On February 5, 2010, the St. Gregory Episcopal School Board overwhelmingly voted to partner with the Holy Family Lutheran School. This follows the unanimous decision made by the Holy Family Board one week earlier. Bishops from both churches have affirmed the boards’ decisions.

The partnership of St. Gregory and Holy Family underscores the Lutheran Synod’s and the Episcopal Diocese’s commitment to Called to Common Mission.

Lutheran Bishop Wayne N. Miller says, “It is a great joy to have the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, join with the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago in supporting the merger of Holy Family Lutheran School with St. Gregory Episcopal School, working together to serve children and families in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago.

“In conversation about this matter, Bishop Jeffrey Lee and I agree that this cooperative effort is a fine example of the mission opportunity that is open to us as a result of the full communion relationship now shared by our church bodies. We enthusiastically endorse the vision of the leaders of these two schools, that education is a primary arena of Christian

(Holy Family-St Gregory, continued on page 7)
HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES LAUNCHES MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAM

HFM recently added a Martial Arts Program for participants in the after-school program at the HFM Center. Participation in martial arts training improves reflexes and coordination, increases strength, stamina and flexibility. In addition to these physical benefits, it is thought that martial arts training can positively impact mental, emotional and social growth.

We were fortunate to be one of five organizations that received a $5,000 “Lutherans Against Violence” grant from Wheat Ridge Ministries, in cooperation with the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA. We also received a $3,500 grant from the Winnetka-Northfield Rotary Charitable Foundation. Together, these two grants provide the funding to embark on the new program.

The grants will support the West Side Martial Arts program operated as part of the after-school program, and for a session at the Adventures In Learning summer program. This program will keep youth safe in the out-of-school hours, and provide participants with the emotional and social tools to choose non-violent responses to stresses.

HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES AND THE THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS FOUNDATION RESPOND TO OUR PRE-SCHOOL FAMILIES FACING ECONOMIC CRISIS

Low-income neighborhoods are usually the first hit with higher unemployment during an economic downturn, and we have begun to see a very disturbing pattern forming for those families that must rely on assistance from the State to subsidize childcare for their young children. Most families with children in HFM’s Little Learners Academy rely on this subsidy, but when a parent loses his/her job, they also lose eligibility for the State subsidy, and can no longer afford to keep their children in the LLA Pre-school/childcare program. A downward spiral begins: without childcare in place, it becomes extremely difficult to search for a job, or to accept a job that is offered. Without employment, the family’s ability to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter is in great jeopardy, and the cycle of unemployment and struggle is likely to continue.

HFM’s response to this crisis is to offer temporary emergency funding to allow families facing a crisis (job loss, reduction in hours, illness, etc) to keep their children enrolled in the Little Learners Academy for a period of time to allow them to resolve their crisis and re-establish their eligibility for the State subsidy. We received a $5,000 Economic Outreach Grant, along with a $5,000 Challenge grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. Our loyal donors responded to the challenge with $5,025 for a total of $15,025 raised for this essential program.
HELP HOLY FAMILY START A NEW TUTORING PROGRAM

Pepsi is giving away more than a million dollars in grants each month in 2010 to fund ideas and programs that make the world a better place. Holy Family Ministries has applied for a $50,000 grant in the Pepsi Refresh Project. Funds will be used to design and deliver a comprehensive program to recruit and train volunteer tutors serving 150 children through a combination of supervised homework help, small group tutoring, and one-on-one tutoring.

This is a unique opportunity for you and all HFM friends to demonstrate commitment to our mission through a special online voting process that starts May 1st and continues through May 31st. Here is how you can help Holy Family start the new tutoring program:

1) VISIT the HFM website on May 1st: www.holyfamilyministries.org

2) Follow the instructions to VOTE FOR THE HFM PROJECT:
   “Help 150 eager Chicago kids catch up in reading and math.”

3) MARK YOUR CALENDAR to cast a vote for HFM every day in May.
   Anyone age 13 or over can vote.

