Dear Friends,

I recently had the opportunity to hear Ford Motor Company’s Director for Research, Randal Visintainer, speak about the myriad ways Ford Motor encourages innovation. He credits this effort for Ford’s renaissance, and he challenged the non-profit sector to put a similar emphasis on innovation, citing demographic changes that almost certainly will affect us.

Mr. Visintainer’s presentation inspires this issue of The Beacon. What are the lessons we can learn from a successful business like Ford Motor?

On the one hand, nonprofits are consistently encouraged to stick closely to their core mission. Holy Family has, I believe, done well at staying focused on education and learning-based enrichment programs over 28 years of growth. On the other hand, it’s important to stay nimble, able to recognize and adapt to changing conditions in our sector and in the communities we serve, and open to ideas. In this issue, we highlight some innovative things happening at HFM.

In November, we will expand our preschool and childcare program from 60 to 80 children served. This is our response to overwhelmingly positive recent research on the lifelong payback of a high-quality preschool education.

In December, we will lead a trip that caps an ambitious 6-month learning experience for young leaders from some of Chicago’s most challenged neighborhoods--The Peace Exchange: Chicago-Asia 2013. This project offers peace builders aged 18 to 25 the opportunity for a transformative cross-cultural study experience, all of which will be captured in a documentary film. Upon their return, they will share their insights and experience with 1000 Chicago children and youth. (Note: Only gifts designated specifically for the Peace Exchange will fund this project.)

In early 2014, Holy Family will launch a social enterprise—a resale shop in the north suburbs! The goal of social enterprise is to operate a business that earns revenue for a charitable mission—in our case, for our school, (Innovate continued on page 2)
**Innovate** continued from page 1

preschool/child care program, and out-of-school learning enrichment programs.

These exciting innovations continue a proud history that includes responsiveness to the dismantling of Chicago public housing and re-settling of residents; the construction of the Holy Family Ministries Center (2009 Award of Merit from the Chicago Building Congress as best real estate project in Chicago under $10 million); expansion of our school-aged programs to 48 weeks a year, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and a major 2008 program expansion to include a preschool and childcare program.

These innovations have doubled the number of youth and families served.

I extend deepest gratitude to all of you who have made it possible for Holy Family to accomplish its mission and I invite you to send us your innovative ideas, observations, and suggestions.

As we approach the holidays, may you have a blessed season of thanksgiving and joy!

\[\text{Susan}\]
Dr. Susan Work
President/CEO

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**STEM Lego Robots**

from **The STAR Student News**

Written by students Kiaon Williams and Johan Moore

You never know what you have until you build it. In STEM Class, students built a robot out of Legos. Some of them are two feet tall! In class, in order to build the Legos, they follow Lego directions online, on an iPad. They then program the robots to do missions on an obstacle course. Four groups of kids are working on four robots. They work as a group, of course, in order to build all of these things. “Putting our brains together as one really helps us in our work,” said Ms. Muler, the STEM teacher.

Note from Holy Family Ministries: Last year, the class competed in the FIRST® LEGO® League robotics competition and won a trophy for the Best Rookie Team! The team is hard at work preparing for the 2013 contest.

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**Did you know...about our STEM matching gift?**

Your new and/or increased donations are eligible for matching funds (up to $2,500) to support our STEM Initiative! Holy Family has been awarded a $10,000 challenge grant from an anonymous foundation to develop innovative learning opportunities that encourage student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

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**The Peace Exchange Project**

A new initiative for this year is a pilot project that was created to help combat the problem of violence in Chicago’s neighborhoods by developing young leaders. Holy Family Ministries, Chicago International Youth Peace Movement and The Abundance Project founded The Peace Exchange: Chicago-Asia 2013 in partnership with Free Spirit Media, the Mikva Challenge, and other organizations. The project is a community-based, educationally-focused and young adult-led effort to understand violence and foster peace in some of Chicago’s toughest neighborhoods. Each community partner is sponsoring a young adult Peace Builder--ages 18 to 25—to participate in the project. Peace Builders have the opportunity to study topics that range from domestic/gender violence, conflict resolution and genocide to the impact of violence on mental health. They will spend December 26, 2013 to January 9, 2014 in Thailand and Myanmar. There they will engage local peace activists as well as social and spiritual leaders to study how Thai and Burmese societies maintain strikingly low levels of street crime and urban violence, despite persistent social inequality and poverty. Beginning in March, 2014 and aided by a professionally produced documentary of the trip, Peace Builders will meet with at least 1000 youth from community, school and church groups, to share their observations on how cultural, spiritual and social factors may contribute to either peace or violence. Stay tuned for information on where the video will be available for your viewing next spring!
“Called to Common Brilliance”

