

The Endowment for Inner-City Education

Supporting the students and schools of Inner-City Scholarship Fund

Endowment News

Summer 2005



From the Chairman

Dear Friends,
Those of us who have supported Catholic education in New York City and around the nation find ourselves at a critical juncture: rising employee expenses are driving up the cost to educate, creating even greater deficits as schools strive to keep tuition affordable for low-income families. At the same time, we know there is a huge demand for educational choice from parents in New York City — over 2,500 parents applied for the new Cardinal's Scholarships within the first month of their announcement! I believe we must ensure the survival of these schools that are educating the city's most vulnerable children and producing graduates that are attending college at much higher rates than their peers in public schools. The Endowment is committed to this goal with our support of tuition scholarships and grants to the schools. I thank you for your support of our mission, now and always.

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The Endowment Secures \$8 Million Grant from Children's Scholarship Fund for New "Cardinal's Scholarships"

In an extraordinary partnership that will benefit thousands of children in New York City, The Endowment for Inner-City Education has secured a matching grant of \$1 million per year for eight years from the Children's Scholarship Fund to provide partial tuition scholarships to enable low-income children enrolled in a public school to attend an Inner-City Catholic School. The grant is contingent upon an additional \$2 million being raised in each of the next eight years. Our sister organization, Inner-City Scholarship Fund, has committed \$1 million in each of the next eight years, and the Endowment and the Patrons Program, led by Peter Flanigan, are leading the effort to raise the final \$1 million for each year. The total of \$3 million per year for eight years, or \$24 million, will provide partial tuition scholarships for up to 2,000 needy children each year for the duration of their elementary school education.

The scholarships, called the Cardinal's Scholarships, will be administered by the Children's Scholarship Fund. The response to the Cardinal's Scholarships has been tremendous — over 2,500 families have inquired about the scholarships, confirming the strong demand for Catholic education in New York City. As of July 1, over 1,000 Cardinal's Scholarships had been awarded, with many other applications just awaiting completion of financial information.

The Cardinal's Scholarships present a unique opportunity for donors to the Endowment — a chance to receive significant leverage on your philanthropic contribution, while at the same time offering the opportunity of an excellent education to thousands of New York City's neediest children. Every dollar put forth will be matched 2:1 (including the matches from Inner-City Scholarship Fund and Children's Scholarship Fund); thus a contribution of \$50,000, for example, will yield \$150,000, enabling 100 new students to receive the gift of a Catholic School education.

Russ Carson, Chairman of the Endowment, noted, "Our young people are the future workforce of this city — we have an obligation to ensure that they receive the best possible education and preparation for their future. The Inner-City Catholic Schools are providing the outstanding, values-based education, and the Cardinal's Scholarships program will provide the financial means to enable thousands of new students to attend those schools, while also strengthening the Inner-City Schools and ensuring their long-term survival."

To contribute to the Cardinal's Scholarships program, please contact Caren Howley, Executive Director, at (212) 371-1011, x3327, or by email at ICEndowment@aol.com.

Third Community Connections Program Site Added



Pictured (l-r): Teresa Gomez (Deputy Director, Abraham House), Sr. Grace Canevari (Principal, St. Luke School), Sr. Simone Ponnet (Executive Director, Abraham House), Rocco Martz (Principal, St. Jerome School), Jane O'Connell (Trustee, The Endowment for Inner-City Education), Caren Howley (Executive Director, The Endowment for Inner-City Education)

The Endowment's innovative Community Connections program provides very needy families with full tuition scholarships to an Inner-City Elementary School and access to a community-based organization for after-school support. Following the success of its first two Community Connections programs, The Endowment for Inner-City Education recently announced plans for a third program site in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx. An area devastated over the past 40 years by crime, drugs, arson and poverty, Mott Haven is home to a new wave of immigrants who have poor public school choices and no financial means to choose better alternatives. The Endowment's Community Connections program will provide 20 students with access to a better future by obtaining the excellent education offered by two Inner-City Elementary Schools, St. Jerome School and St. Luke School.

The Endowment has selected Abraham House as the community partner for this third site. Abraham House serves families with an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated family member and provides education programs and support designed to break the cycle of recidivism. The majority of the families are Mexican immigrants with very little income or education, and for the children of these families, obtaining a good education will make a significant difference in their lives.

