



inner-city scholarship fund

*A Child. A Chance. A Future.*



Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | Winter 2020

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## 43rd ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER A SUCCESS

Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised \$1.6 million at the 43rd Annual Inner-City Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner on Wednesday, December 11. Nearly 400 guests attended the event at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. Funds from the evening will help support Inner-City in its mission to provide tuition assistance for underserved students attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

NBC 4 New York's David Ushery served as the Master of Ceremonies and Peter T. Grauer, Chairman at Bloomberg, delivered the opening remarks. This year's honorees were Stacey Cunningham, President of the New York Stock Exchange, who received the 43rd Annual Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award, and Jennifer Nason, Global Chairman, Investment Banking at J.P. Morgan, who received the fifth annual James B. Lee, Jr. LifeLink Award.

Stacey Cunningham was introduced by her longtime friend and Inner-City trustee Frederic V. Salerno, who talked about her groundbreaking story as the first female

president of the stock exchange and the example she set for the 30,000 girls attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York. After being presented with the award by Fred and Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Stacey said that she had always appreciated the value of a Catholic school education, as her mother had run a scholarship fund in Newark, and that she was amazed by the hard work students receiving scholarships put in to create a better life for themselves and their families.

Jamie Lee, son of award namesake James B. Lee, presented the LifeLink Award to Jennifer Nason, who spoke about her friendship with Jimmy Lee, acknowledging his legendary reputation on Wall Street and his passion for helping those in need, especially through Inner-City Scholarship Fund. She also gave a touching reflection on the importance of education in her own life. Her three older brothers had been forced to drop out of high school to help the family in a tough time, but because of their sacrifice, she was able to continue

(continued on page 3)

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Dear Friends,

As more than 11,000 scholarship recipients begin the second half of their school year, I am very proud that Inner-City Scholarship Fund remains a source of hope for students and families in need. I am especially grateful for all of you — our tremendous supporters and volunteers who have once again turned out in droves to make this possible.

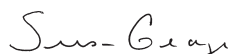
As you will see in the following newsletter update, this has been a characteristically busy six months here at Inner-City. There is no shortage of good news to share.

In November, we hosted our 30th Annual Saint Thomas More Award Luncheon. Thanks to the generosity of our Lawyers Committee, the event was a tremendous success, raising over \$600,000, the highest total in its history. In December we followed up this success with our 43rd Annual Awards Dinner. Hosted at the Plaza Hotel, the event honored Stacey Cunningham with the Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award and Jennifer Nason with the James B. Lee, Jr. LifeLink award. Both women capped off a terrific evening with powerful testimony to the value of quality education.

Also this fall, we expanded our commitment to preparing our students for college and their future careers. This school year we began to pilot our College Acceptance and Persistence Initiative in partnership with College Advising Corps and PeerForward, two outstanding non-profit organizations. These organizations are running programs in four high schools, helping ensure that students are prepared to navigate all aspects of academic, financial, and personal life in college.

Please know that without your support, none of this would be possible. The work we do here at Inner-City provides life-changing opportunities for deserving children and their families. Through our wonderful Catholic schools and donor-funded programs, students gain robust moral and intellectual foundations. Your gift to these children will last a lifetime. On their behalf, we are immensely grateful.

Sincerely,



Susan George  
Executive Director

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## Saint Thomas More Award Luncheon Raises Over \$600,000



**His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan presenting the Saint Thomas More Award to James D. Herschlein**

On Wednesday, November 6, the Lawyers Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund hosted the 30th Annual Saint Thomas More Award Luncheon at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan. Over 500 guests attended the festive event, raising over \$600,000 for Inner-City's tuition assistance programs.

The Lawyers Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund is made up of some of the most distinguished members of New York's legal community and has long been a very active and effective ally in Inner-City's effort to help Catholic school students and their families.

Dari Alexander, Fox 5 News anchor, served as emcee. She spoke about

the benefits of a Catholic education and reflected on her family's involvement with Inner-City Scholarship Fund over the years.

James D. Herschlein, Chair of the Litigation Department at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and proud member of the Lawyers Committee, received the Saint Thomas More Award from His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. He was introduced by fellow committee member and partner John Geelan, who spoke about Jim's dedication to his law firm and Inner-City Scholarship Fund. In his acceptance remarks, Jim expressed his gratitude to those who introduced him to Inner-City and to everyone who contributed to his own Catholic school education. He spoke of his admiration for the award's namesake, Saint Thomas More, who was martyred for refusing to disobey his

conscience, and thanked his wife and children for always supporting him.

