On Saturday night, April 29th, nearly 250 guests attended the annual Reach for the Stars Spring Benefit at beautiful Skokie Country Club. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, silent and live auctions, and a fabulous dinner. Nancy Searle, long-time friend of Holy Family, was named the 2017 Champion of Children. This is the highest honor offered by Holy Family, and celebrates the ongoing love and care Nancy shares with HFM students and families through countless acts of generosity and commitment.

The stars of the night were, as always, the children of Holy Family. The performance by the Girls Ensemble and the inspirational remarks shared by Alumnus Lawrence Henderson gave evidence to the extraordinary hard work of our Holy Family students.

Special thanks to our 2017 Benefit Chairs (pictured above) and Benefit Committee members, along with sponsors and guests who helped raise more than $220,000 for student scholarships. The hard working Spring Benefit Committee members included Joan Dodson, Jane Eaton, Jan Leverenz, Lenore Macdonald, Cindy Macfarland, Cindi Rachowicz, Paula Selvig, Phyllis Treff and Ann Wagner. All funds from the Benefit directly support the children and programs of Holy Family Ministries. Thank you for a memorable night, and for making a difference in the lives of our children.

Save The Date!

September 21st, 2017
Scholarship Luncheon
Chicago

November 11th, 2017
Fall Benefit Event
Hoffman Estates

Corporate Sponsors included:

Holy Family School Book Fair

For one week every year in March, the Board room at Holy Family School fills up - with books! The annual Book Fair gives every child, pre-school through 8th grade, an opportunity to choose age-appropriate books for their home. Parents return for a special Family Night which includes dinner, the opportunity to purchase books and to play board games with their children. Slightly-worn paperbacks from the school library are given away that night for free.

Jodie Draut has been involved with the Book Fair for the past ten years. She has seen it grow into an incredibly popular event that encourages and supports the importance and magic of reading. Thank you Jodie!
SPOTLIGHT ON CHURCH PARTNERS Rising to the challenge!

A round of applause for Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Northfield! Through a unique Lenten Challenge initiative, funds were raised to support the students of Holy Family, engaging members of all ages. From March 1st through April 16th the congregation created a variety of projects, challenging each other to raise funds for as many scholarships as possible!

The challenge gave Ascension’s congregation an opportunity to learn more about the needs and dreams of inner city students. The project offered four ways to participate, including the Prayer Buddy Program, Trinity Fitness Challenge, Lenten Vespers Reception and Sponsor a Student. Each Sunday a representative from HFM visited Ascension, with Chaplain Hunter kicking off the challenge. Later, Rev. Ronald Martin and HFS Alumnus Malik Martin shared their experiences as a parent and a student with Holy Family School. Wrapping up the visits to rally everyone on the “home stretch” were Principal Cheryl Collins and Cynthia Schmidt. We are grateful for Ascension’s generosity and deep commitment to our mission, and the leadership of Pastor JoAnn Post, and our own HFM Board member Jon Levernez and his wife Jan. Thank you to all the amazing individuals who came out to learn more about our programs, students and staff in a very personal way, and rose to the challenge to successfully raise nearly $25,000 for scholarships for students!

If your church is interested in partnering with Holy Family through special initiatives that engage members directly with our students in meaningful ways, please contact us at 773-273-6013 X400. (See also article on Trinity Lutheran Church Luncheon)

DR. SEUSS DAY!

Dr. Seuss Day is a much loved event at Holy Family, and this year nearly 50 volunteers came to celebrate the joy of reading with our children. A visit from The Cat In The Hat tops off a truly special day! Plan to join us next year in early March for Dr. Seuss Day 2018.

Pictured left: Erika Vestergaard from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville
Pictured right: Rev. Dr. Jason Parkin from the Church of the Holy Comforter in Kenilworth

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION AT HOLY FAMILY

In honor of Black History Month, Principal Cheryl Collins and son Sean Collins co-wrote Do Black Lives Matter, and helped in directing the performance by Holy Family students. The play illustrates how key individuals impacted American history, from the establishment of the Underground Railroad to the NASA program. Each segment demonstrated the dramatic way African Americans have made a positive difference for generations to come. The play also highlighted the tragic violence in our city today, with 75% of those murdered in Chicago in 2016 being African American and 71% of those who committed these murders were African American.

The final scene of the play drew us into the future, full of hope and possibilities. The year is 2047 and today’s classmates are now in their thirties. Students are in national leadership positions, winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, and one student is even the new Principal of Holy Family School! Well done Principal Collins and the HFM students!
Holy Family Angels is ranked the 3rd best grade school basketball team in the state of Illinois for Lutheran Schools. We love our team! Thanks to Coach Lambert, Coach Daniel and Coach Kimbrough.

**THE PEACE EXCHANGE UPDATE**

The Peace Exchange, Holy Family’s peace-focused leadership development program, welcomed the 2017/18 Peace Builders at an all-day retreat at the Holy Family Ministries Center. Since the program’s inception in 2012, it has trained 17 Peace Builders who have shared their message of peace and non-violence with thousands of Chicago youth in the *Speaking Peace* phase of the program.

