

Big Shoulders Fund.

2008 YEAR-END REVIEW.

June 1, 2007 to July 31, 2008



**Big
Shoulders
Fund.**

Money is tight. That's never been more true than right now for working families in the inner-city. However, there are some investments that yield returns not in accumulated wealth but are measurable nonetheless. Returns that can be measured in lives changes and communities built. **Why invest in strangers?** Why, indeed. When we offer our help without reservation, without prejudice, it is so much more likely to go where it's needed. Which may not always be in our own backyard. In fact, when it comes to education, our investments are often a process rather than a destination. So, **Why invest in teaching?** Because professional development yields dividends that never stop. Teachers at the height of their craft can even leverage a tiny spark into real change in the classroom. Into inspiration that can change a life forever. **Why invest now?** To change a life forever, there's no time like the present. No time like now to put your support behind a proven plan, a program that's up and running and showing results today. And there's no child like the one that's full of promise, bursting with desire to show how a well-placed push can propel untold success.



Why invest in strangers?

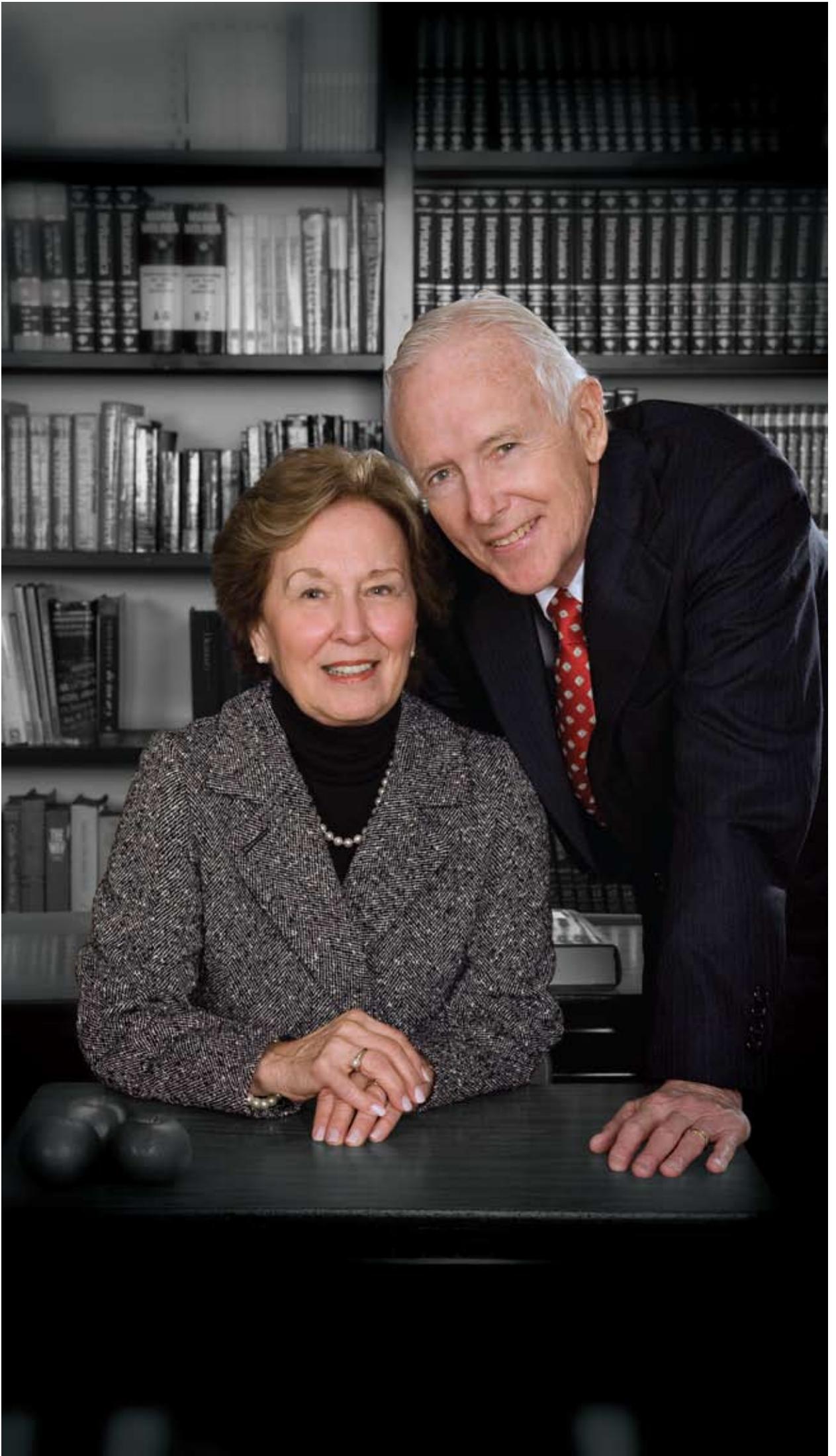
Beth & Bruce White

As parents of three children, we get to see firsthand what high quality teachers and abundant educational resources can do. We know that when we were deciding where to send our children to school, we wanted to find a place that provided them with the best opportunity to build their own dreams and success.

Across the city from our front door, there is a school on the south side of Chicago with 205 students. Ninety-seven percent of the children come from families who earn less than \$33,000 a year for a family of four. Until a year ago, they could not go to gym or have lunch outside of their own classroom because the basement cafeteria flooded regularly and was simply unusable.

We were lucky enough to see this problem get fixed and be a part of the solution. However, that same school benefits just as much from simple and small contributions – a ream of copier paper, a piece of computer software, screens for classroom windows, or the time an adult mentor takes to get to know a child's favorite book is *Harry Potter*. A simple, small contribution can be the catalyst for a positive change, the determining factor in a young student's life.

The Big Shoulders Fund has opportunities open right now to make this difference, no matter what you're able to contribute, no matter how you're able to help. We are proud of our involvement with Big Shoulders, because we know that we have 208 kids – on the south side and in our home – counting on us to lead by example.



Why invest in teaching?

Rosemary & John Croghan

We all can point to a moment when a great teacher changed how we look at the world and how we operate in it. The moment when the brilliance of a classic book became clear or a career path was chosen.

There's plenty of empirical data to suggest that such an encounter has a high likelihood of happening in a Big Shoulders Fund school where graduation rates are nearly 100 percent. Maybe that's because it is in these inner-city, Catholic schools, that the Big Shoulders Fund provides significant resources for teacher development.

Academic achievement, test scores and other success rates indicate that great teaching, powerful teaching, is contingent first on the talent of that lonely individual standing in front of a classroom of eager, hungry young minds. Try it some time. You'll see.

But to inspire those minds, teachers must be inspired. That doesn't necessarily mean a hefty paycheck. It means exposure to new ideas, new methods of teaching. Investing in teachers says that we value your work, your intellect and your commitment. It builds morale and breeds success.

We are happy to know that Big Shoulders makes a major investment in professional growth and programmatic enrichment. In addition, they support leadership development for the next generation and incentive awards for principals and teachers.

All of this commitment makes sure those brilliant encounters have the best chance of happening every day in a Big Shoulders school.



Why invest now?

Clarisol & Omar Duque

As kids growing up on Chicago's North Side, there was never a doubt in our minds that great opportunities lay ahead. Our parents immigrated to Chicago from Mexico and Guatemala to live a better life and provide a better future for their children. Our parents sacrificed to send us to Catholic schools; first to Maternity BVM and St. Edward elementary schools and later to Good Counsel and Holy Cross high schools. They did so because they wanted what we learned in school to compliment the values we were being taught at home.

We learned about the importance of hard work, about responsibility and about service. Our education and those values have served us well and brought us great success professionally making our parents dreams a reality.

Today we now look to instill those same values in our daughter. And as we ourselves now sacrifice for her future, we also recognize the families who need perhaps just a little boost to help make a great Catholic education possible.

As busy professionals, too often we plan for the distant future, failing to recognize there are important investments to be made today. Right now, there's an opportunity to change a life, to open a mind to new possibilities and to give another child the benefit of a great education.

The Big Shoulders Fund has plans in place, plans with proven outcomes that are simply waiting for appropriate funding to move forward. Be a part of the change. Mentor a child, adopt a school to help build a long-term strategy, start a scholarship or just be a part of the great success. Invest in our city, invest in our future, invest in the Big Shoulders Fund today.

“Positive MOMENTUM is building in the 93 Big Shoulders Fund schools.”



pictured left to right: Monsignor Kenneth Velo/President. James J. O'Connor/Co-Chairman. John A. Canning, Jr./Co-Chairman.

“Families living on the margins are struggling, but they have HOPE.”

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Now more than ever, the mission of the Big Shoulders Fund is the most effective effort we can support for the future of Chicago’s inner-city children. As you page through this report, when you visit one of our schools, or perhaps when you participate in our annual *Lend a Shoulder Day*, we know that you will be inspired by the children and the people – teachers, Patrons, mentors and donors – who make a difference in their lives.

Positive MOMENTUM is building in the 93 Big Shoulders Fund schools. Evidence of this is that we have had three years with none of our schools closing, two years in a row with the best outcomes in enrollment in over a decade, and now this year a record setting 5,000 children receiving Big Shoulders Fund scholarships – double the number from only four years ago. Despite severe economic challenges, schools, families and Big Shoulders are finding ways to provide the opportunity for a superior education.

Families living on the margins are struggling, but they have HOPE. They are hopeful about their children’s future because of the quality education they are receiving. They know that the children who attend the Big Shoulders Fund schools continue to succeed at record pace, regardless of racial, ethnic, religious or academic background. 96 percent of the students graduate from high school and, of those, 87 percent go on to college. Hope for the future of our city and nation resides in the 1,513 seniors who graduated last year and the 1,792 eighth graders that finished elementary schools who mainly entered Catholic high schools and selective public schools.

