

The Endowment for Inner-City Education

Supporting the students and schools of Inner-City Scholarship Fund

Endowment News

Fall 2008

\$10 Million Gift Puts Endowment Over \$90 Million

Russell L. Carson, co-founder and current Chairman of The Endowment for Inner-City Education (the "Endowment"), has made a new commitment of \$10 million to the Endowment, bringing our total raised to \$94 million. In making the gift, Mr. Carson noted that the current economic environment is putting additional burdens on inner-city families who already struggle to meet tuition payments, and his gift will provide more funds for scholarships so that needy students may continue to receive a high-quality, values-based Catholic education.

Amy Stevens, President of The Endowment for Inner-City Education, remarked, "This incredibly generous gift will enable the Endowment to provide even greater support to the Inner-City Schools at a time when they need it most." In the 2007-2008 school year, the Endowment provided over \$4.6 million to Inner-City Elementary and High Schools, and funded tuition scholarships for 7,225 students. Projections for the 2008-2009 school year estimate that the Endowment will increase disbursements by more than \$1 million, totaling \$5.8 million in support, and provide scholarships to roughly 8,000 students. In addition to supporting Inner-City students with scholarships, the Endowment also grants funds for vital capital repairs to school buildings and for programmatic initiatives that enrich the curriculum and support the school faculty and administration.

As the Inner-City Catholic Schools struggle financially, organizations such as the Endowment play a key role in ensuring their success and long-term viability.



First grade students Victoria Chyrack, April Patterson and Morgan Jackson enjoy the first day of school at Mt. Carmel / Holy Rosary School in East Harlem.

The 105 Inner-City Schools collectively operate at a cost of roughly \$220 million. Tuition only covers about 70% of the cost to educate. Funding from the Endowment and other scholarship and support organizations provides about \$35 - 40 million to the schools annually, but a gap still remains, one that is widening with each year.

With this in mind, the Endowment is committed to raising the funds necessary to keep the schools accessible to the low-income children who need them the most. With 96% of graduates pursuing college or post-secondary education, we know Catholic schools work and make a real difference in the lives of these children.

The Endowment would like to thank Mr. Carson for his extraordinary vision, his many years of leadership and his continued commitment to our mission. Thousands of children every year benefit from the generosity of the Carson family and the many other donors to The Endowment for Inner-City Education.



From the Executive Director

What an exciting time to be a supporter of the Inner-City Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York! We have a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Timothy McNiff, who brings renewed energy and vision to one of the largest Catholic school systems in the nation. Under Dr. McNiff's leadership, the schools will grow stronger and more able to serve the expanding needs of the children of New York City. Dr. McNiff will need the support of benefactors to make his vision a reality, and The Endowment for Inner-City Education stands ready to provide that support. Our endowment has reached a record level, nearly \$94 million, thanks to impressive donations this past year, including a remarkable \$10 million commitment from our Chairman, Russ Carson. With this gift, Russ reminds us that the Catholic schools are about educating those most in need, regardless of race or creed, and they are a vital force in the educational fabric of New York City. I look forward to the challenges of the coming year, and welcome you on this exciting journey to strengthen these schools and provide remarkable opportunities for our children.

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Archdiocese Welcomes New Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Timothy J. McNiff has been selected as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, succeeding Sr. Marie Pappas, C.R., who led as Interim Superintendent for the 2007-2008 school year.

Dr. McNiff previously served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia from 1995 to 2008, where his leadership resulted in a number of notable successes. During his tenure, the Diocese of Arlington increased enrollment in its Catholic schools by 25% and opened nine new elementary schools, with a high school opening this fall. The U.S. Department of Education awarded nine Arlington elementary schools its BLUE RIBBON designation for excellence. Dr. McNiff also established a mandatory foreign language curriculum for Kindergarten through grade eight, and opened more than 20 resource centers to assist students with special learning needs.

Dr. McNiff's regional and national reputation in educational leadership was well established with his role in the creation and development of the Consortium for Catholic School Identity, the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Catholic School Leadership and the development of a Master's program for Catholic school teachers at Marymount University. He has been a guest speaker at various conferences around the country as well as a guest lecturer at such prestigious colleges as the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. McNiff holds a Doctorate degree in Educational Administration from the University of Sarasota.

He has previously held the roles of Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal and Director of Development for schools in Wausau, Wisconsin and Silver Spring, Maryland.

