Parents as Partners

Decades of research continues to affirm that meaningful parent involvement at school can deeply affect a child’s self-esteem, motivation, and classroom conduct. Holy Family scores high in the area of parent involvement which uniquely sets HFM apart from other programs. In addition to regularly scheduled parent and teacher meetings, Holy Family sponsors opportunities for families to come together for fun, academic activities:

Reading Night: Family Reading Night is an event celebrated each year at Holy Family School to encourage reading at home. This year we had over 100 participants! During the week we also hosted the Scholastic Book Fair where families purchased books and visited with guest authors, including: Kenyatta Scott, creator of The Violet Book Series and whose work has been featured on WCIU-TV; Christian Adrian, 10 year old author and illustrator of Metrix Chicago’s New Hero; Toneal M. Jackson, a National and International award-winning author who has been recognized by CBS Chicago as one of 5 Indie Chicago Authors and Publishers to Watch Out For; LaWanda Thomas, a business owner and author of From Buckets to Big Bucks; Lisa Adams, award-winning author and CEO of the Lisa Adams Group; and Celeste Parker, author of Pigs Don’t Wear Pearls.

Math Night—New This Year!

Our first-ever Family Math Night had a great turnout - more than 50 parents and their children attended! It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in fun and creative math activities and bring ideas back home to help children grow and learn when out of school.

New this Fall – Parent University: Additional tools will be made available for our parents this fall when specially planned workshops will be offered on select Saturdays. In addition to topics on parenting, sessions will include finance, time management, stress relief, social media influencers and more. Parents truly do make a difference at Holy Family.

Special Visitor to Holy Family

Bishop Elizabeth Amy Eaton, elected in 2013 as the first woman to become Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), recently paid a special visit to Holy Family Ministries. Hosted by long-time HFM friend and volunteer Judy McCaskey, students excitedly welcomed Rev. Eaton to their school, and quickly drew her into the spirited chapel service! As the Chief Ecumenical Officer of the ELCA, Bishop Eaton represents the church in a wide range of interfaith settings. The ELCA is headquartered in Chicago, and has a strong history of supporting the work and mission of Holy Family.

“Bishop Eaton clearly has a heart for the children.” commented CEO Cheryl Collins. “From the minute she entered the building, her warmth and enthusiasm was evident. We felt honored to have her in our midst and to welcome her as part of our family.” Rev. Eaton is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. She resides in Chicago with her husband, Conrad Selnick, an Episcopal Priest and vice president of Bexley Seabury Seminary.

Save the Date! November 16th 2019 Reach for the Stars Fall Benefit! Hoffman Estates
Middle School is an especially important time for our students to think about their future. Beyond encouraging students to just ask the question “what do I want to be when I grow up”, Holy Family helps students see for themselves how to get there. Several programs assist our students along this path, including an annual Career Day, an expansive mentoring program, and the eighth grade trip to visit colleges. This year, the three-day college tour included visits to Northwestern University, Carthage College, Viterbo University, St. Olaf College, and the University of Minnesota.

Leading community organizations along with generous Holy Family donors stepped up to sponsor eight outstanding young leaders for the class of 2019 Peace Builders. These dedicated leaders have participated in more than 80 hours of training on topics ranging from the Holocaust, teen dating violence, bullying, peace circles, compassion, and conflict resolution. This summer, Peace Builders traveled to Rwanda for two weeks to continue their studies with community organizers, peace activists, and student leaders. Follow the journey at www.peacex.org

READ ACROSS AMERICA
More than fifty guests joined our children on March 4th for the much anticipated Read Across America Day, celebrating the stories of Dr. Seuss and other beloved authors! This year’s Read Across America theme was “Celebrating Diverse Readers” and featured a variety of books representing a wide array of stories and cultures.

Pictured from top left:
- Delynne Berg, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Naperville (first visit to school);
- Regina Melbourne, Grace Episcopal Church in Hinsdale;
- Rob Harkey, Kathy Badovinac, Doris Gierlach, Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Barrington

Pictured from top right:
- Lou McClelland, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Naperville; Ralph Melbourne, Grace Episcopal Church in Hinsdale; Jan Dusek, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Naperville

LUNCH WITH THE LOCALS
What is the best way to invite the business community to come visit with the amazing students of Holy Family? Have lunch!

