

## JOHN PATRICK FLANAGAN FOUNDATION AWARDS \$79,134 IN 2021 GRANTS

***More than \$480,000 granted to area programs that help children and families since 2008***

**Fairfield, CT, December 20, 2021** – The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation (JPFF), a charitable foundation established to help vulnerable children and families of Connecticut, today announced that it has awarded \$75,634 in year-end grants to 11 local organizations: Bridgeport Hospital Foundation, The Caroline House, Connecticut Audubon Society, Filling in the Blanks, Hall Neighborhood House, Klein Memorial Auditorium Foundation, Kolbe Cathedral High School, Mercy Learning Center, New Beginnings Family Academy, New Haven Reads, and Wakeman Boys & Girls Club Smilow-Burroughs Clubhouse.

“After the unprecedented challenges of the past 18 months, we understand that our support is more important than ever,” commented Amanda Flanagan, Chairperson of the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. “So JPFF increased our giving 20% over 2020, and 45% over 2019, to best help these wonderful partners as they address the critical needs of children and families in our community.”

The grant allocations are as follows:

**Bridgeport Hospital Foundation** (\$4,950) - To purchase a slushie machine for children post-surgery to help with inflammation and reduce need for narcotics for pain; and to fund the Helping Hands Program to assist families participating in the REACH outpatient mental health program.

**The Caroline House** (\$5,000) - For the Mother Child Literacy Program focusing on ESL and life skills for women.

**Connecticut Audubon Society** (\$11,684) - To fund the “JPFF Trailblazers Program,” which enters its 12th year of existence, providing Bridgeport public school students with earth science programming and field trips. This year participation included 32 classes, or 719 students, from Bridgeport Public Schools.

**Filling in the Blanks** (\$5,000) - For their Weekend Meal Program which removes the obstacle of food insecurity for local children by providing each student with a bag of food containing four meals and four snacks to take home every Friday. Since 2013, they have delivered over 1 million individual meals.

**Hall Neighborhood House** (\$10,000) - To fund its playground repairs and equipment replacement. The playground is used every day from early mornings until late afternoons.

**Klein Memorial Auditorium Foundation** (\$5,000) - To fund the Klein Theater Arts (KTA), a tuition-free after school arts education program for Bridgeport middle and high school students.

**Kolbe Cathedral High School** (\$7,500) - To fund its general operations and supplement lunch costs for Kolbe students in need.

**Mercy Learning Center** (\$5,000) - To fund the purchase of supplies including educational materials, household supplies and daily healthy snacks. Mercy Learning Center provides basic literacy and life skills training to women with low income using a holistic approach within a compassionate, supportive environment.

**New Beginnings Family Academy** (\$6,000) - To fund the purchase of 31 Touchscreen Chromebooks. NBFA provides students a meaningful, high-quality education through experience-based learning that helps develop essential social, emotional and critical-thinking skills.

**New Haven Reads** (\$5,500) - To fund one-on-one instruction three days a week for 30 weeks (for a total of 90 intervention sessions) for students in the RISE Program, which serves children with the most intensive need who are at critical risk for illiteracy.

**Wakeman Boys and Girls Club** (\$10,000) - For the Digital Futures Program to fund the purchase of desktop and laptop computers, support the digital programs, virtual presentations, and staff expenses required to get children and teens the digital experience needed in today's world.

### **About the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation**

The John Patrick Flanagan Foundation was established in loving memory of John Patrick Flanagan who passed away from neuroendocrine cancer on December 24, 2008 at the age of 44. John's family, friends and colleagues have established the Foundation to serve as a charitable legacy to support what he cherished above all else: children and family. The Mission of the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation is to help vulnerable children and families by supporting charities that provide the direction, education and healthy environment that vulnerable children and families need to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To learn more about the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation or to make a donation, please visit [www.jpff.org](http://www.jpff.org) or click the John Patrick Flanagan Foundation. We also encourage fans to follow us on [Facebook](#).

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