Russ Carson, Chairman of The Endowment for Inner-City Education, remarked, "We are so excited to welcome a talented leader like Dr. McNiff to New York. He has the vision, the direction and the

perspective we need, and I look forward to working with him to achieve our shared mission of strengthening the Catholic schools of New York."



New Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Timothy J. McNiff.

In his role as Superintendent of Schools, Dr. McNiff will oversee the education of nearly 100,000 students attending 267 elementary and high schools, including the 105 Inner-City

Schools serving the city's neediest children. The Endowment for Inner-City Education board and staff join Mr. Carson in welcoming Dr. McNiff to the Archdiocese of New York.

New Trustees Join the Endowment's Board

The Endowment for Inner-City Education is pleased to welcome four accomplished new members to its Board of Trustees:

Daniele Bodini is Chairman of American Continental Properties Group, a multinational real estate conglomerate. He also serves as U.S. Ambassador / Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations.

Norman Eig was formerly the Chairman / CEO of Lazard Asset Management LLC and Vice Chairman of Lazard Frères. He has more than 35 years of investment experience.

Barbara Evans is a retired elementary school teacher with more than 20 years of experience working in the classroom.

Elizabeth Cogan Fascitelli is a managing director in the Principal Investment area of Goldman Sachs, where she has worked for the past 24 years.

The Endowment for Inner-City Education's Board of Trustees provides the guidance and support which fuels our success. We look forward to the additional perspectives and expertise our new trustees will bring to our organization.

Authors Visit South Bronx Catholic Schools

Ask an elementary school student who their role model is and you will probably hear the name of an athlete, musician or actor. But if you ask a student participating in the *Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative*, you just might hear about a different kind of celebrity.

This past school year, *Aiming for Academic Achievement*, a South Bronx literacy initiative funded by The Endowment for Inner-City Education through a generous grant from the William E. Simon Foundation, brought six local authors into 14 Inner-City Elementary Schools to share their enthusiasm for reading and writing with the 2,261 students.

Beyond just sharing stories, each author visit provided students with positive role models outside the realms of sports and entertainment. While many of the students never associated fame with academics before, these in-person visits created a tangible connection between literacy and future success. Bina, a fourth grade student at St. Anselm School, expressed that her visit from author Lawrence Pringle, "Inspired me to be a writer

when I grow up. I think it gives me a chance to express my imagination on paper!"

Enthusiasm for the program went well beyond the students. Claire La Tempa, Principal of Holy Family School, commented, "I think this is wonderful. Many of my students are not able to visit museums, shows and other cultural events. Now we can have these things come to us."

Principals and teachers made the most of these visits by tying books into other areas of curriculum to maximize student engagement. St. Joseph School incorporated the entire student body into learning about their author, Steven Kroll. Students in Kindergarten through eighth grade read his books, studied the illustrations and created their own projects based on his stories. The commitment and preparation St. Joseph School put into Mr. Kroll's visit impressed him so much that he has remained connected to the school, serving as the first-ever keynote speaker at the school's 2008 eighth grade graduation ceremony.

The Visiting Author Cultural Program is just one component of the *Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative*. Launched in 2006, the initiative has emphasized literacy in the South Bronx Catholic Elementary Schools by placing reading specialists in schools to mentor teachers. A second grant from the William E. Simon Foundation will allow the *Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative* to continue opening the minds of Inner-City students to the unlimited potential that comes from the written word.



Author Roberta Intrater and Sacred Heart student China Smith read together on Author Day.

"It was wonderful for students to see that the writing process is a real-life phenomena and not something that exists only in school."

St. Athanasius Principal
Marianne Kraft

"When you told us how you make your books I was amazed. I never saw an author before. Now when I grow up I am going to be an author. We really appreciate you coming to visit us."

Comments from a St. Augustine student's thank you note to author Steven Kroll



For more information about the Endowment's *Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative*, please contact Caren Howley, Executive Director, at (212) 371-1011, x3327, or chowley@endowmentnyc.org.

The Endowment Awards \$671,721 in Capital Improvement Grants to 19 Schools

The Endowment for Inner-City Education recently awarded 19 grants totaling \$671,721 for vital capital repairs and upgrades. The gifts were enhanced by additional support from the Louis Calder and William E. Simon Foundations, enabling a larger number of schools to receive funding in 2008.

