

**Big  
Shoulders  
Fund.®**

Engage.

**YEAR-END REVIEW.**

JUNE 1, 2009 TO JULY 31, 2011

## Engage.

It's commitment and connection. Becoming a part of the community where you live. And it's impacting the lives of so many children. Engagement is key. Whether it's launching an entrepreneurial start-up, moving a company to profitability or changing the educational landscape, when all the stakeholders are engaged that is when transformation, movement, dare we say progress happens. Big Shoulders finds ways to engage stakeholders to change the lives for nearly 24,000 inner-city children. Patrons and principals are engaged. Teachers are engaged. Civic and next generation leaders are engaged. The result is simple – accessible, effective, and efficient educational options preparing children for college and to become contributing members of our city and beyond.

Engage



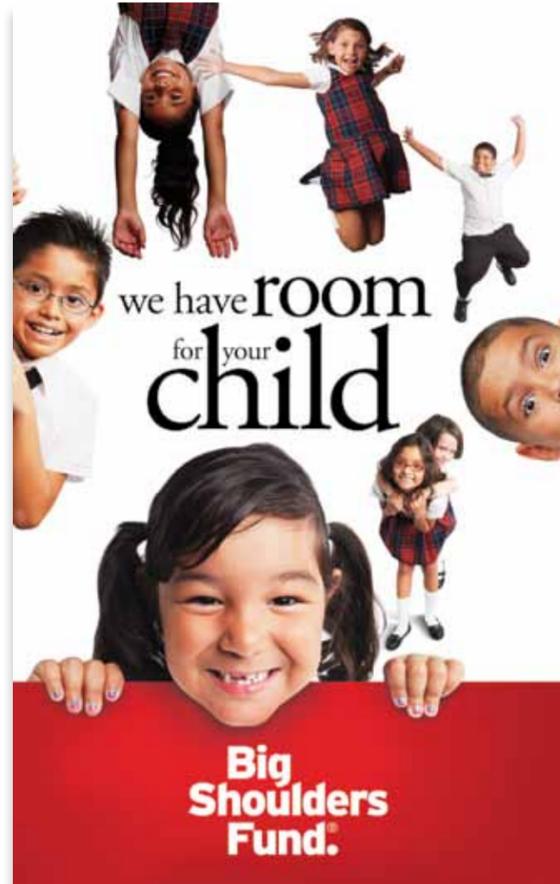
## Engage 360 degrees.

*Leigh-Anne Kazma  
Kazma Family Foundation*

“Education is not a spectator sport.” How often do you hear people thinking about solutions to problems that start out with “someone should...” or “they should do something.” Relying on others to fix problems might work for some things in society, but when it comes to education, that’s not an option. Children are at stake. Lives are at stake. And the future of our city is at stake. So, in this all-or-nothing game, everyone, everybody, has a vested interest. Families. Schools. You. Me. As a participant in the Big Shoulders Fund Patrons Program, I know that the role of inner-city Catholic schools in educating the children of our city is indispensable. I am on the team, as a partner with the principals, marketing directors, teachers and parents, to provide marketing, communications and financial support for two schools – St. Pius V. and St. Constance. This is an all-in commitment. We have all got to be in the game to win, because today, in the two schools I am working with, there are nearly 400 children counting on us to be part of the solution.

# Milestone Achievement: Enrollment Growth in Inner-city Catholic Schools

The Big Shoulders Fund reached a milestone with a one percent increase in overall enrollment in its schools. This stability comes in spite of tremendous financial pressures on inner-city schools and the families they serve, proving that Big Shoulders has built a winning formula for keeping city Catholic schools alive and accessible.



"This shouldn't be perceived as a one-year phenomenon," said Josh Hale, Big Shoulders Fund's executive director. "We really think there are pieces in place now that are helping promote the growing enrollment and the stability in Big Shoulders Fund schools."

Among the major initiatives is Project Enrollment, a generous marketing and tuition incentive program that provides scholarships to needy students who might not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic school. This effort focuses on retaining current students and attracting new students through recruiting efforts throughout the summer. At many schools, parents who refer new students to the school can get tuition discounts for their families.

At the same time, Big Shoulders has greatly expanded its scholarship programs overall, bringing in new donors to support needy students. Since 2004, Big Shoulders has nearly doubled the total number of scholarships to more than 5,000 this year. In total, those students received nearly \$4 million in scholarship aid.

One of the reasons more donors have been drawn to Big Shoulders is the organization's track record with its graduates, Hale said. Ninety-six percent of Big Shoulders students graduate from high school and 87 percent continue on to college, in sharp contrast to drop-out rates in inner-city school systems around the country. The Consortium on Chicago School Research released a study in 2006 indicating that of 100 Chicago public school freshmen, only six will earn a college degree.

At the instigation of the Big Shoulders Fund Patrons Program, many schools have created positions for marketing and development directors to recruit more students on the local level. The marketing leaders reach out to the community with advertising, open houses, special events and other strategies to promote their schools. Many directors are paid for by Patrons who are convinced the positions clearly justify the increased enrollments they generate.

