Let’s Celebrate Together
Join COS students for a school Mass on Thursday, December 3, at 9:30 am.
See pg. 2 for details.

Best Year Ever:
A&F&F Surpasses Goal to Meet $50,000 Schulze Challenge

Last spring the Schulze Family Foundation issued a challenge — raise $50,000 in new or increased donations in order to earn a $50,000 grant. Thanks to you, Alums & Friends & Families (A&F&F) blew past that goal by raising $58,541 with 325 new or increased donations.

“Your success is exciting and inspirational,” said Steve Hoeppner, Vice President of the Foundation which was launched by Best Buy founder, Richard Schulze. “We want to share what you’ve learned through this process with other schools. Your experience can benefit our whole archdiocese.”

A&F&F raised a total of $187,142 this year, which is the most yet in its 8 year history. The total includes money raised to meet the challenge grant but does not count the $50,000 grant from the Schulze Family Foundation. All of the funds raised by A&F&F support tuition assistance for students attending Community of Saints Regional Catholic School (COS). (See Annual Report p.6)

Support Important to Sustainability
The money raised each year by A&F&F is an important part of COS’s budget. “Our school relies on a patchwork of funding,” explained COS principal, Bridget Kramer. “Because we’re a school that serves a large population of families that need support, we rely on A&F&F and other organizations to meet the needs of our students.”

Catholic school sustainability is among the top concerns of the Schulze Family Foundation. The Foundation has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation, the Aim Higher Foundation and the GHR Foundation to establish Catholic Schools Centers of Excellence (CSCOE), a new organization dedicated to Catholic school sustainability. “There are 79 Catholic elementary schools in this archdiocese,” said Hoeppner. “We want to make sure that none of them close.”

CSCOE’s commitment aligns with A&F&F’s efforts to support Community of Saints. “Our donors deserve all the credit,” said Fr. Steve, as he reflected on the successful fundraising effort this year. “Their generosity has helped many families afford a quality Catholic education for their child.”

Steve Hoeppner agrees. “I’m going to tell your success story everywhere.”
Dear Alums & Friends & Families,

On July 1, 2012, I retired as Pastor of the Church of Saint Matthew. But I guess a priest never really retires; he is like the farmer, who never climbs down from his tractor.

Most recently, I have been given the great opportunity to serve as Canonical Moderator of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School (COS).

A regional Catholic school, unlike a parish school, has no pastor because the school is an amalgam of a number of schools sponsored and supported by several parishes. The Canonical Moderator fulfills the role the pastor would fill in a parish school. I am delighted to be part of COS. The energy of students, teachers and staff is contagious.

I am also proud to be part of Alums & Friends & Families which is committed to providing tuition assistance for families seeking a Catholic education for their children. We have had a very successful fundraising year. Now we want to make sure those funds benefit as many families as possible. In doing so, we request your help.

I ask you to tell your neighbors, friends and family who might want to send their students to COS, but might think they can’t afford it, that they need to come and visit the school and speak to our principal, Ms. Kramer. Tell them that no students will be turned away for financial reasons. If they don’t believe you, refer them to me.

Your continued generous support of our current and future students makes it possible to tell the story of a strong Catholic education to which no student is denied because of financial reasons.

Each Thursday at 9:30 am, the students and teachers and I gather to celebrate Mass. At each service, we pray for our sponsoring parishes, and we pray for you — our benefactors, who make all of this possible. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Father Steve Adrian

Celebrate Mass with Students

Donors are welcome to join us at Community of Saints for School Mass

Thursday, December 3, at 9:30 am
333 East Hurley Avenue, West St. Paul

Everyone is welcome to a reception with students following Mass. For more information call the school office at 651-457-2510.
This summer, Community of Saints received a gift of $206,000 from the estate of Pat (Savard) Palmer (’43), a graduate of St. Michael’s school and long-time member of St. Matthew’s parish. Pat passed away in 2014 at the age of 86.

“Totally shocked,” was how Fr. Steve Adrian described his reaction when he heard the size of the gift. “I did not realize that Pat and (deceased husband) Tony had those kind of resources.”

Attended St. Michael’s Grade School and Joined CSJ

Pat grew up on the West Side as the youngest of four girls in a house that she described as being full of laughter. She was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, first at St. Michael’s School and then at St. Joseph’s Academy. When she turned 18 years old, she joined the order herself and went on to earn a BA in English and Education at the College of St. Catherine’s.