To follow through on the promise of this momentum and the hope of so many parents, ACTION is required. Big Shoulders is taking action to go beyond simple remedies to strike at the systemic issues to ensure schools are excellent and viable for generations to come. Whether it is by building a strategic plan for a school on the south side or mentoring an immigrant student on the north side, the collective efforts are changing the tide of opportunity for families who too often feel locked into poverty-stricken communities. In contrast to recent national headlines, the inner-city Catholic schools in Chicago are staying open, building enrollment and improving academic performance.

Through your generous partnership, the efforts of our students, and the commitment of so many teachers, principals and parents, nearly 25,000 children are studying in safe and caring schools, which saves taxpayers over \$250 million each year. On behalf of the children we serve, we hope you will keep the momentum going through your many actions to ensure that they will continue to have access to a high-quality education in Chicago’s inner-city. We are so grateful.

“To follow through on the promise of this momentum and the hope of so many parents, ACTION is required.”

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2008 and 2007

2008 2007

ASSETS

CASH/CASH EQUIVALENTS:	\$9,167,557	\$9,055,785
INVESTMENTS	38,114,969	40,752,197
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE—Net	6,062,259	7,224,489
OTHER ASSETS	52,036	47,710
TOTAL	\$53,396,821	\$57,080,181

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

PLEDGES/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$4,892,155	\$6,718,446
DEFERRED REVENUE	269,895	197,385
Total liabilities	5,162,050	6,915,831

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted	31,533,161	33,626,563
Temporarily restricted	12,211,608	12,070,344
Permanently restricted	4,490,002	4,467,443
Total net assets	48,234,771	50,164,350

TOTAL	\$53,396,821	\$57,080,181
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FISCAL 2008

1,100 Donors contributed funds in fiscal year 2008.

39 Schools serving **8,388** students received operating grants.

3,863 Students at **115** schools received scholarships.

100% of unrestricted donations are used for program expenses.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the years ended June 30, 2008 and 2007

REVENUES:

Contributions
(net of School Major Gift Campaign contributions)

Net special event revenue

Net investment return
(excluding School Major Gift Campaign)

Less amounts designated to other organizations by donors

Net assets released from restrictions

Total revenues

EXPENSES:

Program expense

Management expense

Fund-raising expense

Total expenses

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS – Beginning of year

NET ASSETS – End of year

SUMMARIES OF EXPENSES

For the years ended June 30, 2008 and 2007

Operating, capital, and other grants

Scholarships

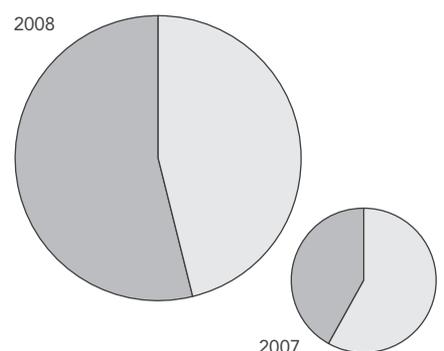
Administrative expenses

Total expenses

Note: The statements of activities and the summaries of expenses exclude revenue

CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONOR TYPE

- Individuals
- Foundations & Corporations



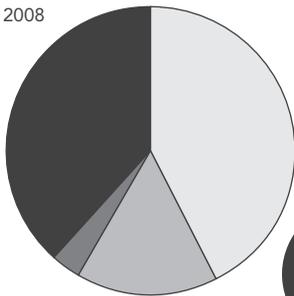
				2008					2007
Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted		Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted		Total
\$4,740,673	\$6,793,597	\$19,434		\$11,553,704	\$3,511,630	\$5,753,205	\$142,891		\$9,407,726
882,428				882,428	164,124				164,124
(2,685,223)	15,538	3,125		(2,666,560)	6,383,043	21,121			6,404,164
	(1,112,105)			(1,112,105)		(452,382)			(452,382)
5,555,766	(5,555,766)				4,019,952	(4,019,952)			
8,493,644	141,264	22,559		8,657,467	14,078,749	1,301,992	142,891		15,523,632
9,891,403				9,891,403	7,599,027				7,599,027
453,910				453,910	364,745				364,745
241,733				241,733	315,833				315,833
10,587,046				10,587,046	8,279,605				8,279,605
(2,093,402)	141,264	22,559		(1,929,579)	5,799,144	1,301,992	142,891		7,244,027
33,626,563	12,070,344	4,467,443		50,164,350	27,827,419	10,768,352	4,324,552		42,920,323
\$31,533,161	\$12,211,608	\$4,490,002		\$48,234,771	\$33,626,563	\$12,070,344	\$4,467,443		\$50,164,350
Program Expenses	Management Expenses	Fund-Raising Expenses		Total	Program Expenses	Management Expenses	Fund-Raising Expenses		Total
\$5,416,581				\$5,416,581	\$4,442,029				\$4,442,029
4,032,265				4,032,265	2,952,100				2,952,100
442,557	\$ 453,910	\$ 241,733		1,138,200	204,898	\$ 364,745	\$ 315,833		885,476
\$9,891,403	\$453,910	\$241,733		\$10,587,046	\$7,599,027	\$364,745	\$315,833		\$8,279,605

Notes and expenses relating to the School Major Gift Campaign, which was a special fund-raising campaign administered by Big Shoulders Fund on behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

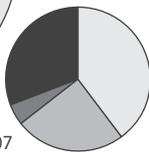
GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS BY TYPE

- Scholarships
- Operating Grants
- Capital Grants
- Other Grants

2008



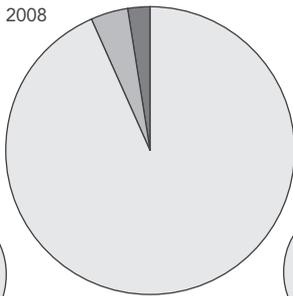
2007



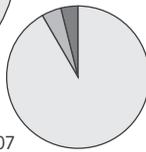
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

- Program Expense
- Management Expense
- Fund-raising Expense

2008



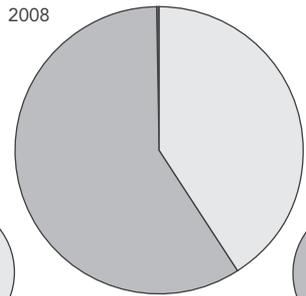
2007



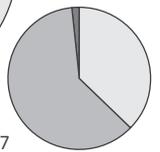
CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF RESTRICTION

- Unrestricted
- Temporarily Restricted
- Permanently Restricted

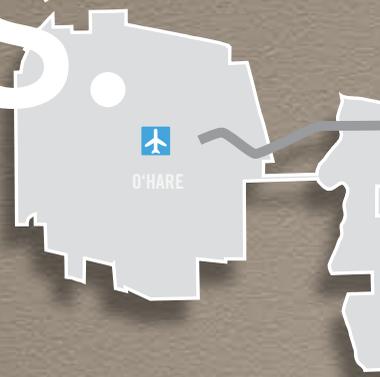
2008



2007



Schools



BSF Patron Schools

1. St. Matthias Transfiguration
2. St. Thomas of Canterbury
3. St. Mary of the Lake
4. St. Ladislaus
5. St. Genevieve
6. St. Angela
7. St. Catherine of Siena/St. Lucy
8. St. Hyacinth
9. Our Lady of Grace
10. Maternity BVM
11. St. Sylvester
12. St. John Berchmans
13. St. Mary of the Angels
14. St. Stanislaus Kostka
15. St. Helen
16. St. Nicholas Ukrainian
17. St. Malachy
18. St. Agatha Catholic Academy
19. Children of Peace
20. Epiphany
21. St. Agnes of Bohemia
22. Our Lady of Tepeyac
23. St. Ann
24. St. Paul/Our Lady Vilna
25. St. Pius V
26. St. Procopius
27. St. Therese
28. St. Barbara
29. Santa Lucia
30. Holy Angels
31. St. Elizabeth
32. St. Gabriel
33. San Miguel – Back of the Yards
34. Pope John Paul II
35. St. Gall
36. Our Lady of the Snows
37. St. Turibius
38. Nativity BVM
39. Academy of St. Benedict – Laflin
40. Visitation
41. St. Thomas the Apostle
42. St. Columbanus
43. St. Philip Neri
44. St. Dorothy
45. St. Etherelda
46. St. Margaret of Scotland
47. St. Helena of the Cross
48. St. John De LaSalle
49. St. Ailbe
50. Immaculate Conception
51. St. Michael
52. Our Lady of Guadalupe
53. Annunciata
54. St. Walter



BSF Schools

55. St. Florian
56. Our Lady of the Gardens
57. Sacred Heart
58. St. Sabina
59. St. Bede the Venerable
60. Queen of the Universe
61. St. Symphorosa
62. St. Mary Star of the Sea
63. St. Nicholas of Tolentine
64. Academy of St. Benedict
the African – Stewart
65. St. Richard
66. St. Bruno
67. Bridgeport Catholic Academy
68. San Miguel – Gary Comer
69. St. William
70. St. Ferdinand
71. St. Pascal
72. St. Bartholomew
73. St. Viator
74. St. Andrew
75. Northside Catholic Academy