Elementary School students are educated for one-third of the cost of public school students, the schools' small budgets have limited resources for physical plant upgrades. Since 1998, the Endowment has awarded more than \$5.2 million in capital grants to 49 schools to modernize their facilities and attract new students.

Nearly two-thirds of Inner-City Elementary School buildings are more than 75 years old and have significant capital improvement needs. While Inner-City

The schools listed below received capital grants funded in whole or in part by The Endowment for Inner-City Education.

School	County	Grant Awarded	Intended Project(s)
Ascension	Manhattan	\$ 45,000	Replace fire doors
Holy Cross	Bronx	\$ 56,276	Replace sidewalk in front of school
Holy Family	Bronx	\$ 15,000*	Install fence
Immaculate Conception (E. 151st)	Bronx	\$ 35,420*	Replace sidewalk in front of school
Immaculate Conception (Gun Hill Rd.)	Bronx	\$ 25,000	Renovate boys bathroom
Incarnation	Manhattan	\$ 35,000	Install new stair treads
Mt. Carmel / Holy Rosary	Manhattan	\$ 30,000	Renovate playground
Our Lady of Lourdes	Manhattan	\$ 47,500	Build science lab
Our Lady of Mercy	Bronx	\$ 50,000	Renovate gymnasium / performance space
Our Lady Queen of Angels	Manhattan	\$ 40,000	Renovate gymnasium / auditorium
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs	Manhattan	\$ 30,000*	Replace auditorium floor
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Manhattan	\$ 60,000	Renovate playground
Santa Maria	Bronx	\$ 20,000	Renovate gymnasium
St. Ann	Manhattan	\$ 20,000	Renovate gymnasium
St. Anselm	Bronx	\$ 70,000	Replace bathroom stalls; renovate playground
St. Elizabeth	Manhattan	\$ 20,000	Renovate playground
St. Joseph (Monroe St.)	Manhattan	\$ 70,000	Replace boiler / heating system
St. Joseph (Bathgate Ave.)	Bronx	\$ 50,000*	Replace windows
St. Raymond	Bronx	\$ 20,000	Upgrade science lab
Total Grants Awarded		\$ 739,196	

* Project is jointly funded by The Endowment for Inner-City Education and Project YESS of Inner-City Scholarship Fund.

Highlights of 2007 Recipients



Before and after pictures of Pre-K classroom renovation (\$40,000 grant) at Our Lady of Mercy School (Bronx).



Before and after pictures of door replacement (\$30,000 grant) at St. Jerome School (Bronx).

To make a contribution to The Endowment for Inner-City Education's capital improvements initiative, please contact Jeremie Kasmarcak, Manager of Elementary School Programs, at (212) 371-1011, x3362, or jkasmarcak@endowmentnyc.org.

Gift from The Richard and Susan Braddock Family Foundation Expands Literacy Initiative in the South Bronx

A generous gift from The Richard and Susan Braddock Family Foundation enabled The Endowment for Inner-City Education to expand the support of the *Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative* at two South Bronx schools. The gift provides funding for a literacy specialist to coach teachers at Immaculate Conception and St. Jerome Schools on a weekly basis. This focused support will greatly enhance the instructional quality and the overall student experience at both schools.

These literacy specialists work with teachers to create print-rich classrooms, promoting reading, writing, critical thinking and vocabulary development. The *AAA Initiative*, started in the Fall of 2006, has resulted in significant, positive impacts on school culture and student test scores due to this professional coaching. The support of The Richard and Susan Braddock Family Foundation ensures that Inner-City students will continue to receive the best possible education through their investment in the schools' teachers.

Spotlight on a Child

Student Profile – Alicea Arias

Alicea Arias' calm demeanor makes it easy to assume that she is a typical eighth grader, but she and her siblings have struggled to find a quality education in New York City. Maria Arias, Alicea's mother, fled El Salvador in the midst of war and poverty seventeen years ago. When Ms. Arias arrived in the United States, she expected to find a stable educational environment. She was shocked to discover local public schools characterized by what she considered to be "chaos and violence."

After her oldest daughter was attacked in a public school, Ms. Arias was determined to place her children in the Catholic school system. The Cardinal's Scholarship Program was her opportunity to overcome financial obstacles. The partial tuition scholarships allow Ms. Arias, a supermarket employee of modest means, to send four of her seven children to Catholic school.

