

# The Endowment for Inner-City Education

Supporting the students and schools of Inner-City Scholarship Fund

## Endowment News

Summer 2009



### From the Board President

This is an incredible time for the schools of the Archdiocese of New York. We have a charismatic new leader in His Excellency, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, and an energetic new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Timothy J. McNiff. They are both dedicated to ensuring that the Catholic schools are academically excellent institutions that deliver a high-quality Catholic education to all who desire it.

Given the excitement and momentum within the Inner-City Schools, it is a particularly gratifying time to be a supporter and believer in our cause and mission. Although the Inner-City Schools continue to improve, the population that we serve is having more and more difficulty making the payments to keep their children enrolled in a high-quality Catholic school. As parents lose their jobs or have their hours cut back, they are increasingly forced to choose between food or housing costs and Catholic school tuition. Scholarship support is in huge demand today in New York City, and we need to create new scholarships during the current challenging environment. A quality education is a lasting gift to a child that has lifelong consequences. We are so thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

*Amy M. Stevens*

## Endowment Welcomes Archbishop Dolan

The Endowment for Inner-City Education is pleased to welcome Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan to the Archdiocese of New York. Installed at St. Patrick's Cathedral on April 15, 2009, His Excellency, Archbishop Dolan, succeeds His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, as the 13th Bishop and 10th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York.

Archbishop Dolan comes to New York from his previous post as the Archbishop of Milwaukee. In his installation homily, Archbishop Dolan spoke of his passion for Catholic schools, referring to them as a "prize," and pledging his "best efforts and support" to help the schools in the Archdiocese of New York to flourish.

A St. Louis native, Archbishop Dolan is no stranger to Catholic education. He attended Holy Infant Grade School in Ballwin, Missouri, followed by St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Cardinal Glennon College, before being ordained as a priest in 1976 for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Archbishop Dolan then went on to earn a doctorate in Church History from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., served as a faculty member at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and as rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome.



Archbishop Timothy Dolan.  
Photo by John Raiola

He served as an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of St. Louis before being appointed as the Archbishop of Milwaukee in 2002. While in Milwaukee, Archbishop Dolan launched the *Faith In Our Future* campaign to strengthen Catholic education and faith formation for the future of the church. Launched in 2007, the campaign has raised over \$57 million to fulfill its mission to support Catholic schools, religious education programs and parish projects.

Now Archbishop Dolan brings his energy and passion to the schools in the Archdiocese of New York, and we are confident his leadership will be a source of strength for the schools and their families.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for The Endowment for Inner-City Education, we welcome His Excellency, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, to the Archdiocese of New York, and look forward to working with him in support of the Inner-City Catholic Schools.

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# Strategic Planning Underway for the Schools

There is an exciting new initiative underway to develop a strategic plan for the schools of the Archdiocese of New York, called *Pathways to Excellence*. Led by Dr. Timothy McNiff, Superintendent of Schools, *Pathways to Excellence* will identify the opportunities and challenges in the school system, share best practices from Catholic schools around the country and ultimately strengthen the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York and ensure their vitality for years to come.

*Pathways to Excellence* is focused on seven key areas: Academic Excellence, Leadership, Spirituality, Economics, Marketing, Governance, and Facilities. Recommendations are expected by the end of the summer, with implementation to begin in September and continue as long as needed.

Dr. McNiff remarked, "This plan is vital to the success of the Catholic school system, enabling us to assess our resources and identify areas for continued improvement. Furthermore, by uncovering the primary challenges confronting our schools, it provides an opportunity to articulate a clear and more comprehensive vision for the future of our schools and the education of New York's children."



Mount Carmel / Holy Rosary second grade students Diana Galino and Megan De Jesus.

The Endowment is proud to support this strategic planning endeavor, and applauds the efforts to ensure the Catholic schools are the pre-eminent education alternative for children of need in New York.