Furthermore, Big Shoulders supports a summer fellows program that deploys recent college graduates and students to promote local Catholic schools through targeted local marketing efforts such as community events and street fairs. "It's hyper-local outreach," Hale said. "For us, it's like a political campaign, a grassroots effort to get the word out about our schools."

Here's a sampling of the tremendous progress in Big Shoulders Fund schools through recent initiatives:

## *St. Mary of the Angels*

Enrollment at St. Mary of the Angels School in the Bucktown neighborhood has grown from 110 students to 176 students. That's thanks, in part, to the hard work from marketing director Elise Bartzen who was introduced to the school as a Big Shoulders Fund Summer Fellow two years ago. Her priority is to simply get more of the growing number of young parents in Bucktown to walk in the doors at St. Mary's.

Bartzen says that once parents get inside, they often fall in love with the school. Toward that end, she's sponsored a Halloween party for the entire community, which attracted some 450 people. There's a variety of other school-sponsored events to attract young parents, such as a chili cook off, brunch with Santa, an open house and weekly story hours for moms and tots.

"Many people didn't even know there was a school here," said Bartzen. "The first step was just getting out in the neighborhood. I was proud of the school and I wanted to show it off."

St. Mary of the Angels also touts its offerings to working parents, such as extended day options that keep the doors open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Two new preschool classes were also added just in the past year, providing a base for future growth.

## *St. Angelas*

Recent enrollment increases at St. Angelas School in the Austin neighborhood have been among the largest and most encouraging of all Big Shoulders Fund schools.

In 2005, St. Angelas's church closed, and many feared the school enrollment would plummet. Instead, student enrollment has grown from roughly 200 students several years ago to more than 400 students today. The vast majority are living in poverty and are not Catholic.

St. Angelas's enrollment increase came from a major expansion of the early childhood programs. The plan was to introduce more families to the school at an early age, then keep them engaged through graduation. So far it has worked. Over the past couple years, seven new classrooms opened in grades pre-K through five, bringing in many additional students.

The school's marketing director and now principal, Geralyn Lawler, has been busy reaching out to alumni, as supporters as well as classroom volunteers. An alumni event last year drew in 400 people. Lawler also puts out a quarterly alumni newsletter to keep them engaged.

"The more people know about us and our mission, the better," she said.

St. Angelas's has also greatly expanded its summer program, attracting many potential students by opening up the school from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. Parents considering school options over the summer can easily arrange a tour. "The school is basically never closed," Lawler said.

## *Visitation*

At Visitation School in Englewood, a concerted effort to reach out to the Latino community has paid off with enrollment increases and a more diverse student body.

While Visitation's students have been predominantly African American for many years, the church recently began a Spanish Mass that attracts many Latino families. To make more of the families feel welcome, the church's pastor personally appealed to Latino families to consider Visitation school. The school also offered significant scholarship support to help ease the financial burden for the new families.

Additionally, a part-time marketing director who speaks Spanish came on board to reach out to that community and introduce the school to more Latinos.

As a result of those efforts, Visitation picked up 24 new families from the Latino community, said Sister Diane Boutet, O.P., who leads the school's marketing efforts. Visitation, which previously had little to no Latino enrollment, is now 12 to 15 percent Latino, Sister Diane said.

"The dynamic is really working well," she said. "Parents are pleased that the school is becoming more diverse and it helps to ensure the future of Visitation for many years to come."



## Stories of Engagement.

### One.

Adam Vargas spent much of his childhood moving around to different relatives' homes as his mother - a single parent of five children - suffered strokes and underwent emergency surgeries on her brain and heart.

Vargas, now 20, remembers the panic upon seeing an ambulance outside the door of his home on Chicago's South Side multiple times. He remembers being told his mom might not make it through the night.

Despite the stress that went with his mother's health challenges, Vargas, the eldest child, was driven to make a success of his own life. His mother struggled financially so Vargas was thrilled after earning a Siegel Scholarship from the Big Shoulders Fund, sponsored by investor Lois Siegel, that helped pay for his education at St. Rita of Cascia High School, an all-boys Catholic school on Chicago's South Side.

Vargas is convinced his top-notch education at St. Rita paved the way for an acceptance to his dream school - the University of Notre Dame, where he is now a junior studying psychology.

Catholic faith was critical to the Vargas family. Adam attended St. Walter Elementary School and couldn't imagine not attending a Catholic high school. Once he got the Big Shoulders scholarship, he felt compelled to make the most of the opportunity. He played soccer at St. Rita, wrote for the student newspaper, and worked extremely hard on his studies.

"I just always felt so fortunate to be there," he said. "I just felt that if I worked hard enough, then I'll have earned the ability to get into the school."

Meanwhile, he looked out for his mother, Carroll Vargas. Carroll suffers long-term effects from her health issues. Due to the strokes and the brain surgery, she has short-term memory problems and can no longer work as a nurse.

Carroll Vargas is amazed by Adam's resilience. "He became the man of the house for his brothers and sisters. He put up a brave front for everything," she said.

Vargas also received a full academic scholarship to attend Notre Dame. He recently wrote his donors a thank you letter that reflects his appreciation for all the support he's received throughout his education.

