

# The Endowment for Inner-City Education

Supporting the students and schools of Inner-City Scholarship Fund

## Endowment News

Spring 2006



### From the Chairman

2006 has been a busy year for the Endowment and the Inner-City Catholic Schools. As you know from our earlier communications, the innovative Cardinal's Scholarship Program that the Endowment is helping to fund has brought over 2,300 new students into the Inner-City Elementary Schools. That scholarship initiative was so successful that we have agreed to help fund a new program that will offer an additional 1,400 partial tuition scholarships. At the same time, Cardinal Egan is taking steps to strengthen the Archdiocese financially and to provide long-term stability. I applaud his brave decision to close 7 schools. As families have moved out of the city in search of lower-cost living, some of our schools have seen their populations dwindle, while others are booming. The Archdiocese needs to realign so that funds are being used in the most effective manner, and to ensure that the quality of education is exceptional. As the steward of the funds you so generously commit to the Endowment, and as a donor to the Inner-City Schools myself, I would expect nothing less.

Thank you for your continuing generosity, and best wishes for a terrific summer.

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## Cardinal's Scholarships Bring in Over 2,300 New Students; Additional Scholarships Offered for Next Year

Last year, The Endowment for Inner-City Education created an unprecedented funding partnership that provided over 2,300 low-income students with partial tuition scholarships so that they could attend Inner-City Elementary Schools. The Cardinal's Scholarships are funded by the Endowment, Children's Scholarship Fund, Inner-City Scholarship Fund, the Patrons Program, and many individuals, corporations and foundations. The funding groups have committed to supporting scholarships for these students for their entire elementary school education (through grade 8).

The addition of the 2,300 students stemmed the dramatic enrollment decline seen in the Inner-City Elementary Schools over the last five years. Twenty-one schools increased their enrollments by more than 10%, and in some schools, such as Mount Carmel / Holy Rosary School in Manhattan and St. Augustine School in the

Bronx, enrollment increased by more than 25% thanks to the Cardinal's Scholarships. Ms. Cathy Hufnagel, Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School in Manhattan, noted, "The Cardinal's

Scholarships made a huge difference in my enrollment this year. Without these scholarships, low-income parents just cannot afford the cost of Catholic school. Our new parents are thrilled to have their children in our school, and we are excited to have them here. I have full classes for the first time in three years, and it's fantastic." Due to the tremendous success of the Cardinal's Scholarship Program, the



Clockwise from top left: Alicia Arias, Jacinda Milan, Tianny Salazar and Reymond Rodriguez, new students at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem and recipients of Cardinal's Scholarships.

fundors, including the Endowment, have committed to funding a second program. The second program will provide an additional 1,400 partial tuition scholarships to children currently attending

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# Endowment Awards Nearly \$700,000 in Capital Improvement Grants to 15 Elementary Schools

The Endowment is very pleased to announce that it has awarded \$663,235 in grants to 15 elementary schools for critical capital repairs. While the principals and faculty of the Inner-City Schools provide an outstanding education to thousands of our children, they do so in buildings that are often in significant disrepair. The Endowment has committed to providing these schools with funding to provide a safe, enriching learning environment for the students they serve. Past grants have supported the renovation of school bathrooms, installation of new classroom lighting, and the creation of new science labs and libraries. These grants from the Endowment have literally transformed the experiences of students attending the Inner-City Elementary Schools.

The Endowment received applications from 43 schools this year requesting \$3.7 million in aid for capital improvements. While the Endowment cannot meet every request, our funds, combined with funds provided by Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Project YESS organization, enabled more than half of the applicants to receive some funding for their projects. The following schools received grants from the Endowment this year:

School	County	Intended Project(s)
Ascension	Manhattan	Replacement of stairway treads and handrails
Corpus Christi	Manhattan	Bathroom renovation
Immaculate Conception (E. 151st)	Bronx	PA system upgrade
Immaculate Conception (E. Gun Hill)	Bronx	Replace school windows
Incarnation	Manhattan	Creation of rooftop playground
Mt. Carmel / Holy Rosary	Manhattan	Renovation of school playground
Our Lady Queen of Angels	Manhattan	New lighting for school
St. Ann	Manhattan	Replace exterior school doors
St. Athanasius	Bronx	New stairwell lighting / emergency exit signs
St. Helena	Bronx	Renovation of library and computer center
St. James	Manhattan	Installation of security camera
St. Jerome	Bronx	Window replacement
St. John Chrysostom	Bronx	Renovate auditorium / gymnasium
St. Joseph	Bronx	Renovate 4th floor for new classrooms
St. Luke	Bronx	Replace exterior school doors, classroom doors, install security / intercom system

## Highlights of 2005 Recipients



Before and after pictures of stairwell treads (\$45,000 grant) at Our Lady of Pompeii School in Manhattan.



Before and after pictures of the science lab (\$40,000 grant) at St. Elizabeth School in Manhattan.

## Facts about the Inner-City Catholic Schools of NYC

- 94 Inner-City Elementary and 21 Inner-City High Schools serve over 43,000 students each year
- Schools located in the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island
- 36% non-Catholic
- 93% minority
- 64% qualify for free or reduced lunch
- More than half live in single-parent households
- Seniors graduating from high school: 98%
- Graduates who pursue post-secondary education: 97%
- Average tuition per student: \$2,680 elementary (K–8)  
\$5,623 high school
- Average cost to educate: \$3,617 elementary (K–8)  
\$7,199 high school
- NYC public school cost to educate: \*  
\$12,617 elementary (K–8)  
\$11,282 high school

\* Source: New York City Department of Education website.

To make a donation to the Endowment, please contact Caren Howley, Executive Director, at (212) 371-1011, x3327 or [ICEndowment@aol.com](mailto:ICEndowment@aol.com)

## Endowment Secures \$400,000 Grant for Reading Initiative in South Bronx Schools

Last December, the Endowment was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the William E. Simon Foundation to fund a new position of Reading Specialist for the 16 South Bronx Inner-City Elementary Schools. The elementary schools in the South Bronx serve a student population that resides in the poorest congressional district in the country. Many of the students have parents who are not native English speakers or do not have the levels of education necessary to assist with reading and homework at home. Thus, these schools will benefit greatly from the additional support provided by a full-time Reading Specialist. Dr. Catherine Hickey, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary for Education,

has selected Mr. Frank Tetro to serve in this very important capacity. Mr. Tetro has a Masters Degree in Reading and over 15 years of experience teaching children at the early stages of reading and collaborating with his fellow teachers. Mr. Tetro also attended Bronx Catholic schools himself. He will leave his post as a Kindergarten teacher at Holy Rosary School in the Bronx to assume this important position, and will begin working with the schools and staff this summer. We are especially excited by this generous grant from the William E. Simon Foundation, which is enabling the Endowment to strengthen the excellent educational programs of the Inner-City Catholic Schools.

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## Cardinal's Scholarships Make a Significant Impact

public schools. The Endowment is proud to fund the Cardinal's Scholarships, which provide low-income families in New York City with the financial support to choose a safe, high-quality, values-based Catholic school education for their children. At the same time, the scholarships are ensuring that the Inner-City Catholic Schools remain well-enrolled and fiscally sound.

With a funding commitment of \$13.5 million over the next nine years to these two Cardinal's Scholarship Programs, the Endowment is actively fundraising, and would welcome your contribution. The most exciting part about making a contribution to the Endowment for the Cardinal's Scholarships is the leverage gained from the matching partners. Every dollar contributed will be matched 2:1. A contribution of \$100,000, for example,

will yield \$300,000, enabling 200 new students to receive the gift of a Catholic school education (at an average scholarship award of \$1,500). And a donor's contribution adds even more to a school's bottom line, as the family is still expected to contribute the tuition balance (roughly \$1,000). Thus, a contribution of \$100,000 translates into \$500,000 of tuition revenue to an Inner-City Catholic School, a substantial sum that can help ensure the survival of schools that are preparing our next generation for college and beyond. To make a contribution to the Endowment for the Cardinal's Scholarship Program, please send your contribution to Caren Howley, Executive Director, at 1011 First Avenue, Suite 1400, New York, New York, 10022, and indicate on the check that your contribution is for the Cardinal's Scholarship Program.

