

## Welcome to our First Newsletter!

*Much has happened in 2017 toward advancing the cause of great Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport. As the following pages illustrate, Foundations in Education is on the move! We are grateful to all who have partnered with us to realize so many successes for the children and teachers we support.*

*With your help, Foundations in Education awarded more than 1,300 students financial assistance through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. Leaders of Tomorrow was launched this year as a distinctive program of the Bishop's Scholarship Fund made possible through designated donations that provide students an opportunity to transform their lives through the gift of a Catholic education.*

*Innovation and Leadership grant applications are currently being evaluated and we look forward to awarding \$105,000 in our historic first grants early in 2018. In addition, we are exceedingly pleased to acknowledge a particularly exciting innovative program made possible by an anonymous donor of which you shall learn more in the spring. This grant will allow Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport to embark on a pilot innovative vocational partnership with Housatonic Community College and St Vincent's/Sacred Heart's Center for Healthcare Education. These programs will provide training in advanced manufacturing and nursing assistant programs, respectively.*

*All of these initiatives and the many to come are possible because of your engagement and contributions to Foundations in Education. Please enjoy this newsletter and please let us know what other articles or items of interest you would like to learn more about in future issues.*

*On behalf of our Board of Trustees, the Foundations' staff, the students, teachers and administrators we serve, thank you for ensuring a Catholic elementary education is accessible and remains best in class.*

*May you enjoy a blessed Christmas and a New Year of happiness, health and prosperity.*

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Acting Board Chair



Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE  
Executive Director

## New Trustees Announced



George Coleman



Andrea Maldon



Sister Mary Grace Walsh

Foundations in Education is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Trustees. Joining the Board, effective December 11, are George Coleman of Newtown, Andrea Maldon of Fairfield, and Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ of New Britain.

"Our new Trustees embody the spirit of community and bring talent and energy to the Board. They are joining a dedicated and mission-driven governing body and we are very fortunate to have their expertise as we continue to strengthen and transform Catholic education," said Holly Doherty-Lemoine, Executive Director of Foundations in Education.

George Coleman currently serves as an Early Childhood System Development Specialist at Cooperative Educational Services (CES) and holds graduate degrees in Early Childhood Education and Curriculum and Instruction from Teacher's College at Columbia University.

Prior to serving at CES, Coleman spent his 24-year career with the Connecticut State Department of Education, where he was twice named Acting Commissioner of Education. Coleman is credited with helping to establish the state's rationale for full-day kindergarten investment and with procuring the first state grant to support full-day kindergarten. Coleman also drafted the School Readiness Legislation and funding-level commitments, which now exceed \$200,000,000.

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## Innovation & Leadership Grants

In our historic inaugural year offering Innovation and Leadership Grants to teachers and school principals, Foundations in Education received 35 grant proposals from 17 of our Diocesan-sponsored Catholic schools. The grant requests submitted totaled \$235,859; available funding is \$105,000.

After careful review, the Innovation and Leadership Grants Committee will submit their recommendations for Board approval.

The grants promote innovation in Catholic school education by supporting teachers' creative and innovative projects for the classroom or school. Grants through this program are intended for school initiatives that promote innovation and leadership and have a long-term impact on student learning.

The grant application process was open from September 15 – October 31, 2017. These grants are part of Foundation's mission to strengthen and transform Catholic education.

Grant awardees will be announced in February at a reception hosted by the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano.



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## 2017-2018 Bishop's Scholarship Fund



FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION  
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Foundations in Education disbursed more than \$814,000 in tuition assistance to schools this month on behalf of families awarded financial aid through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund (BSF). This is the first of three distributions this academic year. The total amount of 2017-2018 tuition assistance realized nears \$2.5 million.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, the fund received more than 3,200 applications for tuition assistance and awarded \$2,500,000 to 1,300 students in K-8. Awards ranged from \$500-\$3,000 per student.

