

2252 W. Washington Blvd.  
Chicago, Ill. 60612-2236  
Ph: 312.733.2252  
Fax: 312.733.5703

# St. Malachy School

Patron: The Cooney Family

St. Malachy serves a predominantly African-American student population of approximately 250 close to the United Center on Chicago's near west side. Ninety-five percent of its preschool through eighth grade students qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program.

The area surrounding St. Malachy is undergoing a change...mixed-income housing units are being built to replace former Chicago Housing Authority residences, including housing units for low-income families. But the neighborhood is still rough.

Recognizing the need to keep this the school open, in 2002, Rev. John Smyth became a Patron for St. Malachy. In addition to funding, he provided guidance for the children and utilized his resources to address specific needs, including:

- Tuition assistance for students
- Operating assistance

St. Malachy has also enjoyed a generous sharing Parish – Holy

Cross Parish in Deerfield, which raises funds each year for the school, and provides:

- Volunteer tutors
- Mentors
- Parishioners who volunteer their time at St. Malachy to take on maintenance activities ranging from small fixes to re-flooring the school's auditorium and fixing its boiler.

These Patrons relationships are not only critical for funding support, but also for the dedicated time and talent they contribute to keep St. Malachy open as a safe haven for the area's children. In 2007, the Cooney Family became a Patron to sustain the funding part of the equation, working with the existing, dedicated Patrons Board. Already next year, St. Malachy looks forward to introducing a Spanish class and a teacher-aid with the additional funds. «



**“The [Big Shoulders Fund] Patrons Program has kept our doors open and allowed the school to increase enrollment. In addition, it has provided the financial stability to pay for educational materials, allowing us to update textbooks regularly, along with providing the most up-to-date technology. The Patrons Program is an investment in the future of our students so that they can go beyond high school and college to become responsible, Christian citizens of the city and of the world.”**

**- Ms. Bridgid Miller, Principal, St. Malachy**