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## Supreme Court Nominee Sotomayor an Alumna of Inner-City Catholic Schools

We are all thrilled that Sonia Sotomayor, an alumna of the New York Archdiocese's Inner-City Catholic Schools, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as a justice on the United States Supreme Court. A graduate of both Princeton University and Yale Law School, Judge Sotomayor began her education at Blessed Sacrament Elementary School ('68) in the Bronx, and later graduated first in her class from Cardinal Spellman High School ('72). She remains committed to the South Bronx community where she grew up, actively mentoring Inner-City students to make them aware of possibilities they may not have dreamed of before.

When announcing his pick for the Supreme Court, President Obama applauded Judge Sotomayor's mother, stating, "She sent her children to a Catholic school called Cardinal Spellman, out of the belief that with a good education, here in America, all things are possible." In making his appointment, President Obama cited Judge Sotomayor's intellect and compassion, both of which were enhanced by the strong, values-based education she received in Catholic schools. If approved, she will be the first Hispanic to serve on the high court, and she is an inspiration to students supported by the Endowment's work.

# Literacy Initiative Finding Success in South Bronx

For the past four years, *Aiming for Academic Achievement*, a South Bronx literacy initiative, has been inspiring students at participating Inner-City Elementary Schools. The program, funded by The Endowment for Inner-City Education (the "Endowment") through a generous grant from The William E. Simon Foundation, with additional support from The Richard and Susan Braddock Family Foundation, provides each participating school a literacy coach to work directly with selected teachers, enhancing their teaching and classroom presentation skills to improve the literacy of their students.

The coaches work to create a balanced literacy program that addresses the individual needs of each school's students. Coaches model concrete techniques, not just theory, for teachers to build upon. They have introduced tools like Word Walls, Book of the Month, literacy portfolios and Writer's Notebooks into the Inner-City Schools, which all contribute to the creation of a print-rich environment for students. This is especially important for students in the

South Bronx because many speak English as a second language, and therefore struggle with English vocabulary and language arts development.

Judy Brodsky, the Literacy Coach at Immaculate Conception (151st Street, Bronx) and St. Jerome Schools, believes that the support given to faculty and staff is the most valuable component of the program. Over the past two years, Brodsky has found that principals and teachers are very receptive to the coaching and eager to receive more time with coaches. She sees the openness of the schools' teachers and leadership reflected in the students' responses to the program. "The kids eat it up," Brodsky declared. "They are so enthusiastic because it is a different twist on writing. They are writing about things they care about."

Steadily climbing test scores over the past four years reinforce the overwhelmingly positive feedback of coaches, principals, teachers and students. Additionally, the initiative is transforming the entire culture of participating schools, with visits from

book authors, pen pal clubs, greater emphasis on writing and communication, and school-wide improvement on test scores. With such powerful results, the Endowment hopes to continue and expand this proven approach to literacy acquisition and overall learning.



Literacy Coach Judy Brodsky reads to fourth grade students at Immaculate Conception School in the Bronx.



Fourth grade students Izabella Salgado and Serenity Wallace display their Writer's Notebooks.

*"Teachers are more aware that they are teaching strategies and skills, not just subjects. The goal is for students to take the literacy strategies and transfer those skills into other academic areas."*

– Literacy Coach, Vera Kohn

*"AAA 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."*

– St. Jerome School Principal Rocco Martz

*"The kids eat it up. They are so enthusiastic because it is a different twist on writing. They are writing about things they care about."*

– Literacy Coach, Judy Brodsky

**To support a literacy coach at one of the many Inner-City Elementary Schools beyond the South Bronx, please contact Caren Howley, Executive Director, at (212) 371-1011, x3327, or [chowley@endowmentnyc.org](mailto:chowley@endowmentnyc.org).**

# The Endowment Awards \$395,482 in Capital Improvement Grants to 13 Schools

The Endowment for Inner-City Education recently awarded 13 schools grants totaling \$395,482 for vital capital repairs and upgrades, made possible in part by support from The Louis Calder Foundation and The William E. Simon Foundation.

The average Inner-City Elementary School building is over 80 years old. Age, along with daily wear and tear, has created significant capital needs in the schools.

However, the schools' small budgets have limited resources for physical plant upgrades. Over the past 11 years, the Endowment has awarded more than \$5.6 million in capital grants to 50 schools to modernize their facilities and help attract new students.