For more information, visit our website: Peacex.org or visit us on facebook at: facebook.com/ThePeaceExchange/

**GO ANGELS!**

Holy Family Angels is ranked the 3rd best grade school basketball team in the state of Illinois for Lutheran Schools. We love our team! Thanks to Coach Lambert, Coach Daniel and Coach Kimbrough.

**Have A Heart for Holy Family 2017 Luncheon**

Thank you to the hardworking and generous Trinity Church Luncheon Committee members; Rebecca Mestelle, Paula Selvig, Cindi Rachowicz, Phyllis Treff, Stephanie Gabriele (Chair) and Carrie Dauner.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston once again hosted their annual Women’s Valentine Luncheon. This year the luncheon raised nearly $20,000 toward scholarships for students at Holy Family School!

*With gratitude to everyone who made this day a huge success!*

**WE MADE IT TO THE STATE LEVEL IN THE First LEGO LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT!**

Holy Family middle school students enrolled in our STEM program, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) participated at the state level in the *First Lego League Championship Tournament* at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

More than 500 students in 64 teams from all over the state competed in this year’s robotics tournament! Holy Family School students joined other talented contestants in presenting their robots, running a challenging obstacle course, and exhibiting their teamwork skills. The goal of the tournament is to encourage students from all walks of life to build skills in developing technology.

**Holy Family Ministries earns Charity Navigators’ 4-star rating for the fourth consecutive year!**

Only 11% of Charity Navigator rated charities have received four consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that “Holy Family Ministries outperforms most other charities in America.”

Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator

For more information, visit www.charitynavigator.org

**Lucille resale reinvented**

**Join Our Volunteer Team**

Men and women needed! Flexible, long term and short term opportunities. Have fun, do good! Email Margaret for details mflanagan@hfm.org.

**Please Donate Your Gently Used Items**

FURNITURE • HOUSEWARES • HOME DÉCOR

ADULT CLOTHING • JEWELRY • ACCESSORIES

**Furniture Pickup Service**

For information, please send pictures and details to donate@hfm.org or call the store at 847-749-2928.

Proceeds support Holy Family’s school and youth programs.

Lucille • 1101 E. Rand Road • Arlington Heights
We know that students are more successful when parents are involved in their child's education. Each year we celebrate our awesome “Honor Parents” during a special dinner in June. Parents are chosen for the designation of Honor Parent based on several factors, including their attendance at parent/teacher conferences and activities, their volunteer activities, and their commitment in upholding school vision and philosophy. Congratulations!

HFM Leadership Announcements

The Holy Family Board of Directors announces the election of HFM Board Member Eric Draut as Interim Chief Executive Officer.

Eric began his career at Coopers & Lybrand and spent 20 years with Unitrin, a tenure that included 13 years as executive vice president and CFO. He holds an MBA from the J.L. Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is also a CPA.

Eric recently completed eleven years of service on the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois board, serving as board chairman from 2010 through June 2017 and serving as volunteer executive chairman from 2012 through 2014.

He also serves on the boards of TCP Capital and Thrivent Financial. His past board service includes terms at Intermec, Unitrin, and Journeys from PADS to HOPE, a coalition of homeless shelters. Eric and his wife, Jodie, reside in Arlington Heights and are members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Principal Cheryl Wells Collins is Named Chief Executive Officer Elect

The Board of Directors proudly announces the appointment of Principal Cheryl Collins as the CEO Elect of Holy Family Ministries. Cheryl has served as the principal of Holy Family School since 2004.

Her previous leadership roles include Middle School Director at Providence St. Mel School, teacher at Marva Collins' South Side Prep School and Director of Parent Education at Ida B. Wells Prep School, all located in Chicago.

Cheryl is a graduate of Loyola University, with a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from DePaul University. She has completed coursework at the J.L. Kellogg School of Management and recently finished her first year of a three year Pathways in Leadership Graduate Studies program offered by CLEF (Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation) at Concordia University, River Forest.

She has received numerous awards throughout her tenure as HFS principal, including Principal of the Year by ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary Schools and recipient of the Above and Beyond Award by CLEF. Cheryl and her husband Eric, a professional chef, are life-long Chicagoans. Their daughter Briana is a News Anchor with Channel 28 in Rockford and their son Sean is a writer.

Once a new principal is appointed to serve at Holy Family School, Cheryl Collins will begin her role as Chief Executive Officer of Holy Family Ministries. Cheryl and Eric will work in tandem during this transition period.

Please come visit Holy Family soon and help us welcome Eric and Cheryl to their new positions!

Dr. Ciunial J. Lewis has resigned as Chief Executive Officer of Holy Family Ministries.

Chapel Reflection

"My faith gives me hope"

God gives me hope because I know he loves me. I know I am his child of God. I believe he is going to take care of me. I love God very much. And he loves me. God always tells me to never give up.
Visit us at www.hfm.org

Ways to Give

— 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 OF STOCK —
Gifts of stock are easily transferred.

— HOLY FAMILY FOREVER —
A bequest is a gift made by naming Holy Family Ministries as a beneficiary in your will. There are also many other ways to create a planned gift for Holy Family.

— THRIVENT FINANCIAL CHOICE DOLLARS® —
Choice Dollars charitable grant funds can make a world of difference to Holy Family Ministries. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable grant funds. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions.

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

Our Business Office / Development Office Has Moved!
Our new address is: Holy Family Ministries, 3225 Arnold Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062