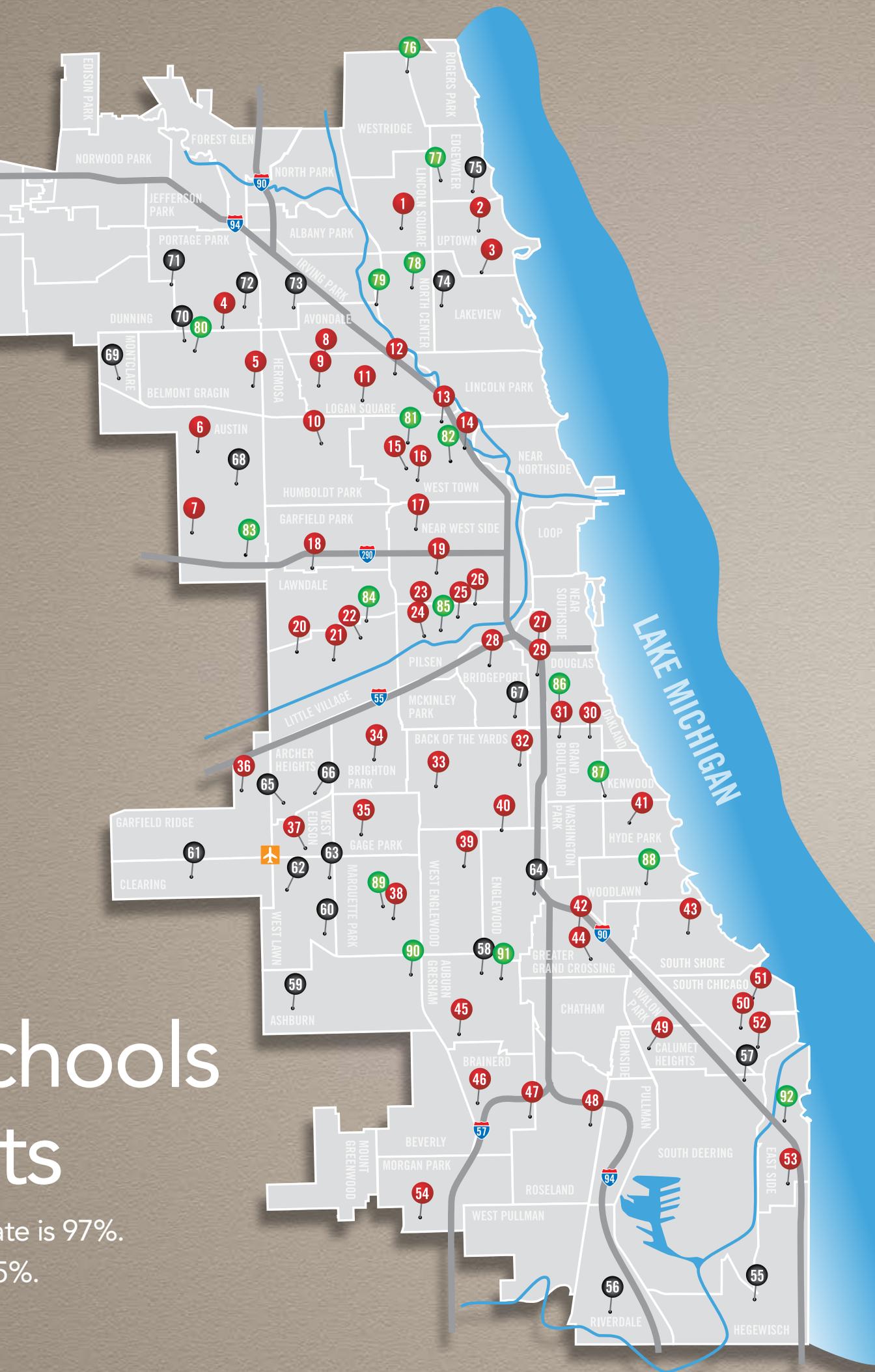


BSF High Schools

76. St. Scholastica Academy
77. St. Gregory the Great High School
78. St. Benedict High School
79. Gordon Tech High School
80. Notre Dame High School for Girls
81. Josephinum Academy
82. Holy Trinity High School
83. Christ the King College Prep
84. Our Lady of Tepeyac High School
85. Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
86. De LaSalle Institute
87. Hales Franciscan High School
88. Mount Carmel High School
89. Maria High School
90. St. Rita of Cascia High School
91. Leo High School
92. St. Francis de Sales High School

93 Inner-city Schools
25,000 Students

The elementary school student attendance rate is 95%
The high school student attendance rate is 95%



Schools ts

ate is 97%.
5%.

Partners.



A New Vision for Teachers: Inner-City Teaching Corps

Pat Ryan, Jr. certainly wasn't short on vision and drive when he launched a sort of Peace Corps for inner-city Catholic schools more than 15 years ago.

But in getting his fledgling idea off the ground, Ryan faced enormous challenges. First, he had to recruit talented college graduates to teach in high-poverty communities, where violence and gangs were constants.

Then he had to convince principals that his young and inexperienced teachers could handle the many obstacles they'd face to bring energy, dedication and fresh ideas to their classrooms.

With the help of start-up money and annual funding from the Big Shoulders Fund, Ryan accomplished all of that, exceeding the expectations of principals and educational leaders. As a result, his Inner City Teaching Corps (ICTC) – with the steady backing of Big Shoulders – has transformed the lives of countless teachers, students and principals.

The partnership between the two organizations over the years is a key reason why many of Chicago's financially struggling Catholic schools have not only survived but thrived.

Nearly 250 ICTC teachers have devoted themselves to Big Shoulders schools that had previously struggled to find qualified candidates. ICTC teachers are not necessarily education majors, but many feel called to help the underserved. In the summer prior to their teaching year, they start intense training with Northwestern University education courses. Once school begins, they continue coursework at night and teach during the day. Throughout their two years, they also live in a home with their fellow ICTC teachers and survive on a modest

\$150 monthly stipend. By the end of two years, they can earn a master's degree in education.

In the program's early years, some principals worried about the teachers' youth and inexperience. How would they handle students with complex needs, such as single-parent households, two working parents, and high poverty? Did it make sense to hire teachers who could be gone after two years?

But over time, many of the worries went away. The dedication and talent of the ICTC teachers – carefully recruited and selected by Ryan's staff – have won the principals over.

"All of the sudden we had a pool of talented, professional and energetic people asking to teach here instead of us doing all the asking," said St. Malachy Principal Bridgid Miller, whose school was one of the first to sign on with ICTC. "And with them, they bring such vitality and all kinds of resources."

To strengthen his work, Ryan's ICTC has expanded. He now has a program for mid-career professionals to teach in Chicago Public Schools and the Big Shoulders Fund schools. Ryan also opened a public charter school, Alain Locke Charter Academy, that serves a similar mission, bringing devoted and inspired teachers to a high-poverty neighborhood.

Josh Hale, executive director of Big Shoulders, hopes the ICTC teacher base will grow tremendously in future years because the teachers are in such high demand.

"Pat Ryan's hard work and absolute will to make this program successful provides value beyond measure," Hale said. "He didn't just cast a net for new teachers; he cast it for the best teachers, and failure just wasn't an option."

Celebrating Success: The Polk Brothers Leadership Incentive Awards

Each year since 1992, the Polk Bros. Leadership Incentive Award Program has allowed some exemplary Big Shoulders schools to fund vital services and programs that aren't part of their regular budgets. This past school year, the \$250,000 grant allowed 20 schools to each use \$12,500 in funds for a variety of school programs.

With the awards, schools purchased educational materials that enlivened and enriched the classroom. Some schools bought art and science program enhancements and other necessary books and supplies. Others used the funds to help purchase reading and math programs that provide regular, timely feedback for teachers and students to improve instruction and individualized education. In other cases, the funds provided tuition assistance to needy families.

Teachers and principals who received the awards said the extra support was key in their efforts to provide top-notch programs. Among the recipients was Peggy Roketenetz, principal of St. John Berchmans School in Logan Square. Roketenetz and St. John Berchmans were recognized for their efforts to increase enrollment, serve students from low income families and their efforts to be fiscally responsible.

Her school used the funds to add to their technology program with an online accelerated reading program. St. John Berchmans also bought extra supplies for their interactive white boards and offered tuition assistance to struggling families. Roketenetz called the grant "an amazing honor for which we are truly grateful."

Programs.

Maximizing the School Day through Out of School Time

At some Big Shoulders Fund schools, children may be at school for as many as 13 hours straight, starting with early morning care and extending through after school care and sports practices.

That's certainly the case at St. Helen's School in Ukrainian Village, where Principal Marianne Johnson sees some children arriving at 7 a.m., staying through the extended day program that ends at 6 p.m., then moving on to basketball practice before leaving at 8:30 p.m.

In the high-poverty areas that the Big Shoulders Fund serves, the extended hours are often a necessity for working parents holding multiple jobs. With such long hours at school, high-quality after school programs are even more important.

Through a partnership with the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, People's Energy and Union Pacific, Big Shoulders has worked for several years to improve after school programming. Over the past year, 30 schools received funding to enhance their programs, allowing Big Shoulders to reach more than 2,700 students.

Schools have used the funds for a variety of projects, including individualized tutoring, books and software, creative arts resources, and language instruction.

Big Shoulders Fund has also received support, in particular from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, to work with Learning Point Associates, an educational consulting group. They evaluate after school programs and work with administrators and teachers to strengthen them.

For example, schools might set up an outdoor garden rather than have children fill out a stack of worksheets after school, says Carol McElvain, a senior program associate at Learning Point Associates and an expert in after school programming. In this way, after school programs may more directly connect to daily learning standards, McElvain said.

St. Helen's has been among the schools to gradually expand after school offerings with the help of Big Shoulders. The added funding allowed Johnson to hire certified teachers for the Extended Day program. It also enabled the school to establish two different after-school areas, offering age-appropriate activities to both younger and older students.

Roughly 40 percent of students at St. Helen's use the after school program, totaling more than 140 children each school day. Because so many children use the program, Johnson was committed to enhancing it.

At St. Helen's, students get homework help for an hour and there are 10 different after school activities to choose from. There's foreign language practice as well as a variety of clubs to fit different interests, from science and math to earth and service clubs.

Most importantly, making extended day programs a lot more than glorified babysitting is well worth the effort, McElvain says. Initial results from the Big Shoulders programs indicated that students who participate in after-school programs over time develop social skills, form health relationships with adults in the school, and improve academically.

"Kids do learn in all kinds of ways," she said. "It's great to see that it clearly has an impact on student achievement when you think differently about the activities you offer."



Look Hear Healthcare Program

Through the Look Hear Healthcare Program, nearly 7,000 children in Big Shoulders schools received free vision screenings and another nearly 3,000 received hearing screenings over the past year. Several hundred children also received free glasses.

The free program started several years ago with a handful of schools, but has since grown to nearly 50 Big Shoulders Fund schools, said Jean Kennelly, a consultant who runs the program for Big Shoulders.

With funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, the Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation and an anonymous donor, Big Shoulders Fund supports the initial screenings.

