

Award Dinner Raises Funds for Inner-City Schools, Spotlights Student Musicians



Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School's violin ensemble welcomed guests as they entered the Rainbow Room for an evening of heart rendering performances at the 2008 ICSF Annual Dinner.

Philippe Dauman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Viacom was honored at Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Award Dinner November 17th at the scenic Rainbow Room, 60 stories above Rockefeller Plaza. 350 guests attended the 32nd annual event, raising \$1.5 million for ICSF.

With panoramic views of the New York area as a backdrop, CNBC news anchor Maria Bartiromo presided over the evening's program which was accented with brilliant performances by students from our inner-city Catholic schools. Our honoree, Mr. Dauman enlisted three distinguished Co-Chairmen – James L. Dolan, President and CEO of Cablevision Systems Corp., Stephen A. Schwarzman, Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of Blackstone

and Jeff Zucker, President and CEO of NBC Universal – to assist him with fundraising and generating plenty of excitement for ICSF's mission.

To start the evening's festivities, a violin ensemble of elementary students from Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School in Manhattan ushered guests into the dining room.

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Change of Date!

**33rd Annual FRIENDS Gala
to April 21st from May 5th**

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19th Annual Lawyers' Luncheon Is a Tremendous Success



Honoree Robert C. Sheehan, his wife Elizabeth and their sons Will and Bob with His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan during the Lawyers' Luncheon on October 22, 2008.

On October 22nd, over 400 attorneys marked our 19th Annual Lawyers' Luncheon at the Starlight Roof at the Waldorf Astoria. The event was a huge success raising nearly half a million dollars for inner-city Catholic schools.

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan presented this year's honoree, Robert C. Sheehan, Esq., with the Saint Thomas More Award given annually to members of the legal profession who exemplify the virtues of St. Thomas: scholarship, leadership, loyalty to God, country and service. Mr. Sheehan, an Executive Partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, attended with his wife Elizabeth and their two sons Will and Bob.

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*Susan George, Executive Director of
Inner-City Scholarship Fund*

Dear Friends,

At this time of year, we often reflect on the transitions in our lives and the promise of the New Year. We also pause to remember those who made a tangible contribution to our lives. This edition of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) newsletter is dedicated to our beloved friend and trustee Mr. John F. McGillicuddy, who was a founding member of ICSF's Board and someone who had a profound influence on New York City's Catholic schools and the children who attend them.

Our newsletter celebrates the dedication of those who make our programs so effective. Friends like Laura and James Naughton exemplify the kindness of our donors. Responding to an urgent request to address the long

waiting list for the *Be A Student's Friend* (BASF) program, Laura and James decided to take every boy and girl on the list, making room for new deserving students to take their place. Mary Julian, whose whole family has been a long-standing BASF sponsor, organized an ecology day camp at the Rye Nature Center for 40 students from Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School and Our Lady Queen of Angels School, both in Harlem. Without Mary Julian's commitment, these underserved inner-city students would not get the chance to have such an enriching wholesome experience.

The collective efforts of our friends have also had a remarkable impact. Our Annual Award Dinner honoring Mr. Philippe Dauman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Viacom raised \$1.5 million, and the 19th Annual Lawyers' Luncheon, honoring Robert C. Sheehan, Esq., raised nearly half a million, impressive figures given these challenging times for the economy. ICSF's Junior Committee has also raised tens of thousands of dollars for our programs, engaging students at schools and hosted educational field trips. This positive influence that the Junior Committee has on the lives of our inner-city children is huge. ICSF also helps students prepare for college. As in years past, companies across the city will provide paid internships for our Job Opportunities Program students. This year for the first time these young interns will also have a college-aged mentor to assist in their subsequent college application process.

On behalf of our 38,000 ICSF students, their families and schools, thank you for supporting ICSF programs. Please be assured, you are helping to provide the gift of a Catholic education to those who cherish it most.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan George
Executive Director

An Everlasting Gift - Be A Student's Friend Sponsors Laura and James Naughton



Sponsor Laura Naughton is shown here on a visit to Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School. She was presented with a book of thank you letters from her 148 newly sponsored students.

Just in time to begin the new school year, the *Be A Student's Friend* (BASF) program received heartwarming news. In response to an urgent appeal for new sponsorships, dedicated supporters Laura and James Naughton offered to sponsor all 148 students on the BASF waiting list.

Laura and James became BASF sponsors in 2000 after seeing one of our advertisements in *The New York Times*. Laura was drawn to the full-page ad featuring the smiling face of a child waiting for a scholarship. During their first few years of involvement, Laura and James supported three students. Last year, they decided to sponsor an additional 50. With their recent additions, the Naughtons now support 201 students!

The Naughtons live in London with their three young children but both have roots in the United States. Laura grew up in western Georgia and James is from Queens, New York. James went to Catholic grammar and high school and knows the importance of a values-based, safe learning environment for urban kids.

