

Foundations in Education is committed to strengthen and transform the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport by supporting innovation in academic and extra-curriculum programs, fostering opportunities for the professional development of school leaders in innovation and leadership and providing tuition assistance to families in need.

Dear Friends,

It is with great appreciation for the incredible opportunities your generous contributions have made possible for students and teachers in Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools that we share with you this newsletter. As the academic year winds down for the nearly 8,000 students enrolled, we thank you once again for making our schools accessible for low-income families with tuition assistance from the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, and for helping to keep our schools best-in-class by investing in innovation and leadership.

You will see from all that follows here, we continue to be busy in all aspects of the foundation from making new friends, meeting new donors and planning fun-filled events, to deliberating over tuition assistance for families and selecting our Innovation and Leadership grantees. All of this is done for the benefit of our students and none of this would be possible without your partnership! As you read through these pages, please know how grateful we are to you. Thank you and know we welcome your feedback. Let us know how you think we are doing and what more you would like to see in this newsletter.

May you and your family enjoy the last weeks of the academic year and have a happy and healthy summer.

With appreciation,

*Holly Doherty-Lemoine*

Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE  
Executive Director

## WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

### DIANE CANEVARI, ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Diane joined Foundations in Education in January, tasked with the administrative support of Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine as well as other initiatives that advance the organization's mission. Previously, Diane worked as Development Associate at New Beginnings Family Academy in Bridgeport where she spent five years writing grants and supporting fundraising efforts. Prior to that, she spent six years as Executive Assistant to both the Development Director and the Executive Director of New Beginnings. Diane holds a Bachelor's Degree in English with a Minor in Business from Sacred Heart University. She resides in Stratford and is a member of St. James Parish where she volunteers with their women's and music ministries.

"An excellent faith-based education is a great gift for students and families to experience. I am excited to be part of the work Foundations in Education does to support Catholic education and make it possible for many students to attend who might otherwise not have the opportunity," commented Diane.

### MICHELE MITOLA, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michele Mitola was appointed to the Foundations in Education Board of Trustees in December. Michele currently serves as Vice President, Strategic Planning and Development at the Children's Scholarship Fund in New York City, a non-profit that provides children of low-income families with tuition assistance. She earned her law degree from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and undergraduate degree from Union College in Schenectady, NY. She resides in Fairfield and is a member of St. Pius X Parish.

Mitola has extensive experience in the non-profit, public and private sectors, including over a decade of non-profit management and fundraising experience. She began her career working in the New York State Senate in Albany and worked in Washington, DC, in both the federal government and non-profit sectors. She moved to the New York City area to work for a Fortune 25 company, and prior to joining the Children's Scholarship Fund, served as Vice President for Public Affairs at Forum Strategies and Communications.

"I am honored to join the board and am passionate about ensuring all children have access to educational opportunities that can empower them to reach their full potential. I believe the Foundation's work initiatives are an important investment in our future," remarked Michele.



## GALA UPDATE

Thursday, April 11, ushered in an evening of fun and celebration for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Nearly 300 friends and guests, in fellowship and good will, attended Foundations in Education's annual Gala at Woodway Country Club. We honored Barbara and Brad Evans, Fairfield University and the Saint Joseph Catholic Academy Faculty and were inspired by the testimony made by 8th Grader, Joshua. We were collectively moved by his humility, grace and grit.

Our auctioneer, Pat Tully, electrified the room with his energy and wit, helping Foundations in Education raise \$300,000 from one-of-a-kind auction items and raise the paddle for Leaders of Tomorrow. Over \$1.3 million was raised overall to support Foundations in Education and most importantly to help in our mission to "Transform Lives through Education." This was our most successful event to date! Thank you to all who made the evening possible.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE OF APRIL 2, 2020 - AND JOIN US FOR NEXT YEAR'S EVENT!

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEO



Visit our Website:

[www.foundationsineducation.org/  
2019-foundations-education-video](http://www.foundationsineducation.org/2019-foundations-education-video)

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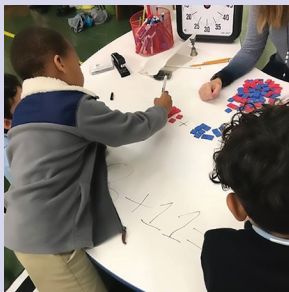
## TRANSFORMING THE PARADIGM OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*GREAT MINDS DON'T THINK ALIKE! As children created in the image and likeness of God, each student has unique gifts and talents and it is the responsibility of Catholic school educators to work with each child to reach their fullest God-given potential.*

Schools across the Diocese of Bridgeport are feeling the impact of Tom and Paula McInerney's \$5.5 million gift to Foundations in Education to *Transform the Paradigm of Catholic Education*. The overarching grant covers four distinct initiatives of which personalized learning is the focal point.