Students who fail those tests can then attend a free Lenscrafters Vision Clinic, which is supported by the Give the Gift of Sight Foundation: A Luxottica Group Foundation and Chicago



Communities in Schools. Of the nearly 1,600 students that were referred for additional testing, 94 percent attended one of the clinics and received the necessary testing and glasses if needed. All students at the clinics who needed glasses were given a free pair within a few weeks of their appointment.

Kennelly said the program has made a huge difference for children who struggle with undetected vision and hearing problems. “We’ve had eighth graders who’ve never had a vision test,” Kennelly said. “There are just so many kids who’ve never seen an eye doctor. Of course, that has a clear impact on their learning.”

In addition to the vision and hearing screening, the program provides a nurse consultant, Sister Susan Stucki, to help up to 10 schools organize the immunization and dental records of all of the students. With limited administrative support at most Big Shoulders schools, this can prove to be a monumental task, especially if a school falls behind or if a new principal is not aware of all of the requirements. Sister Susan helps organize the records so that the schools can keep them up to date and in compliance going forward.

Summer Institute with Golden Apple

More than 140 Big Shoulders Fund teachers received extra training last summer in science, math and literacy instruction with the help of award-winning educators from the prestigious Golden Apple Foundation.

For three weeks at the Museum of Science and Industry, teachers explored creative ways to excite students with more hands-on activities and an inquiry-based study method. All of it was designed to get students more involved in the learning process. Among the highlights of the program was the chance to witness an open-heart surgery at the museum. Teachers also explored exhibits that offered inspiration and ideas for classroom activities.

“This is an excellent opportunity for the teachers,” said Bill Grosser,

a Golden Apple science teacher and the summer program coordinator for the Golden Apple Foundation. “It’s high-quality training at a world-class facility ... and summers for teachers really should be about rejuvenation.”

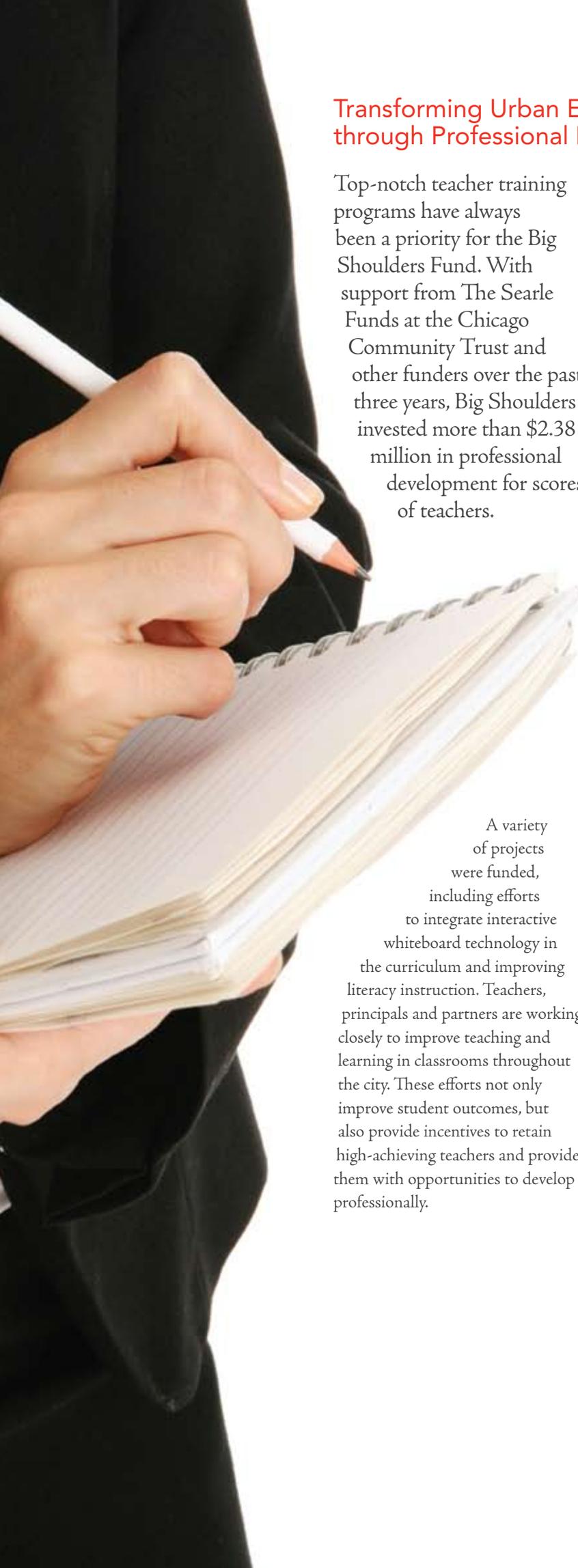
The summer institute for Big Shoulders teachers began four years ago when David Dury, a Big Shoulders Fund director and school Patron, approached the Golden Apple Foundation about running science programs for Big

Shoulders teachers. Since that time, the program has expanded to include math and literacy training. With support from Dury and Big Shoulders, teachers can spend a week in any of the three subject areas. Many of the teachers attend more than one session.

Teachers who participated raved about the program. Among them is Sister Mary Kay Dowling, a teacher at St. Helen’s school in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood. With tubes of bugs throughout her classroom, Sister Mary Kay takes the lessons of hands-on learning seriously. She attended the open heart surgery, made mathematical angle boards and built magnets.

“I was immediately able to bring things I learned there back to the classroom,” she said. “... And hands-on activity is the only way to go. If our kids can explore things, they can process what they learn so much better.”





Transforming Urban Education through Professional Development

Top-notch teacher training programs have always been a priority for the Big Shoulders Fund. With support from The Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust and other funders over the past three years, Big Shoulders invested more than \$2.38 million in professional development for scores of teachers.

A variety of projects were funded, including efforts to integrate interactive whiteboard technology in the curriculum and improving literacy instruction. Teachers, principals and partners are working closely to improve teaching and learning in classrooms throughout the city. These efforts not only improve student outcomes, but also provide incentives to retain high-achieving teachers and provide them with opportunities to develop professionally.

Another one of the ambitious programs was funded in part by a \$100,000 two-year grant from the Tellabs Foundation, designed to improve math and science instruction. Tellabs awarded the grant because of a mutual concern for reaching underserved communities with more exciting hands-on math and science approaches, said Meredith Hilt, Executive Director of the Tellabs Foundation.

Phyllis Cavallone oversees the Tellabs Foundation grant for Big Shoulders and is a principal at St. Therese Chinese Catholic School. Cavallone worked with six south side schools where designated teachers were offered funding for graduate coursework at St. Xavier University to enhance their math and science teaching. The teachers could also earn membership in professional organizations for math and science teachers.

Those six schools also invested in equipment and supplies to enhance their math and science programs. Many schools brought in interactive whiteboards so their instruction could be smoother and fast-paced. Some purchased online textbooks and math and science materials for the classroom. The whole idea is to bring more interactive assignments to the classroom so concepts come alive for students, Cavallone said.

“We’re getting kids to investigate more now,” she said. “We want to push kids to think about what they did and why. ... Obviously, if the students have a greater skill set, we’re creating a better school.”

A similar program is being implemented under the leadership of Dr. Lucine Mastalerz, principal of St. Ferdinand School, for 10 north side schools with funding from The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.

Investing in the Future of Big Shoulders Fund Schools

Over the next decade, many principals in Chicago's inner-city Catholic schools are expected to retire, leaving a leadership void for Catholic education in high poverty areas.

Finding strong leaders for those schools is a priority for the schools' survival, and therefore to the Big Shoulders Fund. The challenges can be daunting, as new principal Adam Dufault can attest. But the career can also be tremendously rewarding for the service-oriented people who accept the role.

Responding to the need, the Big Shoulders Fund has begun building a pipeline of future leaders, many of them current teachers or administrators in Big Shoulders schools. Candidates choose from five partner universities and pay a portion of the tuition toward a master's degree in educational administration. The university and Big Shoulders split the remaining tuition costs.

In return, the participants commit to serving as principals in a Big Shoulders school. Currently, Big Shoulders has agreements with DePaul University, Dominican University, Loyola University of Chicago, University of Notre Dame and St. Xavier University.

The program launched in January 2007 and now has five candidates enrolled in Masters programs and another seven at various other stages of the process. Among them is Dufault, who was recently appointed as principal at St. Procopius School in Chicago's Pilsen community. He is working toward his Master's degree in Educational Administration at Dominican University.

Dufault grew up in the western suburbs and graduated from Georgetown University. He got into teaching after joining a Jesuit volunteer service program that placed him at St. Procopius. Dufault

always wanted to get involved in some type of service work, but wasn't convinced teaching would be his career. Then he fell in love with St. Procopius.

"I loved Pilsen and I love being part of something like this," Dufault said. "Every day, I feel like I am doing something meaningful."

After two years in the Jesuit service program, Dufault was hired full-time and taught another two years before becoming assistant principal. Early on, the Pastor at St. Procopius, Rev. Tim Howe, saw Dufault's leadership potential.

After the school principal left, Father Howe filled in as both pastor and principal for a year. He urged Dufault to become principal, using the leadership development program through Big Shoulders as a support system.