"I used to feel confused when my mom would tell me she is so grateful to God for the life she has had," Vargas wrote. "It's hard to imagine having so many health issues and still being so overwhelmingly appreciative. But she sees her five healthy children and feels like the most blessed woman in the world."

Adam said, "... I look at my life now and I see what my mom sees. ... I thank God and I thank you for the great life I've had and the opportunities you've opened up for me. Without your amazing willingness to help others, I would certainly not be in as good a position to one day return the favor by helping other young and eager minds. ... Please know that you've forever changed my life for the better."



## Two.

Helen Tewelde, now in her pediatrics residency at Cleveland Clinic, looks back in amazement at the opportunities she received in a Big Shoulders Fund elementary school.

Her parents, Samuel and Elsa Tewelde, are immigrants from Eritrea, a country in Eastern Africa, and they settled on the North Side with very little, hoping to build a life for their three children.

The couple opened a small neighborhood grocery store, La Milagrosa, and worked long hours to keep the business afloat, said Samuel Tewelde. At the same time, they felt strongly that their children needed the best possible education. The couple jumped at the chance for scholarship support from Big Shoulders, which allowed all the children to attend St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School in Uptown.

“The public school at that time, it just wasn’t feasible for us,” Samuel Tewelde said. “The education they got at St. Thomas was way above that.”

At St. Thomas, Principal Christine Boyd immediately saw the potential in Tewelde and advanced her curriculum, offering early exposure to Algebra and other challenging subjects. Boyd also referred Tewelde to a summer enrichment program for promising elementary school students at the prestigious Latin School, which paved the way for Tewelde’s admittance to Latin for high school.

Tewelde, now 28, remembers feeling stretched but supported in elementary school. “It helped definitely with discipline,” she said. “We were constantly being challenged and with lots of homework assignments.”

When she went to Latin, Tewelde felt she stood out as a minority among the upper-class student body there. “But I

also felt I deserved to be there because I was prepared,” she said.

During a visit several years ago to her homeland of Eritrea, Tewelde realized that medical school was the right path for her.

“The beginning of my desire to become a physician came out of a feeling of powerlessness that I experienced one summer’s day (in Eritrea),” she wrote in her medical school application. “... I remember there was a man making sounds on the same bus my family and I were traveling on. I later found out he fell off the top of another bus. The clinic could not see him until the next morning because it was always closed in the late evening when this accident occurred. Every bump in the road resulted in his crying out in pain. ... I saw all this pain but was powerless to do anything to help.”

Tewelde went on to the University of Chicago, where she graduated with honors in biological science, then to Rush University medical school. As a young adult, she felt compelled to volunteer as a way to give back for all the financial support she had received. She volunteered at her church, St. Mary’s Eritrean Orthodox Church, teaching Bible study classes and mentoring youths. She also volunteered in the playroom at the University of Chicago Hospitals, where she played games and read to bedside patients.

She traces her volunteer spirit back to her time at St. Thomas.

“They taught us the importance of being grateful for the doors that have opened to you and always said that we should try to give back,” Tewelde said. “That definitely shaped my character.”

## Three.

Despite some setbacks in his family life, Vincent Kenny is extremely driven, a dedicated member of the award-winning St. Ignatius High School Scholastic Bowl Team, and an aspiring scientist.

Kenny was just 3 when his mother and father divorced, and his father has not been an active part of his life since. When he was in fourth grade, Kenny received a Gallagher Scholarship through the Big Shoulders Fund, which made his Catholic school tuition at St. Jerome Elementary School affordable for his mom, Anna Kenny, a single mother who works as a respiratory therapist. The Gallagher Scholarship also followed him through St. Ignatius.

The scholarship program was an important part of Kenny’s life because the program’s mentors strongly emphasized the “Code of Conduct,” which focused on hard work, dedication and a positive attitude, Anna Kenny said. “The scholarship made him see that working hard, he could achieve more and people noticed when he did,” she said. “They set their standards high and gave him something to aim for.”

A long-time Jeopardy fan, Kenny, 17, brought his skill for the game to the St. Ignatius Scholastic Bowl Team, which he joined as a freshman. Kenny has been a science specialist for the team, which won a state championship last year and then finished in 15th place during a national competition in Washington, D.C.

Kenny has been a stand-out student at St. Ignatius with a 4.0 grade-point-average (on a 4-point scale). He’s a member of the National Honor Society and the National Latin Honor Society and has been an altar

server and lector at his church, St. Jerome’s, in the Bridgeport neighborhood. He wants to study chemical engineering in college and has already been accepted to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Institute of Technology, and is waiting on other schools.

Kenny, 17, said his studies have always been his refuge during challenging periods. One of those times was when his Uncle Frank was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. Frank had been like a father to Vincent and his brother, Brian, taking the boys at least once a month to his house on the lake for a weekend of woodworking, fishing and campfires.

“Frank’s energy was endless and his lust for life contagious,” Vincent wrote in a college application essay this year. “Slowly, over five years, ALS robbed my uncle of all his physical abilities. ALS could not, however, steal his wisdom, his force, nor his strength of character. ... But as Frank’s war against this vile disease waged on, he taught me the value of perseverance and determination, how to live life honorably, and the importance of friends and family.”