While the average wait time for a BASF scholarship is one year, Laura and James made it possible for all former 148 wait list students to receive a scholarship in

less than six months. Their generosity has allowed us to distribute new applications to our schools and we now have a fresh list of students in need of scholarships.

Laura and her eldest daughter, Alice, recently visited three of the Naughtons' sponsored students at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School in East Harlem. They enjoyed meeting each other and spent a few minutes chatting and exchanging questions. Laura's students presented her with a book of thank you letters as well as Christmas presents for the Naughton family. It was a wonderful way for Laura to witness the effects of her generosity first hand.

Thank you, Laura and James, for your commitment to our students!

For more information about *Be A Student's Friend*, contact Karina Strobl at strobl@icsf-nyc.org or call: (646) 794-3328.

JOP Mentoring Tomorrow's Workforce and Showing Promise in 2009



JOP Coordinator Christine Desposito (sitting on left), shown here with the Summer 2008 JOP Interns at Bloomberg LP.

ICSF's Job Opportunities Program (JOP) will have a presence in New York City's workforce in 2009. JOP trains and mentors future graduates of Catholic inner-city schools. This year, in a series of Saturday workshops, 100 high-achieving high school juniors will learn invaluable career skills and new technology as they prepare for internships at various companies and organizations throughout New York City in the summer of 2009.

In its 24 years, JOP has kept pace with changes in the job market to provide the skills and knowledge necessary for young people to succeed in today's economy. Students from 16 Archdiocesan inner-city high schools have been accepted by JOP for the 2008-2009 school year. ICSF, through a partnership with the Chelsea Morrison Foundation is providing these students with an additional opportunity; the Intern-Mentor partnership program links each JOP student with a young mentor who recently graduated college for assistance with college applications, resumes, college testing preparations and career advice. We extend best wishes to our JOP students for a terrific training program and workplace experience!

To volunteer as a JOP workshop trainer or to interview interns, please contact Christine Desposito, ICSF's JOP Coordinator, at desposito@icsf-nyc.org or call (646) 794-3359.



Stephania Pierre Fortuna, a 2008 JOP graduate and senior at Notre Dame High School speaks about her experience last summer as an intern at the firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz during the 19th Annual Lawyers' Luncheon.

An ICSF School on Center Stage: Saint Mark the Evangelist

It is an exciting year at Saint Mark the Evangelist School in central Harlem. New programs and outstanding student achievement at Saint Mark have ratcheted-up the energy and enthusiasm levels of its over 240 students in pre-kindergarten through Grade 8. Remarkably, StarAsia Smith, a seventh grader and a *Be A Student's Friend* (BASF) scholar, recently had her poetry published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Teens Talk Middle School*. StarAsia's accomplishment has coincided with a number of exciting curriculum changes.

At Saint Mark's, 10 students currently receive BASF scholarships and the Cardinal's Scholarship Program (CSP) sponsors an additional 34. Thanks to the generous support of the school's patrons, Russell and Judy Carson and other friends, Saint Mark's curriculum has become significantly expanded. Since 2005 for example, the Carsons have sponsored its Extended Day Program at Saint Mark's. Now school hours run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The change has resulted in increased standardized test scores across the board. For the past two years, the Carsons have also sponsored

a Cooke Center literacy coach, who comes to the school one day a week to help teachers with lesson preparation and teaching techniques. The couple will also sponsor a number of new enrichment programs for the 2008-2009 school year. Saint Mark's is also enjoying more comprehensive programs such as the Education Through Music and American Ballroom Theater's Dancing Classrooms programs. The school has a brand new boys' basketball team through *Jeremy's Heroes* and *Library Connections* is sponsoring regular visits by an author to the school. Last December, Roni Schotter, a writing teacher and author of the 2008-2009 Mentor Text of the Year, *Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street*, visited the Saint Mark's School library and met with students in Grades 4 through 6, sharing her love of writing, reading, and learning.

These programs have added zest to student life. With a low teacher turnover rate and an extremely dedicated and enthusiastic faculty and staff, Saint Mark's is a home away from home for so many of its students. Sister Catherine Hagan has led the school as its principal

for 14 years. It has always been a school where the students are cared for as well as challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential. The school's foundress, Saint Katherine Drexell opened Saint Mark's in 1912 as the first Catholic School in New York City for the education of African-American children. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament staffed the school from 1912 until 1982 when the Daughters of Charity assumed responsibility for the school. The original mission of the school has never changed. Without a doubt, Saint Mark's is a special place.

If you would like to visit Saint Mark the Evangelist School contact Principal Sr. Catherine Hagan at saintmarkschool@yahoo.com or call (212) 283-4848.