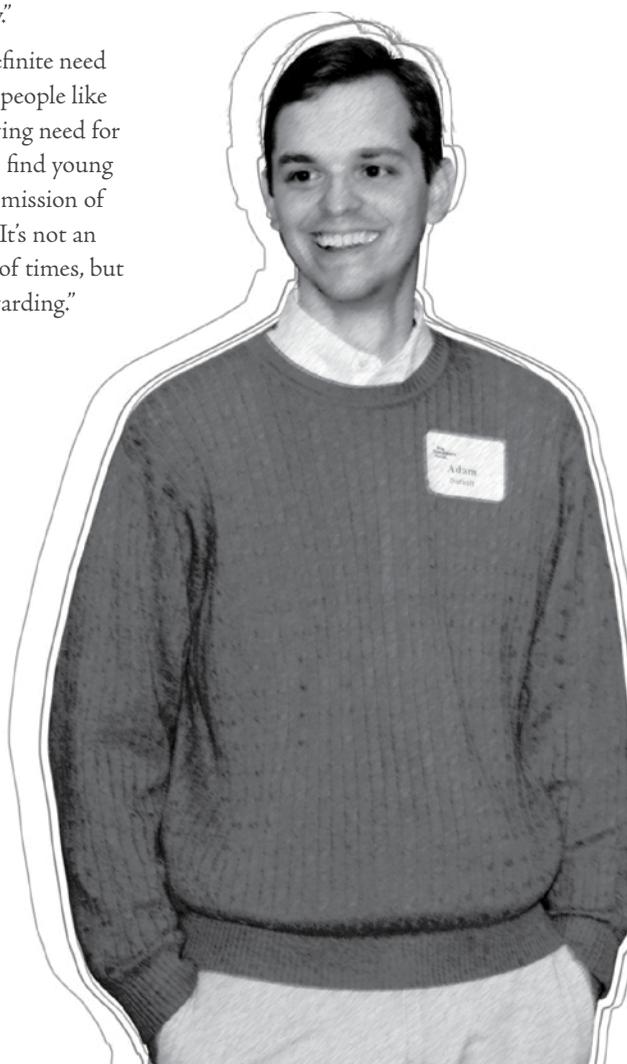
"I think it's just been a great fit here," Howe said. "Since he's both studying and serving as principal, he's getting the chance to put his coursework into practice right away."

Howe said there is a definite need to mentor more young people like Dufault to fill the growing need for principals. "We need to find young people on fire with the mission of Catholic education. ... It's not an easy job. It's 24/7 a lot of times, but it also can be really rewarding."

The program is designed to include a support network for aspiring principals to share concerns and learn from each other. There will be regular meetings of the candidates with experienced principals, Big Shoulders leaders and outside speakers familiar with the struggles facing inner-city principals.

That support network was helpful to Dufault after a significant family tragedy just days after Dufault took over the principal's job last fall. While the experience was devastating for Dufault and the school, it also solidified his interest in serving St. Procopius.

"There are just wonderful kids here," Dufault said. "I'm struck by the similarities they have with kids I've known growing up, and also the need that's there. ... I truly believe Catholic schools are an answer for a lot of these kids. We offer our kids the very personal, focused attention that they need and deserve."



Scholarships.

Gallagher Scholars Program

When the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin approached businessman Robert E. Gallagher in 1994 about setting up a scholarship to help promising inner-city children, Gallagher didn't hesitate to dive in.

Fourteen years later, the Gallagher Scholars Program is one of the largest scholarships offered by the Big Shoulders Fund. It's responsible for transforming hundreds of lives. Since its founding, there have been 914 Gallagher scholars, and the program has expended more than \$5.7 million in scholarship support.

Robert E. Gallagher died in 2006, but his son, Bob Gallagher, Jr. and the entire Gallagher family, continue to sponsor the scholarship through the Big Shoulders Fund in his father's memory. Each year, 50 scholarships are awarded.

From the beginning, the scholarship program meant a great deal to Robert E. Gallagher, a longtime supporter of Big Shoulders who helped build the Illinois-based Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. into one of the world's largest insurance brokers.

Mr. Gallagher attributed much of his success to his solid early education in Catholic schools. He was also a World War II Navy pilot and an All-American basketball player at Cornell University. His military and athletic experience brought out a belief in the power of effective coaching and mentorship. Bob Gallagher, Jr. said his dad brought those skills to his scholarship program, so he designed a mentor component for the scholars.

"It makes a huge difference when someone takes an interest in their lives," Robert E. Gallagher said in a 2003 interview with School Reform News about the scholarship. "That's the whole thing: Somebody cares. Somebody loves them and wants them to succeed ... We take nothing for granted, and try to help in every way we can to get them through high school."

The program provides \$1,500 annual scholarships to elementary school students from fifth through eighth grade, and \$3,000 scholarships in high school for students who've maintained their grades and eligibility.

The program has seen its first set of scholars graduate from college. While the program has not been able to keep in touch with all the recipients, Bob Gallagher, Jr. said he's heard from grateful recipients, some of whom said the program was a turning point in their lives.

Two of the scholars were hired full-time with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Bob Gallagher, Jr., said.

Many of the mentors for the program come from the Gallagher insurance firm. "My father always believed that you can't just throw money at something," Bob Gallagher, Jr. said. "It's essential that we provide mentorship in addition to the scholarship funds."

Mr. Gallagher wrote a code of conduct the scholars must follow. Among other things, the code asks scholars to set goals, work hard, stay motivated, respect others, and keep a positive attitude. Beyond the impact of the program on Gallagher scholars directly, as one of the largest and longest-running scholarship programs it has become a great model for many other programs to follow and reach even more deserving young people.



Mrs. Isabel Gallagher, wife of the late Robert E. Gallagher, joins her daughter Anne Gallagher O'Malley and son-in-law, Richard O'Malley with Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

Scholarships like the Gallagher Scholars have been critical in keeping many children in Catholic schools. "We hear it over and over again," said Tom Zbierski, Director of School Relations for the Big Shoulders Fund. "If it weren't for Big Shoulders scholarships, many families just wouldn't be able to stay in our schools."

Thomas A. Reynolds, Jr. / Winston & Strawn LLP Scholars Program

Thomas A. Reynolds, Jr., the longtime managing partner of Winston & Strawn law firm, was one of the earliest supporters of the Big Shoulders Fund. A product of Catholic schools, he believed deeply in the Jesuit tradition of service to others.

Given his longstanding commitment to inner-city schools, it was natural for Mr. Reynolds' family to create a Big Shoulders scholarship program following his death last February. The new scholarship is jointly sponsored by the Reynolds family and Winston & Strawn LLP, in honor of Reynolds and the law firm he led for 25 years.

What the family and firm created is bound to have a tremendous impact on hundreds of children's lives for many years to come.

The first scholar class of 80 students was chosen this school year. Each student from third through seventh grade received a \$2,000 award, amounting to roughly two-thirds of their tuition for a year. If the students maintain solid grades and good behavior in school, the scholarships will be renewable each year.

The Reynolds family plans to continue the scholarship on a yearly basis as long as funds are available. Family need and principal recommendations will remain the overriding criteria.

In setting up the scholarship, Tom Reynolds III, himself a partner at Winston & Strawn LLP, worked with Big Shoulders to create a program that focuses on the neediest students with the greatest potential for success. He asked that principals make the recommendations, with input from teachers.

In the first year, nine schools were represented, and the goal is to eventually find candidates from all the Big Shoulders elementary schools. This year, roughly half the students are Hispanic, half African American, and there's an even split of boys and girls.

"We are clearly looking at the poorest schools with the neediest kids," Tom Reynolds said. "All of our scholars, are from families with incomes at or below the poverty level."

Each year, the Reynolds family and Winston & Strawn LLP leaders will hold a luncheon reception for the new and returning scholars. The first event was held recently at the law offices. Tom Reynolds said it was a very emotional yet extremely rewarding day. It was especially heartwarming to see so many of the young students approach Thomas A. Reynolds, Jr.'s wife, Suzanne, to offer their special gratitude.

Among the speakers at the luncheon was Sam Mendenhall, a partner at Winston & Strawn LLP. Mendenhall spoke of his own difficult upbringing as one of 11 children in Chicago public housing. He told the new scholars that "just because you start in Chicago public housing doesn't mean you have to finish there."

That comment, along with others, reflected the kind of inspiration the Reynolds family hopes to bring to its new scholars, Tom Reynolds said. "I really hope we have some luck at developing some kids who can realize their dreams," he said. "They should not feel there are any hurdles that are too high."

Sister Marion Cypser, principal at St.

Catherine of Siena – St. Lucy, has 20 students in the first scholarship class. She said the impact of the Reynolds scholarship is already clear. Many students who would have dropped out because of finances can now stay.

Her scholars are students with obvious potential but they struggle because of parents who are out of work, disabled or carrying multiple low-wage jobs just to make ends meet. Many children are being raised by grandparents on fixed incomes. One mother is currently serving in Iraq. Another mother was seriously burned in a fire and is living with a disability.

"They have been overwhelmed by the generosity," Sister Marion said. "This is just tremendous."



Mr. Joseph Torres, Partner, Mr. Larry Desideri, Managing Partner of the Chicago Office, Mr. Thomas A. Reynolds, III, Partner, and Mr. Samuel Mendenhall, Partner, all of Winston & Strawn, LLP, gather with Mrs. Suzanne Reynolds, wife of the late Thomas A. Reynolds, Jr..

"We wanted the money to go to work right away, have its impact, and then keep funding it," said Tom Reynolds III, Thomas A. Reynolds, Jr.'s son and also an active supporter of Big Shoulders and a member of the Board's Executive Committee. Tom Reynolds III and his wife, Hope, are Patrons at St. Catherine of Siena – St. Lucy, a Big Shoulders school serving Chicago's west side community of Austin.

Auxiliary Board.



Just in its second year, the Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board has become one of the fastest growing young professional boards in Chicago. Now with over 100 active members, the Auxiliary Board has been busy hosting events, engaging volunteers and building enthusiasm for the 93 inner-city Catholic schools supported by Big Shoulders.

These young professionals have brought an unparalleled dedication and boundless energy to the Big Shoulders mission. The Auxiliary Board's frequent one day service events at Big Shoulders schools have grown from a dozen participants to over 100 attendees including local university alumni groups, young adult ministry groups, parishes and corporations.

During the 2007-2008 school year the Auxiliary Board provided 10 scholarships to students at Our Lady of Tepeyac Elementary School and St. Francis De Sales High School. The Board continues to work to increase the number of scholarships available and anticipates doubling the the number of scholarships this year. In addition to financial aid, the Auxiliary Board members are serving as mentors for the students. Funds are raised through a required minimum contribution, and the Auxiliary Board's two marquee events – *Toast for a Cause* and *Bowl for a Cause* at *10pin bowling lounge*.

These young leaders are working hard to continue the mission of the Big Shoulders Fund for generations of inner-city Catholic school students to come. These young philanthropic professionals are working to ensure that every child has a chance to receive a quality, values-based education in a safe environment so they have the opportunity to make their own dreams a reality.