Alicea's success is a clear example of the benefits of a Catholic education. After leaving PS 208 in East Harlem three years ago, Alicea now attends Our Lady Queen of Angels School. Alicea finds that she learns more in the Inner-City School because classes are smaller and help is more readily available. "I've improved a lot in math and science," she said. "I'm really glad my mom sent me here."

Ms. Arias appreciates the Catholic school's intense focus on academics and religion, and she loves the safe community Our Lady Queen of Angels provides. "The students are like a family," she notes. Ms. Arias

is grateful for the assistance of the Cardinal's Scholarship Program, acknowledging that many people are not fortunate enough to receive the support her family was awarded.

In addition to excelling in academics, Alicea is an active member of the school choir and has developed



a strong interest in art. When asked about her career plans, she enthusiastically lists a number of professions—a lawyer, fashion designer and entrepreneur. Alicea plans to attend Mother Cabrini, a Catholic high school, after she graduates from Our Lady Queen of Angels next spring. Her Cardinal's Scholarship will continue to provide tuition support until she graduates thanks

to funding from The Endowment for Inner-City Education. Alicea's confidence and intelligence, combined with the help of the Cardinal's Scholarship Program, will ensure that her future will be as exceptional as her past.

For more information about the Cardinal's Scholarship Program or to make a contribution, please contact Angela Burgess, Programs Administrator, at (212) 371-1011, x3356, or aburgess@endowmentnyc.org.

“The Gift of an Education” is an All-Around Winner!

Julian and Jazmin: The Gift of an Education, a short documentary produced by The Endowment for Inner-City Education last summer, finds success highlighting the positive impact Inner-City Schools have on students and the important role The Endowment plays in supporting these schools.



Nicole Murphy and Caren Howley join Thurston Smith, filmmaker, in celebrating their Stevie Award.

The film, which features two Inner-City High School graduates whose Catholic education gave them the tools to break free from the cycle of poverty, has won eight awards and continues to generate interest in the work of The Endowment for Inner-City Education.

This June, the Endowment was honored with the Stevie Award, known as the “business world’s own Oscar Awards,” for Best Motivational Film at the 6th Annual American Business Awards. The film also received a Remi Award for Best Short Documentary from the 2008 Houston International Film Festival. This Fall, the film will receive two additional honors, for Best Motivational Film and Best Non-Profit Fundraising Film, at the International Business Awards held in Dublin, Ireland.

To request a copy of the film or to make a donation to The Endowment for Inner-City Education, please contact Angela Burgess at (212) 371-1011, x3356 or aburgess@endowmentnyc.org.

Endowment Welcomes New Staff

The Endowment for Inner-City Education (the “Endowment”) welcomes three new employees to our organization.

As Manager of Elementary School Programs, Jeremie Kasmarcak oversees relationships with the 84 Inner-City Elementary Schools, while managing the Cardinal’s Scholarship and Community Connections programs. Jeremie comes to us from Marquette University, with a Master’s Degree in Nonprofit Management. Prior to graduate school, Jeremie performed two years of national service through the AmeriCorps program, working with both Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity and the New York City Coalition Against Hunger.

Our new Manager of High School Programs, Emily Marchese, facilitates various initiatives across the 21 Inner-City High Schools, including the Principal’s Discretionary and donor-directed scholarship programs. She joins us from St. Philip’s Academy, an independent, Episcopalian K-8 school in Newark, New Jersey, where she served as the Communications and Grants Manager. Emily holds a Master’s Degree in Gender Studies from The London School of Economics, and a Bachelor’s Degree from Cornell University.

Taking over the position of Programs Administrator is Angela Burgess. Angela is a 2007 graduate of

New York University, earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. During college, Angela worked as a Program Assistant with Scholars at Risk and completed a summer-long International Affairs and Public Policy Fellowship at the University of Michigan. Following graduation, Angela worked in Human Resources for an engineering company in Connecticut.

As their brief biographies show, the experience and passion of our new staff is outstanding, and will undoubtedly help the Endowment to advance its mission and provide even greater support to the Inner-City Schools.



New staff members Jeremie Kasmarcak, Emily Marchese and Angela Burgess.

