CEO Transition Update

The Board of Directors continues to seek the most qualified candidate to serve as the next CEO of Holy Family Ministries.

We are blessed to have Dr. Susan Work provide leadership in the CEO position throughout the search process and walk alongside the new CEO once they are named.

We will continue to update our HFM family in future issues of the Beacon.

Save the Date!

Chicago Scholarship Luncheon

The University Club

September 22nd, 2016

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

Only 14% of Charity Navigator rated charities have received three consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that “Holy Family Ministries outperforms most other charities in America.”

Little Learners Academy

Children’s experiences in the early years of life influence how they develop, learn, and interact with their world. At Holy Family Ministries, the Little Learners Academy pre-kindergarten program clearly addresses the greatest need of our children...preparation for academic success.

Some youngsters in our neighborhoods, especially ages 3 to 5 years old, come to Holy Family without a backdrop for success. Poverty and violence can create an achievement gap that begins before stepping through the door of a kindergarten class.

The National Education Association tells us that a high-quality education for children before they reach five years yields significant long term benefit, such as graduation from high school and owning a home. Research shows that chronic stress and trauma experienced by infants and young children can physically alter brain architecture.

According to HFM Early Learning Services Director Deana Spencer, “We individualize programs for every child, and at the same time try to help meet the needs of our parents.”

Many think of pre-kindergarten classes as just organized babysitting. Little Learners Academy students experience a project-based approach that includes content areas of writing, math, science, arts, social-emotional learning and technology. Access to mental health services, motor skill development and daily small group interaction round out a robust program.

“Come visit our students in action and see firsthand how we are setting the bar for our children’s future,” comments Mrs. Spencer. “You will be amazed!”

The Peace Exchange

Peace Builders will travel to South Africa in June for ten days as part of their year-long study of peace practices through the Peace Exchange program.

Established in 2012 by Holy Family Ministries, the program begins with 80 hours of study on topics ranging from mindfulness and peace circles to genocide, bullying and domestic violence, followed by a cross-cultural exchange with community organizers, student leaders and peace activists in other countries.

The final phase is an outreach program to neighborhood youth led by the Peace Builders.
HFM 8th Grade Students visit IBM in Chicago

Holy Family 8th grade students met with African-American executives at the IBM headquarters in downtown Chicago and saw firsthand the high-level career opportunities that are available at large corporations. Special thanks to Robbie Robinson, IBM GBS Global Transformation Leader and President of the Chicago Black Network Group, for organizing a fascinating and educational trip!

“This was a significant day for our students because they got to meet executives who look like them and who started out with humble beginnings as most of our students do. They heard their stories of challenges and triumphs and broken dreams that became new dreams. Our students were inspired to dream big and to see themselves in a larger light.”

~Principal Cheryl Collins

The Ten Year Club!

Thank you to our donors who have consistently supported the children of Holy Family for a decade or more

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Please contact us if there is an error or omission in the above list

www.holyfamilyministries.org
More than 200 guests were in attendance at the Skokie Country Club for the annual Reach for the Stars Spring Benefit. All funds raised during the evening support the children and families of Holy Family Ministries. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, silent and live auctions, and a fabulous dinner. But the real stars of the evening were the children of Holy Family who mingled with guests during the reception, and participated during a rousing version of the song “Lean On Me,” led by Chaplain Leslie Hunter.

Special thanks to our Benefit Chairs (pictured above), committee members, event sponsors and guests who raised nearly $200,000 for scholarships. Benefit committee members included Joan Dodson, Jane Eaton, Jan Leverenz, Lenore Macdonald, Cindy Macfarland, Cindi Rachowicz, Paula Selvig, Phyllis Treff and Ann Wagner.

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Church Partners

The Women’s Valentine Luncheon hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston raised $5,000 for a student scholarship!

Many friends including Marlene Bakle, Paula Selvig, Cindi Rachowicz (St. John’s Lutheran Church, Wilmette), Phyllis Treff, Stephanie Gabriele (committee chair), Rebecca Mestelle, and Peg Hoskin organized the benefit to support Holy Family.

Dr. Seuss Day 2016

More than fifty guests joined us on March 1st, 2016 for Dr. Seuss Day. Guests read books to Holy Family students as part of Read Across America, a National Education Association initiative that encourages children to develop a love of literature.

John McLaughlin dressed as the Cat in the Hat, reading with second-grader Keleel