2008 AUXILIARY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

Louis Crisostomo
Caroline Hoenk
Bridie Sullivan
Heidi Ginter

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Committee Chairs

Mary Ammermann
Jared Hall
Mark Kirchner

Fundraising
Schools
Outreach

With the growth of the Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board, there was a clear need for more opportunities for members to gather, raise funds and make a positive impact on the inner-city students we serve. Then, Michael Spencer and the *10pin bowling lounge* stepped in with an offer and donation that was simply remarkable!

10pin bowling lounge and Mr. Spencer donated three hours of bowling, a great dinner and drinks to raise crucial funds for the *Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board Scholarship Fund*. Big Shoulders took over lanes for *Bowl for a Cause* for an afternoon on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

Beyond raising funds, the event also served to expand the outreach of the board and solicit new members to join the group. Over 100 young professionals showed up on the first beautiful day of spring in Chicago to enjoy the day raising nearly \$4,000 in just the first year.



Thank you again to Mr. Michael Spencer and the *10pin bowling lounge* for providing the opportunity for eight more students and their families to stay in the caring environment of an inner-city Catholic school. The second annual *Bowl for a Cause* was held in March, 2009 to great success – tripling the dollars raised for the cause and selling out two weeks before the event!

▲ **First Annual Bowl for a Cause**

▼ **Second Annual Toast for a Cause**

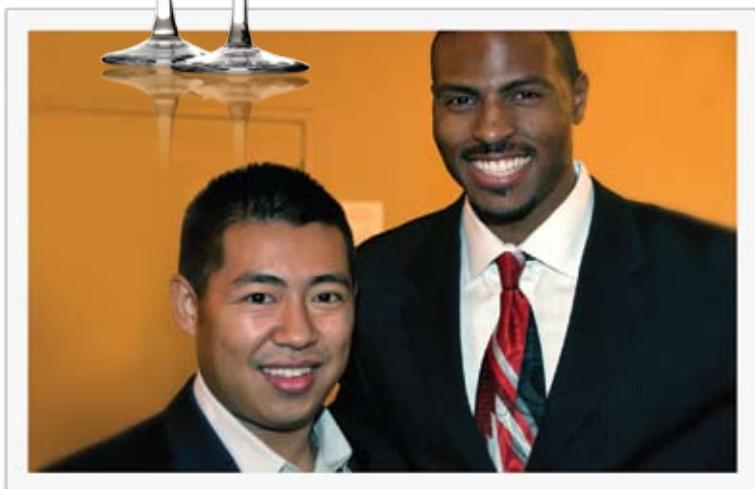


Jazz music, champagne, and young professionals all mixed well at the Schools of the Art Institute Ballroom on Saturday, October 25, 2008 for the second annual *Toast for a Cause*. The grand ballroom hosted nearly 300 young professionals enjoying the Mike Frost Project Band, sipping cocktails, sampling scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and bidding on silent auction items all to raise much-needed funds for the *Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board Scholarship Program*.

Co-chaired by Heidi Ginter and Sara Staral with the support of the entire Auxiliary Board Fundraising Committee, the event raised over \$14,000 for scholarships, a 40 percent increase over last year, and helped to bring in new support to the Big Shoulders Fund. The event was made possible by the generous support of the event sponsors: The Counter, FactSet Research Systems Inc., Robert W. Baird & Co., Turano Baking, AEG, Cision, The Delves Group, She Space and Trump Spa.

The night culminated with a brief program emceed by Louis Crisostomo, President of the Auxiliary Board, and ended with a toast to the 93 Big Shoulders Fund schools and their faculty and staff who help deserving children achieve their dreams.

The night was a huge success. The event showed that the Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board continues to build momentum and attract the best young professionals in Chicago.



Big Shoulders Fund.

Keeping financially struggling schools open is the key goal of the Big Shoulders Fund, and the Patrons Program has become an increasingly critical component in that effort.

The program matches committed individuals, corporations and corporate leaders with individual schools in the hope that the financial support and experiences of a Patron will help save a struggling school.

Since the program's founding in 2000, more than \$18.5 million has been committed to schools through the Patrons Program. About \$9.5 million of that has already been invested in the 62 Big Shoulders schools that have a Patron paired with them. Ultimately, Big Shoulders leaders' hope to have a Patron matched to all 76 elementary schools that they serve.

In a typical Patron relationship, an individual, group of individuals or a corporation commits to investing \$100,000 annually to a school for three years. The grants are considered seed money to help the school better serve its current students, while drawing more students for years to come.

In addition to the financial investment, Patrons help set up an advisory board, if one does not exist. The board works with school leaders to set improvement goals and strategies for boosting enrollment and dealing with school-specific issues. In a number of cases, Patron schools have hired a marketing director to increase enrollment. Patron schools have also invested in cutting-edge technology, new academic programs and essential capital improvements.

The Patrons Program has grown from 24 schools in 2005 to 62 today. The types of Patron relationships have also evolved, with many more Patrons bringing in colleagues or friends to help sponsor the school as a team.

Over the last three years, the fact that none of the Big Shoulders schools have closed is clear evidence that the Patrons Program is making its mark, said John Moran, who directs the program for the Big Shoulders Fund. He said the most successful Patron/principal relationships stand out.

"The best situation is teaming a strong academic leader who is also dedicated to improving the school's business side with a Patron who has the means and experience to make the improvements really happen." Moran said.

Patrons.

Q and A with Christine Kelly, who chairs the Patrons Program committee for the Big Shoulders Fund Board of Directors. She and her husband, Glenn Kelly, and their friends, Amy and Ken Viellieu, are also Patrons at Maternity BVM in the Humboldt Park neighborhood.

What are the areas in which the Patrons Program is having the most impact? What do you find most encouraging about the program?

It is very exciting. Whether you are Catholic or not, these schools are serving a very broad, diverse population, and they provide a safe, faith-based, excellent educational alternative for these students. Additionally, for the Patrons, it's fun to be involved. All you have to do is go to any school and you are captivated. These children and teachers are enthusiastic, happy to be here, very committed, and I think that enthusiasm is addictive. Education is the key today, as we all know. As a Patron, it's exciting to know that you actually can have a real and direct impact on the lives of these children.

What makes for a productive Patron relationship with the schools?

At Maternity, my husband Glenn (a retired business executive) works directly with the pastor and principal on a regular basis. He helps them develop and stay focused on the priorities for the year. We regularly meet or have calls to receive updates and to provide guidance. Glenn helps them stay focused. From the Patron's standpoint, obviously the financial commitment is significant. The Patrons may also get personally involved or support others to become involved, including talented young professionals from the Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board. This brings great energy, additional insight and thinking and creative solutions to the issues that these schools face.

You've been a champion of adding marketing and development resources at the elementary school level. Why is this so important and what are the critical success factors in making this work?

The principals at most of the schools are so stretched. Devoting a person to building enrollment and raising external funds can and has made a big difference to these schools. If you're lucky enough to hire somebody who has some sales or marketing background they not only bring their focus and energy, but also new ideas for brochures, radio advertisements, targeted follow up, as well as branding and signage.

How do we measure success, both at the school and overall?

I think the keys are enrollment increases, financial stability and then test scores.

Have there been good results with test scores?

Yes. This was one of the more compelling reasons for my husband and me to become involved. You have a diverse student base, a significant number of whom are not Catholic, and these students coming from fairly modest backgrounds, and their test scores are terrific compared to the national averages. Clearly the inner-city Catholic schools in Chicago are providing a first-rate education.

What do you foresee for the Patrons Program in the future? What are your long-term goals?

The committee has set four primary goals. The first is to get a Patron at each elementary school. The second is to increase enrollment across the board. The third is to establish leadership development so we're really beginning to develop a new generation of principals. Finally, we'd like to continue in a collaborative effort with the Archdiocese of Chicago to maximize our collective impact in the schools.

What are some of the biggest challenges now?

The biggest challenge remains that we are serving an impoverished low-income student base and tuition is difficult to pay for, particularly with today's challenging economic situation. This highlights the ongoing need for scholarships and funding by the Big Shoulders Fund and the Archdiocese.

The next challenge is ensuring a leadership pipeline. The fact is that there are a number of principals who will be retiring in the next five to 10 years, and we need to ensure that talented and committed new administrators are attracted to and groomed for those positions.

The final challenge is that in many cases, these are older buildings with significant capital expenditure needs – basics such as roofs, floors and windows. Also, almost every school that people have become involved in have needed new computers and/or new or updated academic programming.

With the challenging economy now, are you concerned that it's going to be harder to find Patrons willing to make this investment?

I think that is a challenge across all the charitable organizations, but I think it's another reason why people shouldn't feel they've got to be a single Patron for a given school. There's no hard and fast rule about that at all. A Patron commitment may be formed as a group. The team or group effort not only spreads the cost of being a Patron across a number of people, but enhances the opportunity for involvement. By having several people, you also broaden the perspectives, ideas and expertise that may be applied to address issues facing the school.

Sullivan Family, Patrons at St. Barbara and Santa Lucia

St. Barbara and Santa Lucia are two Catholic schools with a long tradition in the Bridgeport neighborhood on Chicago's near south side. Their principals, veteran educators in the Archdiocese of Chicago, have known each other since high school.

So it was an interesting situation a few months ago when a Wilmette couple, Sue and Tim Sullivan, began visiting both schools to decide which

one to sponsor. Tim, a Managing Director at private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners, has previously been involved in other philanthropic efforts with Catholic schools. The couple's four children were getting older and they were eager to devote some energy to needy children in Chicago through the Patrons Program.

Sue Sullivan was immediately struck by the positive, energetic atmosphere at both schools. Their principals were obviously dedicated. Dorene Hurckes at St. Barbara and Geraldine Maratea at Santa Lucia

have each spent 38 years as teachers and principals in the Archdiocese and decades at their current schools.

But there was an obvious need for support at both schools. Faced with a gradual enrollment decline over the past several years, Santa Lucia would have to consider eliminating its computer technology and physical education programs, both of which parents and students highly valued. A full-time resource teacher also faced elimination.

