

1332 N. Massasoit Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60651-1108  
Ph: 773.626.2655  
Fax: 773.626.8156  
www.saintangela.org

## St. Angela School

**Patron: Michael and Lindy Keiser**

St. Angela is a mainstay in the Austin community, just east of Oak Park. Though it originated as a parish school, the St. Angela Parish is now non-existent.

St. Angela serves roughly 200 African-American preschool through eighth grade students, 90 percent of whom qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program.

The school serves an important need in the Austin community for a safe place for children to learn and grow, and upholds its reputation and history of excellence, particularly in writing. With more than 30 years as principal in low-income African-American Catholic schools, Sr. Mary Finnegan has championed writing as a gift for the students, who are perennial winners of various writing contests.

Given the school's important mission, Big Shoulders Fund matched the school with a number of caring benefactors who are actively involved as a board in keeping St. Angela open and vibrant.

The board not only helps with funding, they are actively involved in

helping the school address specific needs. Since the Patrons relationship began, they've initiated:

- Tuition assistance
- Technology enhancements
- Marketing activities, including hiring a marketing and development director to aid enrollment efforts
- Building maintenance, including assistance in replacing the school's roof

This committed board works with an equally committed principal to ensure that the students – and the school – succeed.

“The Patrons Program has provided opportunities which would otherwise be inaccessible to enhance the educational environment and to strengthen the stability of the school, said Sr. Finnegan. “I hope the students continue to achieve all that they are capable of in all areas, especially academically and spiritually.” «



“I got involved with the Patrons Board because of the work St. Angela does and its commitment to the inner-city children. We couldn't keep this school open without the help of Big Shoulders. The students at St. Angela are tremendous writers thanks to the training and commitment of the nuns who work all day and grade papers all night. There is a great spirit of love, respect and discipline, and it allows a wonderful education to take place.”

- Patrick Mahoney, Chairperson, Board of St. Angela's