Chicago Symphony Orchestra Partners with HFS

Music comes alive for grades K–3

Holy Family School is one of twelve community-based organizations in the city of Chicago invited to partner in Adventures in Music (AIM), a free program designed by the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and the Institute for Learning, Access and Training. The program goal is to reach families from neighborhoods that normally might not have the opportunity to experience CSO concerts or classical music.

(CSO continued on page 3)

Holy Family Invited to White House Briefing

Dr. Susan Work, President and CEO of Holy Family Ministries, joined 174 national leaders from health and human service organizations for the Community Leaders Briefing at the East Wing of the White House on Friday, October 28, 2011.

“When I received the invitation to attend the briefing, I knew it was not to be missed,” said Dr. Work. “It was

(White House continued on page 2)
Help us keep moving forward!

Holy Family Ministries is in need of a used, yet functional vehicle.

Donate your used car by calling

Susan Work at 773-273-6013 x 2

Did you know....?

Holy Family Ministries relies on a dynamic mix of income sources to support its flourishing programs:

- Individual donors remain our largest source of income at 36%
- Parent-paid tuition & fees cover 25%
- Foundations, Corporations and Organizations contribute 18%
- Faith communities contribute 6%
- State of Illinois programs and grants 15%

Little Learners Academy benefits from funding provided by a grant from the state’s Pre-School For All program which was designed to give at-risk children a challenging pre-school curriculum in order to improve later learning outcomes. Holy Family also works closely with parents who qualify for a childcare subsidy from the State of Illinois. Low-income parents who are either employed or enrolled in school qualify for subsidized childcare at approved centers. This program provides economic benefit to the State while also providing a safe and enriching environment for at-risk children through age 13.

an opportunity to hear from senior White House officials about the administration’s priorities and initiatives for the nonprofit sector, and also to have a voice in how our government can work with the non-profit sector to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.”

Speakers included Bill Daley, Chief of Staff; Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; Joshua Dubois, Executive Director, Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Cecilia Munoz, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; and Brian Deese, Deputy Director, National Economic Council. Topics included jobs and job training, food insecurity, childcare, micro-loans, education, mother & child health, and responsible fathers initiatives.

“Each official spoke for awhile on topics of interest to our sector, and then each one listened to our concerns. Jon Carson, Director of the Office of Public Engagement, heard community leaders’ frustrations with the process to distribute funding and services to those who need it most. Repetitive and unnecessary paperwork — developed over decades — along with burdensome reporting requirements are most commonly seen to hinder the ability of non-profit agencies trying to deliver services efficiently. Holy Family Ministries receives government funding in partial support of our preschool and childcare initiatives, and we, too, have experienced the pros and cons of managing government programs.

Nevertheless, government funded programs are crucial in the low-income neighborhoods we serve. The non-profit and philanthropic sector in the US does more than improve lives and advance the common good. This sector is a major presence in our economy, with 1 in 12 of individuals in the workforce working for non-profits and accounting for 5% of our GDP. The White House briefing session was a step toward understanding how our sector can work together with our government to have an even greater impact on the people and communities we serve.
The students and their families who attended the November performance greatly enjoyed their experience. “If I had hair, it would've been standing up! The music touched something inside of me. I would have never gone to the orchestra if it were not for this opportunity,” said the father of a 1st grader. Megan Schillinger, our music and art teacher, has gone above and beyond to organize this partnership and to make it a wonderful experience for the students and their families: “Hearing that [father's response] made the whole experience worth it. Seeing families spending time together and expanding their horizons musically, that is the reason why I teach.”

### AS A CSO PARTNER, HOLY FAMILY RECEIVES:

- 22 tickets for each of three Saturday matinee performances a year (66 tickets) with free bus transportation to and from Orchestra Hall.
- Docent visits in the week leading up to the performance introducing young listeners to elements of the performances they will attend.
- Admissions to pre-concert activities: At the November performance of the Chicago Youth Symphony, Holy Family students wore tuxedo jackets with the long tails, held a baton, and learned how to conduct an orchestra. An “instrument petting zoo” allowed the students to see, hear and touch the equipment. Students enjoyed a presentation by a dancer from the Hubbard Street Dance Company and a percussion instructor. Our students stretched their bodies to live music under guidance from the dancer, learned how music can help create motion, and how to express themselves through dance.
- One in-school performance by CSO members.

