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Summer/Fall 2009 Volume 8, Issue 1

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan and Immaculate Conception School students listen to remarks by Edward Cardinal Egan at the Anniversary of Project YESS event on June 9th.

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FRIENDS Gala Welcomes Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) had the pleasure of welcoming Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, to our 33rd Annual FRIENDS Gala on Tuesday April 21st, only days after his installation in office. Archbishop Dolan serves as Chairman of ICSF's Board of Trustees.

As is the case each year, the FRIENDS Committee of ICSF hosted the Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street, raising over \$1 million. Gala chairs, Mary Ann Tighe and her husband Dr. David Hidalgo, ensured a successful evening by gathering many friends and family to support and also attend. Mary Ann, an ICSF Trustee since 2005, is Chief Executive Officer for the New York Tri-State Region at CB Richard Ellis, the global real estate company.

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Project YESS Reaches 10th Anniversary

On June 9th, the Project YESS Leadership Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund celebrated its 10th Anniversary at Rockefeller Center's Top of the Rock. Students from Incarnation Elementary School cheerfully greeted 300 guests as they arrived on the 67th floor of the storied building for the monumental event. The evening perfectly unfolded as guests mingled to the tunes of a live jazz band while also taking part in a silent auction and raffle. Presentations were kicked off by Project YESS Leadership Committee Co-Chair Tom Madden as he welcomed Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, who in turn thanked the committee for funding inner-city schools and for giving students a safe, warm and continued on page 3

Be A Student's Friend, ICSF High Schools Celebrate 2009 Graduates



Monsignor Scanlan High School Graduate Omar Garcia pictured at Commencement with his Be A Student's Friend sponsor John S. Van Rens. Read about Omar on page 5.



Academy of Mount Saint Ursula Graduate Ladylaura Bueno pictured at Commencement with her mother Magaly Soriano. Read about Ladylaura's story on page 4.

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Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, Project YESS Leadership Committee Co-Chair Thomas A. Madden, Jr. and Susan George at the 10th Anniversary Event.

Dear Friends,

Milestones. The first half of 2009 saw significant new developments for Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF). The installation of Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan generated in us a tangible sense of renewal and excitement for our work on behalf of ICSF students and schools of The Archdiocese of New York. At the same time, we were privileged to honor Edward Cardinal Egan on the occasion of his retirement as Archbishop.

As one of Archbishop Dolan's first public appearances, he attended our 33rd annual FRIENDS Gala on April 19th. The event co-chaired by Mary Ann Tighe and her husband Dr. David Hidalgo raised more than \$1 million for inner-city education. Last spring also marked the 10th Anniversary of Project YESS. The importance of Project YESS and the more than \$3 million it has raised over the past decade cannot be overstated. Its efforts go to the heart of what makes them the mainstay for our 38,000

students each year. Our June 9th celebration in honor of Project YESS at Rockefeller Center's Top of the Rock was a most fitting tribute to the Leadership Committee and its founding members.

We also recognize the personal milestones reached by our *Be A Student's Friend* students and their families. Ladylaura Bueno, a member of the Academy of Mount Saint Ursula's 2009 graduating class, will attend Barnard College in the fall. She is the first in her family to go to college and deeply appreciates how much her high school experience was influenced by her sponsors Christopher Brent and his late wife Liane Brent. Omar Garcia, a 2009 graduate of Monsignor Scanlan High School, is quick to relate the tremendous way his sponsorship by Ms. Sarah Lutz and Mr. John S. Van Rens affected his life. As you will see from his own remarks in this newsletter, Omar is already "giving back" and has plans to do more so as he heads to the College of New Rochelle. We wish all of our graduates the best as they move forward into adulthood.

Milestones also indicate continuity and evolution. Our Junior Committee's exceptional fundraising efforts and innovative activities at ICSF schools are an inspiration.

We look forward to reaching greater heights in the coming school year for students across the city and to sharing with you what takes place at our ICSF schools in the seasons ahead. Your support makes all our activities and effectiveness possible.

