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Supporters and Friends

Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised \$1 million at the 38th Annual Friends Committee Gala on Tuesday, May 13th. Over 400 guests attended the event at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan to benefit Inner-City in its dedication to providing tuition assistance for low-income students attending inner-city Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of New York.

His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York; and Gala Chair, co-anchor of Fox News Channel's "America's Newsroom," **Martha MacCallum** attended the event where Fox News Channel analyst **Peter Johnson, Jr.** served as the Master of Ceremonies.



Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan and Ruth Woolard



Martha MacCallum and Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

“A quality education is the most powerful tool a child can have,” said **Susan George**, Executive Director of Inner-City. “Seeing this room so full of people committed to providing educational opportunities to our students, is something I – and the thousands of students Inner-City supports

– are very thankful for.”

Former scholarship recipient **Richard Recchia**, who graduated from high school in 2004 and is now an Emmy Award winning producer at CBS Sports, gave a moving speech about how a Catholic education and the support he received from Inner-City helped shape his future. “I spent my childhood living in a public housing project complex in Manhattan, with my mother and three siblings, in a cramped one-bedroom apartment – finances were tight,” said Recchia. “Without Inner-City Scholarship Fund and the support of my sponsor, I would not be standing here tonight and more importantly, I don’t know if I would have developed the desire to dream and aspire for what I have been blessed with today.”



Peter Johnson, Jr.



Maria Jose Nolasco

In addition to dinner and dancing, guests enjoyed a performance by **Maria Jose Nolasco**, an 8th grade student at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in the Bronx, who sang *Vivir mi Vida* by Marc Anthony and *Colors of the Wind* by **Stephen Schwartz**.

Inner-City Scholarship Fund was founded in 1971 by the late **Terence Cardinal Cooke** and a group of prominent executives of many religious beliefs. Inner-City provides tuition assistance to over 7,500 students (92% minority and 33% non-Catholic) in 79 inner-city Catholic schools in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island. An astonishing 98% percent of seniors attending inner-city Catholic high schools graduate, and 96% pursue college at some of the finest universities in the nation.



Melanie and Joseph Shugart



Jaclyn Scerbak and CJ de Nicola



Susan George and Christine Schwarzman