

**Dear E3 Robotics Center (E3RC) Friends and Families**

A year ago, could you have imagined our world today? None of us could, but here we are. Going forward we know how important STEM knowledge is to our global future. Imagine being a kid and yearning to explore science, technology, engineering, and math at a level to solve our next crisis. Imagine the impact of allowing that to happen! Every day is an impact day at E3RC. Critical thinking and problem solving are at the heart of STEM.

Due to the changing educational environment, E3RC suspended classes due to COVID-19. Our students' safety and health are our number one priority. Our students and many others were searching for E-learning opportunities, especially in the STEM. They recognize the need for more knowledge to help family, friends, and the community at large. E3RC staff pivoted to a virtual learning environment to meet those needs initially. After remodeling and restructuring classes to create safe learning pods, E3RC is conducting a hybrid of virtual and in class lessons. Remember when we thought the Jetsons were farfetched? Well no more. Without virtual learning and COVID safe Centers like E3RC, the talent and passion of students seeking STEM, are opportunities that they cannot easily pursue.

At E3RC, we also provide opportunities for teachers to explore, engage and then teach their students. We do this by providing training for teachers not only in our county, but in several other surrounding areas. One catalyst of the pandemic is the expansion of E-learning which allows more teachers from all over to participate in this training.

E3RC is very thankful for our wonderful donors who have invested in the future of our students. During these challenging times you have continued to generously support us and that has allowed us to transition into an E-learning as well as a COVID safe pod center.

We are growing continually in our new robotics center on the north side of Elkhart, but we need your help to maintain our mission of all students to explore, engage and become educated in STEM. While we have made some great strides, E3RC still has a basket of dreams to build and share with our community. We invite you to join us in the endeavor.

With great appreciation,  
Brian Boehler, E3RC Director.





“Everyone accepts me for who I am, I feel like I have a place I finally fit in”  
- FRC High School Student

“Before robotics, I didn’t really have friends, that has all changed now”  
- FTC Middle School Student

# EMBRACING ALL STUDENTS

An E3RC success story is Breanna Wormuth, who joined E3RC 3 years ago. Breanna’s mother said, “Breanna was very reserved and had a hard time feeling like she fit in because of her autism. She struggled with working in groups and in handling getting over stimulated.

Through the programming Breanna has developed into a leader on her team and was recently named Homecoming Queen of her hometown. She ran on a platform of inclusion and diversity.

Part of that included her involvement with the Robotics Center to start ‘All Embracing Robotics’, a program that allows students with autism and special needs to get hands on with robotics to show them that robotics is for everyone. The full launch has been slightly delayed due to COVID-19 but has allowed extra time for planning in which the program was able to be expanded so it will reach more students this coming 2021.

The E3RC program provided the fundamentals for her transformation.” Breanna’s type of success that is repeated many times at the Center.



## E3RC GONE DIGITAL

March 10th, 2020 brought a giant shift to our teams and program. We found out that the robotics competition season was over for the teams, halted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many of E3RC students were preparing for their very first competition that very weekend. Then they found out there would not be a season to compete in.

The center took a 2 week break and to focus on what that meant for our program. During this time we pivoted to a digital solution to work with students on weekly projects via Zoom. This included making videos, drawing skills, CAD, designing, programming, and even writing a resume and developing job skills.



“I came for the LEGO. I stayed for the people”  
- 6 Year E3RC Robotics Student

“E3RC has used robotics to build a family”  
- E3RC Parent

Over spring and summer, E3RC worked to revamp what our program could offer. We created a hybrid model to allow smaller groups into the center with COVID safety precautions in place, that would provide social distancing and cleaning between our team meetings.

A program format was created to meet students digitally to teach and discuss topics one day with a follow-up small group session for hands-on activities with robots and materials. This allowed the program to continue their learning momentum with STEM during the pandemic challenge and show that “where there is a will there is a way”.



# THE E3 ROBOTICS IMPACT



60

Teachers provided with IDOE funded Professional Development

500+

Trained through coach clinics & classes

100%

Of E3RC Seniors Graduate High School

90%

of E3RC Students seek higher education

## A BRIEF HISTORY

E3RC staff members have been involved in robotics since 1999. Over the past 20 years the program started to grow and touch more students. In 2014 it was clear that additional robotics opportunities were needed and so the E3 Robotics Center was established.