Sincerely,

Smon Genya

Susan George Executive Director

FRIENDS Gala Welcomes Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, Raises \$1 Million for ICSF continued from pg 1

Addressing the gathering for the first time, Archbishop Dolan affirmed the importance of ICSF's contributions to students' lives and the irreplaceable role that Catholic education plays in communities. Reflecting on his meetings in the United States and as far abroad as Ethiopia and India, Archbishop Dolan stated that Catholic schools are held in the highest regard everywhere because "nobody does it better." He stressed that the need and demand for a valuescentered education remains critical in New York City.

Attendees at last year's Gala were so enthralled by the Mount Carmel-Holy Rosary School Ballroom Dancers that the boys and girls were asked to return for an encore this year that was equally well received. This fine troupe of skilled children honed their wonderful talent – and dance steps – at their own ICSF-supported elementary school in East Harlem.

Project YESS Celebrates 10th Anniversary continued from pg 1

uplifting place to learn. Adding to the program with a special acknowledgment speech was Edward Cardinal Egan graciously admitting to having coined the term "Project YESS does windows" further stating that he believed only a special person would understand just how windows could positively impact a whole community. Project YESS Founders Tom Quick, Tom Madden, Mark Rossi, Carla Romita and Lee Spelman-Dody then joined Cardinal Egan at the podium as they were honored for making a difference in the lives of thousands of students over the past ten years.

The event raised nearly \$80,000 to support projects at 15 schools this year. The Project YESS Leadership Committee has been raising money to disburse grants to inner-city elementary schools in need of capital improvements and repairs since 1998. These repairs range from installing improved lighting, to fixing broken windows and upgrading security systems, all of which help support the viability of every school. We sincerely thank the Project YESS Leadership Committee for all it does for the inner-city children and schools of the Archdiocese of New York.

Please visit the Project YESS page on the Inner-City Scholarship Fund website to view pictures of the Project YESS 10th Anniversary Reception at the Top of the Rock: www.icsf-nyc.org/projectyess.html

ICSF School on Center Stage: Saint Joseph School on Bathgate Avenue in the Bronx

Saint Joseph School has served the Tremont community of the Bronx since 1877. Under the leadership of Ms. Janine Hughes for the last 10 years, the school has blossomed in ways that never seemed possible. Enrollment has more than doubled: Saint Joseph now serves over 460 students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8! One hundred fiftyfive of these students are supported by the Cardinal's Scholarship Program and fifteen by *Be A Student's Friend*.

Saint Joseph School fills a critical niche, being the only Bronx parochial elementary school out of a total of 63 that accepts students *regardless of their academic ability or emotional stability*. With its extended day lasting from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, it offers extra time for both academics and curriculum enhancements, especially its musical band program.

For the last 15 years, all students in Grades 5 through 8 have come together to form an enthusiastic performance group. The Saint Joseph School band faculty teaches students how to play musical instruments including the trumpet, drums, saxophone and even the piccolo. Through their love of music, the students learn to work together in a disciplined and team-oriented manner. The poise that the 160 band members have acquired is on display each May at Saint Joseph's Annual Celebration of Music. This year, the school's 7th Annual Celebration took place on May 20th at Saint Jean Baptiste High School on the upper east side of Manhattan. Both old friends of Saint Joseph School and new supporters attended the event. Guests who could not find seats stood along the auditorium aisles enjoying the sounds of Mission Impossible, African Blues and Oh Happy Day!

In addition to continuing its wonderful music program, Saint Joseph School's leadership has been working tirelessly to expand its academic resources. For the third year, the school has employed a Cardinal Cooke Catholic Center literacy coach to work with teachers three days a week on preparing lessons and improving instruction techniques. The program has brought a genuine love of reading and writing to the entire student body. Saint Joseph's first Poem in Your Pocket Day was a big success. Students compiled anthologies of their work and shared their favorite poems with visiting firefighters, police officers and other community members. After a visit from author Steven Kroll, the students were inspired to take on a new endeavor: writing picture books for children at a school in Uganda, sharing their love of reading, writing, and learning with children who do not have access to many books.