James Mangan, Managing Director and head of U.S. litigation at Morgan Stanley, was presented the John P. Cooney Jr. Award for Mentorship and Community Involvement. John P. Cooney, Jr. was a long-time partner at Davis, Polk & Wardwell LLP and benefactor of Inner-City Scholarship Fund. The award was presented by Eric Grossman, a colleague of Jim's at Morgan Stanley.

This year's student speaker, Ashanti Truelsen, was a senior at St. Vincent Ferrer High School who received a scholarship from Inner-City. Through Inner-City's Job Opportunities Program, she was able to receive an internship at the law firm Wilkie Farr and Gallagher, which stirred in her a desire to become a sports lawyer, combining her love of sports and her passion for the law. She was grateful for the education she received thanks to Inner-City and her sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Schwarzman.

The event closed with remarks from Cardinal Dolan, who commended the honorees, and everyone who attended, for their support of Catholic school students in need.

**To learn more about the Lawyers Committee, please contact Alyson Vetter at [Vetter@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Vetter@innercitynyc.org)**

## 43rd ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER A SUCCESS (continued)



**Jamie Lee presenting Jennifer Nason with the LifeLink Award**

on through college, which propelled her to the success she enjoys today.

She said that because of this she has always kept in mind the value of education for children in need, just like those who receive scholarships from Inner-City.

Catholic school student Luz Perez, from Aquinas High School in the Bronx, gave a moving speech about how blessed she felt to be a part of the Catholic school community. Because of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, her teachers and classmates have given her the confidence and tools she needs to follow her dreams.

She aspired to attend Columbia University or New York University in the future and dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

The evening concluded with a performance from Angela Brower, who recently made her debut performance at the Metropolitan Opera.

**Save the date for Inner-City's 44th Annual FRIENDS Gala on May 12 at Cipriani 42nd Street**









1. Emcee David Ushery and Cardinal Dolan at the Awards Dinner
2. Emcee Dari Alexander and Ruth Woolard at the Lawyers Luncheon
3. Junior Committee board members at the Awards Dinner
4. Lawyers Committee member Angela Burgess and friends at the Luncheon
5. Honoree Jennifer Nason and Inner-City trustee Melanie Shugart at the Awards Dinner
6. Cathedral High School students get ready to hand out dessert at the Lawyers Luncheon
7. Kelly and James Mangan at the Lawyers Luncheon
8. Cardinal Dolan and student speaker Ashanti Truelsen at the Lawyers Luncheon
9. Junior Committee volunteer and student at the Guardian Angel Halloween party
10. Junior Committee volunteers and students at the Halloween party
11. Peter Grauer, President of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, at the Awards Dinner
12. Nicholas Gulde, Amanda Moore, and students at the Queens County Farm Museum
13. Angela Brower performing at the Awards Dinner
14. Mary Cashin and friends at the Awards Dinner



## Catholic School Student Receives Tuition Assistance After Devastating Fire



Sachila Jayakody, as seen on Channel 12 News.

This summer, fourth grader Sachila Jayakody's life was turned upside down when his family's house was ravaged by a fire. They lost nearly everything in this destructive blaze: their prized possessions, family heirlooms, and most of all, a place to stay. The family was forced to start over, which would bring debilitating costs and promised lasting financial hardship. So much hung in the balance, including Sachila's place in his Catholic school.

Sachila attended St. John's School in the Bronx, but after this tragedy, there was no way for the family to pay the tuition. But the school principal, Melissa Moore, stepped in and was able to help the family secure tuition assistance from Inner-City Scholarship Fund. She said, with emotion in her voice,

"They were amazed. They were so grateful; they couldn't stop saying 'thank you,' and I couldn't stop saying 'you're welcome.'"

Sachila was overjoyed to be able to stay in St. John's School, which he said was like a home, and that the scholarship was the best thing to happen to him. Inner-City Scholarship Fund is grateful for every chance to carry out its mission and help a child in need remain in Catholic school.

