





LETTER FROM BERT AND SALLY

Last year, North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE) celebrated our 30-year anniversary with the school theme **30 Years—You are the Reason**. NFSSE is incredible for many reasons—our Board of Directors, donors, volunteers, staff, and students.

Our Board of Directors—both present and past—**are the reason** for our fiscal responsibility, growth, and viability.

Our community partners, our donors, our volunteers—all who visit this little slice of heaven—**are the reason** we can provide financial aid and innovative programs tailored to students with intellectual and developmental differences on a state-of-the-art campus.

Our teachers and staff **are the reason** we can provide individualized education plans, onsite therapeutic services, and vocational programs to our students and postgraduates during the academic year and in summer camps.

Students and postgraduates **are the reason** this is the happiest place on earth. They are the culture-builders who season our campus with zest and perseverance. They inspire us to become the best versions of ourselves.

The constant in NFSSE's 30 years is a vision for a better future for young people with intellectual and developmental differences and a community that engages to achieve it.

You are the reason we celebrated 30 incredible years and look forward to an even brighter future! Thank you for being a part of North Florida School of Special Education.

Bert Brown President, Board of Directors

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Sally Hazelip Head of School

(Pictured on Front Cover) NFSSE postgraduate Cierra Penson rode Quinn in the Special Olympics Statewide Equestrian Competition. Cierra is a source of joy and kindness at NFSSE's Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center as both a diligent employee and talented rider.

MISSION STATEMENT

To discover and foster each student's unique abilities revealing their highest potential within an engaged community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

EXECUTIVE BOARD Bert Brown, President Michelle Gilliam, Vice President Ray Van Landingham, Treasurer Sally Anne Brown, Secretary John Macdonald, Immediate Past President

AT LARGE MEMBERS

John Baker, III Josh Bauman Paul Bertozzi Lee Bledsoe Claude Collier Sheila Collier Tim Crass Susan DuBow Kevin English Don Hinson Dr. Bashyam lyengar Dr. Rita Nathawad The Honorable Virginia Norton Alayna Oram Karen Prewitt Tammy Spriggs Andrew Hozier, Jr. Board Member Matias Olivares, Jr. Board Member





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

We are pleased to announce that J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver donated a \$2M lead gift to the North Florida School of Special Education Endowment Fund, a fund of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. The first \$1M of this gift provides a dollar-for-dollar match for any new contributions to the endowment.

The Giving Tree Legacy Circle is a new opportunity to partner in our mission, often with no cost to donors during their lifetime. Legacy gifts provide the resources needed to sustain our campus and programs, and ensure they are available to everyone regardless of ability to pay.

Members of the Giving Tree Legacy Circle make gifts in various ways outright, or through wills, retirement plans, life insurance, or charitable gift annuities. Some even decide to endow their annual gift to the school. Giving Tree Legacy Circle members receive potential tax savings and exclusive NFSSE updates and invitations.

I. OUTRIGHT GIFTS



You may make a gift to the North Florida School of Special Education Endowment, a fund of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, at any time during your lifetime.

2. GIFTS THROUGH YOUR WILL



Many donors choose to make a large gift through their will. These gifts can be:

- Outright bequest
- Testamentary Trust
- Codicil

3. GIFTS THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

- Beneficiary Designation
- Qualified Charitable Distribution



4. GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE



You may also contribute paid-up policies by transferring ownership to The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida for the endowment (or directly to North Florida

School of Special Education).

5. CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY



You can make a contribution, receive a partial tax deduction, receive fixed income for life and leave a lasting gift for North Florida School of Special Education. Gifts of cash or stock or other liquid assets are accepted to create the Charitable Gift Annuity.

Please check with your accountant, attorney, or tax advisor for additional information about how general rules apply to your particular situation.

We invite you to learn more about the Giving Tree Legacy Circle by contacting the Director of Planned Giving at 904-724-8323 or plannedgiving@ northfloridaschool.org.



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Wayne and I have admired the work of North Florida School of Special Education for many years, and we've been so moved by how the school has grown in its ability to serve its students, their families and the community at large. We feel strongly that what's been created and what's envisioned for its future should be supported in perpetuity, and we are proud to provide the lead gift for the North Florida School's endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

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Delores Barr Weaver, Community Philanthropist



NFSSE and the Gilmore-Matthews family celebrated the life of Priya Gilmore-Matthews by hosting the first annual "Staff vs. Students" Jingle Hoops Classic!

Priya Gilmore-Matthews, the mother of an NFSSE student and daughter of famed basketball player, Artis Gilmore, died unexpectedly of a heart attack in the summer of 2021. She left behind her husband, Mark Matthews Sr., and three young children, one of whom attends NFSSE.