Junior Committee Raises Funds for ICSF Students and Hosts Terrific Events



Junior Committee volunteers joined 60 inner-city students at a Red Bulls professional soccer match at Giants Stadium last September, another unforgettable field trip for our ICSF students. Many thanks go to the Committee members for making the event possible.

The Junior Committee continues to be a great boon to Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF). Through community-service projects, tutoring sessions and other activities in coordination with four Catholic elementary schools in Manhattan, the Committee has since the beginning of the school year already worked with more than 200 ICSF boys and girls. During the fall and winter seasons, it held two successful fundraisers, organized fun-filled weekend field trips for students and sponsored a festive Christmas party.

Last fall, the Committee kicked off another great season starting with a "tips for tots" fundraiser event raising a total

of \$800, an increase from the previous year. In September, the Committee took 60 students in grades 6 to 8 to Giants Stadium to attend a Red Bulls soccer game. Once there, the students were able to play on the actual field and "high-five" soccer players before watching the match. Many of these students had never been to a soccer match before but soon became fans after having such a fun time. The group's Saturday outings included a trip to Queens County Farm and ice-skating at Wolman rink in Central Park.

October was an even better month as the Committee threw a Halloween masquerade fundraiser at Boulevard.

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Nearly everyone arrived in costume for the party, eager to participate in the best costume contest. The event raised over \$4,100. Other exciting news includes a \$7,500 grant from Credit Suisse to fund the Committee's volunteer work for a second year in a row. This generous gift will be used to provide students with opportunities to visit New York City's cultural institutions each month. To top off the year in a festive fashion, the Committee hosted a Christmas party at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in Harlem in which first and second graders participated in cookie and

ornament decorating, caroling, and even got a surprise visit from Santa Clause and his elves.

ICSF's Junior Committee will continue to tutor and conduct field trips. The Committee is starting a new co-ed basketball league and will soon host a silent-auction in the spring. Other coming events include: a dodgeball tournament, monthly general council meetings through June, plus a black and white-themed party taking place on Friday, April 24th at the Mutual of America building. Proceeds from the

spring event will provide funding for Junior Committee programs.

If you, or someone you know may be interested in joining the Junior Committee, please contact Melissa Velez at velez@icsf-nyc.org or call (646) 794-3324.

Inner-City Scholarship Fund Kids Go Green



Last August, ICSF students explored various animals and plants at the Rye Nature Center. Some of the girls who attended the camp are shown here in front of the Butterfly House observatory.

Last August, 40 students from two Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) schools in East Harlem: Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary and Our Lady Queen of Angels – attended an ecology day camp at the Rye Nature Center. Located just 40 minutes north of New York City in Rye, this nature preserve, funded by The Friends of Rye Nature Center (FRNC), abounds with trees, animals, trails, and ponds. The kids were amazed to see that no matter where they looked – up, down, left, or right – they saw something green! Mary Julian, FRNC's President, and her family are long-time supporters of ICSF.

They conceived this wonderful program. Mary and her family provide scholarships to several children through ICSF's *Be A Student's Friend* (BASF) program. She wondered what her sponsored students did each summer. Realizing that they spent their entire time off confined to their small urban neighborhoods, Mary envisioned something different. She said, "Every child, whether in the suburbs or the city, deserves and needs environmental education. I personally correspond with a number of these children and I know they will greatly benefit. We only wish we could invite many more."

The program, based on the Nature Center's popular summer ecology day camp, was offered to residents of Rye and neighboring towns and was taught by veteran camp staff. Fundraising for the program was a collaborative effort. FRNC generously underwrote the \$400-per-student cost of tuition while each school's Advisory Board members and other donors raised funds for transportation and chaperones.

During the weeklong camp, students learned teamwork, made new friends, and built skills and self-esteem – all experiences that will last them the rest of their lives. Alexi, a 3rd grader at Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School said, "The difference

between New York City and the Rye Nature Center is that the Rye Nature Center has forests, houses and a quiet street. They have their own stone and rock bridge and walls instead of concrete bridges." Another student reported that she couldn't wait to apply what she had learned at camp to her studies.

We look forward to continuing this wonderful program and have already received many requests from students to attend next summer. We hope to offer spots to as many students as would like to attend. Thank you to all who made this opportunity possible!

If you would like to contribute to this program, please contact Karina Strobl at strobl@icsf-nyc.org or call (646) 794-3328.



Ann Mara and her family were among many of ICSF's honored guests attending the 2008 Annual Award Dinner.

After guests viewed a newly produced video about ICSF and enjoyed a delicious dinner, Diomedes Saraza, a senior at Saint Raymond High School in the Bronx, played *Moto Perpetuo* on his violin. The audience was mesmerized by the precision of the piece and his extraordinary execution. Later, Danielle Flores, a 12th grader from The Academy of Mount Saint Ursula in the Bronx, who sang *1,000 Miles* in a voice as clear

as the sky, accompanying herself on the piano. To conclude the evening, a group of Danielle's fellow classmates, the A Cappella Singers, sent our guests home with *So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye*. These extraordinary performances demonstrated to all just how well the values-based environment in our inner-city Catholic schools nurtures outstanding musical skills in tandem with remarkable academic achievement.

