



inner-city scholarship fund

A Child. A Chance. A Future.

Inner-City Scholarship Fund
1011 First Avenue, Suite 1800
New York, NY 10022
www.innercityscholarshipfund.org



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Save the Date!

The 40th Annual FRIENDS Gala
Cipriani 42nd Street
Tuesday, May 10, 2016

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Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | Winter 2016

Edward Herlihy, Adrian Gonzalez, and Michael McBride

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ANNUAL AWARD DINNER RAISES RECORD-SETTING \$3.1 MILLION

Over 500 friends of Inner-City attended the 39th Annual Award dinner at the Mandarin Oriental on December 14. Guests were welcomed into the dining room with a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra's centennial year, performed by the Our Lady of Lourdes Choir. They were joined in song by Inner-City Trustee Mo Rocca, who also served as Master of Ceremonies.

His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, presented the Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award to Edward D. Herlihy, who

delivered an ardent speech about the commitment that Catholic schools show towards their students. Peter Grauer presented the inaugural James B. Lee, Jr. LifeLink Award to Michael X. McBride, who moved the crowd with memories about a friend of Inner-City and his own lifelong best friend, Jimmy Lee.

Guests were inspired by Adrian Gonzalez, a senior at All Hallows High School in the Bronx, as he spoke about the impact that

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KIDS ARE OUR CAPITAL

Dear Friends,

Inner-City is building momentum. In September we launched the Kids Are Our Capital endowment campaign. Our goal is to create a \$125 million endowment and expand our impact by nearly fifty percent. In the same month, Pope Francis met with Inner-City scholarship recipients at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. Our 39th Annual Award Dinner raised a record-setting \$3.1 million in December. Finally, with your support, this year Inner-City provided 7,000 scholarships to ensure that a quality Catholic education is a viable option for all young people regardless of their economic status.

There is still so much work to be done.

The Kids Are Our Capital endowment campaign for Inner-City Scholarship Fund will support scholarships for at least 2,500 children each year in perpetuity. The campaign is an investment in New York City’s workforce of tomorrow—creating a legacy that will reverberate for decades through thousands of high school graduates.

Our past successes and future goals would not be possible without your commitment. Please know how important your role is in providing low-income students with the values and skills they need to lift themselves out of poverty through a Catholic school education. Together we are changing young lives.

Sincerely,

Susan George
Executive Director

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“OH WHEN THE POPE COMES MARCHING IN...”



Pope Francis with Our Lady Queen of Angels students

On September 25, 2015, over 200 students from throughout the Archdiocese of New York paraded up Second Avenue in their school uniforms to welcome Pope Francis to Our Lady Queen of Angels School in New York City with a special rendition of, “Oh when the Pope comes marching in!” In addition to

students, teachers, and staff, Inner-City scholarship recipients were selected for the incredible honor to meet the Holy Father inside the school. Pope Francis reminded students of the value in Catholic schools like Our Lady Queen of Angels: “All of you here, children and adults, have a right to dream and I am very happy that

here in school, in your friends and your teachers, in all who are here to help, you can find the support you need.” Before leaving for Mass at Madison Square Garden, the Holy Father placed a special request with students. “Pray for me,” he asked before adding, “Don’t forget the homework!”

LAWYERS LUNCHEON

Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised \$500,000 at the 26th Annual Lawyers Luncheon on November 5. Over 500 attorneys from the New York legal community attended the event at Cipriani 42nd Street. Fox 5 journalist Dari Alexander served as Master of Ceremonies. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan presented this year’s Thomas More Award to Thomas J. Kavalier, Partner and Executive Committee Member, Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP. Since 1990, the St. Thomas More Award has been given to a friend of Inner-City who exemplifies the virtues of scholarship, leadership, loyalty and service to the legal profession.



Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Thomas Kavalier

The event was closed with remarks from Inner-City scholarship recipient Magdalin Pena, a senior at St. Raymond Academy for Girls in the Bronx. Through her interview preparation and job readiness training with the

Job Opportunities Program, Magdalin was hired as an intern at Skadden Arps last summer. She is in line to graduate as valedictorian of her class. “None of my hopes and dreams would be possible without the help of Inner-City Scholarship Fund,” Magdalin explained

with gratitude. “On behalf of the thousands of students who you are impacting, thank you for helping us fulfill our passions.”

INNER-CITY SENIOR ASPIRES TO BE AN ARMY CADET



Ermelinda Vushaj receives award from the New York State Assembly

Ermelinda Vushaj is a senior at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, an Inner-City supported school in the Bronx. She has been working with the 52nd Precinct Law Enforcement Exploring Program for five years. She holds the rank of program Sergeant and has received citations from the New York State Assembly for her outstanding dedication. Ermelinda has been trained in courses on U.S. Marine Corps, Search and Arrest, Domestic Violence, Bomb Threat and Anti-Terrorism.