The following schools have been awarded Endowment capital grants for projects targeted for completion by Fall 2009:

School	County	Grant Awarded	Intended Project(s)
Immaculate Conception (E. 151st Street)	Bronx	\$ 38,421	Renovate first floor bathrooms
Mt. Carmel / Holy Rosary	Manhattan	\$ 20,000	Renovate early childhood bathrooms
Our Lady of Lourdes	Manhattan	\$ 70,000	Replace boiler
Our Lady of Mercy	Bronx	\$ 10,200	Repair leaking cafeteria wall
Our Lady Queen of Angels	Manhattan	\$ 16,000	Replace bathroom sinks
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs	Manhattan	\$ 50,000	Replace classroom floor tile
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Manhattan	\$ 15,000	Install stair treads
Santa Maria	Bronx	\$ 35,000	Replace boiler vacuum & steam traps
St. Ann	Manhattan	\$ 50,000	Replace classroom windows
St. Anselm	Bronx	\$ 18,000	Install outdoor signage
St. Athanasius	Bronx	\$ 42,636	Replace second floor hallway tile
St. Jerome	Bronx	\$ 12,625	Replace first floor classroom doors
St. Joseph (Bathgate Avenue)	Bronx	\$ 17,600	Repair playground grating
<b>Total Grants Awarded</b>		<b>\$ 395,482</b>	

## Highlights of 2008 Capital Grant Recipients



Before and after pictures of gym and stage renovation (\$50,000) at Our Lady of Mercy School (Bronx).



Before and after pictures of science lab renovation (\$47,500) at Our Lady of Lourdes School (Manhattan).

To donate to The Endowment for Inner-City Education's capital improvement initiative, please contact Jeremie Kasmarcak, Manager of Elementary School Programs, at (212) 371-1011, x 3362, or [jkasmarcak@endowmentnyc.org](mailto:jkasmarcak@endowmentnyc.org).

# Endowment Builds On Cardinal's Scholarship Program for High School Success

During the 2009-2010 academic year, The Endowment for Inner-City Education will embark on its second year of sponsoring Cardinal's Scholarship Program recipients through high school. The Endowment is currently the sole funder of this high school program, providing scholarships to make it possible for families to bridge the gap between elementary and high school tuition. While the average elementary school tuition is approximately \$3,000, the average high school tuition is over \$6,000. This sharp increase is often too much for families to afford. By extending the Cardinal's Scholarship Program to high school, the Endowment seeks to provide access to a high-quality, Catholic high school education to those families most in need.

All eligible Cardinal's Scholarship Program eighth graders are offered the opportunity to apply for a tuition assistance scholarship to any of the 21 Inner-City High Schools. Provided the students continue to demonstrate financial need, the scholarship can be renewed for all four years of high school. Currently, the average scholarship given to students is \$3,325, which covers approximately 61% of tuition. Nearly 160 students received Cardinal's Scholarships for high school this past school year, with a new cohort to begin in the fall.

## Spotlight on a Student

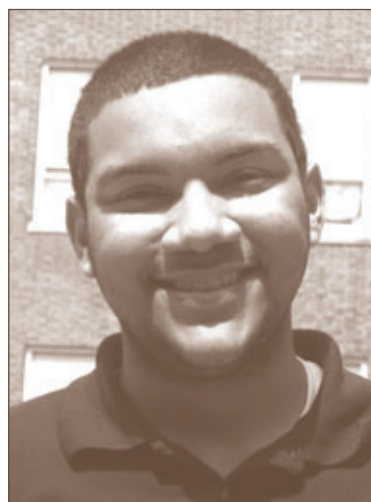
### Student Profile – Jason Tejada All Hallows '09

Jason Tejada only attended one high school open house. The students and faculty were kind and welcoming, the rigorous academic reputation spoke for itself, and the media room with its own newscast made it official: All Hallows, an all-boys High School in the South Bronx with 635 students, was the only school he wanted to attend. However, with two younger sisters in Inner-City Catholic Elementary School, he knew he would need a scholarship in order to make his dream come true. Be A Student's Friend, funded by The Endowment for Inner-City Education, provided Jason with a scholarship to All Hallows, launching a meteoric high school career.