Holy Family School is also partnering with the Lyric Opera’s education department. Megan Schillinger, Holy Family’s music teacher, applied for their “Opera in the Classroom” workshop, and after a vigorous interviewing process, we were selected as a partner. Our 5th grade class will be studying Rossini’s Cinderella starting in April!

### HOLY FAMILY IS SEEKING TUTORS FOR 36 OF OUR STUDENTS AFTER-SCHOOL AND/OR SATURDAY

Tutoring is most needed in math and reading for 3rd to 8th graders.

**Tutoring Sessions**
Monday-Friday: 3:30–4:30 pm, 4:30–5:30 pm
Saturday: 10:30–11:30 am, 11:30am–12:30 pm

Volunteers are asked to attend a volunteer orientation meeting and commit to at least 4 sessions.

For more information, please contact
Cheryl Collins, Principal at Holy Family School
ccollins@holyfamilylutheranschool.org, 773-265-0550.
Family Foundations

An increasing number of families have chosen to establish private foundations to enjoy tax advantages while maintaining a significant role in managing the foundation and directing their charitable giving to causes and organizations where they feel a connection. According to a study published by the Foundation Center, family foundations account for over $20 billion in giving each year. But families do not need millions of dollars to establish their foundation; nearly half report giving under $50,000 each year.

Holy Family Ministries is fortunate to receive funding from several family foundations. We chatted with a trustee to understand the motivation behind establishing their foundation. While the tax advantages were important, allowing the family to use their money to help others in a way that is meaningful to them, another motivation was to encourage their children and grandchildren to be interested and active in philanthropy. This foundation supports organizations where their donation can make an impact. They look for organizations with strong management and the ability to demonstrate meaningful progress. All board members are highly involved in the decision-making process, and are obligated to investigate and “bring to the table” at least one non-profit for funding consideration.

Behind every family foundation that supports Holy Family is a friend that introduced them to us. We are deeply grateful to these “connectors” as well as to the family foundations that partner in our vision of a bright future for the children and families we serve.

Christmas Cheer at Holy Family

On the last day of school before Christmas break, Holy Family was abuzz with excitement as one of Santa’s helpers brought gifts to each of the classrooms. This year four churches and one preschool participated in this fun tradition by asking members to collect one age and gender appropriate gift for each of our students in preschool through 8th grade.

We are grateful to the members of Trinity Lutheran Church (Evanston), Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter (Kenilworth), St. John Lutheran Church (Wilmette), and Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and Preschool (Naperville) for their generous response.
New SES Program Provides Tutoring For CPS Students

In 2010, Holy Family participated in a Lawndale community needs assessment designed by a group of Northwestern University students. The residents participating in the survey named free tutoring as one of the most critical needs for youth in the community.

Seeking ways to continue to develop Holy Family Center as a hub of community-based educational programming, the HFM administration saw the need for affordable tutoring as a good match for the resources we have to offer. Unfortunately, our available teachers and volunteer tutors have been stretched as they focus their efforts on helping our own students who are struggling to catch up, and no other cost-effective option for a larger tutoring program incorporating non-HFM students surfaced.

Last year, one of our board members introduced us to the SES program (Supplemental Education Services), a federally funded program providing free tutoring to qualifying students attending failing public schools. In Illinois, students qualify if their school

(Tutoring continued on page 7)

Reach for the Stars! Fall Benefit 2011 Nets $170,000

This year’s fall benefit did indeed reach the stars. With local celebrity, Chicago Bear Robbie Gould, and one of the best silent and live auctions in recent years, Reach for the Stars! was a night to remember. Held at Stonegate Conference Center in Hoffman Estates on December 2nd, over 400 guests perused the extensive silent auction and took their chances to win the raffle of two round trip American Airlines tickets.