At the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Ermelinda is a member of the National Honor Society and is involved with student council. She enjoys basketball, volleyball, softball, theater and martial arts. Ermelinda also attended the 2015 People to People Leadership Summit at Harvard University. She applied to the United States Military Academy at West Point where she hopes to commit herself as an Army Cadet and study law.

MEET A STUDENT ON OUR WAIT-LIST

Meet Nathan, a 5th grader at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Manhattan. Nathan lives with his mother, a single parent who immigrated to Brooklyn from Haiti and works as a shift supervisor, earning less than \$20,000 a year. Nathan's favorite subject in school is science because he enjoys experimenting.

When he's not in the classroom, Nathan spends his time reading. He also loves to sing and looks forward to joining a theater group at school.

Nathan admires his mother who is always trying to make ends meet. She struggles to send her son to Catholic school and he writes, "She's determined to give me the best education. Like she says, the best always speaks for itself."

Nathan is currently on the wait-list to receive an Inner-City scholarship. Won't you help by becoming his sponsor?

Please contact Kelvin Gentles at Gentles@innercitynyc.org to learn how you can Be A Student's Friend by sponsoring a portion of Nathan's tuition.



Nathan, 5th grader at Sacred Heart of Jesus School

ALUMNA REFLECTS ON EXPERIENCE IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Inner-City's Job Opportunities Program enrolls ambitious students from inner-city Catholic high schools in a competitive training course on resume writing, interview preparation and business etiquette. Professionals from all business fields volunteer their time to work personally with students to help them find their first paid summer internships. This past year, the Job Opportunities Program trained 100 students from 14 Catholic high schools.

Renée Gaillard, a former scholarship recipient from the Bronx, credits much of her academic and professional success to Inner-City and its Job Opportunities Program. Renée was hired as an intern at Bloomberg, L.P., where she received first-hand experience in business and economics. In the same year, a mentor from the Chelsea Morrison Foundation encouraged her to apply to colleges outside of New York and heeding this advice, Renée graduated from Boston University in 2014. Now working in the non-profit field and a mentor of young students herself, Renée expresses her gratitude for the Job Opportunities Program: "In the moment, I knew I was getting important tools and skills to learn how to write a resume, how to act



Renée Gaillard, Inner-City scholarship alumna

in a job interview, and how to prepare for an internship at a top company. What I didn't know is how much that would still impact me today."

Students who qualify for the Job Opportunities Program are in the top 10% of their classes and show a deep commitment to their education and community service. 100% of program participants graduate high school

and pursue higher education. The Job Opportunities Program hopes to increase the number of internship opportunities available to students in the coming year.

To learn how to sponsor Job Opportunities Program internships at your organization, please contact Christine Desposito at desposito@innercitynyc.org

ANNUAL AWARD DINNER RAISES RECORD-SETTING \$3.1 MILLION (CONTINUED)

Inner-City has had on his life and education. Adrian emigrated from the Dominican Republic with his mother when he was just eight years old. "Statistics show that we are products of our environment; I say that we create our environment," he remarked thoughtfully. "With this in mind, my mom and I sought help and came across Inner-City Scholarship Fund." During his time at All Hallows, Adrian has interned at Time Inc., attended a leadership conference in Ireland, and won an app-building contest with NYC Generation Tech.

The event was a record-setting success as Inner-City supporters raised over \$3.1 million.

Next up on our event calendar, Inner-City will host the 40th Annual FRIENDS Gala on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. **Please save the date.**

To learn more about our future events, please contact Alyson Vetter at Vetter@innercitynyc.org.



Mo Rocca sings with the Our Lady of Lourdes Choir



- 1) Inner-City Trustee Catherine Keating and friends
- 2) Melody Di Piazza, Ruth Woolard, and Inner-City Trustee Sam Di Piazza
- 3) Tom and Catherine Souther
- 4) Volunteers from Marsh & McLennan paint and repair library at St. Charles Borromeo School
- 5) Inner-City Trustees John Doyle and Michael Millette
- 6) Junior Committee volunteers host a Christmas party for inner-city students



- 7) St. Ann student Jahleel Bennett joins Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Christine and Steve Schwarzman for the launch of Inner-City's Kids Are Our Capital campaign
- 8) Thomas Kavaler, his wife Loretta Preska, and friends
- 9) Trustees Robert Weisz and Mauro Romita with their families
- 10) Pope Francis meets Laurie and Peter Grauer and Judy and Russ Carson
- 11) The Knights of Columbus and Inner-City staff attend a Yankee game where proceeds support tuition assistance programs