In 5 years, the program grew 1000% across Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties. This was accomplished by providing professional development training to educators with grant funding as well as purchasing equipment and supplies for students at the Robotics Center.

In 2018 another expansion took place as E3RC launched into a not for profit organization to better serve both students and educators with 4 distinct levels of robots and STEM based learning. E3RC's mission is to provide K-12 robotics programs with a format that focuses on Exploration, Engagement and Education in partnership with the community.

30

Local Robotics Events Hosted

550+

Robotics Teams Impacted

5K

Robotics Students Impacted

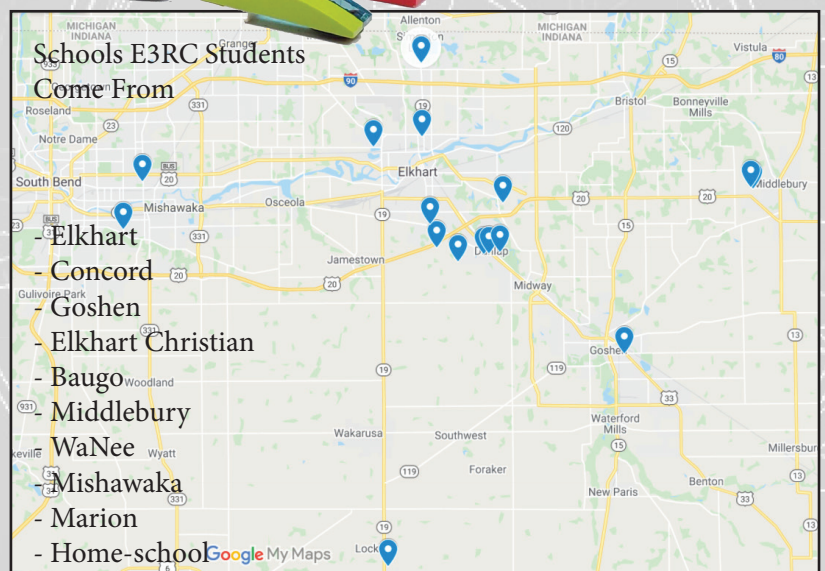


25%

Current Female K-12 enrollment

55%

Current Free/Reduced K-12 Lunch enrollment



**“As an educator with over twenty years of experience, I was very impressed with Brian’s approach with children and learning. Brian has a knack for asking the right questions so that the children are not just told the answers, but are directed that they might find them for themselves.”**  
- Kurt, Elementary Teacher

# CREATE AN IMPACT FOR

When you invest in E3 Robotics Center you are investing in the future. We serve K-12 students so your gift could help provide classes on programming, designing, building and other STEM topics both virtually and also in small learning pods. During this process students learn problem solving, how to work as a team and strong work ethics. Your investment might provide a scholarship for a student who cannot afford these experiences.

So, what is the value of the robotics opportunity. Your return on invest is lifechanging. E3RC programs teach programming, designing, building skills of course. Just as important, it also builds problem solving, critical thinking and team building expertise. With a whole community of people with those skills you can certainly imagine the possibilities!

A gift of knowledge is a gift for a better tomorrow.  
Would you consider a gift to E3 Robotics?

**“E3RC is the incubation center of the workforce for the future”  
- Local Business Owner**

## 3 MORE WAYS YOU CAN IMPACT E3RC

### 1. Impact with Stock or Legacy Gift

E3RC is a 501c3 non-profit, and set up to accept stock donations through our local Edward Jones account. We are also able to set up Legacy Gifts and Endowments for those looking to create an on-going impact for the program.

### 2. Local STEM Tours

Another great way is to provide tours of your business to students, highlighting career opportunities right here in our local area. We love to take tours of places and find out how they use Science, Technology, Engineering and Math within their business.

### 3. Impact with Internship & Jobs.

The E3RC high school students have started to learn many STEM and 21st century skills while in our program. We always look for them to apply those skills in the real world. E3RC already partners with 3 local businesses that provide internships in various STEM related jobs. Do you have an opening for talented STEM students?

## CONNECT WITH E3 ROBOTICS CENTER