More exciting Inner-City Scholarship Fund events are in store for 2009. Mark your calendar on April 21st, for the 33rd Annual FRIENDS Gala taking place at Cipriani 42nd Street and save the date for the next Annual Award Dinner: Monday, December 7th.

If you would like further information about Inner-City Scholarship Fund events, please contact Marion Whiting at whiting@icsf-nyc.org or call (646) 794-3332.



His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan greets Philippe and Deborah Dauman and ICSF Trustee Fred Salerno during the Annual Award Dinner.

19th Annual Lawyers' Luncheon Is a Tremendous Success continued from pg 1



Committee Member Carl J. Chiappa, a Partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP, introduced the program at the Lawyers' Luncheon.

Joining the lawyers for the luncheon event was guest speaker, Stephania Pierre Fortuna, a senior at Notre Dame High School. Having taken part in ICSF's Job Opportunities Program, Stephania completed a summer internship position at the law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

In her speech, Stephania recounted her extraordinary summer: "My co-workers made the experience an insightful and memorable one. There was always someone who went out of their way to make sure that I felt comfortable and offered a few life stories and tips. I will be forever grateful for my experience as an intern at Wachtell."

For the Lawyers' Luncheon, in lieu of fresh flowers, the tables were adorned with pumpkins painted by elementary school students from Our Lady Queen of Angels School in Manhattan. ICSF's Junior Committee cleverly organized the pumpkin painting which saved enough money on floral decorations to provide scholarships for three deserving students in the *Be A Student's Friend* program. What an appropriate way to celebrate the holiday season!

If you are interested in being a part of the Lawyers' Committee, please contact Meghan McGuinness at meghan.mcguinness@archny.org or call (646) 794-3270.

Happenings at Our Schools

Elementary Schools

- **Saint Brigid School** in Manhattan was selected to have its hand-bell ringers play during a Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The students played a prelude, an offertory, and accompanied hymns.
- As part of the science curriculum at **St. Augustine School** in the Bronx, students are raising 15 hens to observe the lifecycle of living farm animals and their behavior. The new project enhances the school's thriving honeybee hives and vegetable gardens.
- One of our students from **Our Lady of Lourdes School** in Manhattan performed at Shea Stadium last fall as part of an opening ceremony at a Major League Baseball game.
- **Sacred Heart School** in the Bronx has a new music program. Its students are now receiving choral instruction. In its first year, the program provides students access to a diverse music repertoire that directly relates to their academic courses.
- **Saint Sylvester School** on Staten Island is putting new state-of-the-art technology to good use including laptop computers for its teachers and students. The school is also hardwiring the building for complete wireless Internet connectivity and access to professional support for teachers as they use educational technology.

- Allison Jones, the director of development at **Saint James School** in Manhattan, created a media and community workshop for students in grades 7 and 8. In this workshop, students selected an issue currently affecting society. After conducting research, participating in community-service projects and interviewing various community leaders, the students wrote about their experience in an online blog.

High Schools

- The Catholic High School Honor Roll has designated **All Hallows School** in the Bronx as one of the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the United States. All Hallows has been recognized by the Honor Roll for five consecutive years.
- Ken Riccardi, the librarian at **Rice High School** in Harlem, was recognized as a winner in a nationwide essay contest on K-12 education.
- **Mother Cabrini High School** in Manhattan began the 2008-2009 school year walking for "good health and great education" at their annual walk-a-thon fundraiser. Students asked local businesses, families, and friends to sponsor them as they walked through Fort Tryon Park in northern Manhattan, raising awareness about healthy lifestyles and promoting community service.

- On Friday, December 5th, 10 seniors from the **Academy of Mount Saint Ursula** in the Bronx attended the United Nations Global Warming and Human Rights Day. The students participated in conversations with UN Ambassadors of Peace primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, author Elie Wiesel, violinist Midori Goto and actor Michael Douglas. The program was filled with musical performances from around the world, including telecommunicated presentations on peace issues by students from Afghanistan, Sudan and Liberia. The conference ended with a parade of world flags and the traditional ringing of the peace bell. The purpose of the day is to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the UN and its member states to promote the ideals of peace. The students walked away inspired and determined to share their vision of creating a more peaceful world.



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Save the Date

33rd Annual FRIENDS Gala

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Junior Committee Spring Event

Friday, April 24, 2009

Annual Award Dinner

Monday, December 7, 2009

Please visit our website at www.icsf-nyc.org and look out for your mailed announcement of the 2009 Project YESS Reception to take place at the Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center in June.



inner-city scholarship fund

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