As dinner wrapped up, performances by Holy Family’s own stars dazzled the crowd with the 1st Grade singing classics such as

All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth. A student skit highlighted the importance of hope and hard work, and the Student Choir brought tears to the eyes of the audience with their spectacular Christmas medley. With feelings of joy, guests proved their generosity and spirit during an exciting live auction.

Reach for the Stars! met the need to provide Chicago’s lowest income families with a high quality education that their children, and our next generation’s brightest stars, require.

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

In this issue, HFM acknowledges with appreciation gifts totaling $500.00 or more received between September 1-December 31, 2011. A complete donor list is published in the HFM annual report which is available online at www.holyfamilyministries.org or by calling 773-273-6013 and requesting a print copy.

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Grace Episcopal Men Host Starfish Ball Benefit

On the evening of October 22, Grace Episcopal Men (GEM), the men’s group of Grace Episcopal Church in Hinsdale, held its benefit to raise funds for educational ministries locally and internationally. Ninety-nine guests attended and raised nearly $25,000 in support of Holy Family Ministries. Spouses and friends joined the spirited and energized men’s group for an evening of good food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Episcopal Bishop Jeffrey and Lisa Lee hosted the event, at which a Holy Family/St. Gregory graduate spoke movingly of the impact these schools had on him. Another student sang a solo, and Leslie Hunter enraptured the group with his passionate storytelling and urgent message. Thank you GEMS!
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Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Barrington
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Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hinsdale
St. Chrysostom’s Episcopal Church, Chicago
St. James The Less Episcopal Church, Northfield
St. John’s Episcopal Church, Naperville
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mt. Prospect
St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Barrington
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Chicago
Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston

(Tutoring continued from page 5)

has not made adequate yearly (academic) progress —
commonly called AYP — in three consecutive years. Most of
the public schools within a mile of Holy Family fall into this
category. “We believe our track record of achievement offers
parents a compelling alternative,” remarked Lamar Lockett,
SES Program Manager.

This is an exciting venture for Holy Family. We are
contracted to provide 60 hours of tutoring per child in the
subjects of math and reading, with sessions running on
Saturday mornings through the end of the school year.

Starting small, Holy Family is currently serving three
students, a 4th grader from Cameron school, a 5th grader
from Nash school, and an 8th grade student from Frazier
school. This year’s tutors are Mr. Lockett and Theresa
Moore, an administrative assistant at Holy Family Ministries.
So far the program students have not only been meeting the
attendance requirements, they’re excited to be taking a
class in our building. One student even exclaimed “I love
this school!”

Many public school students remain unserved. Demand for
tutoring far exceeds available SES funding. If Holy Family’s
pilot tutoring program remains successful, we hope to add
fee-based yet affordable tutoring at below-market rates for
students who are not eligible for SES services.
The Beacon
Holy Family Ministries
550 Frontage Road, #2820
Northfield, IL 60093

Ken Erickson, Editor
Producers: Margaret Flanagan, Christine Johnson
Contributors: Carrie Dauner, Jan Werwath, Susan Work
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A newsletter published for friends and supporters of
Holy Family Ministries

Program Center
3415 W. Arthington Street, Chicago, IL 60624
Email – info@holyfamilyministries.org
Website – www.holyfamilyministries.org

Dr. Susan Work, President
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Annual Report available online.

Please help our school finish the year strong!
Love, Holy Family Students and Staff

Holy Family School Wish List
25 blockers (desktop separators)
Large floor easel
Loud Speakers for classroom projectors
Class set (25) of *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Class set (25) of small white boards with
dry erase markers

Little Learners Academy Wish List
Large Pillows for reading nooks (3
classrooms, 3-4/room)
Large Class Plants (3 classrooms. 1/room)
Stamp Sets (letters, numbers, shapes, animals)
Stencils (letter, numbers, shapes)
Large Floor Puzzles (24x36) (Ages 3+)