Unfortunately, Jason began his freshman year of high school from a hospital bed. Diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in April 2005, the Spring of his eighth grade year, he developed a blood infection after chemotherapy treatments, just days before the start of the school year. During the four weeks spent recovering from the infection, Jason received daily visits and letters from his new, yet unmet, classmates and teachers. "Mr. Lauber sent me Latin verbs to conjugate and Br. Bechner gave me a copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, so I could keep up with the coursework. The whole class prayed for me everyday. It meant so much to me to know they cared," remarked Jason.

Weak from the cancer treatments, Jason braced himself for a difficult social transition into the school. On his first day back, he sat alone at the cafeteria, prepared to go unnoticed. Within a few minutes, however, a group of upperclassmen came over and invited him to sit with them. He hasn't looked back since.

Despite starting his high school career a few weeks late, Jason has just graduated valedictorian of All Hallows. He will attend Columbia University in the Fall with a full scholarship, and hopes to study Economics and minor in Political Science. Jason feels that, "God



gave me a second chance at bat, and now I want to make the most of it. I'd like to be a CEO or chairman of a company that makes a difference in the world. I have so much I'm grateful for, I want to give some of that back."

Jason doesn't know how his life would be different without the scholarship that allowed him to attend All Hallows—and wouldn't want to know. "All I can say is thank you to everyone who's ever given to The Endowment for Inner-City Education. You are investing in the growth of students' lives, and you have changed mine forever."

For more information about the Endowment's scholarship programs or to make a contribution, please contact Katherine Maughan, Programs Administrator, at (212) 371-1011, x3356, or [kmaughan@endowmentnyc.org](mailto:kmaughan@endowmentnyc.org).

# Student Authors Send Books to Uganda

As the culmination of a year of writing, students in grades four through seven from five Inner-City Elementary Schools wrote and published picture books based on their own personal narratives.



St. Jerome School students proudly display their picture books.

Participating schools included Immaculate Conception School, St. Jerome School and St. Joseph School, all of which are funded by The Endowment for Inner-City Education through generous support from The Richard and Susan Braddock Family Foundation and The William E. Simon Foundation as part of our South Bronx reading initiative. Two other Manhattan-based Inner-City Schools, Mount Carmel / Holy Rosary School and St. Gregory the Great School, participated as well.

With the help of literacy coaches, students spent the school year writing personal memories in their Writer's Notebooks, as well as learning strategies and techniques to improve their writing skills. Students then chose one memory from their notebook to develop into a picture book about themselves.

The students learned the challenges of being an author first hand. With the help of Literacy Coaches they studied the components of picture books, such as titles, page breaks, text placement and illustration, and then applied this knowledge, transforming one of their own writing entries into a full length book. According to Immaculate Conception fifth grade student Daniel Figueroa, "It was hard to put the book together and make all of the decisions, edits and revisions, but I feel proud that I am an author."

Beyond the hard work that went into authorship, the student's books will serve an even greater cause. This summer the books will be sent to the children of COBURWAS Orphanage in Uganda, Africa. For the Ugandan children these books will address two needs: supplying students with badly needed books, and providing educational materials to aid the children as they learn English.

Sr. Patrice Owens, Principal of Immaculate Conception School, is excited to see the students so enthusiastic about writing and serving others. "Once the students got the letter from COBURWAS Orphanage and saw the picture of the Ugandan children, they could not stop talking about the books. They are thrilled to help the children and share with them a little bit about their lives," commented Sr. Patrice.

The picture book project is just one of the many literacy-centered activities that coaches are bringing to the South Bronx Schools through the Endowment's South Bronx literacy initiative. And the passion for reading is catching on among students, who have applied their strong, values-based education and turned an opportunity to learn into an opportunity to help others.