Kenny’s uncle died in 2007, but remains a motivating presence in his life.

“I just have a lot of motivation now,” Kenny said. “I grew up with a lot of structure and just sort of everything in my life has led me to this. When I try something, I want to do the best I possibly can.”

## Four.

An attorney and patent examiner with three high-level degrees and recent candidate for Chicago alderman in the 18th Ward, Chuks Onyezia is at the top of his game.

Yet Onyezia’s path to success has been far from easy. His parents, hard-working immigrants from Nigeria with three children, struggled financially and were busy getting their own degrees to build a more stable life in America.

Worried that their son would be lost in city public schools, the Onyezias turned to St. Thomas of Canterbury to guide and inspire Chuks. Onyezia says his education at St. Thomas, along with Big Shoulders Fund scholarships for high-quality Chicago Catholic high schools, made all the difference in getting him on the right track.

“I’m a firm believer that my life would be different if I hadn’t had the opportunity to attend Catholic school,” he said.

Onyezia’s father, Charles Onyezia, now a geologist for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, put it more bluntly. He saw a bright young boy who pushed back with his teachers a bit, and was distracted by girls. “I think he would have been destroyed at a public school,” Charles Onyezia said. “Public school just didn’t have the structure he needed.”

Onyezia said the disciplined environment, uniforms, and the close personal attention were key. He remembers constantly being pushed with more challenging material in junior high. Teachers stayed after school to work with him personally.

Onyezia was considering a large Chicago public high school when his principal at St. Thomas, Christine Boyd, told him about a Big Shoulders Fund scholarship offered to needy but promising students at Holy Name Cathedral High School. That one opportunity led him on a path to achieve a lot more. Being on a scholarship in high school also made him more accountable. “It just curbs a lot of behavior problems because you have something to lose,” Onyezia said.

After Holy Name closed, Onyezia moved on to Gordon Tech, the all-boys Catholic high school he graduated from. A high school teacher pushed him to apply for a college scholarship from the American Chemical Society. He was shocked when he actually won the scholarship to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Following his undergraduate degree, Onyezia earned his MBA and law degrees from the University of Illinois. Throughout this time, he felt compelled to volunteer and give back, working for the YMCA’s Black and Latino Achievers Program and for free legal clinics.

Running for alderman was just an extension of that goal to serve others, Onyezia said. If elected, he would push for further education reforms that draw on his own success in Big Shoulders Fund schools.

“There’s just a lot of things I would want to emulate,” he said. “A big part of it is the structure in the Catholic system.”

## Five.

*Darius Fleming, now a standout linebacker for the University of Notre Dame, may have been in a much different position today had he not come home from middle school one day with disturbing news for his dad.*

*“He said, ‘Dad, I’m not really learning anything at this school,’” recalls Fleming’s father, Larry Fleming. “For your child to tell you that, and they’re only 11 years old, that really stuck.”*

*Larry Fleming quickly transferred Darius out of his Chicago public school and began considering Catholic high schools with strong academic reputations. Ultimately, Fleming decided on St. Rita of Cascia High School, an all-boys Catholic school on the city’s South Side.*

*At St. Rita, Fleming hoped to be a bowling sensation. He hadn’t played much football before but decided to give St. Rita’s team a try. Almost immediately, he stood out as one of the top players, even as a freshman. Fleming also stood out because of his character, says his former coach, John Nee.*

*Nee remembers Fleming showing up outside his office one day, a clueless freshman who had forgotten a t-shirt to scrimmage in. By this time, coaches were already talking about his amazing ability.*

*Fleming introduced himself to Nee, then excitedly mentioned that he made the A team as a freshman – no surprise given his talent, yet Darius seemed completely unaware of how gifted a player he was. “He’s saying ‘Coach, coach, I made the A team,’” Nee said, “And I’m thinking, ‘Darius, you’re actually the best player on the team!’ The best part about him is that he’s always been that same easy, happy-go-lucky kid, just a nice, down-to-earth kid.”*

*Fleming’s parents were divorced and he lived with his father through middle school and high school. Father and son were very close, and often analyzed Darius’ progress and the team’s development together. In his second year, Fleming began attracting attention around the state, but Larry Fleming had a health scare that put all of their dreams on hold.*

*Suffering from a severe case of diverticulitis – an inflammation in his digestive tract – Fleming needed emergency surgery. His case was so serious that he couldn’t work for months afterward, and the tuition bills at St. Rita began to mount. Friends helped out for a few months, then the Big Shoulders Fund offered a scholarship, making it possible for Fleming to finish out his schooling at St. Rita, and giving his dad peace of mind to focus on his recovery.*

*The scholarship was critical because by this time, Fleming and his father had clearly fallen in love with the school. Darius was a top student too, earning solid grades and blossoming from the discipline, structure and Christian values at St. Rita.*

*“I look at St. Rita and I know it helped him learn how to be a gentleman and how to carry himself in a respectful manner,” Larry Fleming said. “... And it was so academically sound. All I did was put Darius in a position to accomplish something.”*