After that, she began her own career as a teacher; at the age of 24, she became one of the youngest educators to be promoted to principal. She served at a number of Catholic elementary schools including St. Leo’s in St. Paul and Christ the King in Minneapolis. During those years, she continued her own education, earning an MA in Liturgical Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Called to Something New

In 1980, after many years of teaching, she decided to leave the CSJ community. “God was calling me to do something else,” she explained. She moved to San Jose to work at Modern Liturgy magazine. A year later, she married Tony Palmer, a former priest she’d met 12 years earlier at Notre Dame.

After retiring, Pat and Tony moved back to Minnesota and joined St. Matthew’s parish. “They wanted to be active members,” said Fr. Steve. “Tony joined the parish council and Pat got involved in the Rosary Society.”

Pat and Tony began their involvement with St. Matthew’s School after they were asked to judge scholarship essays. “They were impressed by what the students wrote and how much they appreciated their education,” explained Fr. Steve.

After Tony died in 2009, Pat continued to volunteer with the school and parish. But eventually, her own health declined, and she moved into Carondelet Village on the campus of St. Catherine University.

“About six months before she died, Pat wanted to talk with me,” Fr. Steve recalled. “She asked me to write down very clearly what the corporate name of the school was. She said she was going to include COS in her estate but she didn’t tell me anything more.”

Making a Difference in the Lives of Children

Fr. Steve observed that he is often surprised when he receives letters about estate gifts. “They are generally people who lived very simple lives and really wanted to have their resources make a difference in the lives of others.”

In the many remembrances of Pat that appeared after her death, she is described as a joyful person and a talented cook with a flair for hospitality. Fr. Steve agrees that she was all that and more. “She was a delightful woman,” said Fr. Steve. “Full of hope and confidence. She truly loved children.” Perhaps that will be the most lasting memory Pat leaves behind.

Making a Legacy Gift to Support Catholic Education

A legacy gift is a planned estate donation to a charity. It can be given through a will or another designated form. Whether to make a legacy gift is a decision each person makes in his or her own financial planning process, taking into account charitable wishes and values.

At Community of Saints, donors have the option of making an unrestricted gift or designating funds for a specific purpose, such as technology or tuition assistance. A donor can also contribute to our endowment fund, so the gift would support the school in perpetuity.

If you would like to find out about options for making a legacy gift to Community of Saints, call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510.
**COS Principal Shares Plans for the School Year**

*Editor:* I recently sat down with COS principal, Bridget Kramer, to discuss plans for her second year as head of the school. Turns out, she had a lot to talk about. We began with the recent announcement of the $206,000 gift to the school from Pat Palmer’s estate.

**Q: What was your reaction when you learned the school had received $206,000 — and what are your plans for the money?**

**Bridget:** When I heard the amount, I couldn’t believe it. We had been notified that COS had been named in her will but we thought the amount was around $40,000 — which we thought was a huge gift. When we learned that it was actually over $200,000 — I was in shock! That’s an incredible amount of money for our school.

The gift was unrestricted, which means that we have the freedom to decide how to best use the funds. That’s a responsibility we take very seriously.

After our School Advisory Board and Board of Directors met we decided this gift can help our school best by providing a reserve fund. The idea is that we would not spend the majority of the money now, but we would have it available to ensure the financial stability of the school.

When Community of Saints was established four years ago, there were never any resources dedicated for a cash reserve, which is standard practice for an organization of our size and essential to ensure smooth operations. We’ve always had a balanced budget but since we rely on a patchwork of funding, we can’t always be sure that income we’re counting on will actually be in our bank account on the day our expenses, such as payroll, are due.

By holding the money in reserve, it’ll also be available for future use when and if we need it. That may not seem like the most exciting use of the gift but, in the end, it helps COS be sustainable and ensures that we have the resources we need to operate smoothly — and I believe that aligns with Pat Palmer’s intentions. As a former principal herself, I think she would understand.

**Increasing Student Service**

**Bridget:** One of my top priorities is expanding our students’ involvement in community service. Pope Francis is teaching us that living out our mission means being servants to others and we intend for our students to get that message.