For the big game, Artis coached the students and Mark Sr. hit the court. In a tight match-up, the staff came out on top, winning by 2 points. It was a spirited but friendly competition, and a celebration of Priya's legacy. After the game, the winning team was awarded the coveted Jingle Hoops Plaque created by the NFSSE art department. A dance party broke out among students, staff, teachers, parents, cheerleaders, and basketball players to celebrate the win and the holiday season.

Priya was a stand-out player at Louisiana Tech and Wolfson High School. The Louisiana Tech head women's basketball coach sent a personalized practice jersey that was presented to the family before the game and Wolfson High School cheerleaders joined the NFSSE cheer squad.

JINGLE HOOPS

CLASSIC









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REVERSE INCLUSION

People Like Us at NFSSE

People Like Us is a national musical theater program for people of ALL abilities. In its inaugural year, NFSSE's People Like Us theater troupe performed a series of 3 short plays featuring a cast of 28 students with and without IDD. Thank you to Meredith and Mark Frisch for sponsoring People Like Us and bringing this amazing opportunity to NFSSE.

People Like Us proved to be a powerful medium for participants of all abilities. During the weekly practices, NFSSE students developed social skills, selfawareness strategies, and problem solving while thriving artistically. Teenagers from Stanton College Preparatory School, Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Music for a Cause, and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts participated and experienced the joy of working alongside our exceptional students.



Meredith and Mark Frisch







NFSSE strives to create opportunities for those with intellectual and developmental differences (IDD) and those without to come together. In shared experiences we learn that we are more alike than different. This year, NFSSE added two new reverse inclusion programs for students and community members—People Like Us and Girls Scouts

Girl Scout Troop 62015

NFSSE's Girl Scout Troop 62015 is a place where leadership skills grow, and sisterhood is celebrated! This diverse group of girl leaders came together each month to grow in courage, confidence, and character so they can make the world a better place. Members enjoyed monthly meetings, service opportunities, selling cookies, and earned Girl Scout badges on an exciting camping trip.













BUSINESS PARTNERS

Project SEARCH

Six transition students pursued their dreams of employment through Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH prepares young adults with intellectual and developmental differences (IDD) for competitive employment through classroom instruction and on-the-job training while rotating through six areas of a partnering business. The students interned at Medtronic, a global leader in medical technology, for the entire academic year.

"The promise to our business partners is that students will bring something valuable to the workforce" said Ann Atkins, Director of Transition and Postgraduates, "not that it would be more work for the company." This promise proved true once again. Medtronic offered employment to two interns upon completion, while the other graduates pursued job leads at other businesses, fully prepared for a bright future!









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Ann Atkins, Director of Transition and Postgraduates





Ashley HomeStore

Greg King, VP at Ashley HomeStore, met postgraduate Andrew while volunteering in the Barkin' Biscuits pet bakery. As Greg worked with Andrew, he quickly realized Andrew is "polite, funny, smart and a great teacher." Greg also noticed that he is very process driven. Greg knew Andrew could apply that same methodical process to assembling dining room chairs at Ashley HomeStore so he offered him a job. Greg said, "we believe that all our lives—Andrew's and our team members'—are better for having him on the team!" Andrew's manager and coworkers agree, and Andrew was honored with a "ROY Award" at the Ashely 2021 company celebration.

NFSSE partners with over 30 businesses that hire or provide internships for our students and postgraduates.





Ascension St. Vincent's Ashley HomeStore **Auld & White Constructors BEAM Thrift Store** Brightway Insurance–University Burlington-River City Marketplace Chartwells Chick-fil-A-Marsh Landing Cultivate Eat Your Yard Jax **Fanatics Floating Sea Aquatics Gregory Paul's** Hope's Closet Thrift Store-Arlington Hope's Closet Thrift Store-San Pablo Jacksonville Humane Society **Jacksonville** Jaguars Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Longhorn Steakhouse-Marsh Landing Medtronic MOCA MOSH Palm Garden of Jacksonville **Pet Paradise** Publix Super Markets-Monument Road Publix Super Markets-Neptune Beach Publix Super Markets-Sawgrass Village Publix Super Markets-Southside Seaside Shops Sweet Pete's Candy

VyStar Credit Union We Rock the Spectrum

Learn how your business can become a job site by contacting Ann Atkins, Director of Transition and Postgraduate Programs at aatkins@northfloridaschool.org or 904-724-8323



DELORES BARR WEAVER THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

The Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center is a vibrant part of campus life! In addition to serving students, postgraduates, afterschool and community riders, and summer campers, we hosted a number of special events...and added some new farm friends.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS HOST SITE

The Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center is now the official site for Special Olympics Northeast Florida Equestrian Competitions. We hosted monthly practices and two horse shows, including a state qualifying event. Seven NFSSE riders advanced to the state meet, winning NFSSE its first gold medal. In fact, NFSSE brought home not one but three gold medals, earned by Christopher Frierson and Cierra Penson. Quinn, a resident horse, brought home a gold, too.