## Meet Some of Our Scholarship Students



**Maxiel Madera**  
6th grade, St. Athanasius School  
Community Connections Scholarship



**Priest Boone**  
3rd Grade, Mt. Carmel / Holy Rosary School  
Cardinal's Scholarship Program



**Stephanie Ibarra**  
12th Grade, Cathedral High School  
Be A Student's Friend Scholarship

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

Optimism, positive reinforcement, and uncompromisingly high standards are just a few of the defining characteristics of La Salle Academy's principal, Candace Hammonds. As the first female principal in the all-male school's 160-year history, Ms. Hammonds is focused on instilling pride in her students. After receiving her second Masters degree in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University, Ms. Hammonds began at La Salle Academy as a guidance counselor ten years ago. She served as the Director of Guidance and eventually as Assistant Principal for Academics, and now Mrs. Hammonds has eagerly taken on the role of principal.

With a back-to-basics approach that emphasizes discipline and structure, La Salle inculcates pride and self-esteem in its 520 students, 60% of whom live at or below the poverty line. "Once you allow kids to feel safe and secure, you gain their trust—then you can tackle the other issues," affirms Mrs. Hammonds.

The typical incoming La Salle student has the basics, but needs the extra attention to really grow. Mrs. Hammonds notes that without the support of The Endowment for Inner-City Education and other key funders, many students would not have the opportunity to attend the school. The Endowment currently supports 20 students at the school with \$50,000 in total scholarship funds. Mrs. Hammonds believes, "Receiving a scholarship from the Endowment is a life-changing experience for these kids. It builds a foundation that will catapult them to a selective college and beyond to be a successful leader."

Students take pride in the Lower East Side school's 160-year history. Alumni appreciatively return to thank teachers or offer career guidance to current students. "Students take pride in the past. It builds respect, both in the community and the school," notes Mrs. Hammonds.

Despite the enrollment challenges many schools face, Mrs. Hammonds has increased the enrollment for next year. She hosted a series of "Meet the Principal" town hall meetings, inviting prospective parents and accepted students to visit the school and ask her questions. It also gave her a chance to communicate La Salle's high standards. With Middle States accreditation, AP courses, small classroom instruction, e-mail access to teachers, and an after-school Academic Support Center, the resources are in place for students to excel.

Mrs. Hammonds' energy and enthusiasm quickly spread throughout the school. With the help of an invigorated Parents Association, La Salle was able to host its first prom in five years. Extra-curriculars, clubs, and activities have all multiplied. Mrs. Hammonds has also instituted a PSAT course, beginning in 9th grade, as part of the curriculum. She hopes to bring additional Advanced Placement courses to the school.

High expectations are the standard at La Salle Academy. With uncompromising dedication to her students and the Academy, Mrs. Hammonds is eager to tackle the years ahead. We congratulate her on a strong start, and wish her well!

Profile of Mrs. Candace Hammonds, Principal of La Salle Academy in Manhattan



*"Without a scholarship from The Endowment for Inner-City Education, these students would not have access to the kind of education they need – the kind they deserve."*

*"Future leaders are created every day at La Salle Academy. Investing in students will always be the most worthwhile investment anyone can make."*

*"The students at La Salle Academy take pride in their school, the building, their community – even their uniforms. They appreciate the opportunity to build on a tradition of excellence and alumni return everyday to show their gratitude."*

**For more information on our high school scholarship programs, please contact Emily Marchese, Manager of High School Programs, at (212) 371-1011, x3336, or [emarchese@endowmentnyc.org](mailto:emarchese@endowmentnyc.org).**

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## Congratulations Class of 2009

The Endowment for Inner-City Education congratulates the Class of 2009. This past Spring, the Inner-City High Schools graduated more than 2,700 seniors, including 138 students who were supported by scholarships from the Endowment. An impressive 96% will go on to pursue post-secondary education.

We are confident that the excellent education and strong sense of values gained by these graduates from the Inner-City Schools will enable them to succeed in their collegiate and professional pursuits.

**Congratulations and good luck  
to the Class of 2009!**



Cathedral High School seniors, Chantel Santos, Katherine Santiago and Shelby Santana, at graduation.

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

Barnard College

College of Mt. St. Vincent

Columbia University

CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College

Dartmouth College

Fairfield University

Fordham University

Howard University

Marymount Manhattan College

New York University

Penn State University

Seton Hall University

St. John's University

SUNY Binghamton

SUNY Buffalo

Syracuse 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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