Inside The Principal's Office: Highlighting Outstanding Leadership in the Inner-City Schools

Principals must be open to change and growth. As the principal of St. Jerome School in the South Bronx, Rocco Martz lives by this motto. Initially earning a degree in business administration, Mr. Martz found himself unsatisfied working in the corporate world. When the third grade teaching position opened up at St. Jerome School, he took a chance and changed professions. At the time, Mr. Martz assumed that he would only work in the Catholic school for one year. Twenty-five years later, he is still there.

In his 11-year tenure as principal of St. Jerome School, Mr. Martz has set and achieved goals leading to his vision of creating a comfortable atmosphere for learning where students are appreciated and respected.

Focusing on the physical learning environment, Mr. Martz has spent the last 10 years renovating the 135-year-old school building. Grants from The Endowment for Inner-City Education have provided funding for hallway and lighting renovations and window and door replacements. Additionally, the school created a new computer lab, science lab, library and music room under his watch. "Here in the South Bronx, where the buildings are unkempt and garbage piles up on the sidewalks, the children see the improvements we have made to the school and get a tremendous understanding of how much we care about them by what we have done for them," he notes.

In addition to enhancing the school's atmosphere, the improvements have also helped to attract new students to St. Jerome. For this and other reasons, enrollment under Mr. Martz's leadership

has grown by over 100 students, with the school opening the 2008-2009 school year at capacity with 340 students.

Mr. Martz also has ambitious academic goals for his students, particularly regarding literacy. As part of the *Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative (AAA Initiative)*, a South Bronx Catholic schools literacy initiative made possible by The Endowment for Inner-City Education through funding from the William E. Simon Foundation, St. Jerome School benefits from the help of a literacy coach who works directly with selected teachers to enhance their teaching skills and classroom presentation.

"Principals are responsible for everything from ordering toilet paper to making sure state test results get to the right people. They don't always have time to be a master teacher, too. The *AAA Initiative* supports them in this component of their job," Mr. Martz notes gratefully. The literacy coach models concrete techniques, not just theory, for teachers to build upon. One new tool being used at St. Jerome School is the Word Wall, which is used in every class to build the students' vocabulary in all subjects. The 2008-2009 school year will also feature literacy portfolios to help students better understand different types of writing and sharpen their skills.

Change and growth are a way of life at St. Jerome School. Driven by the needs of the students, St. Jerome School has become a haven for the children of the South Bronx, and Mr. Martz is dedicated to making their lives and their futures a little brighter.

Profile of Mr. Rocco Martz,
Principal of St. Jerome
School in the South Bronx



"Donors don't understand how far reaching their support is. Their support has helped to make St. Jerome a different place, not only academically, but by creating an atmosphere of respect and caring."

"The Aiming for Academic Achievement Initiative has helped motivate teachers to do things outside of the box and be open to change. The modeling done by the literacy coach makes the staff feel comfortable with incorporating new techniques."

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Congratulations Class of 2008

The Endowment for Inner-City Education congratulates the more than 2,700 seniors who graduated from the Inner-City High Schools this past May, including the 135 students who were supported by scholarships from the Endowment. An impressive 96% will go on to pursue post-secondary education.

Equipped with an excellent education and a strong sense of values, these graduates can be successful in whatever they pursue.

Congratulations and Good Luck to the Class of 2008!



St. Raymond Academy senior, Francesca Angulo, receives her diploma from Msgr. John J. Graham.

Here is a sample of colleges Inner-City Students will attend this Fall:

Boston College

Brown University

Carnegie Mellon University

College of Mt. St. Vincent

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Fairfield University

Fordham University

Hofstra University

Howard University

New York University

Princeton University

Syracuse University

University of Connecticut

University of Virginia

Villanova University

The Endowment for Inner-City Education is a nonprofit organization that was created in 1997 to provide a perpetual and stable source of income for the Inner-City Schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

The Endowment currently supports the Inner-City Schools through three main areas of financial support: tuition scholarships for needy students, capital repair grants to schools and programmatic initiatives.

The Endowment is managed by a Board of Trustees comprised of accomplished professionals and leaders in the business and nonprofit sectors. The majority of the Trustees are themselves substantial donors to the Endowment, both underscoring their commitment to quality educational opportunities for inner-city children and ensuring that the fund is managed responsibly.

The Endowment for Inner-City Education is a publicly supported, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is operated independently from the Archdiocese of New York.

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