



**The IFCA Good Works Team** is a special initiative to recognize the outstanding service of Indiana high school football players, managers, and entire teams. This program celebrates those who embody the values of leadership, compassion, and commitment to their communities through service.

*1<sup>st</sup> Team Player and Program Award Winners*

**Luke Alberts from Park Tudor High School** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

Luke Alberts of Park Tudor High School exemplifies leadership through his work with the Emily Strong Foundation, supporting pediatric cancer research. As founder and CEO, he has raised over \$10,000, inspired by his sister Emily's battle with cancer. Luke's innovative fundraising, including an art show featuring local artists, has raised funds and awareness, fostering community engagement. Through corporate sponsorships and peer-to-peer fundraising, he expands the foundation's impact. Luke's dedication honors his sister's legacy and provides hope to affected families, showcasing how student-athletes can lead meaningful change.

**Ellis Dumas, Andrean High School** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

Ellis Dumas of Andrean High School demonstrates exceptional leadership and service. He serves as Youth Pastor and Youth Director at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and is President of Jack and Jill of America (Gary/Northwest Indiana Chapter). Ellis has held key roles as Vice President of the Gary NAACP Youth and College Division and participated in national ACT-SO events. He is also involved in the Young Adults Really Care program, Andrean's Student Ambassador, and has spoken at Purdue University and the Indiana State House, showcasing his dedication to community service and leadership.

**Sam Spolyar of Brebeuf Jesuit High School** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

Sam Spolyar of Brebeuf Jesuit High School founded the Sports Service Club, which collects and donates sporting goods to local organizations in need of equipment. In its second year, the club has successfully donated to a dozen clubs and programs, making a significant impact in the community. Sam's leadership has been pivotal in the club's rapid growth, as it continues to expand each month. By providing essential sports gear to underserved groups, Sam is fostering inclusion and helping young athletes access the resources they need to succeed. His dedication to service makes him a strong leader in his community.



**Ben Riva and Daequan Viverette of Lafayette Jeff High School** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

Ben Riva and Daequan Viverette of Lafayette Jeff High School are outstanding examples of leadership and community service. Daequan, a member of the team leadership council, played a key role in organizing and participating in the team's community service projects. Both Ben and Daequan volunteered monthly at the local Boys and Girls Club, where they mentored elementary school students in their district. Their dedication to helping others and their involvement in fostering positive relationships with young people highlights their commitment to service and making a lasting impact on their community.

**Cooper Ross, Wyatt Small, and Lucas Thomas of Providence Catholic High School** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

Cooper Ross, Wyatt Small, and Lucas Thomas of Providence Catholic High School have exemplified dedication to service throughout their high school careers. They have collectively participated in the Polar Plunge for five years, raising funds for the Special Olympics Kentucky while engaging their friends in the cause. Their service includes over 40 hours of community work, volunteering at the Parkwood Autism Awareness Fair, helping at St. Paul Episcopal Church's soup kitchen, and supporting the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Family Picnics. Additionally, they contribute to local football programs and honor veterans through the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**The Westfield High School football team** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

Westfield High School's football team, with over 220 players, is deeply committed to community service. Their efforts include participating in Robbie's Hope Run for mental health awareness, assisting with prom setup and cleanup, volunteering with Miracle League, and organizing blood drives. They collected school supplies in the "Stuff the Bus" campaign, supported the SMA Cure Walk and Rock the Block events, and engaged with fans at the Indianapolis Colts Training Camp. The team raised funds for Riley Children's Hospital and plans to make Christmas cards for seniors. Their dedication to service highlights their compassion, teamwork, and community spirit.

**Northwood Football Team** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

The Northwood High School football team exemplifies the IFCA Good Works Team's values through their extensive community service. They engaged the community at the Maple Syrup Festival, hosted a blood drive with the Indianapolis Colts, and supported the Northwood Youth Football League Apple Festival by managing booths and engaging young fans. Their participation in the Miracle on Main Parade spread holiday cheer, while their summer work with the Family Christian Development Center's Community Garden provided food for those in need. Additionally, nine players mentored local elementary students through the Panther Pals program. Their commitment to service and community impact makes them an exemplary candidate for the IFCA Good Works Team.



