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Fair Provides Opportunities to Learn About School Choices

For the second year in a row, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund hosted a School Choice School Fair for families to learn about the various educational options available in Northwest Ohio. On Saturday, January 25, 37 different schools gathered at the Franciscan Center including private, charter, public and magnet schools. Homeschool information was also available. Parents and guardians were able to walk freely from table to table visiting the different schools.



At each table, representatives answered questions and provided materials about their school.

Scholarship information was available for private schools including the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, which offers need-based scholarships for K-8 for private schools and homeschooling expenses. Families could apply online at the fair to have their name drawn on May 1 for the NOSF lottery. The Northwest

Ohio Scholarship Fund is accepting applications until Friday, April 24, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

School Choice Ohio also had a table with information on the different state-funded scholarships such as EdChoice, the Jon Peterson Scholarship, the Autism Scholarship and EdChoice Income-based (Expansion) Scholarships offered for Ohio students. Visit SCOOhio.org to learn more about the different scholarships.

There was something for everyone at the fair including music provided



by Memorable Knights, a photo booth, and balloons and snacks for the children.

Every 30 minutes, names were drawn for prizes to local restaurants, copies of The School Choice Road Map book and gift certificates to the YMCA.

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NOSF Board Approves an Increase to the Maximum Scholarship Amount



At the December 11, 2019 quarterly board meeting, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund Board approved increases for both the private school scholarship and the homeschool scholarship. Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, the maximum scholarship award will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for private school and the maximum scholarship award will increase from \$500 to \$750 for homeschool expenses.

The NOSF Board recognized that the increase is necessary as tuitions continue to rise. This is the first time in five years that the program has increased its maximum scholarship amount.

New, as well as current families, will be eligible to receive the increase for the 2020-2021 school year. If your family is not currently receiving the NOSF scholarship and wants to apply, visit <https://nosf.org/scholarships/application-process> for the Income Eligibility Guidelines and application link.



Grab Your Mitt for Raise the Cap 2020

Summer will be here before you know it and so will the 8th annual Raise the Cap event held at Fifth Third Field. It is a fun night for NOSF families and friends to gather together for a yummy American style buffet and baseball with Toledo's favorite – the Mud Hens. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, June 4**, for this year's fundraiser. This year the Mud Hens will be playing the Durham Bulls.

If you would like to reserve a ticket, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/Raisethecap2020>.



NOSF Gets Top Rating from GreatNonprofits

This past fall, positive reviews from scholarship families, donors, volunteers and others, put NOSF on the GreatNonprofits' 2019 Top-Rated Nonprofit List. Thank you to everyone who took the time to add their review and spread the word about the value of NOSF.

Here is one review from an NOSF parent, "Thanks to NOSF, my daughters can continue at a small private school near home. I am given the peace of mind that they are in a nurturing environment with high academic standards. Thank you NOSF."

You can read more reviews, and write your own, on the **GreatNonprofits** website: <https://greatnonprofits.org/northwest-ohio-scholarship-fund-inc>



A NIGHT ON THE POLAR EXPRESS

★ ● Provides Fun for Guests and Funds for NOSF and HOPE Learning Academy



The third annual On Track for Education: *A Night on the Polar Express* was presented on Sunday, December 8, 2019 in the Grand Lobby of the downtown Toledo Train Station. Over 350 guests had a chance to visit with friends, taste some delicious food and provide wonderful experiences for NOSF and HOPE students.

During the program, guests heard firsthand how the two programs are making a difference in the lives of students and in the community. HOPE parent Katelyn Merzke talked about her two children's struggles before coming to HOPE four years ago and how they were doing so well. NOSF alum Daryl Layson shared with the group how his NOSF scholarship to attend Rosary Cathedral had impacted his life and put him on a path to success.

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 6** for *A Night on the Polar Express 2020*.

NOSF Grad Making an Impact in Messaging

Recently, the NOSF website was updated by the Concentrek Group. Concentrek Group is a creative marketing agency based in Toledo. While we were meeting to discuss the changes to the site, we met with Valerie Lambert. We discussed the mission of the program and she pointed out that she had been a recipient of the scholarship. She attended Regina Coeli Catholic School all nine years on a NOSF scholarship and graduated in 2008. Her brother Seth and sister Heather also were recipients.



Ms. Lambert went on to share that after she graduated from Regina Coeli. She went to Notre Dame Academy and then onto the University of Toledo where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is currently working as an Account Executive at Concentrek Group. Ms. Lambert says of her work at Concentrek, "All the work I do here, I'm proud and passionate about and I leave work every day feeling like I'm doing something wonderful to help others and the community."

She is also participating in the Leadership Toledo Adult (Class of 2020) program. Leadership Toledo is a program that helps young adults develop a deeper understanding of the region, its strengths, and the many issues it faces. In her spare time she loves attending community events like Restaurant Week Kick Off party and the Best of Toledo, to network and get to know others in the community.





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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School Choice Week Fair *Continued from page 1*



"We were thrilled at the response of the School Choice School Fair," said Ann Riddle, executive director of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund. "Part of our mission states that parents should have an opportunity to choose the best school for their children. The fair provided a family-friendly place to learn about all the different types of schools in our community and the scholarships that are available to attend them."

NOSF Hosts a Second Fair in Lima

NOSF held a second School Choice School Fair in Lima during National School Choice Week. The event was planned to coincide with the history-making celebration of National School Choice Week 2020, which featured more than 50,000 school choice events across all 50 states. The fair was on the evening of Thursday, January 31 at the Mercy Health St. Rita's Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center. Allen and Van Wert County families were invited to explore scholarship opportunities and visit with representatives of a diverse array of local K-8 schools – traditional public, public charter, private and homeschool options at the fair.



Thank You to Our Newest *Champions for Children:*

Dr. Donald Weathers Dr. & Mrs. Anoar Zacharias 33 For Charity

This giving level is the equivalent of one NOSF scholarship for a year.
To learn more how to be a Champion visit <https://nosf.org/i-want-help>
or contact Ann Riddle at the NOSF office at (419)720-7048 or ariddle@nosf.org