**To learn more about how you can help provide scholarships, please contact Jill Turner Lloyd at [Lloyd@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Lloyd@innercitynyc.org)**

## Junior Committee Visits Farm Museum



Students at Queens County Farm Museum

On October 26, students from St. John's School-Kingsbridge gathered with the Junior Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund at Queens County Farm Museum for a day of fall fun. The day's activities included visiting the petting zoo, taking pony rides, getting lost in the Amazing Maize Maze, and making it through a spooky Haunted House.

Junior Committee volunteers dedicate their time to provide firsthand experiences to students who would otherwise lack such learning opportunities beyond their classrooms and neighborhoods. More opportunities like these are taking place this spring thanks to the support of its numerous volunteers.

On **Friday, June 5**, the committee is hosting the **4th Annual Spring Soirée** boat cruise around Manhattan.

**To learn more about the Junior Committee, contact Andrew Scialabba at [Scialabba@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Scialabba@innercitynyc.org)**

## Inner-City Launches New College Access Program

Inner-City Scholarship Fund has undertaken several exciting initiatives to better prepare scholarship recipients for their life after high school, with a focus on college retention rates and career preparedness, to ensure that these bright, young students will take their Catholic school educations as far as they can go. The first part of the effort, known as the College Acceptance and Persistence Initiative, was born out of a study conducted by Inner-City in 2017. This study analyzed the college matriculation and persistence rates of Catholic high school graduates over the ten-year period from 2007 to 2017, finding that an impressive 87% of graduating seniors had enrolled in college for their freshman year, but that persistence rates dropped to 72% by their senior years.

To boost persistence through all four years of college and help more students graduate with the degree of their choice, Inner-City has partnered with two non-profits, PeerForward and College Advising Corps, with years of experience in this field.

PeerForward and College Advising Corps each work to prepare high school students for college by working with an adviser. PeerForward trains a select group of students to serve as peer advisers for their fellow high schoolers, and College Advising Corps uses a recent college graduate from the same area to come back and work with



**Recent Catholic school graduates preparing for college**

the next generation of students. As of fall 2019, the programs are live in four Inner-City supported high schools in the Bronx. These non-profits have a long track record of success in preparing students for college, and Inner-City looks forward to working with them in the years to come to provide further support for its students, even after their scholarships end.

**To learn more about the College Access Program, contact Nicholas Gulde at [Gulde@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Gulde@innercitynyc.org)**

## Career Days In Full Swing



**Inner-City Trustee Doug Band, Bill Wachtell, and students from Notre Dame School of Manhattan and All Hallows High School at Teneo career day.**

The second leg of Inner-City's college/career preparedness programs draws on existing corporate partners and supporters of Inner-City. Inner-City has lead career days and workshops at several firms over the past few months, including Teneo, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, and Geller & Co., where students got to hear first-hand from industry leaders about different career paths available to them, the importance of networking, and advice on practical tips like résumé writing and creating a LinkedIn page.

The Teneo event was led by Inner-City trustee Doug Band, who joined the Board of Trustees last year and has made a great impression with his commitment to Inner-City and willingness to go the extra mile in support. At the career day, he spent an hour in conversation with students from All Hallows, La Salle, and Notre Dame School of Manhattan, discussing details of his own career background and

advice for students, and was greatly impressed with the students' insightful questions and interest in their careers. The events at PwC and Geller & Co. were similarly productive, with students receiving extensive advice about networking and LinkedIn, two essential elements of their future careers. They had the chance to practice their networking skills live and in person with employees from Geller & Co. and received one-on-one tutorials on creating profiles on LinkedIn.

Career days and corporate seminars are immensely valuable for Catholic school students, who often would not have any access to industry leaders, or a chance to receive inside tips and tricks without them. They are also a chance for Inner-City's loyal donors to show their support in other ways, with their time and talent. Because of these events, students are well-positioned for future success in their chosen fields.





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Inner-City Scholarship Fund  
1011 First Avenue, Suite 1800  
New York, NY 10022  
[innercityscholarshipfund.org](http://innercityscholarshipfund.org)



**SAVE THE DATES**

**44th Annual FRIENDS Gala**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

**Junior Committee Spring Soirée**

**Friday, June 5, 2020**

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1011 First Avenue, Suite 1800  
New York, NY 10022-4112  
Tel 212-753-8583  
Fax 212-371-6461  
[innercityscholarshipfund.org](http://innercityscholarshipfund.org)