**Danville Football Team** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

The Danville Football Senior Class led a multi-day classroom clean-up and move at a local elementary school, saving teachers valuable time. They also organized a trash pick-up along US-136, hosted a trick-or-treat event, and a Holiday Huddle, where they mentored younger students through football drills and holiday activities.

**Hobart Football Team** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

In 2024, the Hobart Brickies Football team dedicated nearly 55 hours to community service. Their efforts included Market Clean-Up, serving as ball boys at the Southshore Crossroads Bowl, multiple food pantry deliveries, MRC Breakfasts for retirees, assisting at the Brickyard Run, hosting Moms for Football, and participating in a West Side Community Clean-Up.

**Martinsville Football Team** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

The Martinsville Football Team showcased their commitment to community service through two key events. They dedicated a Saturday to helping build a house with Martinsville Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, they volunteered as hosts for the Morgan County Unified Track Meet, partnering with special needs students to support them throughout the event.

**Covington Football Team** (1<sup>st</sup> Team)

The Covington Trojans Football team participated in numerous community service activities this season. They helped water flowers in the downtown square, assisted with a moving truck, volunteered at a local church for a youth camp and back-to-school carnival, and hosted two awareness nights focused on mental health and military service.



### *Honorable Mentions Players and Programs*

#### **Ryan and AJ Delgatto, Lafayette Central Catholic**

Ryan and AJ Delgatto, students at Lafayette Central Catholic, exemplify leadership and community service. Winners of the 2021 "Salt and Light Award" for family volunteerism, they serve as altar servers and lead quarterly service projects. Their development includes attending conferences like Steubenville and the National Eucharist Congress. AJ participates in football, basketball, wrestling, and track, while Ryan excels in football, basketball, and track. Active in numerous school clubs, they also lead retreats, demonstrating their commitment to faith, service, and community.

#### **William King, Faith Christian High School**

William King, President of the Leadership Academy and Vice-President of the Senior Class at Faith Christian High School, exemplifies leadership and community service. During the Leadership Academy's annual "Do Good December Projects," Will organized the assembly and delivery of gift bags for local youth at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization. This initiative was made possible through a partnership with Chick-fil-A, highlighting Will's commitment to fostering community impact. His dedication to service and leadership shows how he positively influences those around him.

#### **Nicky Neale of Cathedral High School**

Nicky Neale of Cathedral High School is an exemplary candidate, demonstrating commitment to both his faith and community. Notably, Nicky volunteered as the coach for the 5th/6th boys' volleyball team at his home parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary. He also assisted with setting up various church events. Through his Saint Andre project at school, Nicky connected his passion for sports with the needs of his community, creating a meaningful service opportunity. What began as an assignment turned into a true commitment, showcasing Nicky's dedication to service, leadership, and living out his faith in action.

#### **Trey Schumacher, Culver Academies**

Trey Schumacher of Culver Academies has demonstrated outstanding leadership and community service. Since 2018, Trey has volunteered with the Challenger League, working with children with various disabilities, including his close connection with Taylor Post, who has spina bifida. Trey organized a successful fundraising event, raising \$5,000 for the Challenger League, funding equipment and accessibility improvements at a City park. He also led a "Resale for a Cause" event that raised over \$35,000 for two local women battling cancer. Additionally, Trey founded Powerhouse Sports Closet, a nonprofit providing free sports gear to local athletes in need.



### **Ty Zartman of Jimtown High School**

Ty Zartman of Jimtown High School is a dedicated community servant with a strong focus on helping others. He participated in a mission trip to Ecuador through St. Mark's Missionary Church, where he ran a Bible school for underprivileged teens and children with limited access to church. Ty also contributes to the All for Alice breast cancer fundraiser, supporting those affected by cancer. He serves in the Kids Ministry at his church every Sunday and volunteers annually for the Jimtown High School Blood Drive. Ty's commitment to service and his passion for giving back make him an outstanding leader in his community.

### **Brownstown Central Football Team**

The Brownstown Central Football team is actively engaged in community service. During Superstars night, they collect canned goods for the FCA shed, which provides items to those in need. They also assist with the Rock the Rind music festival by helping with stage teardown. Every Friday, they read to local elementary school students, and annually, they host a teacher appreciation night to honor school employees.