*Darius’ football career took off. By his senior year, he helped carry the team to a state championship title, then had dozens of football scholarship offers from the best teams in the country. Nee said he is still one of the top players ever to graduate from St. Rita, and is likely to receive NFL offers.*

*Ultimately, Darius and his father chose Notre Dame because of the warmth they felt there on a visit and the school’s strong academic program. Darius, a 21-year-old junior studying business, still feels a lot of gratitude for the opportunity to attend St. Rita High School.*

*“If I had to transfer out of St. Rita, I don’t know where I’d be right now. I definitely wouldn’t be at Notre Dame,” Fleming said. “I still try my best to keep in touch with the coaches at St. Rita. They were friends both on and off the field and they really took the time to teach me so much.”*

## Six.

Juan and Maria Pedroza immigrated from Mexico in 1989 with a couple hundred dollars and three small children - and literally nothing more but the clothes on their backs. They moved into a tiny basement apartment across the street from St. Agnes of Bohemia Elementary School on Chicago’s South Side.

At the time, success meant food on the table and a job for Juan, a handyman who worked in plants and on side jobs. He felt grateful if he earned \$250 a week for a family that grew to six.

Now, 22 years later, the couple is awed by their four children, who’ve moved on to Harvard, DePauw, Cornell and the University of Illinois. Still, they don’t credit themselves. Instead, they’re grateful to the Big Shoulders Fund, which supported their elementary school and provided a scholarship for one of their children, and the staff at St. Agnes and St. Ignatius High School.

Asked about the secret to her children’s accomplishments, Maria Pedroza doesn’t hesitate. “The secret is all the help we’ve been given along the way.”

A devout Catholic with a warm, disciplined approach to life, Maria Pedroza desperately wanted her children to attend Catholic school. But with no money for tuition, the family tried a Chicago public school. For two years, the Pedrozas worried their children weren’t thriving in a school that seemed plagued by South Side gang influences and limited resources. She remembers her oldest son telling her he wasn’t learning.

Finally, Maria Pedroza sat in front of former St. Agnes Principal Pat Jones, pleading for a way to send her children to the Catholic school across

the street. Like she had done for thousands of immigrant families, Jones figured out a formula that worked. The Pedrozas contributed what they could. Maria sewed draperies for the classrooms and Juan installed them. The principal frequently drove him to job sites when his van was broken or he didn’t have money for gas. Maria took on babysitting jobs for St. Agnes schoolchildren after school.

“What we did for them, we did for all of our students,” said Jones, former principal at St. Agnes for 26 years. “We identified the needs of the family and we tried to match the need with some type of resources. ... Our teachers also always went the extra mile. Everybody in that school worked exceedingly hard, with care, concern and with love and with respect. That was our ethic.”

Juan and Maria Pedroza saw that their children thrived at St. Agnes, which served a high-poverty population, many of them Mexican immigrants, in the Little Village neighborhood. The staff was so supportive, the couple said, and their children loved to learn. The oldest daughter, Maria Pedroza, was so bright that she tutored some of her peers in the classroom. She was encouraged to attend St. Ignatius. After that, Harvard never seemed out of reach.

Another family godsend was the late Robert E. Gallagher, Sr., the former chairman of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., and an original supporter of the Big Shoulders Fund. Gallagher started one of the first scholarship programs for Big Shoulders - the Gallagher Scholars - and became a patron at St. Agnes. The youngest Pedroza child, Gabriela, received a Gallagher Scholarship, which made St. Agnes affordable and followed her into a highly selective college prep school St. Ignatius.

Gallagher fell in love with the Pedroza family, as he did with scores of families at St. Agnes over the years. He often visited the family in their apartment and at scholar gatherings. If Gallagher learned the Pedrozas were going through a tough time, he found a way to quietly support them.

Gallagher also sent letters to one of the children, Pedro Pedroza, after he was accepted to Cornell University, Gallagher’s alma mater. At the time, Gabriela was a Gallagher Scholar, and Pedro had also made an impression on Gallagher.

Pedro savors those letters, filled with encouragement and guidance. “You can accomplish anything you set your mind on,” Gallagher wrote in one of his last letters before passing away in 2006. “I love how passionate you are about so many issues.”

Attached to that letter was an article Gallagher wrote, “Leadership: Observations from a Lifetime.” It was 53 short points on leadership, including this one: “Leaders have a need to help others.”

Indeed, Gallagher had a need to help many families at St. Agnes and students throughout Big Shoulders Fund schools. His scholarship has opened doors to thousands of students since its founding in 2004, and is one of the largest scholarships offered by Big Shoulders.

Sometimes, it was the smallest things that seemed to make an impression on the scholars. One young boy talked at a scholar reception about wanting to “wear a suit one day” when he grew up. Little more than a week later, Gallagher had a perfectly tailored, hand-made suit sent to his door.

Another top student, Kristen Jones, couldn’t afford tuition for a Catholic high school where she had

been accepted. At the time, she wasn’t a Gallagher scholar. Gallagher immediately made her one. “He just needed to hear the story,” Jones said, “and then he’d ask at different times, ‘How’s Kristen?’”