The Personalized Learning initiative launched this year with pilot programs at six schools will be rolled out to all Catholic elementary schools over the next three years. The best of Catholic schools' long tradition of academic excellence and faith-based moral development is augmented by cutting-edge learning technologies and instructional practices.

Educators personalize instruction to ensure all students achieve both academic and personal goals by establishing models where students work individually and in small groups to develop their skills at their readiness level and establish student-centered instructional routines in classrooms, typically a center-rotation model with student conferences.



Recent assessments show an increase in the number of students who are on or above grade level in Math and Reading. Students scoring above grade level in Reading increased by 25% from September to January and those in Math nearly doubled! Teachers and parents are anxiously awaiting the results of the year-end final assessment.



"Personalized learning offers students opportunities to work one-on-one with teachers and allows them to take their own path in learning," explained Teacher Assistant Lisa Sweeting. "If students miss something, they can go back and revisit that subject until they have really mastered it."

"My son has a specific learning plan based on his individual strengths which keeps him engaged and moves him ahead when he is ready," raved Parent Karen Ouchterloney.

Next steps of the program are to expand the next two cohorts of schools, while continuing to improve differentiated instruction so that each student is learning at a level and pace that is best for him/her. To do this, teachers will confer with students to understand their own data and to set and make plans to reach academic goals.

## INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP GRANTS

Foundations in Education recently announced twenty-six 2019-2020 grant awards totaling \$125,000 to benefit Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport. In its 2nd year, this competitive program remains the first of its kind to offer innovation and leadership grants to teachers and administrators. The grant program promotes excellence in Catholic education by supporting teachers' creative projects and their professional development. Grants funded through this program are intended for transformative initiatives that benefit multiple grade levels and have a long-term impact on student learning.



*Please read below for grant results of some of our 1st Cohort of Grant Awardees whose projects launched this year!*

### GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS

The grant award to St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull for Google Expeditions AR and VR kits has immensely aided teachers to channelize and bring out the mathematician, artist and scientist in every student, enhancing STEM education. Students use headsets to become immersed in a variety of learning experiences with 360-degree views of images or videos. Guided by their teacher, students simply turn their heads to look around in all directions as they travel anywhere in the world, without ever leaving the classroom.

With this grant, teachers spark the interest of students of all ages (Pre-K - 8th grade) by bringing abstract concepts to life. Students visualize and explore a wide variety of subject areas, spanning from the life cycle of a butterfly, to the solar system, to underwater life, to the prehistoric era, to American monuments and to presidential homes, to name just a few.



"These tools motivate teachers to break loose from the traditional techniques and adapt new modalities, widening the horizon of teaching," remarked Principal Eunice Giaquinto. "The students have been thoroughly enjoying the experience this has brought them. The excitement for learning has been wonderful to witness."

### PERFORMING ARTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Funds from this grant helped offset the cost of a Broadway experience for students at Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. For many, this was their first time taking a train, first time in New York City, first Broadway show, first workshop with a Broadway cast member, and first time staying out past midnight!

Students attended two Broadway shows, *Lion King* and *Aladdin*, had the opportunity to meet-and-greet cast members and attend behind-the-scene workshops. Students learned original Broadway choreography from *Lion King* cast member Pia Hamilton and learned to sing the Opening Number and dance the original Broadway choreography from *Aladdin* cast member Mike Cannon.

"We are very grateful for the opportunity to expose our students to the Arts at such a high level," commented Sally Hong, Grant Recipient, Dance Teacher and Former Radio City Rockette. "Notre Dame is very proud of our Arts in Catholic Education since it is a vehicle in which to reach our youth and connect them to their faith."



## CHRISTOPHER RIPP EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

Peter and Barbara Ripp's \$1 million gift to Foundations in Education to create the Christopher Ripp Early Learning Program in memory of their son represents a true legacy of selfless commitment to others. The early intervention program targets Pre-K students and piloted this year at St. Peter School in Danbury, where the student population is 90% Hispanic and Catholic.

The program also assists parents of 3-4 year olds, as the primary educators of their children, by providing them with tools to help nurture social, physical, emotional and academic growth in a faith-filled, family-centered learning community. Since September, families and children have been supported as they continue their academic and spiritual journey together. Through the celebration of



learning and the sharing of a meal, families are building community and joyfully following Jesus.

The program runs three days a week after school for a six-week session and is facilitated by certified staff members and volunteers from 3:00 - 5:30 pm. Activities for students include enrichment in Math,



Literacy, Spiritual Life, Art, Movement, and Community Building. Parent sessions, which occur three times during the six-week session and include family dinner, consist of activities partnered with their child and include adult-g geared discussions such as finance, nutrition and health.