Highlights of Holy Family’s Unique Lutheran-Episcopal Partnership

In his April 2013 article “Called to Common Brilliance” for The Living Church publication, author G. Jeffrey MacDonald writes “For an example of what’s possible with full communion between Episcopalians and Lutherans, a group of educators says the place to look is not just inside a church. It’s inside a school in the North Lawndale neighborhood on the west side of Chicago.” MacDonald highlights the unique partnership formed at the time Holy Family Lutheran School welcomed students from St. Gregory Episcopal School when it closed in 2010. This partnership is a demonstration of the commitment of the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to work together for community outreach, a commitment formalized in 2000. This special partnership was celebrated when Holy Family welcomed Episcopal Bishop Jeffrey Lee and Lutheran Bishop Wayne Miller for the annual “Celebration of Common Mission” chapel service on Wednesday, May 29, 2013. The day was an opportunity for the two regional leaders to meet and share worship with Holy Family students. In addition, Lutheran and Episcopal clergy and lay leaders from churches throughout the Chicago area joined the students for Chapel and tours of the school. Building on the theme of following the call of Jesus to become leaders, Bishop Lee and Bishop Miller offered prayers, demonstrated the Shepherd’s Crook and Miter for the students, and joined School Chaplain Leslie Hunter in a rousing song session. Bishop Lee and Bishop Miller also taught the students a new song, accompanied by Bishop Miller on his guitar. Throughout the service, their message was clear that the students at Holy Family are fully supported by Lutheran and Episcopal churches across the area. Donations and volunteer support from these congregations are crucial to the achievements of the school and its students.

YoPro 2013

Mars Gallery in Chicago’s trendy West Loop neighborhood was abuzz with the spirit of young professionals working together to raise funds for Holy Family in an exciting new venue. Teachers, students and staff were also in attendance to support A Party For a Cause! Now in its twelfth year, the YoPro Benefit gives young professionals from all over the city a chance to come together for a night of philanthropy and fun. The evening raised enough to fund the entire middle school for a day! If you would like to join our Holy Family YoPro group, please contact Cynthia Bakle at cbakle@hfm.org. Special thanks to our 2013 YoPro Committee members: Emily Work, Chair, Johnathon Ball, Neeraj Bhatti, Shae Davis, Becky Duggan, Melissa Horne, Ayo Jimoh, Sarah Oremland, Jamie Neuberger, Allison Shelton, Melissa Taylor, and L’Rae Unruh.
We are grateful for all of our donors! Acknowledged here are gifts of $250 & above. A list of all donors is published in our annual report available online at www.hfm.org.

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The beautiful Michigan Room at the University Club was the setting again this year for the second annual Holy Family Scholarship Luncheon. Nearly 150 luncheon guests joined staff and students for a memorable afternoon. Friends old and new came to experience the enthusiasm and joy of Holy Family students. The student ensemble sang “My Name is Victory”, along with another of their favorites, the STAR STUDENT song. Eighth-grader Jamari shared what it means to have achieved the level of a STAR student at Holy Family, a very special milestone for those who work hard academically and meet other specific requirements during the school year. STAR represents four key student strengths – Safety, Taking Responsibility, Attitude, and Respect.

Guests heard also from Holy Family School Principal Cheryl Collins, Chaplain Leslie Hunter, President and CEO Dr. Susan Work and Holy Family Ministries Board Members John Mjoseth and John Palmer.

Important to the success of Luncheon was the role played by the guests themselves, whose “star” contributions help support the challenging academic curriculum and strong character development programs for Holy Family’s students. The significant work of the 2013 Scholarship Luncheon committee raised more than $35,000 to ensure our students successfully complete their education and go on to high performing high schools. Of these funds, the Kemper Educational and Charitable Fund generously matched new and increased contributions dollar-for-dollar. Special thanks to our Scholarship Luncheon committee members: Roxane Busey, Carl and Linda Fisher, David Fisher, John Freidheim, Carolyn Heffner, Sherry House, Brooke Hummer, John Kiessling, Dirk Landis, Jim and Susan Lenz, John Mjoseth, John & Katie Palmer, Joan Sherman, Carrie Smart, Frank & Addie Stanton, Brad Summers, David Webster and Patti Van Cleave. Thanks also to University Club member Ron Sipiora for securing our venue.

The Kemper Education and Charitable Fund $25,000 Challenge Grant with a dollar-for-dollar match for all NEW and INCREASED individual gifts in 2013 doubles the impact of your year-end gift! Thank you.

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