For families like the Pedrozas, the impact of that kind of support is immeasurable. Juan and Maria Pedroza said they simply cried after all four of their children got their acceptance letters to college. Their oldest child, Juan Manuel Jr., graduated from DePauw and works as a researcher for the Urban Institute. Maria Socorro graduated from Harvard and earned two master’s degrees from New York University and Brigham Young University; Pedro is a junior at Cornell, and Gabriela is a junior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“We never imagined that one of our kids could go to college. How?” Juan Pedroza said. “But they figured out in school that they could do it - if they worked hard.”

In talking about how much the Pedroza family benefitted from the Gallagher Scholarship, Juan and Maria Pedroza, who still live in their tiny apartment across from St. Agnes, are overcome with emotion. “He was a great person,” Juan Pedroza said. “You could just talk to him and feel that he was a great man.”

Pedro says there is no doubt that the support his siblings received from the Gallagher family and the scholarships are a big reason they’ve done so well. It wasn’t just the financial support, Pedro said. It was a vote of confidence in them.

“It’s positive reinforcement,” he said. “You’re being recognized for excelling in school. Already the world is telling you that you can be rewarded for doing well.”

# Scholarships.

## Viellieu-Studdert – NES Scholarship

Business associates looking for a charitable project to dive into found a great option through the Big Shoulders Fund, with a scholarship that's opening doors for a tight-knit group of inner-city elementary students.

The Viellieu-Studdert scholarship is the combined effort of two North Shore couples - Amy and Ken Viellieu and Mary Pat and Andy Studdert, along with Studdert's company, NES Rentals. Both couples have been involved in the development, selection and mentoring of the students in the program.

A cornerstone of the scholarship is a community service component that's making a powerful impact on the scholars. Last year, the scholars wrote letters and sent coloring books to young Haitian students suffering through the aftermath of the earthquake. This year, the scholars visited a soup kitchen at St. Stanislaus Kostka in Chicago's West Town neighborhood.

Amy Viellieu said the Haiti project touched the students so much that she decided to make a community service project a critical component of the scholarship.

"It's the idea of paying it forward," Viellieu said. "Someone is helping me, so I should be helping someone in some way as well."

The scholarship launched in the 2008-09 school year with a group of 10 scholars in fourth and fifth grades. The scholarship will follow those 10 students through 8th grade and may continue into high school as well, Amy Viellieu said.

"We get a lot of personal satisfaction from working with these great kids," she said. "I really like meeting with them and coming up with projects. It's just satisfying to watch them work so hard toward their dreams."

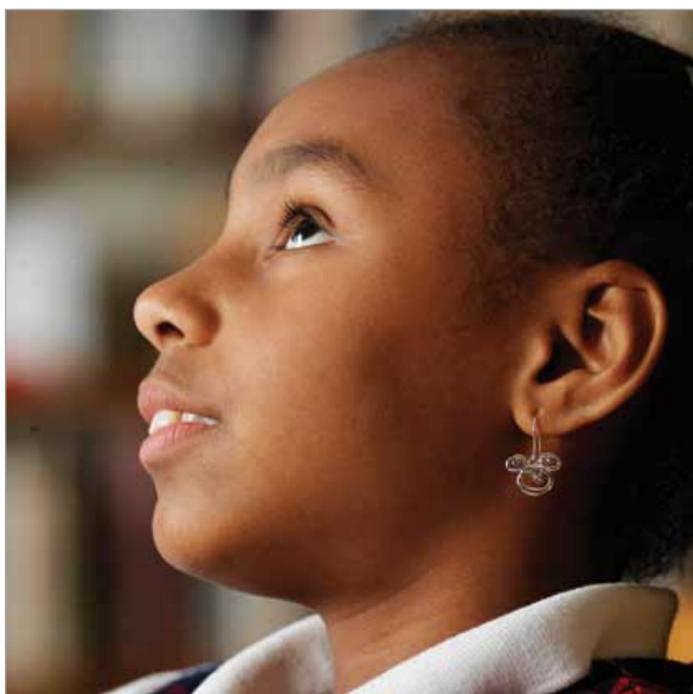


## Harris Bank Scholarship

Harris Bank launched a generous scholarship in the 2010-2011 school year for five sixth graders and five 10th graders attending Big Shoulders Fund Schools. Scholars were chosen based on their academic ability, financial need, and a clear commitment to community service.

Harris Bank leaders focused on providing access and support for students who had taken on community service work through their own initiative. Students also bringing a multilingual ability demonstrating a commitment to the new international workplace that companies and employees now navigate.

Elementary school students receive a \$2,500 scholarship. If they maintain a 3.5 grade point average, they are eligible to renew the scholarship through eighth grade. High school students earn \$3,500 annual scholarships that can carry through to graduation. Currently, scholars attend Notre Dame for Girls, Our Lady of Tepeyac, St Pius and St. Procopius.



## Dempsey-Corboy Scholarship

Chicago attorney Philip H. Corboy and his wife, Chicago Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey, have been longtime supporters of the Big Shoulders Fund. Corboy was one of the first people the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin reached out to for support in launching Big Shoulders nearly 25 years ago.

Since then, Corboy has dedicated countless hours and financial support toward Big Shoulders, as an executive committee member, past chairman and school patron.