A composite of the average 2017-2018 award recipient includes:

- ◆ Household size = 3.6
- ◆ # of children in household = 2.2
- ◆ HH adjusted gross income=\$41,502

Tuition assistance is made possible through the generosity of donors who open the doorway to

life-changing, transformational Catholic education, which includes a caring community and a future full of opportunity and hope. Read what parents and students have to say about this opportunity.

*"I know that this scholarship will help me get one step closer to becoming an engineer which is my aspiration when I grow up."*  
- Patrick, Grade 8

*"If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have gone to my amazing school. Every day I think about how lucky I am to have this support."*  
- Vanessa, Grade 7

*"Thanks to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, my daughter was able to transition into Catholic school and experience a new self-image and motivation. I hope her story will help others look into Catholic school!"*  
- Mother of Nora, Grade 6

The BSF application process for the 2018-2019



academic year begins February 1, 2018 and runs to March 15 for returning families and April 15 for new families. There is no paper application for the 2018-2019 year; applicants must complete the online FACTS Grant & Aid application and answer all questions applicable to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund Application.

The mission of the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is to help families in need afford a Catholic education. For more information on how to apply for the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, visit us at: [www.foundationineducation.org](http://www.foundationineducation.org).

## GALA Chairs and Honorees Announced

We are pleased to announce that Mary Cingari Donovan and Tom Cingari are serving as the 2018 Gala Co-chairs.

Foundations in Education will honor business leader Dan McCarthy of Frontier Communications, retired educator and administrator Jo-Anne Jakab, and dedicated advocate and volunteer Roger Fox at the annual Spring Gala on April 19 at Woodway Country Club in Darien.

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano will present the awards at the event, which will bring together business, education, political and charitable leaders throughout Fairfield County. Proceeds will primarily benefit Foundations in Education in Bishop's Scholarship Fund, a major source of tuition assistance for families who wish to enroll their children in Catholic elementary schools.

The evening will get under way with a private honoree reception with Bishop Caggiano, followed by a 6 pm registration and cocktails and 7:00pm dinner and program.

The committee is being assembled and will be announced in January. Invitations will follow, as will sponsorship opportunities and ticket reservations.

Join us on April 19, 2019!

For more information, contact Karen Sportini at (203) 416-1671.



Foundations in Education

## Leaders of Tomorrow Give Thanks



In our first year, we are excited to facilitate communication between our 49 Leaders of Tomorrow scholarship recipients and their patrons.

Leaders of Tomorrow is a program of the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, which provides full (\$5,000), half (\$2,500) or quarter (\$1,250) tuition to students with demonstrated need, who are identified by their principals as students of strong academics, good character and leadership potential.

In celebration of Thanksgiving, our Leaders of Tomorrow scholars lovingly made personalized notes of thanks for their sponsors.

A reception will be held Friday, February 9 at the Catholic Center where donors and students will have the opportunity to meet in person for the first time. This inaugural Leaders of Tomorrow Breakfast Reception will allow scholarship recipients and donors alike to come together to witness and celebrate the learning and transformation of our Leaders of Tomorrow students.





Friends of Foundations in Education meet with Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano for a conversation focused on the transformational impact of Innovation and Leadership in today's Catholic schools. Special thanks to our hosts, Paula and Tom McNerney of Westport and Barbara and Peter Ripp of Greenwich.



## New Trustees Announced cont'd

Andrea Maldon, CPA currently serves on the Foundations in Education Audit Committee and recently retired after nineteen years with Lone Pine Capital LLC, a privately-owned hedge fund in Greenwich, CT. Maldon joined Lone Pine in 1998 as Controller, became Chief Financial Officer and most recently served as Managing Director of Internal Investor Services. Maldon graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Prior to Lone Pine, Andrea worked at Bowman Capital Management as an Accounting Manager for two years. Prior to Bowman Capital, she served as an auditor at Ernst & Young, LLP for three years.

Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ currently serves on the Innovation and Leadership Grants Committee at Foundations in Education and is transitioning to the Board of Trustees. At present, Walsh is the Provost for Education, Evangelization and Catechesis and the President of Saint Thomas Seminary in the Archdiocese of Hartford. She is an Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and holds a B.A. in

English from Albertus Magnus College, an M.A. in Educational Administration and Supervision from Saint Louis University and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration/Church Leadership from Fordham University.

