



inner-city scholarship fund

A Child. A Chance. A Future.



Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | **Winter 2019**

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42ND ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER A SUCCESS

Inner-City Scholarship Fund hosted its 42nd Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday, December 4, raising over \$1.3 million. Over four hundred guests attended the event, which was held for the first time at the Plaza Hotel. Funds raised at the Awards Dinner will help support Inner-City's mission to provide scholarship support for students at archdiocesan Catholic schools.

Honored at the event were Father Joseph M. McShane, President of Fordham University, who received the 2018 Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award, and Todd Maclin, CEO of Maclin Management Co. and former Vice President at JPMorgan Chase, who received the James B. Lee, Jr. LifeLink Award. NBC 4 New York's David Ushery served as Master of Ceremonies, and His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, offered the closing remarks.

The Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award was presented by Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, who spoke about Father McShane's lifelong commitment to Catholic education and stressed the continuity between Inner-City's mission and Fordham's, pointing out that almost 5 percent of Inner-City supported seniors attend Fordham after graduating. In his remarks, Father McShane discussed the lessons he had learned during his many years working in Catholic colleges and universities and expressed his gratitude for the award and for all Inner-City has done for so many of Fordham's students, and for all of New York, over the years.

Izzy Lee, daughter of the LifeLink Award's namesake, Jimmy Lee, presented it to Todd Maclin. She took the opportunity to discuss

(Continued on page 3)

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Dear Friends,

As we approach the second half of the 2018-19 school year, I continue to be inspired by the commitment of our donors and volunteers. Your steadfast support guarantees that the lives and futures of so many inner-city students are made brighter through a quality Catholic school education. I hope the next few pages will give you a sense of what we have already accomplished, as we turn our attention to the work of the months ahead.

The collective efforts of our friends continue to have a remarkable impact. On November 7, the Lawyers Committee hosted the 29th Annual St. Thomas More Award Luncheon, where we were so happy to honor our longtime trustee Steve Rooney. Our busy events calendar continued with the 42nd Annual Awards Dinner, where we had the chance to celebrate Father Joseph McShane's years of contributions to Catholic education. The success of these events helps raise awareness of the incredible need that persists for our children in New York City, while highlighting the positive impact a Catholic school education can make on student growth. Please be sure to check our event calendar in this newsletter for upcoming events.

Each week our volunteer-led enrichment programs give inner-city students experiences that they may not have otherwise been exposed to or had available to them. Our Junior Committee volunteers engage students at schools and host educational field trips. Our Job Opportunities Program helps students prepare for the workforce through job-readiness workshops and by placing student participants in paid internships at prestigious organizations throughout New York. In this edition of the newsletter, you will hear from two of our dedicated volunteers, Amber and Michael Tortorici, who donate their time on Saturday mornings to mentor students in this program. In a time where the word "hero" is grossly overused, volunteers like the Tortorici certainly live up to the definition, as they willingly share important real world experiences with the students during their weekend training seminars.

Our past successes and future goals would not be possible without your commitment to our mission. Please know how important your role is in providing underprivileged students the opportunity to thrive in a rigorous yet nurturing academic environment. Nowhere is the Catholic school experience more important than in our inner-city classrooms. The values and skills they learn give them the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

None of this would be possible without your support, and for that we are immensely grateful.

Sincerely,


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Executive Director

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29TH ANNUAL ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD LUNCHEON BREAKS RECORDS



Steve Rooney, John Kiernan, and friend at the Lawyers Luncheon

The 29th Annual St. Thomas More Award Luncheon was held on Wednesday, November 7, at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan. Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised almost \$650,000 at the event, hosted by Inner-City's Lawyers Committee. Stephen G. Rooney, partner at Mayer Brown LLP, received the St. Thomas More Award, and Lucy Fato, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at AIG, received the John P. Cooney, Jr. Award for Mentorship and Community Involvement. Rohana

Sosa, an Inner-City alumna, spoke at the event. She had previously been sponsored by Steve Rooney, and she said that his sponsorship allowed her to remain in Catholic school after the death of her father and helped her achieve more in school and in life. She is currently studying computer science at Pace University and is preparing for a job with IBM after graduation.

