Holy Family Builds Bridges with New Friendships

On several Saturday afternoons this past Spring, the Shaw Community Room at Holy Family Ministries Center was filled with youth eating and playing games together. Our students were eager to come to school on the weekend, receive extra tutoring help in the morning at the Saturday Academy and stay for lunch and activities in the afternoon provided by visiting church groups as part of the new Bridges initiative. Both of these programs were a success, as our Holy Family School students took advantage of additional academic tutoring, and the visiting groups had fun getting to know the school and making new friends.

Bridges was launched this year in an effort to offer faith communities the opportunity to connect with Holy Family students. One of the visiting church groups that took part in the program was Kenilworth Union Church. Thirty north suburban students from 4th grade through high school and a well-organized and energetic group of parents brought sandwiches and snacks to share with the HFS 4th and 5th grade students who participated in the event. After lunch, the group broke up into smaller sections and took

(Bridges continued on page 7)

Reach for the Stars!

Despite the rainy weather, the stars were out for Holy Family Ministries’ annual Spring Benefit - Reach for the Stars! on Saturday, May 14th at Ravinia. The stars of the evening were Holy Family students, who dazzled guests with their poise and talent.

After the silent auction closed for the evening, Holy Family Boy Scout Troop 450 and Pack 3404 led the way to dinner. The evening’s program featured an 8th grade emcee who

(Reach for the Stars! continued on page 2)
demonstrated remarkable confidence, and a 7th grade speaker who spoke from the heart about how an education from Holy Family has impacted his entire family. Our first-grade soloist astonished guests with her spectacular rendition of “The Impossible Dream.” The audience was riveted, and honored her with an enthusiastic standing ovation. Students from the Visions after-school program demonstrated their martial arts skills, and the evening’s program ended with a lively student drumming session.

While the students were indisputably the stars of the evening, Holy Family also aired a short video that was featured on the PBS nationally acclaimed show, Religion & Ethics Newsweekly. The segment highlights Holy Family’s unique operating model – a public charity umbrella organization operating an ecumenical school, along with several secular programs at the Holy Family Ministries Center in North Lawndale. To view the segment, visit www.holyfamilyministries.org.

Reach for the Stars! is one of several events hosted throughout the year to raise critical funds that are necessary for Holy Family to continue to provide high-quality education and youth programs for west side families seeking a better future for their children. Parents pay 25% of the cost to educate a student, and Holy Family must raise the balance of $5,000 per student to cover expenses. This event netted $130,000, which will provide a full year’s tuition assistance for 26 students!

Thank you to the Benefit Committee, sponsors, partners, patrons, guests, and friends who sent gifts or donated items! We couldn’t have done it without you!
Leaving a Legacy: Marjorie Phemister

Holy Family is deeply saddened by the loss of our long-time supporter and friend, Marj Phemister. Marj passed away peacefully on March 30th at the age of 95. In 1987 she was a founding member of the Holy Family School Advisory Council, a small band that eventually evolved into the Holy Family Ministries Board of Directors. But her first love was tutoring kids. “Marj’s dedication to tutoring our students was so inspiring,” recalled Susan Work, President of Holy Family Ministries. “She and her friend Edie Hicks drove downtown to tutor at our school every single week for 18 years. They continued driving every week to the west side long after most people their age had stopped driving completely!”

That 18-year drive to the school ended at four different locations over the years, and Marj, as much as anyone in Holy Family’s world, wanted the school to have a permanent home. To that end she, Edie Hicks, and another longtime friend gifted a parcel of land to Holy Family in 2005, and in 2008 the Holy Family Ministries Center was constructed on that site.

Marj was a member of Holy Family Forever, a group of faithful donors who have included Holy Family Ministries in their estate plans. In her generous legacy gift, Marj’s thoughtfulness continues to impact the lives of children who need and deserve the opportunity for a fine education.

Left: Marj Phemister and family at the Holy Family Ministries Center Ground Breaking Celebration. Right: Marj thanking the crowd after they sang Happy Birthday to her during the Ground Breaking Celebration.

For more information regarding legacy gifts, contact Sandy Danforth at 773-273-6013 x8 or sdanforth@holyfamilyministries.org.
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

Class of 2011 and the High Schools They’ll be Attending

Congratulations!
HIGH SCHOOLS OF CHOICE
Why it’s important

The three public attendance high schools nearest to Holy Family School have an average graduation rate of 53% in comparison to 88% in the State. The average ACT score is 14.5, as compared to 20.7 in the State. Rather than attend these assigned attendance-area high schools, our students apply to private, selective magnet, suburban, or certain high-performing charter high schools, with the help of our volunteer mentors. Since 2005, 95% of the graduating class have enrolled in college-prep schools of choice, schools that greatly increase the likelihood that a student will continue to college.

Become a Mentor and Make a Difference

We are looking for young professionals to work with our 8th grade students in Holy Family’s Mentoring Program. Mentors work with students and parents to assist them with navigating the high school placement process—one that is often like college admissions. Mentors are trained and work with students in five sessions throughout the fall and winter months. They keep in touch regularly with their student/parent during this period. Training will begin in early August and the volunteer term runs through March, 2012. Interested in learning more? Please email Cynthia Bakle at cbakle@holyfamilyministries.org.

We are expanding our leadership team, too, and are looking for someone to help at mentor/student work sessions throughout the coming school year. Interested candidates please email Susan Work, President, at swork@holyfamilyministries.org.

Holy Family Kindergartners Graduate, Too!

President Susan Work and Principal Cheryl Collins with this year’s Principal’s Award recipient. The award recognizes the student, chosen by the faculty, who most embodies the Holy Family School go-getter spirit. Typically, the student has struggled at some point but never gave up.

Mentors Emily Work and Sarah Oremland with 8th grade graduate, Mariah.
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, Holy Family Ministries acknowledges with appreciation gifts totaling $500 or more received between March 1, 2011 and May 31, 2011. A list of all donors is published in the annual report, available online at www.holyfamilyministries.org or by calling 773-273-6013 and requesting a print copy.

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Holy Family Boy Scout at benefit.
Holy Family Angels Sprint All the Way to State Finals

Congratulations to Coach Methling and the girls and boys track team members who ran in the Illinois Lutheran Sports Association State Track Meet held May 21 and 22 at Concordia University in River Forest. For the first time in school history, Holy Family School’s relay teams qualified for the State Finals and both the boys and girls relay teams placed! The Angels came home with a 6th place finish in the girls 4x100 meter relay, a 7th place finish in the boys 4x100 meter relay, and an 8th place win in boys 110 meter hurdles.

(Bridges continued from page 1)

...turns rotating through various lively activities.

Anne Faurot, the Director of Children’s Ministries at KUC said, “It was a great interactive experience that was fun for everyone, and playing together helped all the children have a positive encounter with complete strangers.” The high school youth and adults took part in all of the activities too, and, she added, “I don’t know who enjoyed themselves more, the adults or the students!” She went on to add, “We love the school, and look forward to coming back next Fall!” The program will continue year-round next school year.

For information on the Bridges Program please contact Ken Erickson.
kerickson@holyfamilyministries.org
773-273-6013 x 5

Holy Family students enjoy Saturday afternoon activities with members of Kenilworth Union Church.
Some springtime happenings at Holy Family

Career Day

Book Fair

Science Fair

The Beacon
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Northfield, IL 60093

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Margaret Flanagan, Producer
Contributors: Cynthia Bakle, Ken Erickson, Susan Work
Special Thanks to our Volunteer Photographers

A newsletter published for friends and supporters of Holy Family Ministries

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