

## **2021 IFCA Good Works Team**

**The Indiana Football Coaches Association is excited to announce the 2021 Good Works Team to recognize players, groups, and entire teams who have committed themselves to serving others. All nominees have served in an extraordinary way and are tremendous representatives of the power of football to make a difference in our communities.**

**Elijah Edwards – Eastern Greentown High School** - Since he was six years old, Elijah has helped the Greentown Lions Club pack, load, and deliver food to needy families in our community during the Christmas season. This is an annual event and we deliver to over 200 families. Elijah has also volunteered for the United Way of Howard County. Elijah spent several hours unloading trailers of children's books off of skids. The books were transported into the facility where they were unloaded and then organized and placed onto shelves for people in the Howard County area.

**Alex Mendoza - Scecina Memorial High School** - Alex has been involved in a variety of community service programs. He has tutored grade and junior high school students through the Crispus Attucks Parent Student Teacher Association. Alex has been a volunteer for keeping Indiana Beautiful. Lastly, Alex attended a leadership development program called "Project Mr." for young men that live in the inner city, sponsored by the Center for leadership Development.

**Caleb King - Westfield High School** – Caleb raised over \$15,000 for Alex's Lemonade Stand in an effort to fight childhood cancer. Caleb's initiative, Kicking It with Caleb, raised money from every kick he made during our season. Caleb did all of this on his own and took the initiative to start the program from scratch. Our team, school, and community all rallied behind Caleb and his efforts to eradicate cancer.

**Snider High School Football Team** –The Snider football program grades 9 -12 participate in a service program throughout their 4 years of participation in the football program. Each class is paired with a local service organization that they serve over the course of their 4 years. The Senior class trains the freshmen class to take over their organization. Currently, our Freshmen and Seniors work with Erin's House which is a center for grieving families who have lost a family member or someone close to their family. Our Sophomores volunteer for Vincent Village - an organization that works with local homeless families. Our Juniors assist with Turnstone, a facility that works with the physically handicapped. One of our program goals is to learn and experience caring for other people. Through our service program, we want to provide the opportunity for our players to experience what it is like to help someone else. We do this throughout the calendar year, not just during football season.

**South Vermillion High School Football Team** - Throughout this past year players and coaches volunteered their time within the community and beyond. Whether spending their Saturday afternoon assisting with the relocation of a local food pantry or working with the Vermillion Trails Alliance to clear brush and transform abandoned railways into walking trails, each player gave of himself and his time to better the local community. The heart of the Wildcat family lies in the Tackle Childhood Cancer Campaign. Partnering with the PS We Love You Fund & Riley Hospital for Children the Wildcats work to raise money and awareness for children battling cancer. This season the Wildcats achieved Red Wagon Sponsorship Status at Riley Hospital and led their conference, as well as the local area, in fundraising through the sale of t-shirts, rally towels & bracelets. Additionally, the team hosted a Wildcat Clay Shoot for a Cure and held a miracle minute during their Tackle Cancer game. Funds raised by the Wildcats help

offset the cost of Precision Genomic Testing, which helps in creating a personalized cancer treatment plan.

**Valparaiso High School Football Team** – The Valparaiso football team volunteered in many ways in 2021. Players, managers, coaches, and parents served as course marshals and dispersed food and water for our local YMCA Ringing in Spring 5K. We volunteered to clean up a local golf course and park and laid down gravel across 6 miles of bike trails. Our team collected over 1,000 items of food, art supplies, and sports supply collections for our local Hilltop House (Child Care Center and Food Pantry for at Risk Families). We also collected over 1,000 home supplies for domestic abuse survivors at the Caring Place Shelter. Lastly players put on a football skills camp after school for Central Elementary students.

**Goshen High School Football Team** – The Goshen Football program has served the Elkhart County 4H Fair each summer for the past 25+ years. Elkhart County puts on one of the largest county fairs in the country. Over the course of the 10 day fair, our football players and coaches get up each morning at 6am and go out and clean up trash in the parking lots. It's one small way that our players contribute to the success of a community event that has been a staple in Elkhart County for many years.

**Lowell High School Football Team** – The Lowell High School Football Team holds a team car wash each summer to raise money for the Cops Cycling 4 Survivors. CC4S is a group of "active officers and civilian participant riders raise awareness and actively support law enforcement survivors through the annual bicycle tour around the state of Indiana which raises funds to be utilized to support scholarships, camps and events held in memory of officers killed in the line of duty and other survivor causes as determined by the Cops Cycling for Survivors Foundation Board." The group has made an annual stop in the town to honor Lowell Football Alumni and Merrillville Police Officer Nick Schultz who was tragically killed answering a call in the fall of 2014. The Red Devils make an annual contribution of \$558 to CC4S to commemorate Nick's number and to support Nick's mother Colleen who has ridden every year.

**Jimtown High School Football Team** – The Jimtown High School Varsity Football Team cleaned the headstones of fallen soldiers at Rice Cemetery in Elkhart Indiana. Many of the headstones had not been cleaned in decades and some of them were completely unreadable. This was an incredible experience where the marines shared a little bit of their own personal stories serving in the military and then taught the boys the process for how to properly clean each headstone. 55 headstones were cleaned and many life lessons were learned by all.

**Plainfield High School Football Team** – The 2021 Plainfield Football team assisted in the Hendricks County summer lunch bunch program. Players helped distribute lunches to local families at one of the town parks. In addition to helping pass out several hundred lunches, the players took time to read, make crafts, throw the football, and play tag with the children who came for lunch. Our relationship with this group is well over 15 years old and always creates opportunities for our players to interact with our youngest fans.

**Salem High School Football Team** – The Salem Lions Football team were involved in many service projects throughout the year. The team took it upon themselves to clean up the main city park of "Riley's Place" This included paint, mulch, trimming, weed pulling etc. The team on their snow breaks went door to door and shoveled driveways. The team redid the Bradie Shrum Elementary playground and improved safety by adding mulch to all of the playground facilities. We volunteered in the county fair dunking booth to raise money for the Lions Club. During Christmas the team loaded 2,500 Christmas

shoeboxes to be delivered throughout the world in conjunction with a local church. Finally the Team walked in the County Fair parade collecting canned goods along the way to help the local food bank.

**Kokomo High School Football Team** – The Kokomo Wildkat football team raised money during the last week of our regular season for Susan G Komen and breast cancer awareness. All players solicited donations and helped by selling pink T-Shirts in order to raise funds. The funds were raised during lunch and during the game week 9. All players and coaches played a role in helping raise over \$1,500 to donate directly to the Susan G Komen foundation.

**Southridge High School Football Team** – The Southridge Raider Football team took part in service projects throughout the Southridge Community. The Raider Football Team spent time working with community youth at the Huntingburg Farmer's Market throwing footballs and playing games. Our team also cleaned League Stadium following summer league baseball games, set up booths at for a local church's picnic, and handed out waters for runners at the Lexi Mattingly 5K event (Lexi was a Southridge student that passed away a few years prior). Finally, the players coach Flag Football for K/1/2 Southridge students for Mondays during the season and serve as the coaches for these nights and work with the players.

**Bishop Luers High School Football Team** – Members of the Bishop Luers football team have completed many acts of service over the past year. Student-athletes in our weight training program gave up four hours of their time to help clean up trash and debris at one of the local parks in our community. Our team helped move large appliances and boxes of product. Members of our team moved all of the desks and tables into classrooms following their summer sanitizing and cleaning at a local elementary. Several players coached 3rd-8th grade football players after their own practice had concluded. Each football player and manager is part of a school-wide service program that meets once a week to complete small projects and plan for our large service day projects of fall and spring.