

Foundations in Education Inc 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,

As spring is in full bloom, my heart is warmed by the activity across our schools. Yet, our students are not the only ones busy! The team at Foundations in Education has been bursting with activity. Bishop’s Scholarship Fund applications set a record number this year! Applications opened February 1st and a surge of parents have applied for tuition assistance so their children may attend Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Kudos to our scholarship committee, led by Trustee Bernie Reidy, in working through this record number of applications. We are currently in the process of making awards for next year and find the demonstrated need of our applicant families increased significantly. To date, the need increased by 20% from \$7.9 million to a whopping \$9.5 million! The economic realities are taking their toll on the most vulnerable of our neighbors and we are grateful to our donors for their generosity in helping make the \$2.9 million in Bishop’s Scholarship funds available.

Speaking of generosity, I would be remiss if I didn’t extend a HUGE thank you to the hundreds of donors and sponsors of the 2023 Gala, “Let there be bright!” A record-breaking effort, the Gala raised over \$1.3 million. We also achieved a record 107 Leaders of Tomorrow through our Raise the Paddle effort, which will make a significant difference in the lives of our students. One donor said, “What I love about this [Leaders of Tomorrow] program is the students we sponsor know it isn’t only their parents, but all of us rooting for them.” Amen!

There is much more to share, from our Innovation and Leadership Grants to our recent board retreat. I invite you to read through this newsletter and know that all that we do is possible because of your generosity. On behalf of our students, families, teachers and staff, thank you, thank you, thank you!

With appreciation and best wishes,

*Holly Doherty Lemoine*  
 Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE  
 Executive Director

## GALA RAISES OVER \$1.3 MILLION

Foundations in Education (FIE) hosted their premiere fundraiser “Let there be bright!” on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Woodway Country Club in Darien. More than 220 gathered in support of the Foundation’s mission to strengthen and transform the mission of Catholic education across Fairfield County.



FIE surpassed the fundraising goal, raising over \$1.3 million and raising support for a record-breaking number of Leaders of Tomorrow. Proceeds support FIE and most notably the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund tuition assistance, which strives to make Catholic education more affordable for families.

The gala committee, chaired by Jennifer and Christopher St. Victor-de Pinho, prepared a wonderful celebration of Catholic education and raised visibility and support for Foundations in Education.

Guests enjoyed a gourmet meal and a lively program including a live auction by Inspire Hearts’ Bobby D and “Raise the Paddle” to support student scholarships, all while enjoying each other’s company and supporting a great cause. The event also included an awards presentation of distinguished contributors to Catholic education.

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## SPRING GALA CONT'D

The 2023 Gala Honorees included:

- **Ned & Cindy Lautenbach and The Lautenbach Family Foundation** in recognition of their extraordinary philanthropy to Catholic Education.
- **Helen Burland**, Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs Executive Director, in recognition of her inspiring leadership of Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs and her commitment to transforming students and Catholic Education.



*"Our honorees give of themselves all while embodying Christ's love in action. We are delighted to celebrate them through this event."* - Holly Doherty-Lemoine

### FIE CELEBRATES RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The evening began with members of the Children's Choir at Saint Mary School in Ridgefield leading guests from the cocktail reception to the grand ballroom with their angelic voices. Under the direction of Mrs. Weinheimer, the students performed *Christ Be Our Light* and *This Little Light of Mine*.



Greenwich Catholic Eighth Grade Leader of Tomorrow student scholar and featured speaker, Daniella, was the highlight of the event and shared her own personal experience:

*"I cannot express the impact donors have made in my life and how allowing me to continue my Catholic education has helped me form into a scholar and a faithful disciple."*

Foundations in Education is thankful to the many "Let there be bright!" Gala supporters, whose continued investment in the future leaders and lights of the world make all the difference. To find out how your donation can transform lives, visit [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).



## FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION HONORED

Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine was honored to receive the St. Katharine Drexel Award on behalf of Foundations In Education at the 1st Annual Angel Benefit at All Saints Catholic School, Norwalk.