Abraham House operates an intensive after-school program with a focus on basic skills. Twenty of the students currently attending Abraham House's after-school program will receive Endowment tuition scholarships to attend either St. Jerome School or St. Luke School this fall. Mr. Rocco Martz, Principal of St. Jerome School, noted, "The Inner-City Catholic Schools have always been committed to providing an outstanding education to all in the community, and the Endowment's Community Connections program is enabling our school to do just that by giving very low-income students the opportunity to attend St. Jerome School. We are thrilled to be a part of such an important, meaningful program."

The Endowment's first Community Connections site, St. Anthony School in the Bronx in partnership with Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, currently supports ten students who are preparing to enter their third year in the program. The second program site, St. Athanasius School in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx in partnership with The Point Community Development Corporation, is supporting nine students who are looking forward to returning to St. Athanasius next fall. To learn more about the Community Connections program, please contact Caren Howley, Executive Director, at (212) 371-1011, x3327.



Endowment Partners with Regis Philbin to Create New Library/Media Center for Our Lady of Solace School

Last summer, the Endowment awarded a \$75,000 challenge grant to Our Lady of Solace School in the Bronx to create a new library / media center for its 300 students. Our Lady of Solace School already had been selected for Library Connections, a program that would bring the school over \$100,000 in books and staff development, but the school's library consisted of two very small rooms with no common study or instructional space. The school had dreams of creating a larger, well-stocked library with state-of-the-art facilities so that their students could learn in a vibrant educational space.

With the Endowment's lead grant in hand and help from the Patrons Program, the school secured additional grants from the

Hyde & Watson Foundation, the Avanesians Foundation and Regis Philbin, an alumnus of the school.

In May, Mr. Philbin visited the school to dedicate the new Regis Philbin Library / Media Center. At the dedication, Mr. Philbin noted the significant role that his Catholic School education had played in his life. In return, students from Our Lady of Solace shared their thanks for their new library, a space that will allow them to learn, to dream, and to use books to travel to places far beyond the streets of the Bronx.

To make the dream of a new library a reality for another school, please contact Anissa Sepulveda at (212) 371-1011, x3336.



Facts about the Inner-City Catholic Schools of NYC

- 94 Inner-City Elementary and 21 Inner-City High Schools serve nearly 45,000 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: 99%
- Graduates who pursue post-secondary education: 95%
- Average tuition per student: \$2,680 elementary (K–8)
\$5,417 high school
- Average cost to educate: \$3,617 elementary (K–8)
\$7,199 high school
- NYC public school cost to educate: *
\$12,256 elementary (K–8)
\$10,500 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

Endowment Awards Grants to Ten Schools for Capital Improvements

Two rows of desks huddled together in a classroom, the children who sit in them anxiously staring at the ceiling to see if drops of water will fall. Children straining to see the blackboard due to poor classroom lighting. Bathrooms with stall doors that won't close; school steps with treads that are completely eroded away; children who learn about science in a book but with no facilities to enact hands-on experiments. These are the stark realities for the children attending most schools in New York City, public or private. The Inner-City Schools have little resources to make significant capital repairs. This is why every year, the Endowment awards nearly \$500,000 in grants to Inner-City Elementary Schools for urgent capital needs. We remain one of the few funding organizations that the Catholic Schools can turn to for funding for such important projects.

In April, the Endowment awarded capital grants to ten schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. The following schools in the Bronx received grants: Holy Cross School (\$20,000 to restore and paint the exterior of the building), Immaculate Conception School (\$40,000 to repair the lower school's roof), Our Lady of Mercy School (\$35,000 to improve classroom lighting), St. Angela Merici School (\$45,000 to replace the interior and exterior doors), St. Anthony School (\$40,000 to improve the lighting in the classrooms and hallways), St. Athanasius School (\$100,000 to create a new library), St. Jerome School (\$65,000 to repair the school's deteriorating facade), and St. Raymond School (\$30,000 to renovate the school's bathrooms). Two Manhattan schools were also awarded grants: Our Lady of Pompeii School (\$45,000 to refurbish the school's steps and replace the interior doors) and St. Elizabeth School (\$40,000 to create a science lab). Many of the grants were awarded as challenge grants, meaning the schools must raise matching funds in order to receive the full amount from the Endowment. Sr. Colleen Therese Smith, A.S.C.J., Principal of Our Lady of Pompeii School, noted, "I was so proud to receive a challenge grant of \$45,000 from the Endowment, but a bit apprehensive as well because I wasn't sure we could raise the match. However, I was completely overwhelmed by the response not only from our parents who solicited donations, but also from the local business community who proved to be extremely generous. I think the students were as excited as I was to watch the numbers go up each day on our "Matching Grant" chart in the school foyer. Now, thanks to the Endowment and our generous community, the children of Our Lady of Pompeii School will return in September to a safe and secure school building."

