



**inner-city scholarship fund**

*A Child. A Chance. A Future.*



Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | **Winter 2022**

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LEAD THE WAY

Catholic schools reopened their doors to students in September 2020, and have never shut them again. School systems across the country continue to look at Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York as the gold standard for safe, in-person learning during the pandemic. Thanks to the selflessness of our principals, teachers, families and donors, Inner-City supported schools have been blessed with a fruitful and healthy year.

**READ ON TO LEARN MORE →**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Inner-City Scholarship Fund throughout this past year. It has been remarkable to look back and remember the people who have dedicated their time and treasure to change the lives of thousands of children for the better.

The centerpiece of this year-long celebration was our 50th Anniversary dinner, held on September 23. It was wonderful to gather together in recognition of the cause we all love so much. The event featured rousing student performances and beautiful testimonials from long-time patrons. I left feeling more confident than ever about the future of Inner-City.

In addition to celebrating, we kept our usual operations underway this year. In the 2020-2021 school year, we distributed over 9,000 scholarships to students in Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of New York. As families continued to recover from the economic fallout resulting from the pandemic, scholarships were more necessary than ever for our students.

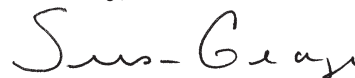
What's more, in the 2020-2021 school year, we continued to distribute additional emergency aid to students who were economically affected by COVID-19. Funds were distributed through the Cardinal Dolan COVID-19 Emergency Tuition Assistance Fund. This fund was active in the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years. In total, we

distributed \$3 million to fund 6,000 scholarship awards for students in need through the Cardinal COVID Fund.

This past year, Catholic schools exceeded their reputation for excellence, maintaining an in-person learning option while many schools in New York City remained fully remote. This option not only optimized student learning but was also essential for families, who often struggle to provide the child care necessary for remote learning.

As our 50th anniversary celebration comes to a close, I want to thank everyone, past and present, who has helped make Inner-City what it is today. This includes donors, trustees, teachers, principals, staff, and, perhaps most of all, the hardworking students and their devoted families. Because of all of you, the next 50 years is looking just as bright. 🌟

Warmly,



Susan George  
Executive Director



## Inner-City Board of Trustees

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Timothy M. Cardinal Dolan  
*Archbishop of New York*

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### TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Hon. Milton L. Williams, Sr.



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

AT WAVE HILL, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021



1. Mary Rather with 50th Anniversary Poetry Contest award recipient Elena Villa of Notre Dame High School

2. Melody Di Piazza

3. Peter Grauer, Laurie Grauer, and Tom Quick



## The celebration of 50 years

culminated with a 50th anniversary-themed dinner with over 200 guests at Wave Hill in the Bronx on September 23. Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised \$2.5 million in honor of the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Funds from the evening help support Inner-City in its mission to provide tuition assistance for underprivileged students attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

Executive Director of Inner-City Scholarship Fund Susan George stated about the donors and supporters of Inner-City, "They've been so devoted to these kids during the pandemic, checking to help them with additional tuition.... We're blessed with the nicest group of people. Whether you're a donor at the \$500 level or the \$500,000 level, we just have the nicest people. Every time I hire someone new to work here, that's usually the first observation they make: 'Wow, people are so nice.'"

The event was emceed by Inner-City trustee and *CBS Sunday Morning* correspondent Mo Rocca. It honored three scholarship students for their poetry submissions about their Catholic school experiences to the Inner-City Scholarship Fund 50th Anniversary Poetry Contest. The first-place student winner, Elena Villa, a sophomore at Notre Dame High School, delivered her winning poem, "Windows," during the event and was awarded \$2,500 for college tuition.

Guests also enjoyed a special student performance from St. Francis of Assisi School in the Bronx. The young musicians

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# Inner-City 50th Anniversary Mass

On May 25, 2021, supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund gathered at Saint Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate the milestone. Photos from the celebration are below.