Patent Expert and BASF Sponsor Speaks to Students about State of the Art Inventions

Mr. Thomas Meloro, a longtime Inner-City Scholarship Fund supporter and *Be A Student's Friend* sponsor, recently participated in Career Day at Saint Charles Borromeo School in West Harlem. Tom has been sponsoring a student there since 2003. During a prior visit with his sponsored student, Principal Sister Marianne Poole mentioned her plans to organize a Career Day, and Tom enthusiastically offered to speak about his professional specialty, which is patent law.

Last June, Tom visited several classrooms from Grades 5 to 8. He began by telling students that he graduated in engineering from Manhattan College. Afterward, he interviewed for a position at a popular coffee plant, Maxwell House, in Hoboken, New Jersey. Tom told students that after much deliberation, he decided to decline the job. Tom felt that law would make an interesting career and allow him to help many people. He then attended Georgetown Law School and developed an expertise in patent law.

Tom told students that he has also worked on patents for various medical inventions including a "stent," a tiny mesh object inserted into the heart to prevent blockages. He talked with the students about how rewarding it is to work on medical inventions since they can help a large number of people live healthier, longer lives. When asked about the strangest invention he had ever worked on, Tom replied that it was a machine for creasing pants!

Inner-City Scholarship Fund heartily thanks Mr. Thomas Meloro for exposing students to a new and interesting profession. Perhaps one of these students will pursue patent law in the future!

If you would like to participate in Career Day at an Inner-City Scholarship Fund school, please contact Karina Strobl at 646-794-3328 or karina.strobl@archny.org

2009 Be A Student's Friend, Academy of Mount Saint Ursula Graduate Ladylaura Bueno

June 12th marked an auspicious day for the graduates of The Academy of Mount Saint Ursula's Class of 2009. All of the families, teachers, guidance counselors and friends in the Fordham Preparatory School auditorium were proud to watch Commencement for this impressive group of young women on a beautiful early summer afternoon. Among the alumnae of New York State's oldest Catholic school for girls, many have been supported over the years by Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Be A Student's Friend program, which has helped make the gift of a Catholic education a reality for underprivileged children. Ladylaura Bueno's example proves how significant

the program's contributions can be in people's lives.

Ladylaura was elected treasurer of the Student Council, president of the Ambassador Club, and was the founder and co-captain of the Debate Club. At Mount Saint Ursula, she completed three Advanced Placement courses and remained on the Honor Roll from her freshman year onward.

Aside from academics, Ladylaura has enjoyed giving back. "She is generous of spirit and dedicates her time to helping others," noted Mount Saint Ursula's Assistant Principal, Lisa Harrison. Ladylaura tutored elementary school children at Saint Elizabeth, another ICSF-supported school in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. To add to her credentials, she volunteered for the International Rescue Committee, which prepares refugees to attain the English skills necessary in the United States.

Ladylaura will be attending Barnard College – the first in her family to go to college – and aspires to become a prosecutor. She is very grateful to her *Be A Student's Friend* sponsors Mr. Christopher Brent and his late wife Liane Brent, who made her formative experience at Mount Saint Ursula possible.

Junior Committee's Spring Fundraiser at Mutual of America – A Huge Success!

On April 24th, the Junior Committee hosted a "Black & White" themed Cocktail Party at the Mutual of America Building's 34th floor lounge overlooking Park Avenue. Over 200 guests attended wearing their elegant black and white fashion ensembles. The crowd of young professionals spent the evening enjoying the open bar, delicious appetizers and a silent auction. More than \$25,000 was raised between ticket, auction, and raffle sales. All proceeds from the event will support programming, sponsored scholarships, and internships for *Be A Student's Friend* and the Job Opportunities Program (JOP).

The Junior Committee supports students through cultural, educational, athletic and mentoring activities.

To learn more and to view pictures from the Black and White event, please visit the Junior Committee page on ICSF's website at www.icsf-nyc.org/jc.



Junior Committee Co-Chair Cynthia Kim, Fundraising Co-Chairs Katie Lacz and Katie Murphy, raffle winners Mary Woodward and John Boyle and Junior Committee Co-Chair Kristin Boyd at the Spring Fundraiser at Mutual of America Headquarters.