Like Sr. Colleen, we are very excited about the capital projects that will be taking place in the coming months and the impact that they will have on each of the schools. Elementary schools interested in applying for an Endowment capital grant are required to submit an application to the Endowment in February. This year alone, the Endowment received applications from 33 Inner-City Schools with needs totaling over \$2.6 million. Applications are carefully reviewed, and Endowment staff meet with the Departments of Education and Finance and the Patrons Program to learn more about the applicant schools. The Endowment conducts site visits with all semi-finalists, and the Disbursement Committee makes its final decisions in April. To date, the Endowment has awarded grants to 49 Inner-City Schools, with an average grant award of \$75,000 per school. Donors to the Endowment may restrict their Endowment gifts to capital repairs and may direct their donation to a specific school or type of project. To visit a school or make a donation for capital repairs, please contact Anissa Sepulveda, Associate Director, at (212) 371-1011, x 3336.

Endowment Awarded \$500,000 from Altman Foundation

The Endowment recently received a \$500,000 grant from the Altman Foundation to support the Endowment's Community Connections program. Caren Howley, Executive Director of the Endowment, noted, "We are thrilled by this most generous contribution from the Altman Foundation. This grant will provide \$25,000 in support each year for Community Connections, providing consistent and permanent funding for this highly impactful program."

The Community Connections program was created in 2003 to provide tuition assistance and comprehensive support to enable very low-income children to attend an Inner-City Elementary School in the Archdiocese of New York. Through Community Connections, the Endowment provides a full tuition scholarship for each student, an Inner-City School provides a high-quality, values-based education, and a community-based organization provides supportive resources and an after-school program to enhance academic learning. Not only does this partnership create the best possible opportunity for students to succeed, but it also helps to increase enrollment in the Inner-City Schools.

Spotlight on a Child

Endowment Scholarships: Creating Dreams, Changing Lives

Jazmin Cedeño, a four-year recipient of an Endowment-sponsored Be A Student's Friend Scholarship, graduated from St. Raymond Academy this past June with a Regents Diploma and the honor of being the Class of 2005 Valedictorian.

Jazmin is grateful for her scholarship from the Endowment, without which she would not have been able to attend St. Raymond Academy. Having gone to public school until fourth grade when she entered St. Athanasius School, Jazmin appreciates the education and opportunities that Catholic School has provided her. She notes that both St. Athanasius and St. Raymond Academy are close-knit communities, where all of the teachers and staff take an interest in the students. Jazmin states that throughout her education, "all of the teachers have impacted me in their own way, helping me to succeed." Jazmin and her two younger brothers, who also attend Inner-City Schools, live in the Bronx with their mother, who works hard to provide them with the best education possible.



Jazmin Cedeño, 2005 Graduate of St. Raymond Academy, Bronx

Jazmin has not only taken advantage of her education, but she has flourished. While at St. Raymond Academy, Jazmin was a member of the Spanish Club, National Honor Society, Prom Committee and the Bridge Program, a unique community service effort at St. Raymond Academy. Over the past year, Jazmin has volunteered her time at a number of locations where the Sisters of Charity minister, including a women's center, soup kitchen, hospital and a nonprofit community organization called Little Sisters of the Assumption. This particular visit touched Jazmin the most because of the wide variety of services that the organization provides to members of the Harlem community and, in particular, the immigrant population. It also increased her desire to pursue a career in law in order to provide legal services to communities of need.

All of Jazmin's hard work and dedication, both inside and outside of the classroom, has paid off. Jazmin was accepted to six colleges and received offers totaling more than \$100,000 in academic scholarships. This fall, Jazmin will be attending NYU. Sr. Mary Ann D'Antonio, S.C., Principal of St. Raymond Academy, reflecting on Jazmin's work ethic, dedication and selflessness, notes "Jazmin represents the best of the St. Raymond Academy Class of 2005!"

Jazmin is one of nearly 185 graduating seniors who attended Inner-City High Schools with the support of an Endowment scholarship. Congratulations to them and the thousands of other Inner-City High School graduates — we are proud of you and wish you well in your future endeavors!

