



A Team of Their Own

Bosse teacher and coach, Shane Burkhart, had a wonderful dream: launching a basketball feeder traveling team for middle school boys in the Bosse high school district. Middle school student participation in athletics has increased almost 31% across EVSC over the past few years, and the number of EVSC student athletes who have earned Academic All City and Academic All State accolades is higher now than in the past two decades. "Students from Lodge, Washington, and Glenwood Leadership Academy do not often get the chance to play in travel basketball due to financial barriers. The cost of uniforms, tournament fees, and other items is a challenge," says Shane. "We wanted to open up new opportunities for students, but knew we would need to build it from scratch."

Shane's idea came to life this past fall with support from EVSC Athletics and an educator grant from the EVSC Foundation. Funding for coaches, uniforms, equipment, and tournament fees supported three traveling teams, one for each middle school grade. Last fall, 13 students participated on each team. "This opportunity was truly magical for us in so many ways," says Shane. "We did much better than expected. Students had a great time, and the 7th grade team even won a tournament!" The feeder program gives students earlier exposure to the sport and better preparation to play basketball in high school, building a stronger pipeline for Bosse. Beyond health benefits, participation encouraged students to apply themselves academically so they could continue to qualify for the team.

Now Shane's dreaming about the future, hoping to sustain the program for years to come. "We know these programs cost about \$10,000 - \$12,000 a year. We rely on other sponsors and external supporters to keep it going", comments Shane. "We have enough to get started, but will need our community to help us with funding going forward. We know what we invest in them now helps them succeed personally, and this in turn makes our community a better place." Did you play sports in school? Are you passionate about ensuring all students enjoy the incredible experiences available to them? You can make a difference in the lives of our students today! Partner with us to support students at Lodge, Glenwood, and Washington playing basketball and earning good grades. You can donate online at evscfoundation.org/give-today/ or mail a check to the EVSC Foundation (951 Walnut Street, Evansville, IN 47713).

Celebrating the EVSC Hall of Fame Class of 2022

The EVSC Hall of Fame honors distinguished individuals who exemplify outstanding achievement in their life's work and who have made a positive impact on public education in the greater community. From arts, music journalism, healthcare, the Class of 2022 showcases a star-studded group of alumni, educators, and public education supporters. Proceeds from the event help us support students and educators across EVSC. Join us for An Evening to Remember this March 8, 2023 at the Double Tree Hotel downtown Evansville and help us make a difference in students' lives! Visit us at evscfoundation.org/halloffame/ to sponsor a table and purchase tickets.





You Want Me to Organize an Underwear WHAT?

Hangers continues to be busy, serving our students and our community. The goal of Hangers is to increase school attendance by providing students in the EVSC with

uniforms, winter coats, shoes, hygiene products and everyday clothing they need to feel confident to attend school. Since the beginning of this school year in August, we have served over 1,800 students with their clothing and hygiene needs. This includes 40 students who selected dresses, shoes, handbags, jewelry, suits, shirts, ties, shoes and more during our annual Winter dance dress/suit giveaway. We estimate this program saved our students nearly \$20,000! It also allows students to attend the dance when they may have not considered attending if they had to purchase these items.

This spring semester, we anticipate serving another 1,000 students with their clothing and hygiene needs, but we cannot do it without your support.

Currently we have some continuing needs: hygiene products like shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and bars of soap. We also need school uniforms (polo shirts and khaki pants) and underwear sizes 5t to 5XL for boys and girls. Would you like to host a hygiene or underwear drive at your church, school or business? Contact Dave Schutte, Director of Hangers at dave@evscfoundation.org.

New Partners Mean New Ways To Serve

Teacher Locker is thrilled to welcome two new partners, Ascension St. Vincent and Reckitt, to help build a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) area to support our educators and classrooms across the corporation. These organizations understand the importance of STEAM education in our schools. The new area will be named the "Ascension St. Vincent STEAM Area". Funds donated will be used to purchase supplies like beakers, pipets, test tubes, chart paper, science equipment and so much more. Our partnerships with Ascension St. Vincent and Reckitt will ultimately enhance STEAM teaching and provide additional access to hands-on learning for all of our students, regardless of economic background. Learn more about

Teacher Locker, including dates and times when teachers can go get free supplies and sign up to volunteer at evscfoundation.org/teacher-locker/. Do you have office or school supplies to donate? Email us at teacherlockerevv@gmail.com.