2009 Be A Student's Friend, Monsignor Scanlan High School Graduate Omar Garcia

The Church of Saint Helena played host to Monsignor Scanlan High School's June 12th Commencement, a celebration shared by family, friends, teachers and several sponsors of *Be A Student's Friend*. Mr. John A. Van Rens and his sponsored student Omar Garcia were together for the occasion.

The son of Mexican residents of the U.S. who arrived in 1984, Omar and his family lived on a boat on City Island in the Bronx until Omar was 12 while his father worked at a boatyard. Once his parents had saved enough money from both of their jobs, they moved with Omar and his sister into a house.

Omar progressed through Monsignor Scanlan's Satellite, Regents, and Honors programs. He is also known for his generosity of spirit, having completed 300 hours of community service during high school as active participant in the school's "Midnight Run" program that provides clothes, food and other basics to the homeless in New York City. While working towards Eagle Scout, Omar became interested in first aid and learned a little about himself and all of us: "In order to change a community, a person has to change themselves."

Omar will attend the College of New Rochelle and plans to pursue its nursing program through which he believes he can make the most positive difference. Omar is grateful to Mr. Van Rens and the way his sponsorship affected him. "*Be A Student's Friend* gave me the motivation to do better in school and in life and to realize people are there to help no matter how big or small."

Happenings at Our Schools

Elementary Schools

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel-Saint Benedicta's student council has accepted a challenge from its Staten Island district city council representative's office named the Civic Kids Initiative. Students are asked to develop a year-by-year plan that will improve the community's environment. This year the students chose to continue their work to beautify the neighborhood of its school and local businesses. This year's murals include a painting of Sicily's Mount Etna erupting dramatically and murals for a local karate school. They also added to last year's murals in their own schoolyard and to one at a local luncheonette. Out of 12 schools that participated, Our Lady of Mount Carmel-Saint Benedicta was recognized as having the best project, winning \$3,000 for the school in local discretionary spending from Councilman Andrew McMahon's office.
- At Saint Mark the Evangelist School, students have been writing picture books for children living in an orphanage in Uganda. The students have written and illustrated beautiful picture books that will be sent to the Corburwas orphanage.

- The Step Team from Immaculate Conception School on 151st Street in Manhattan was named Grand Champion at a national competition in Hershey Park, Pennsylvania. The Step Team received the highest overall score placing first in five out of seven categories including Outstanding Precision, Outstanding Spirit and Best in Step.
- Saint Helena School has had solarroof panels installed that can generate 100,000 kilowatt/hours of electricity. The devices will save the school about 25 percent on its ConEd power bill as well as protect the environment.
- For the second year, selected students from **Our Lady of Lourdes School's** choir performed at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on June 6th. Students spent the morning exploring the museum's collection and sang in the lobby for visitors. Traveling expenses and admission costs to the center were defrayed by National Constitution Center funding. After the event, the children were given a walking tour of historic Philadelphia.
- The Drama Club at **Saint Jude School** produced a junior version of the Broadway musical *Annie*. The students took the show on the road and

performed at Nora Cronin Presentation Academy in Newburgh, NY and to senior citizens at the United Hebrew Home.

High Schools

- Saint Raymond High School for Boys in the Bronx has continued its library technology expansion plan providing much-improved resources.
- Saint Barnabas High School in the Bronx hosted its first annual film festival. Students who enrolled in Film Anthology, a new course last September, wrote, produced, directed and starred in two films. The first, *Chalking: Addiction or Fiction*, directed by senior Amanda Villano and *The Study Guides*, directed by Stephanie Mullen.
- Mother Cabrini High School The school's Mission Volunteer Program allowed students to take trips to Syracuse, NY, where they helped local organizations provide services to those in need, and to New Orleans, where they helped in various posthurricane rebuilding efforts. Cabrini students also raised \$640 for Autism Speaks, the awareness organization of that name based in New York.

