Holy Family teacher Jamie Lambert was selected as one of 32 finalists for the prestigious Golden Apple Award from more than 600 nominations across the Chicago Metropolitan Area. In recognition of this achievement, he and his principal, Cheryl Collins, were honored at the Celebration of Excellence in Teaching luncheon on April 19th where Mr. Lambert was named a Teacher of Distinction.

Golden Apple, a Chicago leader in advancing the teaching profession, presents awards each year to top performing teachers who exemplify the highest standards in education. Jamie has been with Holy Family for fifteen years, and currently is the 8th grade science teacher, the Holy Family Angels basketball coach, role model, mentor, and friend. Congratulations Jamie!

Holy Family as a Healing Community

Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Friends,

Many Holy Family students face obstacles in their quest to learn and achieve in our challenging academic program. I am often asked what causes these students to struggle. Recently, we have found insight in a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled the Adverse Childhood Experiences study, or ACE.

The ACE study reported on the traumatic effects on children who have endured multiple adverse experiences.

Adverse Childhood Experiences are common across all cultures and social classes. In the ACE study, two-thirds of adults reported having had at least one adverse childhood experience.

The ACE research revealed ten key experiences that can impact the well-being of a child (emotional neglect or abuse, physical neglect or abuse, sexual abuse, parental divorce, household substance abuse, mother treated violently, household mental illness, incarcerated household member). As the number of adverse experiences rises, so does the likelihood that the child will be faced with physical or mental health issues—issues that can affect learning.

Children with multiple ACES are stressed,

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Young Leaders for Peace at Holy Family

Children who live in violent neighborhoods may be greatly affected even if they're not direct victims. When North Lawndale appeared on a list of the 25 most dangerous neighborhoods in America, it underscored the need for Holy Family to do more about the violence that plagues the West Side community of Chicago, where children live and attend Holy Family programs.

Holy Family responded with a program called The Peace Exchange. It is an innovative leadership development program for young adults committed to violence prevention. Partnering with organizations such as the Mikva Challenge, Holy Family recruited youth leaders who participated in more than 60 hours of training on violence- and peace-related topics. During the 2013 year-end holidays, five Peace Builders traveled to Southeast Asia as a part of the program to learn about spiritual traditions of nonviolence. Two filmmakers from Free Spirit Media documented their experiences.

Equipped with knowledge, passion, and inspiration the Peace Builders began sharing their experiences in May with other Chicago youth from their neighborhoods. In one-hour sessions, the young leaders introduce themselves, screen the documentary, conduct mindfulness exercises and discuss practical ways to avoid violence.

Peace Builders Jessica Disu/FM Supreme and Dennis Johnson talked about cyber bullying with 7th and 8th graders at Young Women’s Leadership Charter School just days after the slaying of one 14-year-old girl by another 14-year-old girl over a Facebook dispute about a boy.

The team is well on their way to attaining their goal to reach out to 1,000 youth by the end of the year! To view the 15-minute documentary, visit http://www.chicagoyouthpeace.org/documentary.

“I became a Peace Builder because I started to lose faith in Chicago. I started to become one of those people who said the violence is just going to get worse. Once the Peace Exchange came around, I said, “This is it!” This is something that can help me get out of that mindset and do something about it.”

-Marquetta Monroe, Holy Family School Alum ’08, Xavier University, ’16

Annual Bishops Chapel scheduled for fall

Bishop Jeff Lee and Bishop Wayne Miller will again join Holy Family students and guests for chapel on Wednesday, October 22 at the Holy Family Ministries Center. This wonderful event features the celebration of Holy Family Ministries’ collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the ELCA Metro Chicago Synod. Holy Family is a true demonstration model of Called to Common Mission and this special chapel spotlights the unique contribution of Holy Family in sharing resources and opportunities for social justice in the Chicago area. Join us for fellowship in song and worship this fall. For more information please contact us at info@hfm.org.

Kemper Challenge Renewed!

Again this year we are fortunate to have a matching gift from the Kemper Educational and Charitable Fund. Up to $25,000 of all NEW and INCREASED gifts in 2014 will be matched dollar for dollar. Thank you for your gift at this time!
Reach for the Stars Spring Benefit

Skokie Country Club was the beautiful venue again this year where 260 guests were in attendance at the annual spring Reach for the Stars Benefit to raise funds for the children of Holy Family Ministries. Honorary Chairs John and Carrie Smart welcomed guests to enjoy entertainment by Holy Family students, as well as cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction, and dinner. "What happens inside Holy Family Ministries? They are achieving great outcomes: tests scores are rising, students are matriculating to high performing college prep high schools and 87% of Holy Family's graduates enroll in college", remarked John Smart during the program. "These are the critical metrics that are being measured within a culture of continuous program improvement at Holy Family." One of the evening's stars was 8th grade student D'Angelo, performing with great emotion the song by Sam Cooke A Change is Gonna Come. D'Angelo will be graduating and going on to Providence St. Mel high school this fall! The program was followed by an exciting Live Auction, with all proceeds from the evening directly benefiting Holy Family’s school and youth development programs. The $180,000 raised at the benefit will help provide tuition assistance for Chicago children who would otherwise not have access to a quality, faith based education. Thanks to our committee, sponsors, and guests!!

Healing Community (continued from page 1)

and negative effects on learning include social, emotional and cognitive impairment. Children with high ACES may be sensitive, reactive, and have difficulty focusing their attention or persisting in the task at hand. The strong correlation between ACES and negative health outcomes may even be revealed decades later, well into adulthood.

Holy Family’s response

Many interventions have proven helpful to children under stress from multiple ACES. A relationship with a caring adult (teacher, counselor, mentor, etc.) is healing. Teaching children self-calming techniques such as mindfulness, prayer—even reflective “cool down time” helps. Rhythmic movement and music are healing. Sports, martial arts, and yoga improve focus. Holy Family has embraced all these interventions and more.

Last fall, our entire faculty pledged to be healing forces in the lives of any children in our care who are stressed by adverse experiences in their homes or community. We continue to thoughtfully plan classroom and after-school interventions and activities that ameliorate stress and teach children to calm themselves.

Our staff’s success in helping children learn and thrive is only possible because of you. Your faithful involvement in our work is reflected in the children’s well-being. On behalf of the entire HFM community, I send my heartfelt thanks for your caring ways and generous partnership.

Please come and visit us soon!

Susan Work, Ph.D.
CEO

Photos (clockwise from top left) Rev. Christopher Powell and Rev. Jeanne Stewart (Christ Church, Winnetka), Jeanmarie Olson and Board Member Dave Olson, and Board alum Dick Tribble join Holy Family for a festive night.
Ways to Give

Thank you for considering HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES. Every gift makes a difference in the life of a child.

— DONATIONS —
Tax deductible contributions can be sent by mail, or make an online gift at www.hfm.org/donate

— MATCHING GIFTS —
Many companies match an employee’s donation to charitable organizations. Please ask your employer if there is a matching gifts program at your workplace.

— GIFTS AS STOCK —
Gifts of stock are easily transferred. For more information please contact us at the email below.

— HOLY FAMILY FOREVER GIFTS—
A bequest is a gift made by naming Holy Family Ministries as a beneficiary in your will. This is a simple and meaningful way to remember Holy Family. There are also many other ways to create a planned gift for Holy Family. Join the Holy Family Forever legacy society today!

For more information on giving please contact
Cynthia L. Schmidt CFRE, Chief Development Officer
cschmidt@hfm.org