In 2007, Corboy and Dempsey launched a new scholarship program for Big Shoulders. There are now 34 scholars from seventh through twelfth grade in the program. Students come from a variety of Big Shoulders Fund schools, although many have been from Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Tepeyac, St. Ann and St. Sylvester schools.

Scholars are chosen based on financial need and academic potential. They are given a \$750 annual award in elementary school and a \$3,000 annual award in high school. Long-term, the scholarship aims to help break the cycle of poverty among its recipients by giving students an opportunity for a high-quality education they might not otherwise afford.

Dempsey said she and her husband are passionate about scholarships as they each had scholarship support in college.

"We understand the importance of having assistance to get through school," Dempsey said. "We both believe education is the answer for anybody of any background, so this was a natural fit for us."

Dempsey said she and her husband believe the success of students in Big Shoulders Fund schools is impressive, with the vast majority of students graduating from high school and going on to college, clearly surpassing their peers in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Dempsey is especially touched by letters she receives from scholars thanking her for her support. "I love the way they say thank you; it makes a difference," Dempsey said. "Someday, they're going to have the ability to do what we're doing and I don't want them to forget that, the importance of reaching back and giving back."

## STEM Scholarship

Picking up on a national movement to shore up children's skills in science and math, the Big Shoulders Fund has launched a new scholarship with a focus in those areas.

The idea behind the scholarship is to encourage more children to engage in "STEM" areas - science, technology, engineering and math - because the nation's ability to compete globally will depend on a more highly skilled workforce with a better grasp of those subjects.

The Big Shoulders Fund STEM Scholars Program was founded by longtime Big Shoulders' supporters Dave and Wendy Dury. The couple comes to some of the weekend workshops and enjoys interacting with the scholars.

Twenty-three fifth grade students were selected for the \$1,800 annual scholarship in 2010-11, and the award will follow them through their 8th grade year. A second group of 25 fifth graders began during the 2011-12 school year.

Students are chosen based on their interest in the subject areas and their financial need. As part of the program, the students participate in a series of Saturday morning enrichment classes twice a month focused on science and math concepts. Students visit local museums such as the Museum of Science and Industry, the Adler Planetarium and the Shedd Aquarium, and conduct lab-based experiments and simulations.

With guidance from the Durys, the program is administered by Wayne Wittenberg, a Glen Ellyn elementary school science teacher who has led science workshops for Big Shoulders Fund teachers for years. Wittenberg helped select the students from at least 10 Big Shoulders Fund schools.

"Our ultimate goal is to get more students into science and math fields because that's an area American students are just not pursuing as much," Wittenberg said. "This is very exciting. I'm just in awe of the good teachers we've got working with us, and how excited they and the students are to come in on a sixth day and work on science and math."



**Engage** those who need it most.

*Kathleen & Bill Lynch*

Not all students come in the door equally equipped to succeed. We need to engage all students at their own individual level of learning. That is why it is crucial that we address each student's unique needs as quickly, efficiently, and directly as we possibly can regardless of abilities or disabilities. Through our inclusive educational outreach programs, led by the Big Shoulders Fund, engagement means providing all the benefits of a Catholic education to students with a variety needs. We hope to serve students by offering solid curriculum, differentiated instruction, universal screening and progress monitoring. Today, we are working with university partners, experts in this area, as well as teachers and principals to build the capacity at the local level to ensure all students who come through the schoolhouse doors can be served as well as possible. As students' needs are identified, teachers are prepared with the appropriate methods of interventions to help students meet and exceed their ability on all levels. The way forward is for everyone to play their part, supply the necessary support, and engage together to serve all students well.

To enhance the quality of early math education, the CME Group Foundation awarded \$750,000 over three years to the Big Shoulders Fund to work with a group of five schools in the Big Shoulders Fund network.

As part of the program, preschool through third grade teachers in the pilot schools will get professional development and coaching in how best to enhance early math skills. Big Shoulders is partnering with Saint Xavier University to provide the professional development. Saint Xavier will also track student progress over the three years with a group of comparison schools that don't get training, to ensure program effectiveness.

The Big Shoulders grant is part of a larger initiative that CME Group Foundation launched last year. The foundation awarded a total of \$3.6 million in early math grants to six other Chicago area nonprofits as well.

## ⬆️ CME Group Foundation Early Math Initiative

## ⬆️ McCormick Foundation Early Childhood Specialist Program

There's no question that a high-quality early childhood education can have a huge impact on a child's long-term success in school and life. A growing body of research has proven the point, including the work of Jim Heckman, an economist at the University of Chicago, whose research has found that the return on investment for \$1 in early childhood education can be \$17 or more to society.

With that in mind, the Big Shoulders Fund has been investing in training more early childhood teachers as specialists in their field, and is now turning to those specialists to coach other teachers throughout the system. The research states that high quality programs need to be in place to nurture and prepare students for elementary school.