BASF 2008 Graduates

Academy of Mount St. Ursula

Ladylaura Bueno Jenny I. Maria Sharae McDuffie Natalie Michilena Shelby T. Rebosio Francis N. Rosario

All Hallows High School

Ray Atherley Paul Bailey Christopher Fils-Aime Richard Lopez

Jeffrey Rodriguez Jason C. Tejada Joesn Velez

Aquinas High School

Jennifer N. Abreu Indira Arriola Yessenva Cruz Monica De Thomas Victoria DelToro Jean M. Flick Ceth Gilmore Janelle A. Jenkins Linnette M. Ierez Gisselle Mesa Yolianny Paniagua Lixdania Perez Lisa M. Rodriguez Melanie Rodriguez Sandy Tashtash Jahaira Y. Torres Elisa Velez

Cardinal Hayes High School

Kevin Adolphus Joseph Almonte Tulio Amadeo

Christopher Antonelli Hector Martinez Christopher Poblador Bryan Rodriguez Felix Rodriguez Joshua Sanes Moises Sosa

Cardinal Spellman High School

Jason Castro Jasmin Felix Emill Mendoza Donna Nguyen Stephany Quarless Karlabelle Rodriguez Barnard College College of Mount St. Vincent Utica College CUNY-John Jay College CUNY-John Jay College SUNY-Stonybrook

CUNY-Lehman College CUNY-John Jay College Iona College CUNY-Borough of Manhattan Community College Seton Hall University Columbia University Iona College

CUNY-Manhattan College Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry CUNY-Kingsborough College Manhattan College College of Mount St. Vincent Marymount Manhattan College St. John's University St. John's University College of Mount St. Vincent SUNY-Albany SUNY-Alfred Mercy College Pace University CUNY-NYC College of Technology CUNY-Lehman College Monroe College Brooklyn College

CUNY-NYC College of Technology CUNY-York College CUNY-Borough of Manhattan Community College SUNY-Alfred CUNY-Bronx Community College CUNY-John Jay College SUNY-Sullivan Community College CUNY-City College CUNY-City College CUNY-College of Staten Island CUNY-Borough of Manhattan Community College

 High School

 New York University

 Berkeley College

 CUNY-Lehman University

 CUNY-Hunter College

 Virginia State University

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 American Musical & Dramatic Academy

Stephanie K. Rodriguez Forrest Scotland Whitney Shirley Brandon Sligh John Eldon F. Torres Ashley N. Williams

Cathedral High School

Kayla Arthur Leslie A. Balbi

Nichole Colon Massiel Garcia Lorena Genao Marchely Hernandez Megan L. Kagahastian Alexandra Lebron Zoe Lora Andreayna Marte Marybeth Mijares Lianabel Palacios Lorraine Polanco Leonela E. Rodriguez Shabana Rodriguez Katherine Santiago Jessica A. Santos Rhayvan Terrell Alaina M. Torres Shinequa Waite

La Salle Academy

Andrew Quinones

Monsignor Scanlan

Deliani Acevedo Brazil Bulger Alisha M. Cabrales Miguel E. Garcia Omar Garcia Cheri Goodwin Le Shelle G. Hallett Luzangelica Hernandez

Isaiah Jenkins Lizzette Medina Juan Todman

Mother Cabrini High School

Gifty Agyapong Steffani M. Avila Therese M. Beya Sherika D. Caliste Torene E. Harvin Kathy M. Hoyos Thessalia Kapetanos Juanny Paulino Alexis N. Perry CUNY-Hunter College Entering the workforce Pennsylvania State University SUNY-Albany CUNY-Baruch College Delaware State University

Iona College Borough of Manhattan **Community College** Iona College Fordham University CUNY-NYC College of Technology Dominican College Fairfield University Bronx Community College CUNY-John Jay College College of Mount St. Vincent College of Mount St. Vincent College of Staten Island York College CUNY-NYC College of Technology College of Mount St. Vincent CUNY-Hunter College Berkeley College Virginia State University LaGuardia Community College University of Pittsburgh

CUNY-John Jay College

Enrolling in community college in 2010 Dominican College Berkeley College CUNY-John Jay College College of New Rochelle CUNY-Lehman College College of Mount St. Vincent Borough of Manhattan Community College SUNY-Farmingdale College of New Rochelle SUNY-Morrisville