# Endowment Secures Key Grants for Vital School Repairs

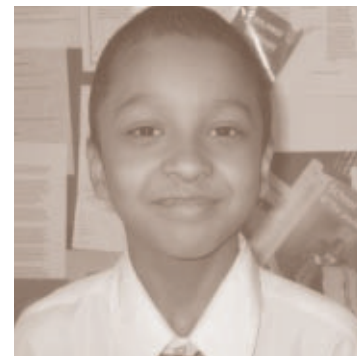
The Endowment is delighted to report that it has received a \$1 million grant from The Louis Calder Foundation to support the Endowment's efforts to provide sizeable grants to elementary schools for capital repairs. The grant from the Calder Foundation will provide \$50,000 annually to support one or more capital improvements focused upon the refurbishment or redesign of classroom space.

The Endowment was also recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the William E. Simon Foundation to support capital improvements in several South Bronx elementary schools. These generous grants, in combination with the Endowment's annual expenditures, are ensuring that the Inner-City Elementary Schools remain strong and physically sound. To make a contribution to secure the structural health of the Inner-City Schools, please contact Caren Howley at (212) 371-1011, x3327, or [ICEndowment@aol.com](mailto:ICEndowment@aol.com).

## Spotlight on a Child

### Endowment Scholarships: Creating Dreams, Changing Lives

With six children, Anita and William Rodriguez knew that they would have to make significant sacrifices to send their children to a Catholic school. Mrs. Rodriguez commented, "I didn't quite know how we would afford to send our sons to a Catholic elementary school, but was determined to find a way even if that meant significantly cutting back on our expenses and working more hours." Luckily, the Cardinal's Scholarship Program was announced last spring. Anita and William were excited about such a scholarship program and submitted applications for each of their three eligible children — Reymond, Gabriel and Jacob — all of whom were awarded scholarships and subsequently began the 5th, 4th and 2nd grades, respectively, at Our Lady Queen of Angels School (OLQA) in East Harlem this past September.



Reymond Rodriguez, Our Lady Queen of Angels School (OLQA), East Harlem.

Reymond, the oldest of the three boys, cried each morning before heading out to his old school, PS 199 in the Bronx. "I was afraid to go to school when I was at PS 199 but now that I'm at OLQA, I like coming to school," said Reymond. Not only was Reymond bullied at PS 199, but he also noted that he often felt ignored by the teachers and that he couldn't ask for help with his schoolwork. "I didn't learn anything at my old school," he said. His mother agreed with this statement, noting that Reymond "feared for his safety," which affected his ability to concentrate and, thus, his schoolwork. "Reymond was failing his classes at PS 199, but now that he's at OLQA he feels comfortable and he has attention from the teachers and principal. Academically he is doing much better and, just as important, he's happy here," she noted.

When asked what he likes most about OLQA, Reymond immediately responded, "The teachers!" With smaller classes, Reymond receives more attention from his teachers and appreciates that they work with him until he understands something. "I feel smart here," he proudly delivered with a smile. Reymond also adds that he loves that his new school has so many more programs than his old school and is very proud to say that he is a member of the school's track team and specializes in the 100-meter event.

The Rodriguez family has been pleased with the structure and education provided at OLQA and has plans to send their four-year-old daughter, Anastasia, to the school next year and their three-year-old daughter, Charisma, the following year (their oldest daughter is currently in high school). The Rodriguez's are extremely grateful to have received Cardinal's Scholarships and feel that their sons are now getting an excellent education. Not only are they receiving a high-quality education, but, as Mrs. Rodriguez noted, "They are happy here and that makes my heart feel good."