WELCOME NEW FARM FRIENDS







BERRY GOOD FARMS FARMS WEEKEND FESTIVAL

Berry Good Farms Weekend Festival featured delicious fare, great music, and perfect weather. The riding arena and surrounding grounds were transformed to host over 700 guests raising over \$285K for the school. Thank you to our longtime advocates and event chairs, Nancy and Gary Chartrand.







HEART OF THE RUNWAY

For the past nine years, the Heart of the Runway Fashion Show and Luncheon allowed us to bring the magic of North Florida School of Special Education to the beauty of Linda Cunningham's boutique. In its 10th anniversary year, Linda brought her exquisite collection to the Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center. The riding pavilion was transformed to a uniquely magnificent venue, complete with an elevated runway, al fresco lunch prepared by NFSSE Culinary Team, Spring blooms, and the fashions of Linda Cunningham and Dillard's. Thank you Karen Darr for chairing this exciting event! We look forward to continuing this tradition on February 14, 2023.





HEART of the RUNIVAY









BERRY GOOD FARMS EVENT VENUE

Not only is our campus the newest event space in the heart of Jacksonville, it is also an opportunity for postgraduates to work alongside industry professionals.

This year, NFSSE hosted well over 2,000 guests at corporate cocktail parties, a Junior League dinner, picture perfect weddings, children's birthday parties, and school events. The farm proved to be a unique event space for all occasions.





Distinctively different and uniquely magnificent, the campus offers a rustic chic setting under a canopy of oaks adorned with vintage market lights, large wrap around deck, and a covered pavilion for reception seating up to 350 guests.

- Onsite catering provides guests with distinctive farm-to-table fare.
- Event coordinators help create a stress free and memorable event.
- Florals and décor by our Berry Good Blooms





















TEACHERS AND STAFF ARE THE REASON



Elementary







Transition

NFSSE staff are incredible—not only for their expertise and what they accomplish with their students but also their love, patience, professionalism, and joy. Teachers inspire curiosity and confidence. They encourage students to reach their goals and celebrate milestones with the same exuberance as a proud parent. Teachers and staff care for families with an extra measure of love and support during difficult times. More than 100 staff members work together with energy and excellence to help students become the best version of themselves. We are grateful for their exceptional dedication to NFSSE.

Job Coaches





Administration





Intermediate

Secondary



Expense Summary Income Summary Total \$5.308.904 Total \$5,302,289 3.0% 2.0% Miscellaneous surance 7.0% Depreciation 2.0% Grants 11.0% 2.5% Microenterprises Curriculum & Program Fundraising 17.0% Fundraising 2.5% 62.0% Tuition & Fees Financial Assistance 3.5% Microenterprises 4.6% Office/Administration 9.2% 73.7% Salaries & Benefits

NFSSE AT A GLANCE FY 2021–2022

150 **STUDENTS AGES 6 TO 18**

45 TRANSITION STUDENTS AGES 18 TO 22

65 POSTGRADUATES 22 YEARS OF AGE **AND OLDER**



Due to printing deadlines, the financials listed above are based on unaudited financial statements. Please refer to NFSSE's 990's for audited financial reports.

Financial Highlights FY 2021-2022

SAVE THE DATES



2022-2023 Upcoming Fundraising Events



Holiday on the Farm Dec 2-3, 2022 The Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center becomes the backdrop for a family-friendly farm festivity! Shop for holiday gifts at pop-up stores featuring Barkin' Biscuits, Art With

Soul, and Berry Good Farms.

b HEART of the RUNIVAY

 Heart of the Runway Luncheon and
Fashion Show February 14, 2023

With an elevated runway and dramatic décor, the Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center is transformed into an elegant fashion event. Experience the beautiful collection of Linda Cunningham and Spring trends of Dillard's while enjoying an al fresco lunch with friends.



Berry Good Farms Weekend Festival

Join us for our signature weekend festival filled with delicious food, live music, entertainment, and a celebration of the NFSSE community at the Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center.



Concert on the Farm Saturday, April I, 2023

Kick off the weekend with a rocking good time at Concert on the Farm featuring live music, local food trucks, breweries and craft cocktails.



Dinner on the Farm Sunday, April 2, 2023

Our traditional Dinner on the Farm under the riding pavilion features a casual elegant atmosphere and farm to table fare paired with fine wine.

Visit northfloridaschool.org to learn more about ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities or call 904-724-8323.



Enhance. Empower. Enlighten.

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