At St. Barbara, enrollment declines were also keeping Dorene Hurckes up at night. Over the last eight years,



Tom Lanctot and Al Gordon, Patrons at St. Elizabeth

When Danielle Harris arrived as a new principal at St. Elizabeth Catholic School in 2006, the challenges were overwhelming.

More than 95 percent of the students at the south side school live below the poverty line. Many live in nearby housing projects and in single-parent homes. Parents often work long hours to make ends meet. Of the 255 students there, 193 are on some type of scholarship.

But very quickly, Harris realized she had a huge supporter in the

Patrons Program at Big Shoulders. For about three years, the school has been sponsored by Tom Lanctot, a principal at William Blair & Company, and Al Gordon, chief executive officer of Richland Gordon & Company, an investment firm. "The Patrons Program has just been phenomenal for us," Harris said. "... With their help, we've installed a computer lab, they're now helping with a science lab, and we have a brand new reading program."

St. Elizabeth's Patrons have also helped beautify the school grounds to make it a more inviting place for students. Working with a renowned local landscape architect, Doug Hoerr of Hoerr Schaudt Landscape

Architects, and supported by their local alderwoman, the Patrons had trees planted up and down the street and replaced an ugly black security door with a new, more open entryway. The Patrons are also working on installing a new playground.

With the Patrons' help, Harris has recently increased enrollment by more than 20 students. Her Patrons have also helped with some emergencies, for example helping to repair the school boiler when it recently broke down.

Al Gordon said he and Tom Lanctot have been extremely impressed with Harris' leadership. "Danielle is a miracle worker," Gordon said. "The true test of her leadership is she's been able to get a lot done with very little. Obviously, it would be a far easier job if she had an abundance of resources."

For Harris, the financial support has been a godsend. She also appreciates just knowing someone is behind her work.

"The fact that they are so open and so willing to help is amazing," she said. "It gave me a renewed sense that we can make it here."

enrollment had slid by nearly 70 students. Also, the nearly 100-year-old school has some expensive structural concerns.

Yet each of the principals deeply respected each other. They made a point to tell Sue they'd be genuinely happy for the other school if it were chosen over theirs.

Sue left both schools feeling unnerved. "First of all, the principals at these two schools were unbelievable. These two women were the most devoted people I've come across in a long period of time. They were clearly spiritual

leaders for these kids, they focused on academics, and they were facility managers as well," Sullivan said. "There were so many things about both schools that were fabulous. How do you choose?"

So Sue and Tim Sullivan decided not to choose. They agreed to become Patrons at both schools.

The Sullivans are getting personally involved at the schools and plan to visit them regularly. While the principals are still defining their needs, there's strong interest in a shared marketing effort to help each of the schools increase enrollment.

This concept of sharing ideas and resources between schools is a new one and a very exciting aspect of this partnership between Patron and principals.

The commitment from the family has been a real vote of confidence for the two principals.

"What the Sullivans have done has given us a real shot in the arm," said Geraldine Maratea. "When someone else comes in and says we agree that your school has worth and we're going to be there for you in the future, it just means so much."

Amy and Ken Viellieu and Christine and Glenn Kelly, Patrons at Maternity BVM

At Maternity BVM Elementary School in Humboldt Park, the Patron relationship has taken on a different shape, with two couples working together as a team to support the northwest side school

Christine and Glenn Kelly and Amy and Ken Viellieu have worked together for more than five years, providing considerable individual and collective expertise and focus to serving the students at Maternity.

"The more we've become involved with Big Shoulders, the more compelling the story is when you look at all the opportunities that this provides inner-city children," Christine Kelly said.

Glenn Kelly, who retired from R.R. Donnelley as vice president of finance, meets regularly with Maternity Principal Paula Calvert and other school leaders to help keep them on track with their goals and work through financial, facilities and marketing concerns. Ken Viellieu and Christine Kelly, who have significant investment banking and finance expertise, also meet regularly to work through school concerns.

Behind the scenes, Amy Viellieu has taken on several special projects.



She led a book drive after learning that Maternity didn't have a school library. Through her own contacts and friends, Amy collected hundreds of books and donations to set up the new school library. Amy brought in so many books and contributions that the resources have also been dispersed at other Big Shoulders schools on a regular basis.

While the Patrons Program at Maternity has already gone past the initial three-year financial commitment, the Kellys and Viellieus have continued working at Maternity BVM and financially supporting the school.

Over the years, the Patrons' financial commitment has funded a new reading program, science and math

programs and building a computer lab. The Patrons have also paid for a new assistant principal position and a marketing director. The marketing efforts have helped stabilize enrollment at about 180 students. The couples' commitment to the school has clearly helped prevent Maternity from closing, said John Moran, who directs the Patrons Program.

At the same time, the Patrons say their experience working with Maternity has been extremely rewarding.

"We just feel very strongly that everybody needs a quality education," Christine Kelly said. "And this is the future of Chicago."

Events.

CARDINAL'S AWARD

The lifeblood of any school starts in one place, the faculty and staff. These individuals give the school its spirit and create the environment that enables young minds to learn and grow. Caring and skilled teachers impact students for a lifetime. Because of the importance of teachers in a child's life, especially in inner-city Catholic schools, Rosemary and John Croghan endowed a fund for the annual Cardinal's Award.

This award acknowledges the impact of faculty and staff at one Big Shoulders Fund school each year. Schools are selected based on their improvement in the education provided to their students as measured by a compilation of factors including the greatest change in their anticipated and obtained scores on the Terra Nova standardized test, overall impact on student success and achievement, and demonstrated success in building a strong, viable school.

In the 2007-08 school year, Immaculate Conception received this great honor. Located in the heart of the Mexican community in South Shore, the school at one time had been closed and shuttered but, reopened in recent years and slowly rebuilt, class by class. Today, Immaculate Conception has 186 students who are predominantly from the Mexican community. Spanish is often heard in the corridors as the children of newly arrived immigrants call this school home.

The students are taught by a religious community from Mexico that came to Chicago to work with the Immaculate Conception community. The sisters are providing an essential education that allows children from poor and immigrant families to build successful lives and careers as productive citizens. The school stresses language arts and reading, which is very important to many of the students for whom English is a second language. They also provide a solid core education in the areas of math and science.

Demonstrating success and improvements in students' achievement, the dedicated faculty and staff have been able to nurture a growing and important school that produces results. As recipients of the Cardinal's Award, the faculty and administration received a combined award from the endowment fund established by the Croghans.

The purpose of this award is not to support the school, but instead to be directly distributed to the faculty and administration in recognition of their efforts for themselves – a down payment on a car, a much-needed vacation, or whatever each determines. This unique award continues to bring hope and life to the faculty and administrators who dedicate their lives to providing a caring Catholic education for their students. They are the inspiration and lifeblood that have in the past and continue to ensure that Catholic schools make an impact in the lives of Chicago's inner-city students for years to come.



2008 HUMANITARIAN AWARD DINNER



More than 600 of Chicago's business and civic leaders turned out to honor Rita and John Canning at the Big Shoulders Fund 2008 Humanitarian Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 10 at the Chicago Hilton. The event raised nearly \$1.6 million, the proceeds of which will benefit the nearly 25,000 children attending the 93 inner-city Catholic schools supported by the Big Shoulders Fund.

Recognizing the numerous contributions the Cannings have made to improve access to quality values-based education in Chicago, Big Shoulders Fund Co-Chairman James J. O'Connor presented the couple with the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian Award.

The Cannings currently are the Patrons for Holy Angels School, on the south side, and they provide scholarships to more than 100 students in 15 Big Shoulders Fund schools. The event featured special guest speaker, Commissioner of Major League Baseball, Bud Selig. Monsignor Kenneth Velo, President of Big Shoulders Fund, emceed the event lending his sense of humor to keep guests entertained, and premiering a video on the history and work of the Big Shoulders Fund.

The estimable dinner committee created a wonderful evening to celebrate the tremendous generosity of Rita and John Canning.

BIG SHOULDERS FUND JOSEPH CARDINAL BERNARDIN HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNERS

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1988 | Dolores and Bob Hope | 1996 | Mary Dempsey and Phil Corboy |
| 1989 | Lou Holtz | 1998 | Joanie and Andrew McKenna |
| 1991 | Renée and Lester Crown | 2000 | Nancy and Frank Considine |
| 1992 | Betty and Jerome Van Gorkom | 2001 | Jacque and James McDonough |
| 1993 | Joseph Cardinal Bernardin | 2007 | Isabelle and Robert Gallagher |
| 1995 | Evelyn and Edmund Stephan | 2008 | Rita and John Canning |

8th Annual Golf Classic ▶

This year the eighth annual *Big Shoulders Fund Golf Classic* was held on Monday, August 11, 2008 at the renowned Olympia Fields Country Club. With over 300 of Chicago's business and philanthropic leaders joining Big Shoulders Fund leaders Jim O'Connor, John Canning and Monsignor Ken Velo, the event had the largest turnout to date.

As always, the *Golf Classic* continues to be the not to miss outing of the year. From a 24-person shootout for a two-year lease on Mini Cooper from Patrick Dealer Group and a live auction including a foursome at Bandon Dunes to a gift bag featuring over \$150 in gift cards from the finest restaurants in Chicago, the event continues to attract supporters from all industries to support the opportunity of a quality, values-based education for thousands of inner-city children in Chicago.

Under the leadership of the Golf Committee's Co-Chairmen, Giancarlo Turano and Bill Lagoni, the event raised nearly \$508,000 to be used for scholarships for deserving children who are willing to study hard, but whose families simply don't have the means.

Since its inception the *Golf Classic* participants have played over 2,060 rounds of golf combined, given away \$115,000 in raffle prize winnings, enjoyed the dedicated work of over 50 volunteer committee members and most importantly raised over \$2.3 million dollars, which has enabled 3,060 children, regardless of background, to have access to quality education.

Please save the date for the ninth annual *Big Shoulders Fund Golf Classic* on Monday, August 10, 2009 at Olympia Fields Country Club. If you would like more information on the *Golf Classic*, contact Amelia Drozda (312-751-3850 / adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org).