And here’s an important part…it is vital that we start strong to gain momentum at the beginning of the campaign.

Starting in May, please send an email, facebook message, or tweet to all your friends to tell them about your involvement with HFM and the wonderful work we do. Ask them to vote for HFM every day, and to pass the word to their friends! Don’t miss the great video of our children during Black History Month --- your friends will enjoy it too.

Holy Family aims not simply to educate, but to liberate each child from what s/he believes about the way life is, by experiencing the way life can be. Within our safe and affirming culture, children develop a vision of their future in the world, a plan to accomplish it, and the skills to carry it out. The Pepsi Refresh Project is a great way to ask your friends to support our mission and the children we serve without asking for a monetary donation.

The key to winning is to vote every day, ask your friends to vote every day, and request that they pass along the word about Holy Family Ministries to their friends.

Thank you for helping Holy Family!
Recognizing the vital role of adults in the educational development of children, HFM launched the Honor Parents Program last school year. (The term “parents” can also be applied to other caregivers such as relatives, guardians and others responsible for parenting children). Parents are recognized for their mastery of the skills and customs that foster student achievement; for being good role models for younger or less experienced parents; and for their outstanding support of the values of Holy Family School. At the end of the school year, these outstanding individuals are invited to the Honor Dinner to celebrate their achievement.

Holy Family Ministries received a $20,000 grant to expand this program in the 09/10 school year to include parents in our new Pre-K program. We have also used the funding to retain speakers for parent meetings and to conduct activities for parents and children to enjoy together. We have recruited three parents to train as mentors to other parents.

The goals of the initiative are to increase knowledge of best-practice parenting skills, foster positive communication between parents and teachers, and to support family life. Armed with knowledge, skills, and access to mentors from the community, parents are well equipped to help their children succeed in school and in life.

HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Holy Family Ministries is pleased to welcome eight new members to its Board of Directors. Most have joined us from St. Gregory’s Board of Directors in support of the exciting new partnership between Holy Family Lutheran School and St. Gregory Episcopal School.

Charlotte Carter, representing Holy Family Lutheran Church
Philip A. Alphonse, Principal, Sterling Partners
James Neaylon III, Financial Planner
John Palmer, Executive Director, UBS Global Asset Management
Ronald Sipiora, Senior Vice President, Aon Consulting
Fr. Graham Smith, St. James Episcopal Church, Glenview
Frank Stanton, Manager On Duty-Tower Operations, American Airlines
Thomas Westbrook

L to R: Pr. Charles Infelt, Walter Grandberry, Tom Westbrook, Fr. Graham Smith, Jim Neaylon, Fr. Ken Erickson, Ron Sipiora, Susan Work, Frank Stanton, Joe Pringle, John Palmer
In the Spotlight

OUR AWARD WINNING STAFF!

Leslie Hunter, Khalilah Worley and Jamie Lambert

We are very excited to announce that three of our staff have recently received honors.

Leslie Hunter, youth director at Holy Family Lutheran Church and chaplain at Holy Family School, was presented with Wheat Ridge Ministries’ Emerging Leader award at their Seeds Of Hope dinner in February. The Seeds of Hope Emerging Leader Award honors a young adult who is an up-and-coming servant leader in health and human care ministry. Wheat Ridge was the funder whose gift first enabled us to hire Leslie many years ago, and they’ve been watching his growth and development ever since. Like all of us, they admire Leslie’s many gifts and his talent with kids.

Khalilah Worley, Programs Manager, is one of two recipients of the 2009 Ed Marciniak Bright Star Award from the Bright Promises Foundation. This award is an effort to recognize rising young leaders in Chicago’s not-for-profit community who have shown motivation and enthusiasm in exemplifying the Bright Promises Foundation’s mission of creating opportunities for Illinois children to reach their full promise and potential. Khalilah oversees the After-School Program and the Adventures in Learning summer program at the Holy Family Ministries Center. Focused and energetic, Khalilah serves as a role model, setting the bar high for staff members and youth in the program. Her engaging and enthusiastic manner inspires trust, and encourages youth to strive for excellence – crucial elements that make our youth development programs successful.