Fr. Seán McCaughley  
Ascension School,  
Manhattan



*"I take Catholic to mean universal — a Catholic school is one that is welcoming to all, regardless of faith, socioeconomic status, race or ethnicity."*

*Fr. Seán strives to "create a community where everyone knows that they are welcomed and loved."*



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

At nearly 300 students, Ascension School on Manhattan's Upper West Side is thriving, due in large part to the hard work of Fr. Seán McCaughley, the school's principal. After working at Ascension parish for ten years, Fr. Seán made the transition to the position of principal of the school two years ago. He has greatly impacted the atmosphere of the school, making it a highly desirable place for parents to send their children for an excellent education.

Fr. Seán has worked hard to ensure that the school is living up to the mission and vision of what a Catholic school should be. He noted, "I take Catholic to mean universal — a Catholic school is one that is welcoming to all, regardless of faith, socioeconomic status, race or ethnicity." In keeping with this theme, Fr. Seán invited the Cooke Center for Learning and Development, a provider of school-based special education services, to Ascension, so that the school could welcome and educate children of all skill levels. Fr. Seán expressed how "enormously proud he is of his students and how they have welcomed and interacted with the Ascension Cooke students."

Walking through the halls of Ascension School, one can clearly see that it is a community where each student and faculty member feels that he or she belongs. When asked, Fr. Seán acknowledged that one of his goals is to "create a community where everyone knows that they are welcomed and loved." He has been working on creating such a community by attending to the needs of both the students and faculty and by creating an environment where there is respect, both among peers and between faculty and students. In order to build that respect, Fr. Seán emphasizes that students deserve a clean, warm and attractive school — "when students see that their school is clean and inviting, they take pride in being there and learn to be respectful and, in return, the students feel respected." As a recipient of a capital grant from The Endowment for Inner-City Education to repair the interior stairs and handrails, Fr. Seán is excited that he will be able to give the school a "facelift." He commented that through the capital grant and the Endowment's scholarship support, "The Endowment helps to restore dignity."

In addition to having students take pride in their physical school plant, Fr. Seán works to bring Ascension's community even closer intellectually by instituting a "value" and "chant" of the month. At the beginning of the school year, a value, such as acceptance, is chosen for each month and incorporated into each student's curriculum. Likewise, a chant, such as "give up put downs" or "I will celebrate diversity," is chosen for each month and repeated whenever the question, "What do Ascension students say?" is asked. Incorporating positive values and chants into each student's day, regardless of grade level, brings the school together while also teaching valuable life lessons to the students.

With such a welcoming educational community, Ascension is a wonderful school and one that many parents would like for their children to attend. As with all Inner-City Schools, there are always low-income families who can only dream of being able to send their children to Ascension. For many, that dream became a reality this past September with the Cardinal's Scholarship Program, funded in part by The Endowment for Inner-City Education. Fr. Seán noted, "The Cardinal's Scholarships have offered opportunities to children and their families who could never have afforded it." He added that one mother told him, "I'm so excited. If my daughter goes to college she will be the first in the family to do so and now that she is at Ascension, she has that chance!" It's moments like these when Fr. Seán clearly knows that he, and Ascension School, are making a difference in the lives of the students that they serve.

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# Realignment Closes Seven Schools

Last month, the Archdiocese of New York announced that it would close seven Inner-City Elementary Schools at the end of this school year. Five of the schools are located in Manhattan, one in the Bronx and one on Staten Island. The remaining 87 elementary schools have more than enough seats to accommodate all of these children. While the decision to close a school is never entered lightly nor welcomed, we applaud the Archdiocese for making the decision to consolidate so as to strengthen the overall Inner-City School system. As an organization dedicated to providing long-term support to the Inner-City School, we want to ensure Endowment funds are being used effectively to create academically strong, financially sound schools. Contributions from donors can now be concentrated to a smaller group of schools that are well-enrolled, fiscally sound, and poised for a fantastic future.

## Please consider supporting the mission of the Endowment by making a bequest in your will, using the following language:

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to The Endowment for Inner-City Education, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, having its principal offices at 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_ percent of my estate, or describe securities or other property), to be used for its general purposes (or for the name of a school or program).

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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