Double Your Gift!
Donations to A&F&F Tuition Assistance Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar through December 31, 2022.
See page 2 for details.

Celebrate a Loved One...
by giving a gift in honor or memory of them.
See page 10 for details.

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Special thanks to Jeannine of Block Portrait Studios for many of the photos in this issue. To see more, visit her website at block-studios.com.

What It Takes to Fund a Catholic School
A Conversation about the Real Costs and Ingenuity Required to Deliver a Quality Education at Community of Saints

From the Editor: For a long time, nearly all Catholic elementary schools were parish schools, the teachers were nuns, and the schools could pretty much cover their costs with a combination of tuition, parish support, and modest fundraising. Today, things look very different.

To understand what funding looks like at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School (COS), I talked to Phil Boelter who’s on the school’s board of directors and serves on the finance committee. Phil’s day job is with the Catholic Finance Corporation, a nonprofit that serves Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese. As someone who knows his way around a financial report, Phil is also well versed in the nitty-gritty of all the school’s income and expenses. The following is a recap of our conversation.

Q: Does tuition cover the cost of educating a child at COS?

As a general rule, most Catholic elementary schools charge tuition that’s about half the actual cost of educating a child. At COS it’s probably a little less than half because we keep tuition on the low side, but our costs are higher than many schools because of the additional...
Dear Alums, Friends, and Families,

When I arrived at St. Matthew’s in June of 1978, Sister Pauline Fritz, the school principal, introduced me to the workings of the parish, the school, and some parish families.

One of the first families I met was the Cullen family. I met Hugh first; back then he was the young bartender at the Cherokee Sirloin Room. Waiting for a table I sometimes sat at the bar and Hugh told me about his mother and four siblings. Soon I met Anne Cullen, a high school student, hired to answer phones and greet guests at the Church office between 5 pm and 9 pm.

Mary’s husband, Tom Cullen, had been a firefighter who died in 1971, leaving Mary to raise five young children as a single mom. Despite the obvious challenges, she instilled in her children the value of generosity. I remember Hugh initiated a large Christmas food and gift program at Saint Matthew’s in which more than 300 families were served each year.

In 1984, Mary Cullen married Tom McKeown, and introduced him to Saint Matthew’s parish. Tom was a widower and the father of eight, who, like Mary, instilled in his children a deep sense of generosity.

Mary, Tom, and their families have been, and continue to be strong supporters of Catholic education, especially at COS. After 15 years, Tom recently stepped down from his role on the Alums & Friends & Families committee. He also just completed a term on the COS Board of Directors. Tom’s wisdom and gentle guidance have been invaluable in advancing our mission to provide the highest quality Catholic education to the greatest number of children possible.

Generosity is a way of life. It is the recognition that all I am and all I have is a gift from God. These gifts are to be used responsibly and shared with others. Generous parents produce and nurture generous children. The McKeown and Cullen families are fine examples of this.

Thanks to each and everyone of you for all you do to support the mission of Community of Saints.

Fr. Steve Adrian, Canonical Administrator of COS

MESSAGE FROM father steve

Double Your Gift!

For the month of December, all gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar (up to $7,500) thanks to the generous support of an alum and good friend of COS.

Please use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.communityofSaints.org/give
services, including things like Title I, support for multi-lingual students, and counseling services.

**Q:** As a regional Catholic school, how does funding at COS differ from a parish school?

A parish school is the traditional model where tuition usually covers 50-60% of the costs to run the school and the parish provides another 20-30%. You’re talking about 70-90% of school costs covered by tuition payments and parish subsidies.

COS is a regional Catholic school, but I actually think of it as a community school. We have a special outreach to those families in the Catholic community who want a values-based education for their children, but who can’t afford tuition. The numbers prove our outreach has been very successful. Over 90% of COS families quality for and receive tuition assistance. Every family at COS pays something towards tuition, but only about 13% of the school’s expenses are covered by the tuition families pay. That’s a huge difference from a typical parish school. We do have a relationship with some parishes who invite their members to make contributions and we’re very grateful for that support.

**Q:** Where does COS get most of its funding?

The biggest category of funding for the school is from outside sources, which amounts to about 70% of all revenues. (See chart.) This category includes endowments, grants, and individual contributions. The single largest funding source within this category is Alums & Friends & Families (A&F&F) donations for tuition assistance.

**Q:** What’s the biggest challenge in managing the school’s finances?

I think what’s hardest is having to react to things that are beyond our control. One example, for the last five years COS received a $100,000 grant from a small family foundation and last year the family decided to dissolve the foundation, so that money went away. It had nothing to do with us, but suddenly we needed to fill a $100,000 hole in our budget.