Syracuse University Pace University Devry University Howard University Herkimer County Community College Pennsylvania State University Columbia University College of Mount St. Vincent Pennsylvania State University Dalissa Reyes Jeslyne Santos Pace University St. Bonaventure University

Mount St. Michael Academy

Oscar Anguiano Eduardo S. Mejia Joel Olivero William Pena Justin Sosa Manhattan College CUNY-John Jay College SUNY-Albany SUNY-Oswego Westchester Community College

Notre Dame School of Manhattan

Catherine Castillon Amanda E. Duchesne Stephania Fortuna Shanee R. Griffith Maria P. Lagranje Jacqueline N. Rivera SUNY-Binghamton Dartmouth College Pennsylvania State University Altoona Fairfield University Marymount Manhattan College SUNY-Binghamton

Preston High School

Samantha Caro

CUNY-Borough of Manhattan Community College

St. Agnes Boys High School

James R. Donlon

Nicolas J. Horne Carlos Martinez Johnathon McConnell

Sean O'Carroll

St. Barnabas High School

Julia Cuffy Melissa E. Hobson Teshina D. Roberts Vianelly Rodriguez Oletta G. Semple Kristine Torres

St. Catharine Academy

Jennifer Alicea Tiara Campbell Kasandra C. Molinary Desiree Pabon Chantel Paret Kyara Rodriguez Wanda O. Rosa

St. Jean Baptiste High School

Kadijatu Bah Trina Dimarzio Perla Espinoza

Yaniell Hernandez Daykiri Herrera Amy Peralta Nicole Ramirez CUNY-Borough of Manhattan Community College CUNY-John Jay College SUNY-Purchase CUNY-Borough of Manhattan Community College SUNY-Stonybrook

CUNY-Lehman College Long Island University Morgan State University CUNY-John Jay College Manhattanville College St. John's University

College of Mount St. Vincent Howard University Mercy College Entering the workforce College of Mount St. Vincent Iona College SUNY-Albany

Felician Colllege Medgar Evers College Borough of Manhattan Community College SUNY-Buffalo Laboratory Institute of Merchandising SUNY-Onondaga Community College SUNY-Onondaga Community College Shaquel Windham Michelle Young

St. Michael Academy Lish Ann Bethea

Lachelle Brown Ashlee Carrington Carolina A. Garcia Stephanie Mendoza Patricia Morel

Saachel Parker Theresa A. Parker Cileny Paulino Rafra Ramsarran Nancy F. Uwoghiren

St. Peter's Boys High School

Brian Rentas

St. Pius V High School

Florence Centeno Andreina Escano Solangely Romero Julisa Ruiz Synia Shim

St. Raymond Academy for Girls

Ometta Autar Dana Bauza Sherika A. Blackwood Ana C. Calcano Amber DeLeon Nathalie Mercado Alhaedge F. Perez Megan M. Santiago Ashlie Taska Central Florida Community College Dominican College CUNY-NYC College of Technology Ithaca College Berkeley College The Culinary Institute of America Pace University CUNY-Bronx Community College SUNY-Stony Brook

St. Raymond High School for Boys

Enrique Batista Francisco A. Billini Alex Cancel Brian Cardona Luis Castillo Glenn P. Mejia Cristhian Obando Christopher A. Paez Avery Pettus Otto Thomas College of Westchester SUNY-Stony Brook Manhattan College Westchester Community College Marist College College of Westchester CUNY-Lehman College CUNY-Lehman College Undecided Dowling College

SUNY-Oswego CUNY-NYC College of Technology Long Island University

Long Island University

University of Hartford

Fulton Montgomery

Community College

Pace University

Medgar Evers College

Georgian Court University

CUNY-Borough of Manhattan

Susquehanna University

Community College

St. John's University

Iona College

Pace University

Syracuse University Fordham University College of Mount St. Vincent SUNY-New Paltz Delaware State University



Save the Date!

20th Annual Lawyers' Luncheon Starlight Roof at the Waldorf Astoria Wednesday, October 28th, 2009

33rd Annual Award Dinner Mandarin Oriental Tuesday, December 8th, 2009

Go to our website address www.icsf-nyc.org for a link to the ICSF Facebook page.

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