Lunch with Locals, hosted by CEO Cheryl Collins, reaches out to local west side area entrepreneurs and invites them to visit and have lunch at the Holy Family Program Center in Chicago. Visitors learn more about Holy Family, and inspire our students who may some day dream of starting their own businesses. These highly successful lunch meetings are spreading the word in the business community and beyond that Holy Family is actively participating in the growth and strength of the community through education.

Students have recently enjoyed hearing from local business owners that include: Charmaine Rickette, owner and President of Uncle Remus Saucy Fried Chicken; E. Bernard Jennings, Executive Director of Lawndale Business Renaissance Network; Ronald Nolen, The Law offices of Ronald Nolen; Chiquita White, owner of Kiwis Boutique, and Circuit Court Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste.

DISCOVER AMERICA 2019
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Reach For The Stars Spring Benefit

“We all have a part to play in this world, to help those who come after us,” said Clarizxa Hackett, Class of 2010, during her keynote at the Reach for the Stars Spring Benefit held on April 27th. “Holy Family taught me many things, not only academically, but how to go out in the world and achieve my dreams, and help others achieve theirs as well.” Clarizxa’s words energized and inspired the sold-out audience gathered at the beautiful Glen View Club. The generous support of guests raised more than $270,000 for the Holy Family scholarship fund, which assists students like Clarizxa to reach their dreams through education. The evening clearly highlighted the unique strength and success of Holy Family.

Special thanks to our extraordinary auctioneer for the evening, Sam Kramer, along with his wife Jennie, and to our wonderful 2019 Honorary Chairs, pictured above. A round of applause goes to our hard working 2019 Benefit Committee, including Co-chairs, Cynthia Macfarland and Joan Dodson, and members Sharon D’Arcy, Jane Eaton, Terri Montgomery, Carrie Smart, Bev Joutras, Emily Voit, Betty Cittadine, (Church of the Holy Comforter - Episcopal, Kenilworth), Jan Leverenz (Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield), Jeanne Nelson (Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Lincolnshire), Cindi Rachowicz and Ann Wagner (St. John’s Lutheran Church, Northfield), Paula Selvig and Phyllis Treff (Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston). SAVE THE DATE for Spring Benefit 2020 to be held on Saturday, April 25.

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors:

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Craig Busey on May 15, 2019. We are blessed to have called him friend, and we will forever cherish the many years he was a part of our HFM family. We are grateful to his wife Roxane, a long-time member of the Holy Family Board of Directors, and his children Lauren and Chris, for directing tribute gifts to support the students in our care. Holy Family has established the Craig Busey Memorial Fund to remember his legacy of love, kindness and faith, and his spirit of generosity to our children and families.

Church Partners

Northfield Community Church/Northfield: We welcome Northfield Community Church to Holy Family, and gratefully acknowledge their gift in October from the St. Peter Legacy in Mission Fund. Pastor Duwayne Meyer invited CDO Cyn Schmidt and Chaplain Leslie Hunter to share in their Palm Sunday services. Pictured top left.

St. James Cathedral - Episcopal/Chicago: Holy Family Ministries was chosen as the St. James’ Lenton Charity this year. Chaplain Leslie Hunter and CEO Cheryl Collins were in attendance to meet with The Very Rev. Dominic Barrington and to welcome our newest Church Partner. Generous gifts from church members totaled more than $15,000. Pictured bottom left.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Prospect Heights: The Board of Social Ministry chose Holy Family as one of 12 recipients to receive a gift to support children's programming. Pastor David Beese invited Cheryl Collins to visit Good Shepherd and share at their Adult Forum about Holy Family. Pictured bottom right.

Congregational support and volunteers play a key role in the success of Holy Family and the students we serve. If your church would like information on becoming a Holy Family Church Partner, or having Chaplain Hunter speak at your services, please email cschmidt@hfm.org