### **Carroll Flora Football Team**

The Carroll (Flora) football team demonstrated community support by helping an elderly couple move to a new home. Around 15 players volunteered after practice, coming together to assist with the move, showcasing their commitment to serving others and making a positive impact in their local community.

### **Columbia City Football Team**

The Columbia City Football team actively participates in Read Across America Day by visiting four local elementary schools. Players read to students in various classrooms, promoting the importance of reading for their future education. This initiative demonstrates the team's commitment to encouraging academic success and fostering a love for reading.

### **Fairfield High School football team**

The Fairfield High School football team demonstrated community spirit through two impactful events. In October, they partnered with a local church for a Fall Clean Up, assisting elderly widows with yard work. Additionally, 14 players volunteered for Toys for Tots, helping collect, sort, and assemble toys for children in need across northern Indiana.



### **Mississinewa Football Team**

The Mississinewa Football Team demonstrated their dedication to community service by participating in We Care food drives, providing over 1,000 holiday meal boxes for families in need in Grant County. Additionally, the players took part in community clean-ups and spread mulch at Gas City's City Hall, supporting local beautification efforts.

### **Mt. Vernon Football Team (Fortville)**

From December 2023 to August 2024, the Mt. Vernon Football Team engaged in various community service initiatives. They delivered holiday gifts to the Fortville VFW, hosted Youth Nights for K-4 players, partnered with the Indianapolis Colts for a blood drive, and donated 24 stuffed backpacks to local schools in their district.

### **North Newton Football Team**

Our Team has been spending time helping at the Food Bank of the Lake Village Presbyterian Church. On the first Wednesday of every month, 6-10 volunteers from the football program spend 3-5 hours of their day organizing the food bank. The Food Bank serves around 175 families every month, and our players' hours are very welcomed by the older members of this small local church.

### **Northridge Football Team**

Over the past two years, the Northridge Football Team has honored veterans by placing flags at graves for Memorial Day. They also support the local food pantry annually, distributing turkeys at Thanksgiving, collecting food donations during a scrimmage, and donating toys and gifts to families in need during Christmas.

### **Washington Football Team**

The Washington Hatchet Football Team volunteered at Bethel Church's annual "Bethel Mall" event, which provides free school supplies, clothes, and shoes to local youth. The team helped load and unload supplies and served as host guides, assisting over 1,500 children. This allowed players to be positive role models for the community.

### **Plainfield Football Team**

The Plainfield High School Football Program hosted its annual blood drive on July 26, 2024, in partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Indiana and the Indianapolis Colts. The event encouraged football players, parents, coaches, and community members to donate blood, impacting 15 patients. Donations included whole blood and double red cells.



### **South Vermillion Football Team**

The South Vermillion Wildcats Football Team continued their commitment to tackling childhood cancer with the PS We Love You Fund, raising over \$10,000 through events like a Flag Football Tournament, "Tackle Your Favorite Wildcat," and their Carnival for a Cure. They also supported Central Elementary's Garden Project, contributing to community improvement.

### **Tri-Central Football Team**

The football team does a program called backpacks for the homeless with Doc Andrews. They go a few times a year on Saturdays usually 4-6 times a year with Doc and pass out backpacks to the homeless. The backpacks have supplies for the people to use. They also have a RV with clothes, shoes, coats and a shower for them to use.



<u>Players</u>	<u>High School</u>
Luke Alberts	Park Tudor
Ryan and A.J. Delgatto	Lafayette Central Catholic
Ellis Dumas	Andrean
William King	Faith Christian
Nicholas Neale	Cathedral
Ben Riva and Daequan Viverette	Lafayette Jefferson
Cooper Ross, Wyatt Small, Lucas Thomas	Providence
Trey Schumacher	Culver Academies
Sam Spolyar	Brebeuf
Ty Zartman	Jimtown
	Brownstown Central
	Washington
	Carroll (Flora)
	Columbia City
	Covington
	Danville
	Fairfield
	Hobart
	Martinsville
	Mississinewa
	Mt. Vernon (Fortville)
	North Newton
	Northridge
	Northwood
	Plainfield
	South Vermillion
	Tri-Central
	Westfield