



## Fair Provides an Opportunity to Visit Schools Virtually

On January 30, families had an opportunity to learn about different educational options in the comfort of their homes by participating in the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund Virtual School Choice K-8 School Fair. This third annual event, which is normally held at the Franciscan Center, was presented on the last day of **National School Choice Week**.



Registered families were sent a link before the fair to enter the virtual school fair and to participate using their cellphone, computer or tablet. Once logged into the event, they could visit individual school breakout rooms and speak directly with representatives from the schools. It provided a great one-one opportunity without having to personally visit the schools.

There were 30 different schools represented including Catholic, Christian, independent, charter, public and magnet as well as a few Homeschool parents who shared their experiences. NOSF had a breakout room for information about their need-based scholarships and **School Choice Ohio** provided information on the different state-funded vouchers including EdChoice.

Ann Riddle, Executive Director of NOSF said of the fair, "One thing that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us is that school choice is very important to families. The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund is excited to present its annual school choice school fair virtually during National School Choice Week and bring those choices to parents in the comfort of their homes."

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Learning Academy hosted its fourth annual A Night on the Polar Express on December 6. Richard LaValley, Chair of the NOSF Board, and John Szuch, HOPE Board of Directors member, welcomed and toasted their guests to this year's virtual event.

The theme was appropriately named *Home for the Holidays* and was presented that evening via the [www.ontrackforeducation.org](http://www.ontrackforeducation.org) website.

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## A NIGHT ON THE POLAR EXPRESS

The spirit of the holidays was unmistakable at this year's **On Track for Education: A Night on the Polar Express** event. NOSF along with HOPE



**JOHN SZUCH** HOPE Learning Academy Board of Directors Member  
**DICK LAVALLEY** Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund Board Chair

# MARCH MADNESS CHALLENGE

## SLAM DUNK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

**NOSF** partner schools will be having their own March Madness from March 15 through March 19 with **NOSF Slam Dunk for Scholarships**.

This week-long fundraising event will assist NOSF in providing need-based scholarships for children. The 56 schools that have students attending with a NOSF scholarship will be asked to help raise funds. Schools can set their own goals for the challenge or compete with one another.

Each day NOSF will share the total raised on social media and highlight some of the participants. NOSF is leaving it up to the schools how they want to participate in the event. This event will have its own fundraising page where parents or the school can directly make donations for the cause.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has been providing scholarships for students to attend private schools since 1999. Over 16,400 students have received a need-based scholarship for tuition or homeschool expenses since that time.


To participate in the March Madness Challenge visit <http://tiny.cc/NOSFMMC>



**March 15-19**

## More Families Eligible Thanks to Expanded Income Guidelines

**F**or the 2021-2022 school year, new and returning families with household incomes that fall at 300% or below the National School Lunch Household Income Guidelines will be eligible to apply for a NOSF scholarship. This means that a family of four with a household income of \$78,600 or below would be qualified. At the December 2020 NOSF Board meeting, the Board approved the change in eligibility for families.

Maximum Income Based on Total Annual 2020 Income			
House size	up to 75%	up to 50%	up to 25%
2	Up to \$17,240	\$17,241 - \$31,894	\$31,895 - \$51,720
3	Up to \$21,720	\$21,721 - \$40,182	\$40,183 - \$65,160
4	Up to \$26,200	\$26,201 - \$48,470	\$48,471 - \$78,600
5	Up to \$30,680	\$30,681 - \$56,758	\$56,759 - \$92,040
6	Up to \$35,160	\$35,161 - \$65,046	\$65,047 - \$105,480
7	Up to \$39,640	\$39,641 - \$73,334	\$73,335 - \$118,920
8	Up to \$44,120	\$44,121 - \$81,622	\$81,623 - \$132,360
	For each additional child add \$4,480	For each additional child add \$8,288	For each additional child add \$13,440

NOSF Board member Scott Brown said of the change, "The increase in income eligibility simply allows more families to choose the right school for their children. NOSF is all about the parents making that choice and this will help fulfill that mission."

Prospective families can learn more about the scholarship and can apply on the NOSF website at <https://nosf.org/scholarships/application-process>. Deadline to apply for the 2021-2022 school year is Friday, April 30, 2021.