There’s also a lot of deferred maintenance in our school building that we need to deal with on a regular basis. We recently had to replace the boiler and the roof. These were not things we could wait on — the boiler failed and the roof was leaking. These are big ticket items that weren’t in the budget, but we had to find a way to get them financed, which we did.

It also takes considerable ingenuity because we’re always trying to do a lot with a little. The school’s principal, Bridget Kramer, is constantly looking for resources to upgrade technology and put more and better educational tools in the hands of teachers and students.

**Q:** How important is A&F&F’s support to the school?

I think A&F&F’s support is the single biggest factor in the school’s success. The financial support over the years has been crucial in fulfilling the school’s commitment to guaranteeing a quality Catholic education to families regardless of their ability to pay. The relationship is also highly respected by other organizations who’ve been eager to partner with us based on the strength of support from A&F&F. Everyone who’s contributed to tuition assistance deserves both thanks and congratulations for their part in the school’s success.

**Q:** How do things look going forward?

The reality is, we can never take our foot off the gas pedal. It is a constant battle to keep up with expenses, especially now with the cost of everything going up. It’s not an overstatement to say that A&F&F contributions are the financial foundation of the school. We need that support to continue in order to keep delivering a top notch Catholic education to our students.

*If you have specific questions about COS funding and finances, please contact Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 or dlieser@communityofsaints.org.*

### A&F&F is the Largest Single Source of Funding to COS

70% of all income comes from annual gifts, grants, and endowments. See breakdown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alums &amp; Friends &amp; Families (A&amp;F&amp;F)</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted &amp; Unrestricted Gifts and Grants</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Tuition Assistance Grants</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment – Vivian Byers &amp; St. Matthew’s Appeal Foundation</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Services Appeal Foundation</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The balance of funding includes tuition paid by K-8 families (13%) plus other earned income.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Good News | Fall/Winter 2022
SCHOOLnews

COS Garden Yields a Bountiful Harvest

Last spring, with the help of Master Gardeners from the University of Minnesota Extension Program, students at Community of Saints (COS) planted tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, and green beans along with other vegetables, herbs, and flowers for pollinators, in a garden on the school’s campus. Throughout the summer and fall, students reaped the harvest. Master Gardener Deb Oldenburg estimates the garden has yielded an impressive 400-500 pounds of produce. “We call it the little garden that could,” she laughed.

A Humble Beginning

Back in 2018, COS preschool director Katie Hartz wanted a garden where preK students could plant and weed and harvest vegetables. Hartz worked with Maria Teresa Thoreson, a SNAP nutrition educator with the University of Minnesota Extension program, who provided bags of soil and plants. The COS Student Leadership Team (SLT) provided the labor and used some old cinderblocks to create garden beds.

Garden Becomes a School Project

By the second year, Thoreson tapped the Master Gardeners program for help. Master Gardeners are volunteers who receive certification through the University’s Extension program. Deb Oldenburg, with the Dakota County program, applied for grants to expand the garden and worked with students to maintain it. “We start in mid-May when we plant seeds with all the kids in grades K-5.”

“Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold…”
— Matthew 13:8
The garden was put on hold during COVID. Plants that had already been donated to the school were given to school families for planting. “Families were able to pick them up along with some educational handouts,” said Thoreson. “That was such a hard time for families. This was a little breath of fresh air, something they could do together.”

As a SNAP nutrition educator, Maria Teresa Thoreson, teaches the basics of nutrition to families and promotes healthy eating in the community. By helping to tend the garden, she said students are more willing to try things that come from it, such as cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, Swiss chard or this year’s big hit, radishes. “Hands on is what makes the difference,” explained Thoreson.

The school is looking for volunteers that would like to help maintain the garden next summer. If you are interested or to get more information, contact Katie Hartz at 651-457-2510 or khartz@communityofsaints.org.

“Very few schools can say they have such an awesome garden.”
— MARIA TERESA THORESON, SNAP NUTRITION EDUCATOR, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
A&F&F Contributions Provide Foundation for Success

590 Donors contributed $468,117

Community of Saints was launched in 2012 with minimal resources, zero financial reserves, and a unique mission — to ensure all families in the community have access to a high-quality, Catholic education regardless of their ability to pay tuition. Fifteen years later, COS owns its campus, has strong enrollment, an outstanding staff, strong community partnerships, and state-of-the-art technology. The school is recognized as a leader for innovative programs that increase equity in educational outcomes. These accomplishments are the direct result of your commitment to our mission.