So for instance, the Homework Club is now the Study & Serve Club, where students work on academics and help with projects that improve our school and surrounding community. We’re reaching out to some of our neighbors, such as Cerenity Nursing Home and Neighborhood House, and our Student Leadership Council is participating in training that will help them identify and implement school-wide service projects.

**Virtues Supplement Faith Formation**

**Bridget:** We’ve begun a new program called *Virtues in Practice* and it supplements our religious education. It’s a free, pre-K thru 8th grade program developed by the Dominican Sisters and it’s designed to help children grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and virtues. The whole school studies the same virtue each month and the students learn about different saints that are associated with that virtue. Throughout the month, classrooms will talk about the meaning of the virtue as well as how they can live it out in their everyday lives.

**New Math Resources**

**Bridget:** For academics, the biggest change is our new math textbook resource called *Go Math*. The series is for K-8 so it transitions with students through middle school, which wasn’t the case before. The teachers chose it themselves and they did a ton of research before deciding on this series. *Go Math* was the unanimous choice.

We also implemented *IXL*, which is an online math program that lets students work at their own speed but allows them to go as far as they can. *IXL* supplements the new math resources for each grade by giving students the tools to reinforce the lessons they learn during class.
Improving Technology

**Bridget:** We were blessed to receive $20,000 from an anonymous donor that we’ll use for technology. We’re currently developing a long-range plan for technology enhancements.

For this year, we’ve installed Interactive White Boards in all of our classrooms. And we just purchased 30 iPads that teachers can sign out. We’re in the process of determining which apps teachers want and we’re discussing how we’ll integrate iPads into classroom instruction. That’s really important because this technology can be a powerful learning tool but it needs to be part of a larger strategy.

Recognizing the Value of Diversity

**Bridget:** We’re working with our staff to implement cultural proficiency training which is important because we have a very diverse student population. Part of our job is helping all of our students recognize the value of their different experiences and give them the skills to successfully and respectfully navigate the differences among us. The first step is to make sure our staff are fully trained in diversity. Two staff members already received cultural proficiency training and they will train the rest of the staff.

Our goal is to help students achieve academic excellence as we prepare them to live faith-filled lives and become leaders in our community. That is the focus of everything we do, and we thank our supporters for helping to make it possible.
Alums & Friends & Families 2015 Annual Report

Thanks to your support, A&F&F had its most successful fundraising year ever, raising $187,142 for students at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. In addition to our many long-standing supporters from St. Matthew’s, we want to thank the many new donors from COS’s other sponsoring parishes: St. John Vianney, St. Michael’s and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Over 90% of COS families rely on tuition assistance to afford Catholic school for their children. Your contributions make that possible.

NOTE: Whenever possible, we have noted the graduation year of alums who attended a school from one of the four sponsoring parishes. If you are an alum and we did not list your graduation year, please let us know by emailing Dieser@communityofsaints.org or calling 651-457-2510.

PILLAR $15,000+
Roy & Joann Ferber 1959
Tom & Mary Cullen McKeown +
Pat Palmer Estate +

PACESETTER $10,000–$14,999
Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the St. Paul Foundation

LEADER $5,000–$9,999
Anonymous
Assumption Parish
Hugh & Missy Cullen 1973
John Curran 1949 +
Jeanne Fraher Estate
John Riehle 1957 +
Jerry & Marilyn Sexton 1944 +
Irene Wimmer Estate 1932

EDUCATOR $2,500–$4,999
Father Steve Adrian
Anthony & Susan Frank Alleva 1955 & 1956
Jackie Cosgrove
Joe Cullen 1978
Allen & Diane Volkenant

SUSTAINER $1,000–2,499
Anonymous
Elizabeth Arend
Marjorie Fretschel Arnold 1972
Gerald & Shirley Bergum 1946
Audrey Brucker 1952
Richard F. Cates
Fred & Molly Commers
Jack Ferber 1956
Jean Froehle 1949
John Haney 1946
Ken Herriges
Tom & Cynthia Klecatsky
Jim Kunz 1955 +
Anne Cullen Miller 1977
Tom & Mary O’Neill 1958
John Posel 1955
Tom Rolewicz, Jr. 1975
St. Matthew Mens Club
Bill Szlaius 1981
John & Mary Wren