Lucy Fato was presented with the John P. Cooney, Jr. Award by John's widow, Jane, who spoke about his life

of service and commitment to others. Lucy told the story of her childhood, growing up with poor immigrant parents in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. Her life was changed by a teacher at her Catholic school, and she hoped to help pay it forward through her support of Inner-City.

John Kiernan, partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and longtime friend of Steve Rooney, presented him with the St. Thomas More Award and discussed their past relationship and Steve's years of support for Inner-City. Steve spoke about how grateful he was to Inner-City and to his family, including his father, Frank, a longtime Inner-City supporter and trustee.

The event closed with remarks from Timothy Cardinal Dolan, thanking the Lawyers Committee, both honorees, and everyone in attendance for their generosity.

To learn more about the Lawyers Committee, contact Alyson Vetter at Vetter@innercitynyc.org

INNER-CITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS DINNER 2018 (CONTINUED)



Cardinal Dolan with LifeLink Award recipient Todd Maclin and his wife, Diana

her father's legacy and how honored he would be to know that this award continues the work that he started through his support of Inner-City. Todd also spoke about his time working with Jimmy at JPMorgan Chase and how grateful he was to receive an award in his memory.

Catholic school student Michael Maturana, from Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, gave a moving speech about how blessed he feels to be a part of the Catholic school community. Because of the scholarship he receives from Inner-City Scholarship Fund, Michael said, he has the tools he needs to build a better future for himself and his family. The evening closed with a performance from Grammy Award-winning opera singer Isabel Leonard.

Save the date for Inner-City's 43rd Annual FRIENDS Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street on Tuesday, May 21.



1. Tom Kavaler and Judge Michael Garcia at the Lawyers Luncheon
2. Angela Burgess, John P. Cooney Award recipient Lucy Fato, and Jane Cooney at the Lawyers Luncheon
3. Guardian Angel School students with Santa Claus at the Junior Committee Christmas Party
4. Junior Committee volunteer Joe Meares tutors students.
5. Ruth Woolard and Inner-City trustee Tony de Nicola at the Be A Student's Friend reception
6. Inner-City trustees Walter Tomenson and John Doyle at the Be A Student's Friend reception



7. Cardinal Dolan, Inner-City President Peter Grauer and guests at the 42nd Annual Awards Dinner
8. Junior Committee leadership board at the Awards Dinner
9. Fr. McShane during his acceptance speech at the Awards Dinner
10. Isabel Leonard performs at the Awards Dinner.
11. David Ushery speaking at the Awards Dinner
12. Steve and Sue Rooney at the Lawyers Luncheon
13. Cardinal Dolan, student speaker Michael Maturana, and Sr. Patrice Owens at the Awards Dinner

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEST SCORES ON THE RISE



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the* ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York are proud to report their student scores on state exams have again grown significantly over the previous year in both Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). The strong increases continue a trend in which Catholic schools' test scores eclipse those of public schools in both New York City and New York State, along with those of most charter schools.

Recently released scores for 2018 from the New York State Education

Department (NYSED) for grades 3-8 show that 50 percent of students met or exceeded proficiency standards in math, and 55 percent in ELA, representing an increase of 7.1 and 6.3 percentage points in the respective disciplines.

"This fourth consecutive year of improved test scores, surpassing the gains of city and state schools, speaks volumes about our students', principals' and teachers' determination to succeed," said Dr. Timothy McNiff, Superintendent of Schools. "I am proud

of our schools' accomplishments and gratified to see their hard work translate into tangible success."

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York have maintained this level of excellence through the support and leadership of Cardinal Dolan, in concert with the talented and dedicated principals and teachers. The schools fully intend to continue this success, making updates to their curricula and educational materials every year.