The work isn’t done, but it’s good to stop and notice the progress we’ve all made together. With your support, COS will continue to remove barriers to academic achievement and provide something our children deserve — a faith-based, loving, and safe environment where each student can grow, learn, and develop all their God-given talents.

Donations listed were received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

PILLAR
($15,000+)
Mary Cullen McKeown & Tom McKeown
John Curran
Roy & JoAnn Ferber
Jim & Jan Kunz
Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
John & Cynthia O’Halloran

SUSTAINER
($1,000–$2,499)
Father Steve Adrian
Lisa Anderson
Elaine & Robert Bache
Gerald Bandholz
James & Arlene Barnhart
Dennis & Jerice Barrett
Roger & Donn Beaubien
Denise & James Bohrer
Patricia & Richard Clemen
Norbert & Mary Ellen Conzemius
Jacqueline Cosgrove
Anne Cullen Miller & Mark Miller
Mark & Angela DeVecchio
Tom Doyle
Joanne Dufour
Carol & Lawrence Engelmann
Jack Ferber
Mary Jane Ferber & Carolyn Jones
John Frank
Elizabeth French
Jean Froehle
Diane & Frank Hanzal
Mary & Ken Herriges
David Hottinger & Mary Gaul-Hottinger
Lila & Charles Jachim
Francis J. Jacobs
Patricia & Eugene Karles
Deb & Jack Katzmark
Sue Kueppers
George & Carol Lang
Father John Malone
Mary Ellen Malone
Joseph Mansur
Ray & Beth Marshall

Mary L. Martin
Eileen McMahon & Steve Karbon
Michael O’Halloran
Margo O’Malley
Robert Patton
Sandra & Thomas Reding
Pat & Tom Rolewicz
Tom Rolewicz, Jr.
Donna Schneider
Linda Sellars
Marilyn Sexton
Michael Smeby
Suzanne Snyder
Sheila Steiner
Mary Topritzhofer
Mary Pat Topritzhofer
Mary Walsh

BUILDER
($500–$999)
Michael Aafedt & Deborah Sundquist
David Asper
Steve & Nancy Bade
Richard Bernard
Brady High School Class of 1972
Mark & Sheri Brengman
Stephen & Ellen Casey
Robert & Eileen Fahrenkrug
Barbara Fitzpatrick
Kathryn Grayson
Tom Heinen & Tami Philipp
John Hinding
Lyn Holmes
Thomas Kabesh
Patricia Karels

COS was one of 40 private schools in Minnesota to receive a federal grant to target COVID-related needs. The school has used funds to upgrade technology and expand tutoring for multi-lingual students, Title I services, and counseling services.
At 101, Florence Bandholz was the oldest member of St. Matthew’s parish. Florence graduated from St. Matthew’s in 1934 and was a lifelong supporter of Catholic education. When Florence passed away in September, her family honored her commitment to Catholic education by requesting memorials go to Community of Saints.

We’d like to acknowledge this honor and express our appreciation to Florence’s family as well as all the other families who chose Community of Saints for memorials in recent months. Those pictured below are just a few of the individuals whose memorials benefitted Community of Saints.
The Good News

Community of Saints welcomes the Lozano triplets to kindergarten this year.
Loyalty Circle

Our Loyalty Circle honors individuals and families who make a lasting impact on our students and school. Their generosity is critical to our mission of educating all families who desire a Catholic education for their children in this region. Membership in our Loyalty Circle is based on a history of annual giving, significant financial support, or inclusion of Community of Saints in estate plans.