BUILDER $500—$999
Anonymous
James Blaha 1968
Mark DeVecchio 1973 +
Mary Jane Ferber 1962 +
Elizabeth Richardson French 1961 +
Daniel & Elizabeth Gangl 1971
Francis Jacobs
Joseph Mansur 1961 +
Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
Larry & Andrea McGough
Steve & Anita McKeown
Eileen McMahon +
Harriet Campa Murphy 1946
Roger Newmaster 1955
William & Annette Patient
David & Cathy Pavlak 1979
Daniel Schadegg 1979
Carol Schreiner 1952
Gregory & Sue Smit
Barbara Tinucci 1944
Jim Vogel 1956 +
Richard & Susan Votel 1954
Father Martin Warren
Yvonne Scherbel Wilhelm 1951

BENEFACCTOR $250–$499
Anonymous (3)
Theresa Thurn Bock 1958
Julius “Jay” Bonello 1962
Clem & Molly Commers
Maureen & Bill Cosgriff
Thomas Doyle +
Richard Dunn & Maggie Lee
R. James Gesell
Kathleen Groettum
Bernice Hannegraf
Grossman 1938
James Guldan 1946
Mary Gutzmann
Patricia Casey Holmes 1950
Thomas Kabesh 1960 +
Patrick Kunz 1960
George Lang 1956
Joe Nasseff 1960
Ann & Jack Peipel
Jim Pirkl 1953
Tom & Patricia
Palon Rolewicz 1954
Mary Ann Stadt Roscoe 1961
Russ Sudeith 1954
Anita Campa Sweeney 1944
Karen Thompson 1959
Mary Pat Topritzhofer 1975
Michael Vasterling 1968 +
Robert Verstraete 1967

Terry Votel 1956 +
Susan Schmidt Wallace 1972
Mary Walsh
Tony Bloechl Wilburn 1972
Father Richard Wolter
Marlene Hudalla Yarusso 1950

PATRON $100–$249
Anonymous (7)
Angeline Abbott
Francine Anderson
Steve Bade 1975
James & Arlene Barnhart
Jeffrey Barthe 1971
Mary Becker
Timothy & Beth Bohrer Bellon
Mary Bettenberg
Jeffrey Blaschka 1973
Patricia Cooper Blaskie 1964 +
Mary Lou Allie Bova 1944 +
Mary Sue Hopkins Brass 1946
Gerald Breidel

“I got such a good education when I went to Catholic school and loved it so much, I want to make sure others can have that too.”
— NEW DONOR
PATRON, continued

Jim Brewer 1953
Ralph & Judith Brown
Stephen & Ellen Casey
Jim Casey
Terri Cunningham Cismowski 1970
Mary & Kenneth Clausen
Jean Clausen
Pat O’Day Clemens 1958
Fran Weyer Cook 1957
Mary Kay Harrison Cooney 1959
Denise Wessel Crawford 1965
Joe Crawford
Timothy Dalzell 1970 +
JoAnn Danmeier 1966
Aileen David-Koenen
Pat & Brenda Donkers
Shawn & Kim Doyle 1972
TJ Doyle
Joanne Blaeser Dufour 1957
Jack & Linda Ehrenberg 1959
Lawrence & Carol Crismaj Engelmann 1952
Gerald Fenlon 1938
MJ & Frances Galvin
Christa & Steven Gangl
Katherine Pavlak Garvey 1966
Joan Tantzer Gennero 1949
John George 1959
Paul Gifford 1951
Kathleen Ferber Gobeli 1966
Robert Goggins
Richard & Mary Grant
Steve Grunde
Becky Montgomery & Dave Haley
Richard Halvorson 1960
Anita Hottinger
David & Mary Kaul Hottinger 1981
Suzette Houle
M Huerta-Lopez
Warren (Mick) Huntress 1949
Marilu Husman-Woodford 1959
Mary Iversen 1979
Father Bradley Jenniges, OSB 1976 &
Susan Miller Jensen 1961
Larry & Sharon Joswiak
Karen Ketchmark Kachel 1961
Patricia Werden Karels 1954
Thomas Kegler 1976