And finally, beloved teacher and head coach, Jamie Lambert, was named as Holy Family Ministries’ first annual Circle of Champions honoree. This year’s sponsor chose to honor Jamie in recognition of his continued dedication to Holy Family’s athletic program. Coach Lambert founded the Holy Family Angels basketball program in 2000, which now fields two girls’ and two boys’ teams, all of which he coaches. With the move to Holy Family Ministries Center in 2008, Coach Lambert took advantage of the opportunity to expand the athletic program and added volleyball and track teams. He is looking forward to adding flag football in the near future. Jamie has also served as the Lutheran School League Athletic Directors Chairman for the past three years.

Coach Lambert has led many Angels teams to victory, earning a trophy case full of awards, but his goals always remain the same: have fun; learn good sportsmanship; and learn better basketball skills. Following Holy Family’s season opener, a ceremony and reception was held in Coach Lambert’s honor and the Holy Family Angels cheerleaders presented him with a very special cheer:

L - A - M - B - E - R - T
Coach Lambert is the one for you and me!
10 years of service, he’s so cool.
He’s #1 and he’ll rock this school.
Basketball... Track... and Volleyball too...
We give a shout out from us to YOU!

Congratulations Leslie, Khalilah, and Jamie!
Hundreds of individuals, churches, organizations and foundations contribute annually to support the mission and ongoing work of HFM and its programs. Holy Family Ministries is grateful for each gift and each donor!

In this issue, HFM acknowledges with appreciation gifts totaling $500 or more received between September 1, 2009 and January 31, 2010. A list of all donors is published in the Holy Family Ministries annual report, available online at www.holyfamilyministries.org or by calling 847-441-4115 and requesting a print copy.

Some donors’ gifts have been matched at their request, by their employers or by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Matched gifts enable Holy Family to enhance programs.

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Tribble, Richard
witness in our city. We support teachers, parents, children and administrators with our prayers, and we encourage members of our congregations to support this endeavor in every way."

It is this calling that has brought the two schools together. As one, Holy Family and St. Gregory will extend this mission: to provide a low-cost, faith-based quality elementary education to youth from the North Lawndale and surrounding communities—so that area youth flourish academically as well as in life.

Fr. Ken Erickson, St. Gregory’s principal, states of the partnership: “Together we seek to have a lasting impact on the lives of the children of North Lawndale and the surrounding neighborhoods. What we care about most is the mission that we share—that respecting the dignity of every child begins with providing an excellent education.”

Holy Family President Susan Work also affirms the partnership: “It is a win-win situation that adds strength, opportunity, and a 2010 perspective to both schools. The winners are the children.”

The winning plays out in a variety of ways. Through joint resources, St. Gregory’s students will have access to Holy Family’s state-of-the-art facility. This fully equipped facility delivers a complete learning experience: a playground, gym (which dual functions as an auditorium and cafeteria), library, art room, music room, science lab, computer lab, meeting rooms, and generous learning space.

Additionally, Holy Family’s vision is to use the building in service of the community—24/7, year-round—offering a pre-school; before and after-school child care; after-school programming which focuses on the arts, sports, and academic enrichment; and an 8-week summer camp.

With the addition of St. Gregory students, enrollment could potentially increase 30 percent. Higher enrollment means smaller class sizes with the addition of more paid staff, increased funds for special programming, more scholarship assistance, and additional volunteers.

According to Work, “St. Gregory students will be immersed in the life of Holy Family—and we will be one big Holy Family!”

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Holy Family Ministries 2010 Spring Benefit
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Cocktails and silent auction at 6:00
Dinner and program at 7:30
Live auction and dessert follow

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Contact Holy Family Ministries to make your reservation!
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