



HEART OF AMERICA AND ABBVIE FOUNDATION TRANSFORM LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AT TWO NEW BRUNSWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Approximately 200 volunteers help reimagine STEM learning environments, libraries, educator support spaces, and outdoor areas at Livingston Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School

New Brunswick, N.J. (JUNE 30, 2026) [Heart of America](#) (HOA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming learning spaces for underserved students since 1997, partnered with AbbVie Foundation to complete multi-space transformations at Livingston Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School as part of the organization's annual Week of Possibilities global volunteer initiative.

Around 200 AbbVie volunteers worked alongside Heart of America, New Brunswick Public Schools leaders, educators, and community members to create modern, student-centered learning environments designed to support creativity, collaboration, exploration, and future-ready learning opportunities.

Together, the projects will impact more than 600 students and create enhanced learning environments that support STEM education, literacy, educator effectiveness, student well-being, and outdoor learning experiences.

“Students deserve learning environments that inspire curiosity, support exploration, and help them envision what comes next,” said Jill Hardy Heath, President and CEO of Heart of America. “These transformations create opportunities for students to engage with technology, hands-on learning, literacy, and collaboration in new ways while also supporting the educators who help them thrive every day. We're grateful to AbbVie Foundation for helping create these opportunities for students and educators in New Brunswick.”

At Livingston Elementary School, the transformation included:

- Enhancements to the STEM learning environment, including new technology, robotics resources, STEM materials, and educational graphics
- Library improvements featuring new flooring, furniture, organization systems, and updated design elements
- Educator support space improvements, including updates to the teacher lounge and storage areas
- Hallway murals, cafeteria enhancements, and campus beautification projects
- Outdoor learning and recreation improvements, including playground enhancements, sport court features, and shaded gathering spaces
- Technology additions, including a Multi-Touch CreateBoard, coding and robotics tools, projector systems, and printing resources

At Lincoln Elementary School, the transformation included:

- A complete STEM learning environment refresh featuring new furniture, technology, murals, artwork, and a professional-grade 3D printer
- Library enhancements with new seating, furniture, technology, and updated learning resources
- Improvements to educator support spaces, including updated furnishings, storage systems, and technology
- Outdoor learning and recreation enhancements, including a sport court, outdoor play areas, picnic spaces, and campus beautification efforts
- Technology upgrades, including iPads, projection systems, charging solutions, and instructional tools
- Distribution of approximately 700 educational resource packs across both schools to support student learning and engagement

The projects transformed learning environments in two of the district's longstanding elementary schools, helping ensure students have access to modern, engaging spaces that reflect how they learn today while preparing them for future academic and career pathways.

"The AbbVie Foundation is committed to driving transformative change in communities so that everyone can live their healthiest life and working alongside partners like Heart of America helps us bring that mission to life," said Keya Milla, president of the AbbVie Foundation. "Projects like these help contribute to students' and the community's overall health, and we're grateful to Heart of America for connecting us."

This project builds on Heart of America's longstanding commitment to students and educators throughout New Jersey. Since 2009, Heart of America has completed 15 projects across the region, transforming 20 learning environments and impacting nearly 13,000 students. Together with partners, the organization has distributed more than 17,000 books, mobilized more than 1,000 volunteers, delivered nearly 10,000 resource packs and more than 55,000 school supplies, and supported hundreds of educators.

AbbVie Foundation's Week of Possibilities engages tens of thousands of employees globally in service projects that support local communities and advance long-term outcomes related to education and health equity.

"We're extremely appreciative of support from Heart of America and the AbbVie Foundation in helping transform learning spaces at our Lincoln and Livingston elementary schools," said Dr. Aubrey Johnson, superintendent of New Brunswick Public Schools. "These upgrades ensure our classrooms reflect current technologies and are even more effective at preparing students for what the future holds."

This project reflects the power of long-term collaboration among nonprofits, educators, community partners, and corporate funders. By investing in future-ready learning environments, partners can help expand access to educational opportunities and create lasting impact for students and educators alike.

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About Heart of America

Heart of America is a 501c3 nonprofit that transforms learning spaces and helps bridge resource gaps. Our work focuses on the whole student, knowing that the physical spaces where young people learn are just as important as *what* they are learning. Since 1997, we've worked towards education equity by renovating nearly 1,400 spaces in classrooms, libraries, STEAM labs, college/career centers, school gymnasiums, and community centers, and more. We have provided current resources, including over 4.4 million books, and infused over \$14.3 million in technology. <https://www.heartofamerica.org/>

About AbbVie Foundation

The AbbVie Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to driving transformative change in communities worldwide and advancing health equity so that every individual can realize their full potential.

About New Brunswick Public Schools

New Brunswick, NJ's public school district consists of four high schools (New Brunswick H.S., Health Sciences Technology H.S., the P-TECH [Pathways in Technology Early College H.S.] program, and the New Brunswick Adult Learning Center), two middle schools (New Brunswick Middle School and Pathways Middle School), and nine elementary schools (A.C. Redshaw Elementary School, Blanquita B. Valenti Community School, Lincoln Elementary School, Livingston Elementary School, Lord Stirling Elementary School, McKinley Community School, Paul Robeson Community School for the Arts, Robert J. Boyler Elementary School, and Roosevelt Elementary School). Our high schools provide multiple educational pathways, with P-TECH students offered an opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree. The Adult Learning Center supports adult students in building academic and career-readiness skills. Offering comprehensive instruction from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, the district serves a population of approximately 8,500 students. Additional information is available at <https://www.nbpschools.net/>.

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