Marcelline Deusterman Kegler 1949
Thomas & Ruth King
Andrew Koenen
Mary Ann Kosel 1960 +
Mike Kosel 1957
Christine L’Allier 1965
Janet Leibl Lackner 1956
Paul LaManna 1980
Mary Leibl 1964
Jeff Lemke
Doug & Krissy Lieser
Julie & Dan Loahr
John Mauerer
Don Marthaler 1955
Bill & Mary Martin
Debra May
Aloysius & Alice Mayers
Donna Duffy McCarthy 1964
David McDonald 1968
Jean Schoenberger McGroarty 1948
John & Delores McGuire
Eleanor McSherry 1932
Terry & Bebe McTeague
Irene Mikkalson
Peter Mikkalson
JoAnne Miller
Lynn Miskowic
Patricia Mitschulis
Joseph Monsour 1973
Judy Klotz Morhar 1957
Darlene Moynagh
Peter & Dorothy Murk
Elizabeth & Timothy Nowak
Margo Earle O’Malley 1954
Frances O’Neill & Michael Terry O’Neill 1960
Janet Thurn Odalen 1958
Sue Olsen
Mary K. Orme
Anthony Palumbo 1966
Ellen Buckrey Parravano 1959
Eileen Patrin
Gene Pelto
Mary Mohr Perren 1957
Margaret Pohl
Larry Poppler
Margaret Abel Probst 1964 +
Dan Quinlan 1970
Allen Rasmussen 1959
Duane Rivard

Jamie T. Roberts 1979
Ralph Roubal 1950
Judy Rouse 1960
Rita Ryan
Georgianna Saumweber
Gerald Schadegg 1958
Chris Schletty 1960
George Schmid 1955
Thomas Schmidt 1966
Tom Schmidt 1962
Michael Schneider 1955
Richard Schoenberger 1939
Wayne Schultz
Linda Egner Sill 1964
Tony Sitzmann 1957
Thomas Smith 1972
Georgene Schaps Sorensen 1960 +
Janice Cooper Spear 1967
Jack St. Martin 1936
Steven & Sheila Sexton Stai
Sue & Chris Stevens 1967
Bob Stickler 1957
Steven J. Stremski 1978
Sister Clara Thomas, OSF 1938
Jane Travers Render
Julie Karels Treinen 1978
Dwaine Troje 1955
Charlene Stefaniak Vitelli 1956
Lynn Volkman
Gerald Walsh 1946
Wells Fargo Corporate
Matching Gift Program
Andrea Wenker 1990
Peter Willems 1943 +
Diane Gabriel Wineman 1961
Eugenia Yarosz
Barbara Zimmer

SUPPORTER UP TO $99
Anonymous (16)
Rita Wolf Adami 1944
Yvonne Allie 1954
Gloria Alt 1961
George Alldendorfer 1971
Owen Anderson
Elaine Anderson Bache 1952
Victoria Petschauer Baker 1968 +
Mary Beissel 1965
Roberta Bengston 1979

Continued on page 8
SUPPORTER, continued

Dick Bernard
Bernard Blaeser 1956
Henry Blissenbach 1956
Karen Bloch 1956
Karen & Dan Boden
Corinne Heinrich Brengman 1947
Muriel Budziszewski
Helen Wimmer Bukowski 1943
Albert & Mary Centner 1953
Joan & Andrew Chandler
Donald Chapdelaine
Lowell & Anita Clingman
Dionisa Coates
Sharon Cosgrove 1956
Eunice Dasovich
Craig David 1966
Jerry & Mary Lou De Zalas
Jane DeAustin
Edward Dostert 1950
Megan & Bruce Dunsmore
Peter Exley 1968
Emilio Fedel 1956
Edward Flahavan
Francis Fried
Nancy Gagliardi
Contessa Garcia
Julie Garcia 1988
Rosella & Daniel Garcia
Judy & Beth Geis
Del Gerdes
James Gorlach
Don & Esther Gisel
Muriel Wildenauer Gill 1947
Joseph & Carol Ann Gramling
Amy & Peter Grayson
Isaura Guardado
Carol August Harding 1966
Dorothy Floeder Hawkins 1952
Thomas Heinen
Mike Helsper 1976
John Hernandez
Dale Hertzog
Joseph Hinze 1964
Virginia Smola Hite 1938
Doris & Fred Hofmeister
Fonton & Diane Horwath
Sister Laverne Hudalla, OSB
Michael Hughes 1960
Sister Joanna Illy, SSND
Michael & Jean Jack
M.L. Jansen
Kelly Jirschele 1990
Lynne Sward Johnson 1978
Robert Joseph 1972
Mary Kaliszewski
Rose Karas
Mark Kempe 1966
Colleen Kisch 1944
Richard & Ann Klein
Judith Krabe 1964
Patrick Koehnen 1972
Jim Korman 1955
Bridget Kramer
Beverly Kroll
Sister Mary A. Kunze
Jackie Lackner