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT TO INNER-CITY

Christmas came early for the students and teachers at Catholic elementary schools in New York thanks to a generous \$2 million donation to Inner-City Scholarship Fund (Inner-City) from the John and Daria Barry Foundation. This donation—the largest single-year gift in the foundation's history—will support Inner-City's mission benefitting low-income students at Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

\$1.2 million will support capital improvements at the Sacred Heart of Jesus campus of the School of the Blessed Sacrament in Manhattan, with a focus on STEM education, including new, STEM-focused classrooms to be named in honor of the Barry family. \$100,000 will support academic coaching and professional development at Our Lady of Victory School in Mount Vernon, Guardian

Angel School in Manhattan, and a school to be named later, focused on blended learning, a new approach to technology in the classroom and group instruction. The remaining \$700,000 will provide scholarship support to Catholic school students, who will be designated as Barry Scholars.

"This is the largest single-year donation that our family has given to an organization since we opened the foundation," said Elizabeth Swanson. "Inner-City Scholarship Fund was one of the first organizations we wanted to support. They have helped so many children grow, and we want to elevate the program with this contribution."

In addition to this gift, Inner-City received another extremely generous donation, a \$1 million gift from the Martino Family Foundation, which will help provide scholarships to children in need across the Archdiocese.

The Martino Family Foundation has supported Inner-City Scholarship Fund for the past five years, becoming an indispensable source of opportunity for so many inner-city children.

Susan George, Executive Director of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, said, "The Barry Foundation and The Martino Family Foundation have given children the greatest gift of all, the gift of education. I am extremely grateful to them for making a difference in the lives of our students, our teachers and our Catholic schools."

To learn more about making a major gift, contact Kelvin Gentles at Gentles@innercitynyc.org

OPPORTUNITIES AROUND FOR INNER-CITY STUDENTS

Inner-City Scholarship Fund recently interviewed Job Opportunities Program volunteers and Inner-City supporters Amber and Michael Tortorici regarding their history and experiences with the program:

How did you first become a supporter of Inner-City and the Job Opportunities Program?

Mike: I was introduced to the Job Opportunities Program when they put out a call for volunteers back in 2012. I was attracted to the program's goals and thought the concepts they were covering--which often don't get much attention in high school--were a practical approach to boosting the future professional prospects of these talented students. I introduced it to my future wife, Amber, in 2014, and we look forward to participating together every year. At first I did not know JOP was associated with Inner-City Scholarship Fund, but JOP gave me a firsthand appreciation for the vast contributions

Inner-City makes to students and communities throughout Manhattan and the Bronx.

What do you think the most beneficial part of the Job Opportunities Program is for the students?

Amber: The workshops offer different benefits for different students. Some students have great resumes but have difficulty discussing their experiences and skills in an interview. Others are natural interviewers but would have a hard time getting an interview without significantly revamping their resume. The Job Opportunities Program is a supportive place for students to sharpen their strengths and address areas that need improvement, which together build their confidence.

What do you, personally, find most rewarding?

Amber: Especially at the beginning of the program, it's very common

to see some students sell their skills and experiences unnecessarily short. It's very rewarding to help students identify and speak to areas that make them stand out in the workforce.

Do you have any advice for students who participate in the program?

Mike: Many students enter the program with the idea they should have their careers neatly mapped out, but the reality is many professional paths, including those of many of our volunteers, take unexpected twists and turns. We'd encourage participants to ask their volunteers to discuss their experiences in the workforce from beginning to present, including successes and failures. They should also ask what skills have been most valuable to professional growth and what characteristics they feel are most lacking in today's workforce.

JUNIOR COMMITTEE FALL HIGHLIGHTS



Mark Ruggiere with Our Lady of Lourdes students before the field trip to the 9/11 Museum

On November 17, the Junior Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund led sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students from Our Lady of Lourdes School on a field trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum. This field trip was enhanced by a pre-departure assembly where

Inner-City volunteer and longtime donor Mark Ruggiere spoke about his personal experience on the day of the attacks, on which he lost his older brother. Students were moved by Mr. Ruggiere's story and learned much from his firsthand experience prior

to their trip to the museum, which included a private tour, thanks to Inner-City trustee Sam Di Piazza and his wife Melody. The Junior Committee is enthusiastic about replicating this memorable field trip with additional schools this spring.



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Inner-City Scholarship Fund
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SAVE THE DATES

43rd Annual FRIENDS Gala

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

Junior Committee Spring Soiree

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

Published twice yearly by:
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