Father Steve Adrian
Susan & Tony Alleva
Steve & Nancy Bade
Victoria Baker
James & Arlene Barnhart
Beth & Tim Bellon
Patricia Blaskie
Patricia & Daniel Blaskowski
Alice Bobick†
Denise & James Bohrer
Mary Sue Brass
Corinne &
William† Brengman
Jim & Mary Ann Brewer
Audrey Brucker
Nancy Brunzel
Vivian Byers†
James Casey &
Jennifer Tusian
Patricia & Richard Clemens
Clement & Molly Commers
Frances Cook
Jacqueline &
Hugh Cosgrove
Hugh & Melissa Cullen
Joseph & Doreen Cullen
Mary Cullen McKeown &
Tom McKeown
Anne Cullen Miller &
Mark Miller
John Curran
Timothy Dalzell
Jo Ann Danneker
Mark & Angela DelVecchio
Thomas J. Doyle†
Joanne Dufour
Carol &
Lawrence Engelmann
Jack Ferber
Mary Jane Ferber &
Carolyn Jones
Roy & JoAnn Ferber
Bill & Bonita Frels
Elizabeth French
Father Frank Fried
Jean Froehle
Beth & Jerome Geis
Joan & Eugene Gennaro
Teddy & Jim† Gesell
Esther & Donald Giesel
Kathleen Gobeli
Mary Grady
James Guldan
John & Shirley Haney
Mary & Ken Herriges
Robert Hinze
Patricia Holmes
Anita & George Hottinger
David Hottinger &
Mary Kaul-Hottinger
Father Bradley Jenniges, OSB
Susan Jensen
Lynne Johnson
Robert Joseph
Thomas Kabesh
Karen & Patrick Kachel
Patricia Kares
Tom & Cynthia Klecatsky
Judith Knabe
Jim Korman
Mary Anna Kosel†
Mike Kosel
Jim & Mary Kaye† Kramer
Jim & Jan Kunz
Janet Lackner
Carlo & Virginia† LaManna
Bernard & Colleen Lancette
George & Carol Lang
Margaret Lee & Richard Dunn
Mary Leibl
Doug & Krissy Liers
Stella Lundquist
William & Patricia Mahoney
Nancy & Thomas Maloney
Joseph Mansur
Donna & Peter McCarthy
Teresa & Stephen McCurdy
David McDonald
Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
Larry McGough
Steve & Anita McKeown
Eileen McMahon &
Steve Karbon
Michelle Mooney
Lee & Judith† Morhar
Fran Mudek
Dotty & Peter Murk
Barbara Neff
Eileen Norton
Elizabeth & Timothy Nowak
John & Cynthia O’Halloran
Thomas E. & Mary O’Neill
Mary K. Orme
Pat & Tony Palmer†
Phil & Connie Paquette
Nancy Poechmann
Margarita Probst
Sandra & Thomas Reding
Margaret & James Reed
John Riehle
William & Angela Rindfleisch
Pat & Tom Rolewicz
Tom Rolewicz, Jr.
Julie Rollheiser
Mary Ann Roscoe
Ralph & Jacqueline Roubal
Rita Ryan
Josette Salahe†
Georgianna & Jim Saumweber
Daniel & Rosemary Schadegg
Christopher Schletty
Mike & Carol Schneider
Carol Schreiner
Pat & Wayne Schultz
Corinne Schuster
Linda Sellers
Marilyn & Jerry† Sexton
Linda Sill
Eugene Sitzmann†
Tony Sitzmann
Thomas Smith &
Catalina Adamez-Smith
Georgene Sorenson
Sheila & Steven Stai
Russ Sudeith
Barbara Tinucci
Mary Pat Topritzhofer
Dwayne & Janet Troje
Dorothe Turcotte-Tait
Nicholas & Ilene Undis
Judith Ann Valerius
Michael Vasterling
Robert & Barbara Verstraete
Allen & Diane† Volkenant
Lynn Volkenant
Dick Votel
Terry Votel
James Wick
Toni Wilburn
Peter Willems
Diane Wineman
Marian Wolters

Continued on page 10
Beverly Rauscher
William & Carol Redding
Renaissance Charitable
Julie Rollheiser
Guadalupe Santos
Christine Savard Palm
Ronald Schauf
Doris Schilling
Richard & Patricia Schletty
Connie & Thomas Schuster
Corinne Schuster
Mike Seubert
Kathy Sexton
Dixie Shafer & Jerald Dosch
Helen Sigmeth
Bonnie Simon
Joanne Smith
Barbara & Richard Squire
Jean St. Martin
John Steadman
David & Ellen Stefaniak
Mary Jo Steffes
Thomas Stehr
Thomas & Dorothy Strassener
Marjorie Sullivan
Michael & Judith Thomas
Mark Thomford
Karen Thompson
Kathleen Thompson
Charlotte Tourville
Joanne Tracy
Marie Tressell
Dorothy Turcotte-Tait
Judith Ann Valerius
Anthony & Diane Vasquez
Patricia Werden
Anthony & Christine Wilfahrt
Kenneth Wilhelm
Robert & Jaime Witte

Tributes In Honor Of/In Memory Of

IN HONOR OF
Father Steve Adrian
Sister Anne Becker
The Cullen/McKeown families
The Dalzell family
Richard Dunn, Maggie Lee & family
Sister Ursula Foley
The Guldan family
Katie Hartz
Father Bradley Jenniges, O.S.B
Emily Kessel & Diana Kessel
Bridget Kramer
Susanne & Fred Kueppers
Jerry Mandel
Tom & Mary Cullen McKeown
Eileen McMahon
Eileen O’Neill
Mary Orme
Nancy Poechmann
John Prow
Loretta Catherine (Guertin) Ringold
Tom Rolewicz, Jr.
Norbert & Anne Selbitschka
Judi Shaughnessy
Joshua Simon
St. Matthew’s grade school
Jesse & Mary Vasquez
Mr & Mrs Henry Votel
Nick Yannarelly