EVENT

Sage Foundation

COURSE

McDonald's Charities

PLATINUM

The John Buck Corporation
Rita and John Canning
ConAgra Foods
Howden Global
Mike Ditka's Restaurant
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Smith & Wollensky

DINNER

Thomas D. Grusecki Family
Foundation

SILVER

Houlihan Lokey
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald F. Kelly, Jr.
KM Plant Services
KPMG
Rebecca and Kreg Jackson

COCKTAIL HOUR

Midwest Generation, LLC

APPAREL

Edward Don & Company

BREAKFAST

Kazma Family Foundation

GRILL

Sugar Foods Corporation

CLOSEST TO THE PIN CONTEST

The Patrick Dealer Group

Big Shoulders Director Al Myers, Executive Director Josh Hale, Co-Chairman John Canning and David Herro challenge the course.



Big Shoulders Directors Pat Besser (L) and Christine Kelly (R) are joined by their husbands Peter Besser and Glenn Kelly.

Sheffield Baseball Club

The owners of the Sheffield Baseball Club generously donated their rooftop to Big Shoulders Fund to thank the many generous supporters, Patrons and board members. On May 13, 2008 despite threatening clouds and a tough Cubs' loss, over 250 guests enjoyed a wonderful night marked by great food, drink, ambiance, and most of all, friends interested in helping those less fortunate to aspire to a brighter future. A special thanks to Tom Gramatis and Paul Bauch for their generosity and assistance in arranging the event.



▼ 9th Annual Lend a Shoulder Day

For the last nine years, Big Shoulders has provided the opportunity for supporters to go back to school for the day on *Lend a Shoulder Day*. Donors, volunteers and directors turn out in large numbers each year to see where their generosity is making a difference.

On Thursday, October 2, 2008, nearly 150 guests spent the morning at 20 different Big Shoulders Fund schools. Visitors joined in on art



projects, launched rockets with a high school physics class and read *Corduroy* to Kindergarteners.

Schools also enjoyed the opportunity to have visitors to their schools. They maximized the visitors time with a full schedule of interactive activities to learn about the school and meet students. After the busy morning, it was not on to cafeteria food for Big Shoulders guests. Even better, attendees had the good fortune of being guests of Mr. Patrick Norton, General Manager, of Smith & Wollensky Chicago, who generously donated the luncheon at this historic restaurant. Guests recount the day at the various different schools and

Big Shoulders Fund supporter, Kimberly Querrey, with students from St. Helen School.

get an update on Big Shoulders from President, Monsignor Kenneth Velo, and Executive Director, Joshua Hale. Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., also attends each year to thank guests for their support of the inner-city Catholic schools.

Lend a Shoulder Day was another great success with an impressive turnout and even more intriguing activities at the schools. Big Shoulders supporters continue to build momentum to ensure students have the opportunity to study hard to achieve their dreams. The 2009 *Lend a Shoulder Day* is set for Thursday, November 5, 2009.



John Canning with current and former scholarship recipients.

◀ National City's Road to Wrigley

National City's President and CEO, Joe Gregoire, generously provided the Batter's Eye at historic Wrigley Field for some special friends, students and teachers at National City's Road to Wrigley event on Tuesday, July 29. The game was believed to be the first minor league contest in the ballpark's 94-year history pitting Ryne Sandberg's Peoria Chiefs against the Kane

County Cougars. Through National City's generous support, two Big Shoulders schools – St. Barbara's and Maternity B.V.M. – not only had the opportunity to attend the game, but also have deserving students receive scholarships and support for improving financial literacy within their respective communities of Bridgeport and Humboldt Park.

The Counter Fundraiser

With the grand opening of The Counter Burger restaurant at 666 W. Diversey in Chicago, the owners and business partners – Ross Farro, Diana Yatson, and Robert Navarro – provided a Big Shoulders Fund day. All of the proceeds from the restaurant on

Thursday, September 18, 2008 went to support the *Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board Scholarships*. Between the great burgers, to-die-for onion strings, and the wonderful shakes, all of the guests thoroughly enjoyed the day while raising over \$7,500 for scholarships.



Ways to Give.

No matter what size, every contribution is important. Your gift strengthens Chicago's inner-city Catholic schools through scholarships, special education programs, instructional equipment, school facility improvements, faculty support, operating grants and so much more!

Because of an endowment formed by early board members and income from investments, Big Shoulders is able to distribute 100 percent of contributions to support the mission of 93 Catholic schools. These schools serve as beacons of hope for generations of children and families regardless of their ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds.

There are many ways to make a tax-deductible gift to support Big Shoulders Fund, such as:

Cash Gifts. Mail checks to Big Shoulders Fund at: 309 West Washington Blvd., Suite 550, Chicago, IL, 60606. Make a secure online donation with any major credit card at www.bigshouldersfund.org. Make a gift using any major credit card over the phone by calling (312) 751-8337.

Matching Gifts. Contact your company's Human Resources Department or employer to determine if your gift to Big Shoulders can be matched and increase the impact of your gift. More than 22,000 companies offer matching gifts to their employees through matching gift programs. Typically, donors must initiate the matching gift by submitting an organization's matching gift form with their donation.

Planned Gifts. Make a planned gift arrangement or bequest, which entitles you to become a member of The Joseph Society. This group is comprised of friends who have made a special commitment, through a planned gift arrangement, to the children attending Catholic schools in the neediest areas of inner-city Chicago. If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, please contact Rebecca Lindsay-Ryan at (312) 751-3851 / rlindsayryan@bigshouldersfund.org.

Gifts of Securities. Make a gift of securities (stock) by having your broker contact Big Shoulders to transfer the shares to our account. Please contact Linda Rossi for further information or to make your gift of securities at (312) 751-5294 / lrossi@bigshouldersfund.org.

Pledges. Make a multi-year pledge to Big Shoulders Fund to support the Patrons Program, scholarship assistance, capital projects or for the greatest need. For more information on how your multi-year pledge can make a difference, please contact Joshua Hale at (312) 751-5395 / jhale@bigshouldersfund.org.



Help Make a Difference.

For more than twenty three years, the Big Shoulders Fund has undertaken the responsibility of helping Chicago's inner-city children to achieve their dreams through access to a quality, values-based education. However, we need your help to make this possible. There are many ways to make a difference and we hope you will get involved

Donate. Make a gift individually, as a family or through your company.

Participate. Attend our annual *Lend a Shoulder Day* where friends get a glimpse of what happens at the schools through visits, attending class and networking.

Mentor. Work directly with students. Mentors are placed whenever possible in the school of their own choosing or, if the mentor is able, where the need is the greatest. If you are interested in learning more about the mentoring opportunities, please contact Tom Zbierski, Director of School Relations at (312) 751-8365 / tzbierski@bigshouldersfund.org.

Build. Join or create a Patron Advisory Board. The Patrons Program is seeking bright, committed women and men to serve on Patron Advisory Boards. Our schools are in need of professionals who are interested in contributing a small amount of their time and talent in the areas of marketing, accounting, fundraising, capital improvements, construction and technology. Individuals can be part of these boards who are working to build a sustainable, vital future for Catholic schools in Chicago. If you are interested in learning more about joining a Patron Advisory Board, please contact John Moran, Director of the Patrons Program at (312) 751-3807 / jmoran@bigshouldersfund.org.

Fundraise. Help plan the annual *Big Shoulders Fund Golf Classic* which raises essential scholarship funds to enable inner-city children to attend inner-city Catholic schools. We are always seeking new members for the *Golf Classic* committee. Dedicated volunteers from the civic and business community plan the event and solicit sponsors, auction items, donations and foursomes. For more information, to golf or to join the committee, please contact Amy Drozda, Associate Director for Events and Publications at (312) 751-3850 / adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org.

Join. Become a part of the Auxiliary Board which is designed to engage active and altruistic young professionals. Members can be part of three committees: Fundraising, Outreach and Schools. Through these committees members are able to help plan fundraisers, volunteer with Big Shoulders schools and children, and work to increase the visibility of the Big Shoulders Fund and the Auxiliary Board, and recruit new members. For more information or to join please contact Amy Drozda, Associate Director for Events and Publications at (312) 751-3850 / adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org.



Since his arrival in Chicago more than 11 years ago, Francis Cardinal George, has consistently been a strong advocate for the inner-city Catholic schools and the mission of the Big Shoulders Fund. As Honorary Chairman of the Board, he provides leadership, vision and spiritual guidance for the many works of this organization. We are most grateful for his years of generous service and his commitment to this most important partnership.

THE BIG SHOULDERS FUND TEAM

Joshua Hale	Executive Director	312-751-5395
Amelia Drozda	Associate Director/Events and Publications	312-751-3850
Carolyn Gibbs	Associate Director/Corporate and Foundation Relations	312-544-8683
Rebecca Lindsay-Ryan	Director, External Affairs	312-751-3851
Tammy LoVerde	Accountant	312-751-8394
Claire McNulty	Administrative Assistant/School Relations	312-544-8680
John Moran	Director, Patrons Program	312-751-3897
Natalie Parrillo	Development Assistant	312-751-3898
Juli Rossi	Office Administrator	312-751-3895
Linda Rossi	Controller	312-751-5294
Sara Staral	Associate Director/Patrons Program	312-544-8684
Thomas Zbierski	Director, School Relations	312-751-8365

In memoriam.

The Big Shoulders Fund remembers the following director who passed away this year for her generosity and extraordinary leadership.

Joan Lavezzorio

Mrs. Lavezzorio was a long-time director and supporter of the Big Shoulders Fund and Catholic education. A graduate of St. Jerome and St. Scholastica Academy, Mrs. Lavezzorio served as chair of the board of Loyola Paper Company in Elk Grove Village. Mrs. Lavezzorio was also very active in philanthropy serving on the boards of Loyola Academy, Catholic Charities, Mazza Foundation and St. Francis Hospital. Through the Mazza Foundation, hundreds and hundreds of students have received scholarships to attend an inner-city Catholic school.

Big Shoulders Fund.

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