"The impact of this important work is evident by looking at the joy on the faces of the students and the community that is being strengthened between home and school and within the family unit," explained St. Peter Principal Mary Lou Torre. "Students were especially excited this month to honor and crown our Blessed Mother Mary. They learned the Hail Mary, complete with gestures, and celebrated with a special treat. The next day, a parent shared that her daughter quietly recited the prayer over and over and when she made a mistake, she started from the beginning until she got it right!"



Next steps are to create opportunities to support learning at home and after-school programs focused on building self-confidence, while simultaneously strengthening academic, interpersonal, and social emotional skills.

## BISHOP'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund continues its mission to help families afford a Catholic Education. This month, Foundations in Education awarded:

- ◇ 1,382 K-8 students over \$2.5 million in tuition assistance, and
- ◇ 50 full, half or quarter *Leaders of Tomorrow* scholarships to students in recognition of their academics, character and leadership potential.



*"My family and I are so moved and humbled by the most generous scholarship for Lorenzo. Our prayers have been answered again. My family understands the importance of this gift. As a result, we will continue to pray for the blessings of this ministry and its countless donors."*

*- Parent of 2019-2020 Bishop's Scholarship Fund recipient*

### LITTLE BITS

The initial launch of this grant to Ms. Wilson at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield was a huge success! The after-school pilot program began in September 2018 with weekly meetings. Students worked in teams to build projects such as: *Make Something that Glows, Build a Moving Object, or Invent a Bubble Maker* (the students' favorite!) Students use a variety of recycled materials, tools and adhesives to create inventions that utilize the Little Bits power and mechanics.

Little Bits are versatile; they can be used in the classroom, in after-school programs, or even put together as kits for library checkout and home use. Plans for all of this are being formulated and put together for the 2019-2020 school year. Another goal for next year is to offer other schools the opportunity to borrow the kits for trial or just to share with the broader community.



"Little Bits really inspired me, because of all the cool gadgets and inventions we could make," remarked 4th Grader Ryan. "At the end of class, I would ask if we could wait for my mom to show up, so that I could show her what I created."

"Students enhance their skills in technology and engineering and exposure to such experiences can have a big impact on future career choice," added Adrienne Wilson, Grant Recipient and Librarian.



### CREATIVE CONNECTIONS RAINFOREST ART EXCHANGE

This grant awarded to Ms. Zachos allowed students at St. Mary School in Bethel the opportunity to connect with students living in the heart of the Guatemalan Rainforest. Partner classes created and exchanged art which allowed students to gain insight into both cultures. Classes participated in live video conferences where the dialogue focused on the vital connection between environment and culture.

This program provided students with the experience of a lifetime and the school with the materials to run this program successfully for the next few years.

"It is important to acknowledge that in our quest to create globally aware and morally courageous citizens, empathy and understanding of communities, culture environments and habitats are extremely important," commented Joanna Zachos, Grant Recipient and 3rd Grade Teacher. "Through this virtual field trip, students become adventurers, exploring rainforest creatures and habitats of Guatemala and the Amazon."







# FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION

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*Committed to Strengthening and  
Transforming the Mission of Catholic  
Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport*

[www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org)

## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Foundations in Education recently received a generous donation from The John and Ethel Kashulon Foundation. The foundation was formed by Mrs. Ethel Kashulon, who was determined to continue to make a difference in the lives of others, particularly those in Bridgeport and the surrounding areas, long after her time here on earth. The mission of the Kashulon Foundation is to improve people's lives through the funding of programs whose mission and projects align with its three unified goals of enhancing educational, children's and cultural opportunities.

Ethel Orco Kashulon was a lifelong Bridgeport resident until her passing in 2017. She graduated from Saints Cyril and Methodius Commercial High School and began working at the Bridgeport Housing Authority, where she was recognized as being their longest serving employee, retiring at age seventy after fifty-three years of employment. For many years, Mrs. Kashulon also worked at the family business, Kashulon's Market, on Sheridan Street in Bridgeport. Devout Catholics, she and her husband, John Kashulon, had been active members of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport for over fifty years. Mrs. Kashulon had the foresight to create a legacy that would live on to help future generations in perpetuity and created the Foundation in her estate plans.

The Board of The John and Ethel Kashulon Foundation presented Foundations in Education a gift of \$10,000 to support Bishop's Scholarship Fund, along with an invitation to submit future grant requests in innovation and tuition assistance. Martin McLaughlin, the family's long term investment advisor and President of the Foundation, said the sizeable Kashulon estate was formed from the family's equity investments spanning over 25 years.



*Ethel and John Kashulon circa 1953,  
the beginning of a legacy!*

Ethel's example begs the question . . .

## What Will Your Legacy Be?

*To learn about planned giving opportunities with Foundations in Education, please contact Holly Doherty-Lemoine at [holly@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:holly@foundationsineducation.org) or by calling 203.416.1642.*