Prior to serving the Archdiocese of Hartford, Sister Mary Grace was Deputy Superintendent, Superintendent and Secretary of Catholic Education and Faith Formation in the Diocese of Bridgeport, from July 2006 through December 2015. She also served as an elementary and secondary school teacher and administrator in seven arch/dioceses throughout the country in parochial, diocesan and religious congregation-sponsored schools.

The three new members join the existing Board of Trustees: Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, David Capiello, Robert Dilenschneider, Bradford Evans, Michael Hanlon, Lawrence Kudlow, Daniel McCarthy, Anne McCrory, Tom McNerney Julia McNamara, Joseph Purcell, Bernard Reidy, Gerard Robilotti, Robert Scinto, Michael Shea, and Holly Doherty-Lemoine, ex officio.

## Foundations in Education in Support of Catholic Schools' Strategic Plan



*Pictured from left to right: George Coleman, Michael Shea, Gerard Robilotti, Bishop Frank Caggiano, Barbara Ripp, Tom McNerney and Holly Doherty-Lemoine*

Board members and friends of Foundations in Education recently attended the unveiling of the new Diocesan Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools. This is the vision of Bishop Frank Caggiano and Superintendent Dr. Steven Cheeseman for the future of Catholic Schools and their road map for excellence.

## Bishop's Scholarship Fund Committee Hosts Information Session



*Pictured from left to right: Mike Byrnes, Elise Major, Patricia Zaccone, Bernard Reidy, Holly Doherty-Lemoine*

Principals, Bookkeepers and Tuition Assistance Committee (TAC) members from Diocesan Catholic Elementary Schools recently joined the Bishop's Scholarship Fund (BSF) Committee (pictured above) for an information session to discuss the upcoming 2018-2019 application process.

Jim Travers, a Tuition Assistance Committee member from St. James School in Stratford, said about the meeting, "It really helped me focus in and get a better overall picture of the process and the great care given to making it as fair as possible. The care is evident!"

## Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Rollover

Did you know? As of December 2015, federal law allows individuals 70<sup>1/2</sup> years of age and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to charity! The donation is not treated as taxable income and, moreover, counts toward the donor's required minimum distribution for that year. This gift transfer is called a "qualified charitable distribution (QCD)." Tax-savvy IRA account holders can now plan charitable giving in a more reliable way. When making charitable gift decisions, please be sure to consult with your financial advisor.

## SPRING GALA: Save the Date



Foundations in Education

APRIL 19, 2018  
6:00 PM

Woodway Country  
Club, Darien, CT

Please join Bishop Frank Caggiano, Mary Cingari Donovan, Tom Cingari and the Gala Committee for the 2018 Foundations in Education Gala to celebrate and support Catholic education. The Gala will be held at Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT on Thursday, April 19, 2018, beginning at 6 pm.

For sponsorship information or to learn more, contact Karen Sportini at [ksportini@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:ksportini@foundationsineducation.org) or call (203) 416-1671.

Foundations in Education is a non-profit organization created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport's ongoing mission to support Catholic education in Fairfield County.

Foundations in Education relies on the extraordinary generosity of our donors to make our programs possible and the promise of a Catholic education a reality for families across Fairfield County.

Your gift is an investment in the future of Catholic education. Transforming lives and building strong communities truly begins with you!

Please donate online at [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org) or call (203) 416-1671 for more ways to support our initiatives.

Give a gift that lasts a lifetime!  
Support Catholic Education



*Merry Christmas*

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e-newsletter!

Join our digital mailing list to receive the latest news and updates from Foundations in Education and future newsletters electronically. E-mail us at [info@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:info@foundationsineducation.org) and type "e-newsletter" in your subject line or visit [www.foundationsineducation.org/contact-us](http://www.foundationsineducation.org/contact-us).

We look forward to sharing more great news with you!



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Transforming Education*

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