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THE NEWSLETTER OF LAKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

SUMMER 2022

Riverside Grads Give Back by Giving Backpacks

A few years ago, four precocious Riverside High School graduates put an ambitious idea into action for the good of our community. We spoke with Matt Parsons, President of The Backpack Fund, about the project, and how it has been helping young people here in Lake County in meaningful ways.

What is the principal mission of The Backpack Fund?

"The purpose of The Backpack Fund is to ensure that every student in Lake County has access to the school supplies and scholarships they need to pursue their dreams through community support for each other."

How did you and your partners get started with the project?

"The Backpack Fund was started in 2020 by four 2018 Riverside graduates. This was at the start of the COVID pandemic, and it was a time that people really benefited from some extra support. We were a bunch of kids, and The Backpack Fund was our dream. The success that we've had is proof for all kids that their dreams are possible too."

In what ways have the backpack-and-school-supply giveaways helped the community?

"The Backpack Supply Drops have had an immense impact on the community. In two years, we have donated over 1,200 backpacks and school supplies. Some people just see the backpacks as they are, but to us, the backpacks are representative of how much the community believes is the next generation of students. All of the work that goes into the Supply Drop event shows how much we believe in kids as a community. Every year, we receive countless "thank yous" from the families receiving the supplies. The Supply Drops are emotional days

filled with excitement, laughter, and gratitude."

How have your scholarships helped Riverside graduates?

"The Emily Ringler Memorial Scholarship has gone a long way towards making a difference for local kids. We've now awarded three \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships make pursuing higher education possible for our recipients. It directly awards them the scholarship to use as they need. The 2021 recipient, Gabrielle Fender, used the scholarship to get a computer that she used every day at school. She will feel the impact of the scholarship throughout her education."

How can our local community support your requisite work?

"The best ways to support The Backpack Fund are to donate on our website, thebackpackfundohio.com, or by sharing the project. We are on all major social media platforms @thebackpackfund. We have hosted raffles and giveaways throughout our history to give back to donors. We also have a business sponsorship program to give back to businesses that support us. We are also a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so any donations made to The Backpack Fund are tax deductible."

What does the future hold for The Backpack Fund?

"From the very beginning, we committed to always offering the Emily Ringler Memorial



Scholarship. She is an important member of The Backpack Fund family, and we want her memory to live on forever. We also have many new ideas that we want to pursue in the future. We want to launch additional scholarships. With increased fundraising, we can offer additional scholarships to support local students. A step further down the line for us would be launching Community Engaged Learning grants that local teachers can apply for to complete real world projects in the community. These projects would engage the school, students, and a community partner to jointly complete projects that benefit the community."

Congratulations to Matt and his partners for their stalwart commitment to serving our community. We wish them boundless success in continuing their vital mission.



Member Benefits

Atlas Cinema Tickets

It's summertime blockbuster season. Discounted movie passes to Atlas Cinemas are available for \$8. Tickets are good for any show, any time. This deal is hard to beat, so keep a few extra tickets on hand for those times when the mood strikes for a good flick. Get 'em while they're hot, at your nearest branch.

Cedar Point Passes

Cedar Point is more than roller coasters. It's more than thrill rides. It's more than the mile-long sandy beach where their rich history began. Cedar Point is where moments, memories, and connections are made. These connections last for generations, and are built on a tradition that began more than 150 years ago.

It's time to feel like a kid again. Discounted "Good-Any-Day" passes to Cedar Point are available for \$50, a significant savings over the \$85 gate price. Funnel cakes not included, but the fun is. Passes are waiting for you at your favorite branch.

Waldamere & Water World Passes

One of Erie's finest amusement parks is calling your name. Rides and coasters, a stellar water park, entertainment, attractions, and amenities make a day at the park fun for families and groups.

Discount tickets are available at our branches. Adults: \$43.50, Children: \$33.95. As the nation's 10th oldest amusement park, Waldameer & Water World's history of making family summer memories will ensure a day filled with thrills and excitement.



OH,
THE
PLACES
YOU'LL
GO

GET GO.
THE NO-CREDIT-CHECK
AUTO LOAN FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Consider our well-loved savings program, Cents2Save. This is a free account add-on feature which rounds up each of your debit card

transactions to the nearest dollar and transfers the change to your

Cents2Save

Share Savings Account. This year alone, enrolled members already saved an aggregate of \$1,400 in Cents2Save change. Consider it "found money." See branch for details.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 4
LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 5
COLUMBUS DAY - OCTOBER 10