Jeanne Merry Lacy 1952
Bernie Lancette 1961 +
Nicholas & Mary Lasovich
Mary Pat Lee
Geraldine Loder
Lucille Lorence
Joan Meisinger Mahoney 1951
William & Patricia Mahoney 1951
Clem Maranda 1945
Stephen & Theresa Curdy
Mary Marthaler McDonough 1947
Helen Lannon McNeil 1955 +
Alice Meyer
Marge Milner
Jane Moen
John Mooney 1961
Michelle Mooney 1964
Karol Morton
Frances Vasquez Mudek
John Mulwee
Deacon John & Carol Murphy
Ann Myran
Eileen Norton
Mary Beth O’Brien
Elaine Pesek
Tom Quinlan
Margaret Jungbauer Reed 1951
Brian Rembish
Cesar Reynoso
Georgine Bohl Roers 1971
Janelle Rohr
Julie Fretschel Rollheiser 1966
Heriberto Ortiz Rosas
Tony Roszak
Garry & Barb Ruoffmann
Jim & Kay Russell
Marguerite DeNardo Sandbeck
Sylvia Aguirre Santos 1965
Robert Schaefer 1936
Doris Schillinger
Paula Dalglish Schmid 1949
Paul Schmid 1954
James & Nancy Schmidt 1968
Hubert & Helen Schneider
John & Diane Schwalter
Beatrice Martineau Schueller 1944
Douglas & Florence Schueller
Corinne Gangl Schuster 1973
Securian Foundation

Linda Sellars
Mary Deustermann Sellner 1957
Elizabeth DuChene Shagunskis 1957
Bernice Shirley
David & Joan Smith 1962
Robert Smith 1959
John Steadman
Jan Steinbrenner 1952
Cindy Steinhoff 1969
Bob Stevens 1950
Joe Stevens
Strawberries & Cream
Tsehay Tamarat
Peggy Ferber Tare 1961
Iva Tereau
Barbara & Eugene Tinucci 1946
Lynette & Troy Toensing
Richard & Mary Topritzhofer 1975
Dorothy Hanson Turcotte-Tait 1954
Judith Valerius
Verdeja Family
Laura Volness
Beth Wallace
Clay Welch
Robert & Jaime Gangelhoff Witte
Marvin & Pamela Wolfmeyer
Marian Wolters 1951
John Zensen

IN HONOR OF
1955 Graduates
Father Steve Adrian
2nd Grade Teacher Amy Brown
Mackenzie & Kaylin Clausen
Eduardo & Estaban
Mr. & Mrs. A.S. Ernst
Leon Estrada, Olivia Garcia, Isaac Garcia
Mariene Friedl
Mary Ellen Rolfer Gutzmann
Frankie & Andre Herman
Florence Kunz
Tom & Mary McKeown
Community of Saints Teacher
Kate Miskowic
John Riehl
Father Michael Rudolph
Jerry Sexton
The many inspirational teachers I had
at St. Matt
Karen Thompson
Allen & Diane Volkenant
Lynn Volkenant
Wimmer & Bukowski Families

IN MEMORY OF
Fabian & Elvina Alvord
Lilian Bates
Ruby Bernard
Joe & Catherine Blaeser
George Bohrer
Arnold & Susan Brucker
Carol Casey
Mary Chapdelaine
Josephine Cooper
Magdalen Corrigan
Francis & Gertrude Cosgrove
Denise David
Thomas Doyle
Thomas N. Doyle
Father Francis Dudley
Brian Dufour
Tom Ernst
Janice Ferber
Mary Fischer
John & Genevieve Fretschel
Father Charles Froehle
George & Yvonne Gangl
Sadie George
Russell M. Gesell
Ann Gjerse
Goin Family
Sister Colleen Hau, SSND
Henry Halvorson 1954
Carolyn Anderson (Charmoli) Hamblin
Michael & Helen Hannegraf
John & Elvira Hanson