Sr. Noreen Nolan, O.P.
St. Elizabeth School,
Manhattan



"Sr. Noreen devotes many hours to her students and the school above and beyond what is required of her as a principal. She is the heart and soul of St. Elizabeth School, and we feel fortunate to have her in our community."

Bishop Gerald T. Walsh,
Pastor of St. Elizabeth



"St. Elizabeth is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I am proud to say I attend this school."

Nastasia Goodwin, 6th Grader,
Endowment scholarship recipient

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

"Each of us is called to be a peacemaker in our world." This is the daily motto that has governed the halls of St. Elizabeth School since 1989, when Sr. Noreen Nolan, O.P. arrived as the new principal. Each student who attends St. Elizabeth learns to fully embrace this philosophy, as one clearly sees upon entering the school.

As a graduate of St. Joan of Arc Elementary School in Jackson Heights and Cathedral High School, an Inner-City School in Manhattan, Sr. Noreen strives to provide her students with an outstanding education. For the past sixteen years, Sr. Noreen has worked diligently to give the students of St. Elizabeth every opportunity to succeed. Under her guidance, St. Elizabeth has been the recipient of grants that have provided for a number of programmatic additions, including a technology center and library. It was also under her leadership that St. Elizabeth applied for and received accreditation (and most recently re-accreditation) by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition to providing the school with the physical resources necessary for a high-quality education, Sr. Noreen has created an environment in which students are able to flourish and reach their full potential.

Touring the school with Sr. Noreen, it is apparent that the students admire and respect her. When she enters a classroom or walks down a hallway, faces immediately light up with smiles. Not only do these children know her, but she knows the names and stories of each and every one of her 415 students. Sr. Noreen takes an active interest in her students and has created a close-knit environment. St. Elizabeth is, for most, a home away from home and remains such for students even after they graduate. In fact, over 400 former students attended the school's alumni reunion last March.

Located in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, St. Elizabeth serves a large Hispanic population, with 100% of the students living near or below the federal poverty level and nearly 45% coming from single-parent homes. For these students, St. Elizabeth is a haven — a place where they feel welcomed and valued. Sr. Noreen works hard to create such an environment and actively communicates with students about the important contributions that each and every one of them makes to the school community. When talking with students, it is clear that they are proud to be representatives of St. Elizabeth School. Sr. Noreen clearly agrees, as she excitedly notes, "Our students are the best voice that the school has!"

Despite her many accomplishments during her tenure, Sr. Noreen quickly points out that she feels that she is "standing on the shoulders of giants." She credits her predecessors at St. Elizabeth and the school's current team of faculty and staff with having played a large role in making the school what it is today. Sr. Noreen notes that everyone at the school truly acts as a team and works together for the best interests of the children. Like the students, the faculty and staff are inspired by the school's daily motto. They are dedicated to being peacemakers and believe that academic excellence will not happen unless it is in an environment that is permeated with the value of respect for one another. Egzon Nikqi, an 8th grade student who has been at St. Elizabeth since Kindergarten and will be attending Cardinal Hayes High School next year, comments, "I'm very glad that I had the opportunity to come to such a great school. I've really enjoyed being a student here and will miss it next year, along with Sr. Noreen, the faculty and all the friends I've made."

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High School Scholarships Awarded

This fall, The Endowment for Inner-City Education will award Principal's Discretionary Scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 to each of the 21 Inner-City High Schools. The Principal's Discretionary Scholarships were created four years ago by the Endowment to provide Inner-City High School principals with flexibility in providing tuition scholarships to students with great financial need. These awards are used at the principal's discretion to offer assistance to those students they deem most in need. Historically, the amount of the award was \$5,000 per school, but the Endowment Board of Trustees decided to increase the size of the award to each school in recognition of the fact that there are countless families who are unable to afford the cost of an Inner-City High School education, where the average tuition is just under \$5,500 per child, without some form of tuition assistance.

"The Principal's Discretionary Scholarships funded by the Endowment have helped many students throughout the years," noted Sr. Mary Dolan, S.U., President of Notre Dame High School. "It is such a source of encouragement to know we will be able to help even more qualified students in the future." Over 100 students have received tuition assistance in each of the last four years through awards from the Principal's Discretionary Scholarships. The Endowment is proud to continue to provide the financial assistance that makes it possible for these young men and women to access a safe, high-quality Catholic High School education.

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 115 Inner-City Schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

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

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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