



Scholarship Update

This year, we proudly awarded \$43,500 in scholarships to nine outstanding and deserving students. In just five years, the Buddy McKeel Scholarship has awarded an incredible \$193,500 to 43 graduates—all children of Carteret County first responders. What an incredible blessing and impact this program continues to make!

As you know, Fins and Feathers remains our number one source of funding for these scholarships. Your attendance, silent auction donations/bids, along with your prayers and support make this all possible. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and look forward to seeing you on October 17th!

I was honored to be the keynote speaker for the Buddy McKeel Fins and Feathers event. As someone who coached Buddy and watched him grow up, it was an honor to share some words in his memory. I hope that the B.U.D.D.Y. system will be something that can be spread to communities both near and far and the impact of it can save a life. **Be Present-Urgently Respond-Don't Wait-Do Something-You Can Save a Life. Be a Buddy!**

Dr. Pat McLaughlin, Keynote for Fins and Feathers 2025

In This Issue

- 2025 Scholarship Recipients
- Fins and Feathers Save the Date October 17th
- Thank you!

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Kaylie Awalt –
West Carteret
High School

Kaylee Forcier –
West Carteret
High School

Ryland Hoffman
– West Carteret
High School

Skylar Ivester –
East Carteret
High School

Joseph Mason –
East Carteret
High School

Riley-Grace Par-
ker – Heide
Trask High
School

Emma Smith –
Pamlico High
School

Charles Walker –
Croatan High
School

Garland Yopp –
Topsail High
School



Thank you to our amazing supporters and donors! This is only possible because of your generosity.



Fins and Feathers 2026

We are excited to announce that planning is underway for our **5th Annual Fins and Feathers Fundraiser**! Once again, we are proud to partner with Matt and Mindy Fitzpatrick and The Friendly Market to make this event another memorable success.

This year's event will be held on **Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the Crystal Coast Civic Center.**

Guests can look forward to many of the favorites from past years, including our popular **shotgun raffle** (with tickets going on sale soon), live entertainment, a silent auction, event apparel, games for the kids, and much more.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and support for the **Buddy McKeel Scholarship for Children of First Responders**. We look forward to seeing you and continuing to make a difference in the lives of local students.

Additional details will be shared soon!



Thank you!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our presenters for taking time out of your busy schedules to help make these scholarship presentations so special. To everyone working behind the scenes—your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful.

A sincere thank you to our Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment in making the Buddy McKeel Scholarship for Children of First Responders such a meaningful success. To our family, thank you for your endless prayers and support, and above all, we thank God for His guidance every step of the way.

To our donors and supporters—thank you. Your generosity makes these scholarships possible and allows us to impact the lives of so many deserving young people while honoring Buddy's legacy in a way that brings immeasurable love and gratitude.