IN MEMORY OF
Barbara Absey
Yvonne Allie
Hildegard & Thomas Armstrong
Jack & Dorothy Bade
Suzie Bandholz

Chuck & Brett Barger
Julia Barnholdt
Erv Barrett
Harold & Mary Belair
Gordon & Mary Ellen Berg
Dr. Gerald Bergum
Debi Witt Black
Ben & Gladys Blaeser
Karen Bloechl
The Boeltl girls
George L. Bohrer
Deceased members of the Brewer family
Arnold & Susan Brucker
Helen Bukowski
Carondelet Village residents
Molly & Fred Commers
Josephine Cooper
Sister St. Luke Copeland, CSJ
Barry Cosgrove
Sharon Cosgrove
Thomas Ireland Costello
Robert Dasovich
Aileen David-Koenen
Sister Patricia DeBlieck
Tom Rolewicz, Jr.
Norbert & Anne Selbitschka
Judi Shaughnessy
Joshua Simon
St. Matthew’s grade school
Jesse & Mary Vasquez
Mr & Mrs Henry Votel
Nick Yannarelly

Celebrate a Loved One with a Gift in Their Name

This Christmas, give a gift in honor or in memory of someone in your life to celebrate their commitment to Catholic education. One hundred percent of your donation goes to support tuition assistance for students at Community of Saints.

Use the enclosed envelope or mail your gift to:
Community of Saints
335 Hurley St. E.
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Make checks payable to Community of Saints.

You can also give online by visiting
www.communityofsaints.org/give

Your contribution is tax deductible and all gifts made by December 31, 2022, will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $7,500, thanks to the generous support of an alum and good friend of COS. Call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 for more information.
Other Contributions

Throughout the year we receive additional contributions in the form of restricted and unrestricted gifts and grants. Thank you to the following individuals, companies, parishes, organizations, and foundations, for supporting our students.

Father Steve Adrian
Susan & Tony Alleva
Anonymous (9)
Assumption Parish
Kathleen Barrett
Edward Benoe
Box Tops for Education
Brooke & Michael Brown
Judy & Ralph Brown
Vivian Byers Endowment Fund
Catholic Community Foundation
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence
Catholic Services Appeal Foundation
Church of St. Francis de Sales
of St. Paul
Coca-Cola Give
Mary Cullen McKeown &
Tom McKeown
Joan & Jon DeLuney
Jack Ferber
Roy & JoAnn Ferber
JoEllen & Nathan Flak
LuAnn Ford
Melinda & Javier Frias
George and Mary Kremer Foundation
GHR Foundation
Gary & Elisa Gorman

Mary Grady
Mark & Ilze Hager
Lee & Carolyn Halbur
Eric & Katie Hartz
Mary & Ken Herriges
David Hottenger &
Mary Kaul-Hottinger
Thomas & Ruth King
Julie Kuzj
Carlo LaManna
Margaret Lee & Richard Dunn
Doug & Krispy Liefer
Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
Mindependent
Joel & Meghan Moore
Jessica Morales
Jesenia Eduarte
Janet & Ronald Odalen
Vicky & Steve Orme
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
Nancy Poeschmann
Donna Schneider
Ellen Schneider
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Linda Sellars
Joe & Leticia Silva
Slaggie Family Foundation
Michael Smeyb
St. John Vianney Parish
St. Matthew’s Rosary Society
St. Matthew’s Parish
Karen Thompson
Judith Vandenbelttraadt
James Wicker
Carol & Jim Yannarelly
Nick Yannarelly
Dan Yentes
Angela Youness
Michelle Youness &
Louis Anderson

Celebrating three generations of Marty Mendez: COS kindergartener Marty Mendez (center) sits between his father, Marty Mendez who graduated from St. Matthew’s, and his grandfather, Marty Mendez, a graduate of St. Michael.

Visiting author and musician, Rose Duffy, read to students from her book, I Thank God for You, and shared the book’s message of love, forgiveness, confidence, and faith. “The world is a little crazy right now,” said Duffy. “By appreciating the little things, having a kind word for others, and opening our hearts to God, we can make a real difference.”
Please Join Us for A MASS TO CELEBRATE YOUR GENEROSITY

Thursday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. at Community of Saints

You are welcome to join us in person for a school Mass to honor the generous support of A&F&F donors. Fr. Steve Adrian will preside. Following Mass, you can tour the school, enjoy refreshments, and meet our middle school students.