Gene Harrington
Mary & Bill Harrison
Joan Honsa
Donald Hughes
Tom Kalisiewski
Judy Kelly
Thomas & Ann Kervin
Virginia Koenen
Mary Korman
Andrina Kuechle
Mary & Dick Littfin
Richard Littfin 1944
Louis & Inez
Mahoney Family
Sister Marguerita
J. Stephen McGroarty
Meisinger Family
Veronica Mohr
Agnes Mooney
Helen Mooney
Angela Mulwee
Jane Murphy
Michael Murphy
Ann Palumbo
Edward Patrin
Robert & Edith Rath Pavlik
Carl & Delia Petschauer
Bonnie L. Rasmussen/Thelen
Robinette Family
Kevin Robinette
Adam Roscoe
Gerald Schilling
Giles Schmid
Richard Schmidt 1936
Susan Herriges Splinter
Theresa Jo Sports
Rob & Lucille Steckler
Agnes Stefaniak
John Sweeney
Greg Thompson
Robert Tinucci
Dorthy Valerius
Jos & Maria Van Gilder
Hank & Pat Votel
Thomas & Anne Wallace
Amanda Weyer
Harry & Marcella Williams
Father Alois Ziskovsky

“...matters to you and
you get the most
out of every dollar.”
— DONOR

2014 GIVE TO THE MAX DAY
Anonymous (3)
Elizabeth Arend
Deb Bednar
Mary Brady
Michael Brown
Paul Brown
Ralph & Judy Brown
Dianne Churik
Jean Claussen
Karen & Howard Cronin
Jane DeAustin
Jon DeLuney
Pauline DeZurik
Richard Dunn
Kathleen & Michael Eischen
Cathy Goalay
Shirlee Goalay
Kathy Goldenstein
Mary Gutzmann
Patricia Hara
John Kaiser
Father Kevin Kenney
Aline Kies
Kaley Kosak
Bridget Kramer
Mike Kramer
Catherine LeBarre
Jackie Lackner
Krissy & Doug Lieser
Toulee Ly
Catherine Lyke
Margaret McKane
Tara McTeague
Terry & Bebe McTeague
Chris Mendez
Marge Milner
Katie Miskowic
Lynn Miskowic
Michael Miskowic
Jessica Morales
John Niederkorn
Daniel Novack
Elizabeth Nowak
Janet Odalen
Jessica Orme
Teresa Ramos
Carol Redding
Janelle Rohr
Barb Ruhlmann
Hayley Ruhoff-Benson
Patty Salinaz
Brittany Schou
Deanna Shier
Pat Shier
Leticia Silva
Ann Smetana
Mary K. Sprangers
Barbara Tesch
Laura Tesch
Karen Thompson
Carla Tressell
Mary Tressell
Sue VanderWyst
Patrick Waldera
Bill Walter
Robert White
Bob & Kelly Yarosz
Michelle Youness

Give to the Max donors for 2015 will be noted in the next newsletter.
Students Help Raise Funds for New Playground

Every Fall, Catholic elementary school students across the archdiocese seek pledges from family and friends to support their school through the Marathon fundraiser. This year, Principal Bridget Kramer issued a special challenge for the annual fundraiser. She told them all the money students raise would go toward a new playground. It was a game changer.

“The kids raised more money than ever before,” said Bridget. “The goal was $10,000 and students brought in $10,200.”

Students Go All Out

The possibility of a new playground definitely motivated 4th grader Elizabeth Novack. “Usually, I’m not the kind of person who goes all out but I really wanted that new playground,” Elizabeth said. “I asked my entire neighborhood, plus aunts and uncles.” Elizabeth was the top fundraiser for grades 3-5, bringing in $430.

Eighth grade student Max Karas has always been at or near the top for Marathon fundraising, but this year he set a new school record by bringing in $825. When he heard that top fundraisers would have a say in what equipment would be part of the playground, he was really excited. “Everybody is telling me to ask for swings,” Max said. “So I really want to get that for the school.”

It is, perhaps, not too surprising that students rallied around the new playground given the state of the current one, which was purchased for $1 from the city years ago. “It’s not in the best condition,” reported Elizabeth Novack diplomatically. Max Karas agrees. “The monkey bars are rusted out and the slide has a big hole in it,” he said. “We need something kids can play on.”