**1.** Featured student speaker Hannah Delaney, Notre Dame High School

**2.** Wendy and Robert Gittings

**3.** Jennifer and Steve Dutton

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

**5.** Christina and Robert Weisz

**6.** Students from Our Lady of Lourdes

**7.** Timothy Cardinal Dolan

**8.** Melissa Boxer and Tim Muccia

**9.** Ruth Woolward and Anne Maria Fitch

**10.** Sue and Stephen Rooney

**Scan here to watch the 50th Anniversary Mass**





# ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD LUNCHEON

The 32nd annual St. Thomas More Award Luncheon was held on Wednesday, October 27, at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan, the first in-person gathering since 2019. Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised nearly \$550,000 at the event.

The luncheon, hosted by Inner-City's Lawyers Committee, honored Thomas J. Reid, Chief Legal Officer at Comcast, and presented him with the St. Thomas More Award. Latrisha Desrosiers, Deputy General Counsel for the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, was also recognized. She received the John P. Cooney, Jr., Award for Mentorship and Community Involvement.

Susan Salgado, an Inner-City senior at Notre Dame High School, also spoke at the event. She talked about the excellent and transformative education she



*Thomas J. Reid, honoree of the 32nd Annual St. Thomas More Award Luncheon*



*Steve Rooney, Lynn Neuner, and John Kiernan*



*Latrisha Desrosiers, Cardinal Dolan, and student speaker, Susan Salgado*

has received, which would not have been possible without the support of her sponsors, Christine and Stephen Schwarzman.

Latrisha Desrosiers, the John P. Cooney, Jr. award recipient, was also a graduate of Notre Dame High School. She spoke about the importance of her family and the opportunities her Catholic school education afforded her. Her life was changed by a guidance counselor who opened her eyes to a new world of possibilities right here in New York City.

Angela Burgess, partner at Davis Polk and longtime friend of Thomas Reid, presented him with the St. Thomas More Award. Mr. Reid spoke about his personal devotion to Inner-City's mission. While he was growing up in an economically challenged area of Scotland, Catholic school gave him the skills and the confidence to think a legal career would be possible.

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

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NY

During Catholic Schools Week 2022, Superintendent of Schools, Michael J. Deegan thanked the wonderful schools and parishes for their outstanding work this past summer in ensuring that Catholic schools could reopen this fall. All 171 of the school buildings in the Archdiocese of New York remained open for the 2021-2022 school year, helping countless working-class and low-income families who rely on the Catholic school system. As those families recover from the pandemic's effects, which have already had a disproportionate impact on many of their communities, Catholic schools offer holistic, reliable, and forward-thinking curricula.

A Catholic education provides academic excellence in a safe, nurturing environment for all students, enabling them to become productive citizens



**Mike Deegan**, *Superintendent of Schools*

for today's society. The Catholic school system has a long history of transforming society by lifting up disadvantaged communities and providing them with an educational advantage that helps greatly close the achievement gap with their peers.

This past year, Catholic schools were truly put to the test and in the end excelled beyond any expectations, remaining open for in-person instruction five days a week. These dedicated professional educators are committed to ensuring every family has the opportunity to access the high-quality education and spiritual enrichment that Catholic schools offer young minds.

Thank you as always for your support in making our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York the gold standard for education in America today. 🙏



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** *in the*  
**ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK**  
Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

**“Our growth these past years, which has far outpaced comparable other schools, is a result of strong professional development that supported teachers in using data to personalize instruction for each of our students, with the goal of every student reaching grade-level proficiency.”** — *Superintendent of Schools Michael J. Deegan*

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 →

performed a re-imagination of three songs from Broadway's *Hamilton* musical. The students dressed up as the founding members of Inner-City and performed adapted lyrics to reflect the story of the creation of the non-profit.

“I am so grateful to the countless donors and volunteers from the past 50 years, who have selflessly given their time and treasure to the cause of expanding access to quality education for more than 800,000 students,” said Peter T. Grauer, Chairman at Bloomberg and President of Inner-City

Scholarship Fund. “The dreams that came true for thousands of kids would not have been possible without your amazing commitment to Inner-City and the Catholic school system.” Throughout 50 years of support from our cherished friends and supporters, Inner-City Scholarship Fund has helped hundreds of thousands of children in need receive a high-quality, values-based Catholic school education.

