

Press Clippings 8/2/2022

Kane County Connects

Project Backpack Readies Kane County Kids for School --- 8/2/2022

By Kane County Connects Staff

The Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE) recently co-sponsored Project Backpack, a community-based initiative to help put K-12 and college students on a path to success.

Led by Elgin Community College (ECC) and other event partners, Project Backpack benefits students in need by offering appropriate resources to start a successful school year. Since 2010, Project Backpack has helped over 17,000 students.

"For some children, purchasing new school supplies is a normal part of going back to school. For others, school supplies are not readily available and it may set a negative tone that carries with them throughout the entire school year," said Jimmy Pawola, ROE Equal Chance Program Liaison for the Kane County Regional Office of Education. "Project Backpack makes sure that all students have the proper tools for a positive school experience."

Regional Superintendent Patricia Dal Santo strongly believes in helping create more equity in school districts.

"A simple act as donating a backpack full of school supplies can be the one thing that pushes a child toward a love of school, giving them the encouragement, they need to have continued academic success throughout their academic career," adding, "for the Kane County ROE office to be a small part of that is quite humbling."



In 2022 Project Backpack impacted 1,700 students. These students reside in the school communities of U-46, District 20, District 300, District 301, District 302, District 303, EMSA, and Elgin Community College.

Each bag includes school supplies kits and mental health/agency information. Bags were put together during the week of July 26 at Elgin Community College with the help of their Student Life volunteers.

Discover more about Project Backpack at project-backpack.org. Learn more about the Kane County ROE at www.kaneroe.org. Stay updated with Kane ROE and subscribe to the bi-weekly newsletter from the Kane ROE and follow-on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

SOURCE: Kane County Regional Office of Education media release.

Kane County Connects

Tour District U-46 Planetarium Virtually --- 8/2/2022

Taken from U-46 Website

U-46 Planetarium Offers Virtual Tour, Increasing Accessibility for All

More than 1 million people have passed through the U-46 Planetarium's doors since it opened in September of 1963. Now, guests from across the globe can visit this historic building, thanks to a new virtual tour.

Planetarium Director Peggy Hernandez recently embedded a virtual walk-through tour of the Observatory/Planetarium on the school district's website. By using the arrows on the computer screen, a visitor can see 360-degree images of the building's first and second floors.



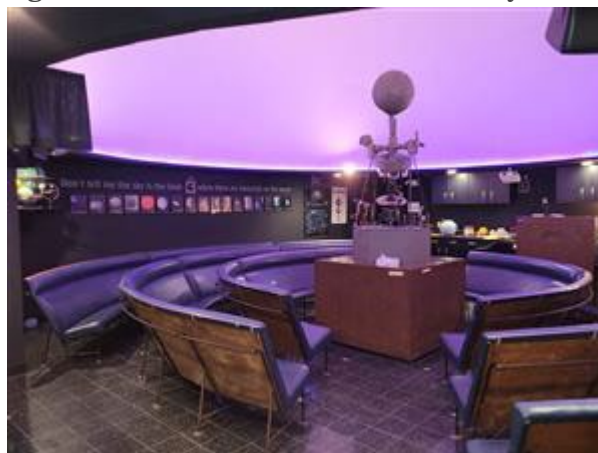
This type of virtual tour can be quite helpful - particularly for someone with a physical disability or a sensory issue, who might be anxious about visiting a building, Hernandez explained during a recent telephone interview.

“Sometimes neurodivergent students are very anxious about visiting a new place - or someone in a wheelchair might have a concern about

bathrooms,” she said. “You can see the whole building with this tour. It’s an accessibility tool.”

Simply seeing the size of a room might be something that someone needs to know in advance, Hernandez said.

“Specifically, for (some) autistic students - it’s a challenge to walk in some rooms. The doorway (of the Planetarium’s chamber) is smallish. And the room is a bit dark, compared to outside; it’s a closed feeling. A lot of people don’t like that feeling. This way (with the virtual tour), you know exactly what it looks like,” Hernandez said.