## Polar Express *Continued from page 1*

Sponsors were invited once again to make a generous investment in the fundraiser and received some festive benefits to be enjoyed while they partook in the event, from Bartz Viviano, 7 Little Cupcakes, Rosie's Italian Grille, The Sundown Cantina, Maddie & Bella's, Bar 145, The Chop House, and Schmucker's Restaurant. KeyBank was this year's title Conductor Sponsor. The Aurora Group at Morgan Stanley, The LaValley Foundation, and Ralphies/Frisch's Big Boy led the train as Engineer Sponsors and International Tableware Inc., the Knight Insurance Group and the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank assisted as Ticket Master Sponsors. There were also Brakeman sponsors and a number of donors who contributed to the total raised of \$64,000. Sponsors and friends were very generous as they stayed home and enjoyed this virtual event. If you want to watch the event, you can do so at <https://ontrackforeducation.org/>



## ***NOSF is seeing Double even Triple with New High School Scholarships***

This past fall, NOSF awarded a new need-based scholarship for NOSF graduates going onto a private high school. The \$2,500 renewable scholarship was awarded to those graduates who did not qualify for a state-funded scholarship. This was great news for the Milligan family who have been in the NOSF program since 2016. Triplets Ashton, Aubrey and Ava qualified for the scholarship and are freshmen attending Delphos St. John's Junior High and High School.



## **NOSF Alumni Making an Impact**



### **Sarah Smidi, NOSF Class of 2013**

Toledo Islamic Academy graduate Sarah Smidi is a first year UT Law Student. She graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in spring of 2020. While attending the University, she interned for U.S. Senator Rob Portman and at the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Sarah also helped organize two candlelight vigils for victims of explosions that occurred in Beirut last summer, calling on the Toledo community to support the blast's victims. As a member of the UT Youth Advisory Council for a national nonprofit called the Period Movement, she organized a collection of feminine-hygiene products and financial donations which went to the Lebanese Red Cross and Impact Lebanon.

## ***NOSF Graduates Return to Program as Parents***

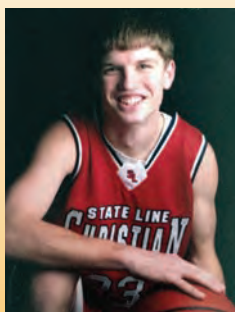
### **Corey Smith NOSF Class of 2005**

Corey Smith, an NOSF scholarship recipient, attended St. Adalbert and graduated from the 8th grade in 2005. He then continued his education and graduated from Central Catholic High School in 2009.

He is benefitting from the scholarship program once again by having his daughter attend Apostolic Christian Academy on a NOSF scholarship. Corey is employed at the Norfolk Southern Railroad. He and his wife Jasmine married in 2014 and have three children.



### **Aaron Morrissey NOSF Class of 2002**



NOSF has another legacy! Aaron Morrissey was awarded a NOSF scholarship to attend State Line Christian, Temperance, MI through the 8th grade in 2002. He continued on at State Line for high school and graduated. He then attended Hyles Anderson college and received a pastoral theology degree. While in college, he met his future wife Sarah. They have been married now for ten years and have two children. Aaron works for a company called AccuShred. He is also very involved in his church, driving buses to pick up kids for church, teaching Sunday school, and teaches a class, along with his wife Sarah, on Wednesday nights to 4th-6th graders.

Sarah and Aaron, when looking for schools for their oldest, looked at State Line Christian and wanted to send him there since Aaron had attended. Sarah found out from Aaron's mom that he had received a need-based scholarship from the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund to attend. She did some research and found out the NOSF was still available and applied. Sarah and Aaron are thrilled to have their son at State Line and said, "We love that Elliot is able to go to the same school that his dad did and one day our daughter Gwen will as well!"






Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund  
**Growing Minds. Creating Futures.**

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**Children's Scholarship Fund**

*Parents: If this is addressed to a graduate who no longer maintains permanent residence at your home, please forward this to them and notify us of their updated information. Thank you.*

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2021 NOSF  
Dates to Remember

Announcement Coming  
Soon...



NOSF March  
Madness Challenge  
March 15-19, 2021



Deadline to requalify your family's  
scholarship for the  
2021-2022 school year -  
Friday, April 30, 2021

Deadline for new families to apply  
for NOSF for the  
2021-2022 school year -  
Friday, May 28, 2021

CLASS OF 2021  
Drive by Graduation  
Friday, June 4  
from 11 am until noon