**Thank you once more to all the supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, who made this anniversary celebration possible!** 🙏



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

## UPDATES

Since its start in 1983, Inner-City Scholarship Fund's *Job Opportunities Program* has placed over 2,100 students in entry-level positions at over 70 companies, including but not limited to law firms, hospitals, banks, and publishing companies.

Every year, the *Job Opportunities Program* gives high school juniors attending Inner-City Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York the opportunity to gain experience in a business setting through job-readiness workshops and paid summer internships at many of New York's most prestigious companies and organizations. The program ensures that Inner-City students who participate are equipped with the knowledge and up-to-date skill sets they will need to enter a rapidly evolving workforce in the first stage of their career.

The last two years have been a challenge, but volunteers have persevered and translated internship programs to remote experiences. Unfortunately, many companies are unable to provide internships, so the biggest need now is new support.

To get involved, workplaces can sponsor one to two internships this coming summer, and individuals can donate their time at six monthly volunteer workshops, giving Inner-City students the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the job application process. Workshops include resume writing skills, interview preparation sessions, and alumni tracking projects.

**To learn more about Inner-City's *Job Opportunities Program*, please contact Mark Ruggiere at [ruggiere@innercitynyc.org](mailto:ruggiere@innercitynyc.org).** 🏡



## THE INNER-CITY JUNIOR BOARD

**Though New York City itself is in some ways the greatest classroom on Earth, an incredible number of inner-city students have never had the opportunity to venture beyond their own neighborhoods.**

The Inner-City Junior Board — composed of young professionals and headed by an Executive Committee — provides hands-on support to inner-city Catholic school students in participating schools. Board members work in all industries and live throughout the tri-state area, but their common desire is to help the boys and girls of the inner-city by providing them

with enriching experiences that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to attain.

With monthly trips to cultural landmarks, athletic programs, and community service projects, the effect Junior Board activities have on Catholic school students is incalculable. Junior Board events have included the 9/11 museum, ice skating at Bryant Park, basketball nights, karaoke, and more.

For this and the previous school year, the enrichment programs organized by the board have gone virtual. Students were able to virtually visit the San Diego Zoo as well as partake in dance and holiday parties.

In addition to working directly with students (either in person or online), the board also hosts events such as happy hours and fundraisers for members to learn more about one another and connect.

**For more information and to get involved, please contact our Executive Committee at [juniors@innercitynyc.org](mailto:juniors@innercitynyc.org).** 🏡





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## SAVE THE DATE

**FRIENDS Gala: Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Cipriani 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**

### Inner-City Scholarship Fund Staff

**Susan George**  
*Executive Director*

**Lucson Andre**  
*Controller*

**Kelly Annunziata**  
*Student Learning Advocate*

**Camille Brown**  
*Chief of Finance and Operations*

**Emily Cafaro**  
*Development and Events Associate*

**Robert Gittings**  
*Manager, Institutional Support*

**Mindy Goldstein**  
*Executive Assistant*

**Jill Turner Lloyd**  
*Director, Development*

**Vanessa Luciano**  
*Manager, Sponsorship Operations*

**Puja Malhotra**  
*Gift Processing Associate*

**Daniel Mileno**  
*Director, Marketing and Communications*

**Catherine O'Connor**  
*School Marketing Coordinator*

**Kathryn Riecks**  
*Data Manager*

**Alberto Robaina**  
*Chief of Staff and Special Counsel*

**Odalys Sanchez**  
*School Relations Coordinator*

**Andrew Scialabba**  
*Marketing Coordinator*

**Alyson Vetter**  
*Director, Special Events*

**Jennifer Ward**  
*Manager, Scholarship Operations*

**Thomas Zwilling**  
*Prospect Researcher*