Hernandez worked with the Able Eyes company to initiate the project. A specialized photographer spent two hours at the Observatory/Planetarium, using a small, swiveling tripod to take 360-degree rotating images. He then “stitched” those images together to create the full view of all of the rooms, Hernandez said.

To take the tour, visit the U-46 Planetarium site at u-46.org/planetarium; or search for “U-46 Planetarium” on Google. For more information, email Peggy Hernandez at peggyhernandez@u-46.org. #WeAreU46 #U46Proud

StreetInsider.com

2022 Raise Awards Finalists Announced --- 8/1/2022

By PRNewswire

Over \$5,000 will be awarded to winning nonprofits and fundraising professionals

CARMEL, Ind., Aug. 1, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Online and event fundraising leader OneCause revealed the mission-driven organizations and individual fundraising professionals who were selected as finalists in the fifth annual Raise Awards. Winners will be announced at a ceremony during the Raise 2022 conference September 12-13 in Chicago, Illinois. The ceremony will be simultaneously livestreamed online. In addition to the award recognition, winners will receive a cash donation to their mission on behalf of OneCause.

Established to recognize nonprofits and fundraisers who go above and beyond to tell the story of their mission, innovate in the generosity sector, and deepen relationships with donors, the Raise Awards honor recipients in three categories: Innovative Nonprofit of the Year, Storyteller of the Year, and Fundraiser of the Year.

"This year's finalists stood out not only due to the excellence of their submissions, but also the perseverance and passion they demonstrate for improving the lives, communities, and environments of others," said Steve Johns, chief executive officer at OneCause. "It's an honor to celebrate changemakers who are so fiercely committed to building better tomorrows."

The finalists in each category are as follows:

- **Innovative Nonprofit of the Year:** Recognizing innovation and creativity in fundraising by organizations who are thinking outside the box and implementing new ideas.
 - Greater than \$5 million in revenue
 - Newhouse
 - Hope for Haiti
 - Turnstone
 - Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 - Less than \$5 million in revenue:
 - Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry
 - Leukemia Texas
 - **U-46 Educational Foundation**
 - Reel Options for City Kids
- **Storyteller of the Year:** Recognizing excellence in communicating purpose and vision through branding, narrative, and promotion that informs the mind and moves the heart.
 - Greater than \$5 million in revenue
 - OHSU Foundation
 - Community Living
 - Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 - SEEC
 - Less than \$5 million in revenue:
 - Detroit Dog Rescue
 - New Danville
 - Comfort Cases
 - Wild Beauty Foundation
- **Fundraiser of the Year:** Recognizing individuals who live out the organization's mission, are dedicated to the donor experience, and always give 100% percent to the cause.
 - Jane Kobak | Opportunity Enterprises
 - Jennifer Berger | Rubicon Programs
 - Megan Carfa | Junior Players
 - Verletta Cole | Unleashing Potential
 - Matthew Fischer | Boys & Girls Club of Elkhart County

Submissions were reviewed by a committee of peer nonprofit professionals and industry experts looking for a focus on specific achievements, campaigns, and events from the last 12 months.

Additional information:

- [Past Raise Awards winners](#)
- [Raise Awards video](#)

The entry period for the 2023 Raise Awards begins in Spring 2023. The Awards are free to enter for individual fundraisers and nonprofits of all sizes.

About OneCause

OneCause is driving the future of fundraising with easy-to-use event and online fundraising solutions that help nonprofits improve the giving experience and raise more money. OneCause builds technology that optimizes everyday generosity, making it easier for nonprofit organizations to fundraise and for nonprofit supporters to give. Since 2008, OneCause has helped over 10,000 nonprofits raise more than \$4 billion for their missions. Headquartered in Carmel, Ind., OneCause is committed to driving innovation in the charitable sector, bringing together nonprofit professionals across the world for the annual Raise Conference to exchange ideas that further fundraising. For more information, visit www.onecause.com or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).