

FROM: Inner-City Scholarship Fund
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY
www.icsf-nyc.org

Rubenstein Associates, Inc. *Public Relations*
Contact: Emily Vicker (212) 843-8078 / evicker@rubenstein.com

For Immediate Release

**PROJECT YESS RECEPTION RAISES \$60K FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
AT SCHOOLS WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK**

NEW YORK (May 24, 2012) – Over 200 guests raised over \$60K to fund much needed capital improvements at inner-city elementary Catholic schools during Inner-City Scholarship Fund's (ICSF) 12th annual Project YESS Reception and Silent Auction on Wednesday, May 23 at Top of the Rock observation deck. The four elementary schools that will receive improvements are supported by ICSF, the city's leading non-profit organization dedicated to providing tuition assistance for low-income students attending inner-city Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of New York.

His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan and committee co-chairs **Timothy C. Muccia** and **Jeff Mullen** addressed the hundreds of supporters, thanking them for their continued support of the inner-city Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of New York City and Project YESS. **Omar Ortiz** was honored with the Project YESS principal award which annually recognizes the outstanding leadership and dedication of one elementary school principal.

The night's funds were raised from a silent auction that included Yankees tickets, dinner for six from a personal chef, tickets to the 2012 U.S. Open and tickets to Broadway show *Rock of Ages*.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Project YESS and their grants for inner-city elementary schools within the Archdiocese of New York in need of capital improvements and repairs. The repairs range from installing improved lighting, to fixing broken windows and upgrading security systems. The grants ensure that the school's can provide a safe, nurturing environment for students as well as to help increase enrollment.

"A clean and safe learning environment is one of the most important elements of providing a good education," said Timothy Muccia, co-chair of Project YESS. "Project YESS provides funds to make capital improvements to provide the best environments possible, without taking money from student scholarships. Everyone in this room is proud of that."

Inner-City Scholarship Fund provides scholarship support to nearly 8,000 students (93% minority and 36% non-Catholic) in 92 inner-city Catholic schools in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island. Although two-thirds of its students live at or below the federal poverty level, an astounding 95% of graduates from ICSF-supported schools pursue college at some of the finest universities in the nation.

Photos of the evening are available at www.snapfish.com, LOGIN: evicker@rubenstein.com; PASSWORD: rubenstein (case sensitive). Additional images are available upon request.

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