandfather, while vacationing with his wife, Fran (more affectionately known to us as Granny Franny).

She recalls:

“We were on a walk, and Grandpa said to me out of nowhere, ‘I’d like to start a scholarship foundation,’ and I said, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me! OK, let’s do it.’”

While the idea was introduced as a casual comment, it only made sense. One of their daughters was a superlative school psychologist; their daughter-in-law was president of the Parents Association and later became a prominent elementary school educator; their son-in-law was an adored art teacher and department director; and their youngest daughter was on the board of the EF-IRC.

All four of their grandchildren were enrolled in schools in Indian River County, and one advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair after winning the EF-IRC competition. Two others went on to pursue careers in education: a grandson who teaches autistic children in a residential school, and a granddaughter who worked as an education reporter.

But aside from serving as a way to give back to the community we’ve been a part of since 1969, the Jaffe foundation also provides a path for us to give forward. For posterity.

—The Alexander, Jaffe and Kornicks Families



Opening Doors to Student Success

Volunteers:

We take pride in involving many people in the community who volunteer to donate valuable time and expertise. Marion Manchester shares why she enjoys volunteer for us.

“Volunteering is a great way to greet and meet like-minded people and to get that wonderful feeling you can only get from giving to others. It’s also a great way to gain perspective on your life when you see so many kids and families with needs in your own community. It’s a real eye-opener! I literally get goosebumps by seeing the looks on kids’ faces when they get a new pair of sneakers for the first time. But having the chance to see future scientists be so excited to tell me and my fellow judges about their projects at the Science Fair is a close second! If you share our passion for children and education, please consider joining our team of volunteers.”

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION
OF
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Please visit our website for financial data and program updates.

Post Office Box 7046 Vero Beach, Florida 32961 | 772.564.0034 | edfoundationirc.org