Well on the Way to Fundraising Goal

The school is well on its way towards raising the $42,000 needed for the new playground. In addition to the Marathon fundraiser, the school has been awarded a $17,000 grant from the manufacturer and will direct all funds from Give to the Max 2015 towards the new playground.

Bridget Kramer is confident they’ll raise the money in time to have the playground in place before school begins next fall. “I can’t wait to see their faces when we finally have the new playground,” she said.

Max will be in high school next year, but that doesn’t matter to him. “I plan to bring some people over so they can see what I helped make possible.”

To follow the school’s fundraising progress, visit the COS website: www@CommunityofSaints.org.

COS hopes to have this playground installed by the start of the next school year. In addition to equipment pictured here, they plan to add swings and monkey bars.
Congratulations to Bill Szlaius ('81) Named Ernst & Young Regional Entrepreneur of the Year

In 1997, Bill Szlaius cofounded Logic Information Systems. Now the company has almost 700 employees operating out of 15 offices across five continents. Revenue for the current year is $75 million. His success has earned him recognition from Ernst & Young, who named him one of their Regional Entrepreneur’s of the Year.

Fr. Steve Adrian, who remembers Bill from his days as an altar server at St. Matt’s, is not all that surprised. “Bill has always been a hard worker,” Fr. Steve observed. “He’s the kind of guy who crams more into 24 hours than most people could imagine.”

After graduating from Saint Thomas Academy in 1985, Bill signed up for a five-year degree offered through St. Thomas College and the University of Notre Dame that combined engineering with the liberal arts.

Bill’s business continues to grow which keeps him busy traveling around the world. “There’s no place we won’t go to serve our clients,” Bill said. “By next year, we expect that half of our business will be outside of North America.”

“He has done incredibly well,” said Fr. Steve. “But for as far as he’s gone, at heart he’s still a West Side, hometown boy.”

Alums to Students: Give STA a Look

One of the goals for a Catholic grade school is to prepare students to succeed at one of the fine Catholic high schools in our area. David Hottinger ('81) and Bill Szlaius ('81) have a message for middle school boys and their families. Give Saint Thomas Academy a look.

When David and Bill graduated from the Academy, Archbishop Brady High School was still open, Derham Hall was for girls only and Cretin was an all boys school. While acknowledging that it was an uncommon choice among his classmates, Bill Szlaius said he was always pretty sure he wanted to attend Saint Thomas. “I knew I wanted to go to college and I figured I needed a good place to keep me in line,” Bill said. “The competitive environment at the Academy was a good thing for me, as well as the discipline.”

David had been considering Brady and Humboldt when St. Matthew’s basketball coach weighed in. “It was my 8th grade year, and Coach Krueger asked me, ‘Have you looked at Saint Thomas?’” David recalled. David took more than a look. He graduated from the Academy in 1985 and today he is the school’s Advancement Director.

“There’s a perception that it’s a rich kids school, but 43% of our students receive financial aid and 10% qualify for the subsidized lunch program,” David said. He pointed out that there’s more of a socio-economic mix than people think. “It’s really about who you are in terms of confidence,” David added. “Not what your address is.”

Competition and a Brotherhood

As the only all-male Catholic high school left in the Archdiocese, David thinks that what made Saint Thomas special back when he was a student is even more valuable today. “There’s a competition and a brotherhood. Boys push each other and learn to lead. The school wants you to excel and then help the guy behind you.”

David understands that the price of tuition may scare some families away, but he points out the school takes each family’s circumstances into account to find a way to help them afford it. “Everybody has to pay something, but there are financial aid awards and additional scholarships available,” David explained. “We try to make it affordable for every student who’s interested.”

Bill agrees. “If I were talking to kids at Community of Saints, I would tell them — don’t sell yourself short. Don’t think this is a huge thing outside your grasp. If you can work with the school to figure out the tuition, go for it.”
SPONSORSHIP opportunities

Businesses and organizations are invited to help sponsor The Good News and support Alums & Friends & Families’ efforts to raise funds for tuition assistance. Sponsorship helps us achieve our goal of making a high quality, Catholic education available to all families in our community, regardless of their ability to afford tuition.

If you'd like more information about sponsorship, please contact Doug Lieser at Dlieser@communityofsaints.org or call 651-457-2510.

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