 Ascension St. Vincent

 reckitt

President's Corner

This year is already peppered with exciting opportunities to better support our students and teachers. But it seems the more people we help, the more needs we see. We meet new students at Hangers and learn about all the other things they need. School lunches (free to all during the pandemic), are now a returning expense for families struggling to make ends meet. Principals are working hard to rekindle family and community partnerships that were damped by COVID. Teachers want support for field trips, which are not funded through taxes, to promote student engagement and deeper learning. Pondering how to address needs systematically, for all students, feels overwhelming. What kind of grand plan, and how many resources would it take? And yet, even a grand plan starts with intentional small steps. A mentor's notes help a student push through to earn an industry-level certification that opens new doors. A visit to Hangers reassures a parent that they have one less thing to worry about. A random item from the "free room" at Teacher Locker sparks creativity. Watching penguins at the zoo brings the curriculum to life. I often focus on the forest and forget to see the trees. Through our work I am constantly reminded that every act of service has a compounding effect across the system. Our plans are big, and we work hard for them, but the small things - a new volunteer, a box of food for a family in need - also build our community. Partner with us to take both the bold and the small steps, whatever life allows you. I guarantee supporting our students and teachers will not disappoint!

Ely Sena-Martin is the EVSC Foundation President. You can reach her at 812-435-0913 or elisabet@evscfoundation.org



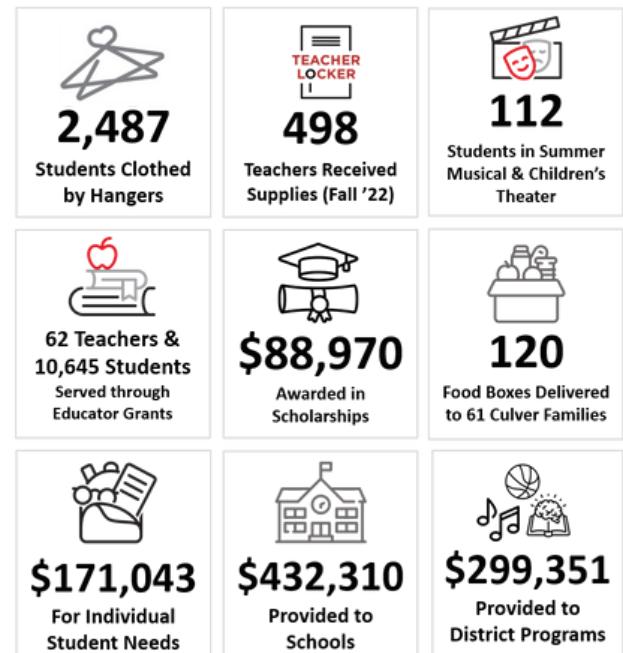
Merger, Strategic Planning, New Programs - Oh My!

Twenty-twenty two was a whirlwind of a year, chockful of opportunities and new partnerships. We started the year merging with the Public Education Foundation, a long-standing nonprofit supporting programs for students and teachers in the community. We dove into strategic planning, bringing together two boards and developing one organization from the two. The merger brought in several programs like the Summer Musical, Children's Theater, educator grants, endowments and scholarships to be integrated into our slate of core programs and initiatives, like Hangers and Teacher Locker. Thanks to your support, we were able to continue providing clothing and shoes, backpacks with school supplies, food boxes, lodging in times of emergency, lunch fees, and eyeglasses for students. We also funded professional learning opportunities, classroom supplies, and innovative projects for educators.

Your generosity made it possible to honor long-standing educator and servant leader John Wessel by naming the Central High School basketball court in his memory, raise a record-setting amount at our 5th Annual Hangers Gala (and secure a \$10,000 match from Walking for Dreams the following May), enjoy a rainy, yet successful 2nd Charity Golf Outing sponsored by the Indiana Members Credit Union, help students grow through a superbly bright and bubbly 34th Summer Musical, The SpongeBob Musical, and celebrate our teachers at the Educators Night at the Otters. Beyond support for Foundation programs, you helped us meet needs for students and teachers in 40+ schools and innovative programs, and to more than 25 separate departments and groups across the district.

All this would not have been possible without the dedication of more than 270 volunteers, EVSC staff, and our own board members and staff who helped us make this transition year successful. We are honored to serve alongside incredibly generous individuals and organizations to ensure all students, regardless of their background or challenges faced, have meaningful access to the incredible opportunities EVSC offers them. We look forward to another incredible year partnering with you!

2022 EVSC Foundation Impact



Grateful for Our EVSC Foundation Board Members!

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