*"The mission of Foundations In Education, Inc. is truly aligned with St. Katharine's life ministry and commitment to serving the less fortunate and advancing Catholic education. I am honored to receive the St. Katharine Drexel Award on behalf of Foundations In Education, Inc."*

## FEATURED SCHOLARSHIPS

Foundations in Education is pleased to partner with donors who wish to impact the lives of students by funding tuition assistance initiatives. Special thanks to:

**The JS Howe Family Foundation** for their New Student Scholarship that promotes the consideration of Catholic education by families currently at public schools.

**Mary Alice and Thomas O'Malley** for their scholarship for children of current Greenwich/Stamford Police Officers and Firefighters and Nurses at Greenwich/Stamford Hospital who wish to attend a Diocese of Bridgeport sponsored high school. This year marked a record number of applicants!

## FIE BOARD RETREAT

Foundations in Education's (FIE's) Trustees met Friday, April 21 at the lovely Convent of St. Birgitta in Darien, Connecticut for a full day retreat. In its seventh year, the organization leadership felt it was time to take a step back and evaluate our mission and programs. Facilitated by Joseph Reardon, the day was deemed a success by the attendees.

Following mass offered by Bishop Frank Caggiano, the Trustees met in a large session, then broke out in smaller groups to tackle some challenges the organization faces. Several of the questions addressed include recruiting new board members, leadership development, identifying committee volunteers, prioritizing FIE programs beginning with scholarship and refining what our innovation and leadership grants program will look like going forward. Finally, the group considered the best way to have the greatest impact supporting Catholic education across the Diocese and Fairfield County with limited funding.

It has been seven years since Foundations in Education's Board met on retreat. April 21st provided the perfect occasion. Thank you to The Bridgettines who hosted the day and to the Trustees who participated. Our facilitator Joseph Reardon remarked, "The Trustees' open and honest engagement made the retreat work."

"We don't necessarily know what lies ahead," said Holly Doherty-Lemoine. "We do know that we have amazing and talented Trustees on our board who will be leading us on the journey. I am exceedingly grateful to each of our Trustees for the talent, time, treasure and trust they give us!"



It was unanimously agreed that tuition assistance through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, Leaders of Tomorrow and other donor provided tuition assistance remain the greatest priority. This year to date, the demonstrated need of our applicant families increased by 20%, from \$7.9 million to \$9.5 million!

To learn more about volunteering on one of the Board committees or as a Trustee or if you are interested in making a donation to support this important ministry, please visit [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).

Many of our Diocesan schools participated by creating table centerpiece decorations, which were auctioned off later that evening.





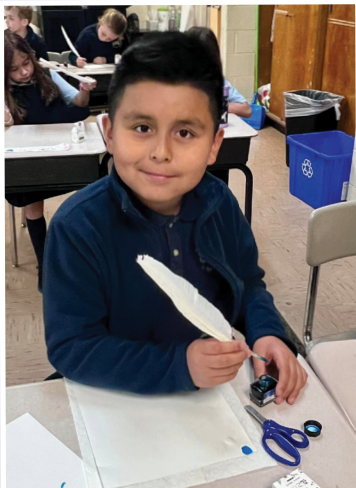
## FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION

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*Transforming Lives Through Catholic  
Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport*

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

### STEWARD YOUR BLESSINGS FOR YEARS TO COME



#### ***HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHAT YOUR LEGACY MAY BE?***

As Catholics, there are many ways to be a steward of your blessings and God's love. One significant way to do so is by creating an estate plan.

Foundations in Education partners with FreeWill, a secure online estate planning resource, that makes it simple to make or update your will, protect yourself and your loved ones, and steward the resources God has entrusted to your care. All this in as little as 20 minutes! You can even include an optional legacy donation to secure the future of Foundations in Education.

**LOG ONTO [WWW.FREEWILL.COM/BRIDGEPORTDIOCESE](http://WWW.FREEWILL.COM/BRIDGEPORTDIOCESE) TODAY!**

Your gift will provide the resources necessary to meet our shared mission of transforming lives through Catholic education for future generations.

To find out more, please contact Holly Doherty-Lemoine at 203-416-1642 or [Holly@FoundationsInEducation.org](mailto:Holly@FoundationsInEducation.org).