Through a partnership with National Louis University and with funding from the McCormick Foundation, 21 Big Shoulders teachers earned certificates as early childhood specialists over the past several years. For the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, those teachers helped spread best practices to a larger pool. At the same time, the specialists meet regularly as a support network, sharing ideas on how to enhance early childhood programs throughout Big Shoulders schools "By strengthening the leadership and knowledge base of early childhood educators within this network of schools," commented Robert R. McCormick Foundation President and CEO David Hiller, "Big Shoulders Fund is increasing their capacity to provide accessible, high-quality early education to more than 4,000 children from our most underserved communities. The McCormick Foundation is pleased to support sustainable efforts to strengthen and improve the quality of early childhood education in Chicago."

"All young children have the capacity to learn and become competent in math, but many times, that potential is not realized in the early years of schooling, particularly for low income children," said Jack Sandner, CME Group Foundation chairman and Big Shoulders Fund Director, in announcing the grants. "Math education has risen to the top of the national policy agenda to meet the demands of international competition in the 21st Century that require a workforce competent in math."

Big Shoulders Fund schools taking part in the effort are: St. Ailbe in Calumet Heights; St. Bede the Venerable in Ashburn; St. Bruno in Archer Heights; Our Lady of the Snows in Garfield Ridge; and St. Richard in Archer Heights.

In the 2010-2011 school year, the 21 specialists visited 90 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms, assessing classroom resources and helping teachers find new ways to engage students.

Among the early childhood specialists is Linda Schaeffer, who teaches at St. Ann elementary school in Pilsen. One of the biggest lessons she's learned about high quality early childhood classrooms is that teachers need to relinquish more control to the children, even if it means the classroom may get a bit messy or seem less orderly.

"It's really about having children really own the classroom," she said. "For example, I use materials in the art center differently now. They're always out. A child can go to the art center and pick whatever they want, even if it's tape, glue, strings. It's there for them to decide and learn from."

Schaeffer also takes the children outside to explore nature a lot more. "I bring out water and they're going to get wet and muddy," she said. "... You have to be comfortable with that, as that's how young children learn."

Schaeffer said the network of specialists has been a great support system for sharing ideas, and she believes it will greatly improve the quality of early childhood programming.

"The more that you have a network to call on, that makes any teacher stronger," she said. "It will just help create a stronger core of early childhood teachers." Through the support of the McCormick Foundation, Schaeffer along with others are turning their attention to early childhood assistants and aides to provide them opportunities for personal growth, professional development and, perhaps for some, starting them on a pathway to becoming an early childhood teacher.

Helping to bring excitement around science to at-risk pre-K students, the PNC Foundation recently awarded a \$3 million, three-year grant to bring age-appropriate science education to 1,000 students in the Big Shoulders Fund and the Chicago Public School (CPS) systems.

As part of the effort, Chicago's world-class science museums will collaborate to improve early science learning and increase access to community science resources. The museums taking part are the Adler Planetarium, The Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Shedd Aquarium.

Thirteen Big Shoulders Fund classrooms are participating in the program, which engages young students to see and experience how science relates to their lives. Experts from the museums will work with Big Shoulders and CPS to help teachers create hands-on, inquiry-based science activities, and classrooms will receive science kits and materials to help students learn and reinforce basic concepts.

## PNC Grow Up Great ⬆️ Early Science Learning Program

## Extended Day ⬆️ Programs

As the dismissal bell rings at St. Sylvester School in Logan Square, a new world comes into view. The wide range of after school clubs includes tutoring, music, drama, an environmental club, yoga, foreign language classes such as Mandarin Chinese, and a variety of sports teams.

"The clubs, classes and teams build up our sense of community and improve the overall dynamic of our school," said St. Sylvester Principal Dan Bennett.

Bennett's approach is a perfect example of the kind of quality after school programming that is increasingly being offered at Big Shoulders Fund schools. With tremendous support from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Union Pacific Foundation and other funders, 32 schools received grants over the past year to enhance their after school programs. With nearly \$150,000 in annual grants over the past year, Big Shoulders has focused on making the time after school far superior to the babysitting service it once was for so many inner-city schools.

"We're really trying to have very strong extended day programs, and to make them tied to the school day," said Joshua Hale, executive director of the Big Shoulders. "If it's a cooking class, for instance, make sure the program uses real-world math to build on what the students learn during the day. Also, if

Participating pre-K teachers will receive professional development during the school year and at a summer forum. In addition, teachers will receive coaching by museum staff inside their classrooms. Families and caretakers of the children will be invited to help with the learning process, with opportunities to visit interactive exhibits at the participating museums as a way to promote their child's love of science.

"A quality preschool program creates a foundation for success," said Joe Gregoire, PNC Bank regional president in Illinois, speaking on behalf of the PNC Foundation. "Our support of science and math education for Chicago pre-K students is a strategic investment to address the changing needs of an economy that is increasingly based on knowledge and skills."

there's intentionality in offering what the kids want to do, that really increases the number of kids coming and their investment in learning."

Schools that have enhanced their programs often see enrollments climb as a result. At St. Sylvester, for example, prospective families on school tours are clearly impressed by the after school options, and some cite them as a key reason for enrolling their child, Bennett said. The marketing pluses to the after school programs are clear, particularly for working parents, as some schools are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are also strong academic benefits to quality after school offerings. Students who stayed for after school programming in some Big Shoulders schools recently scored two points higher on standardized tests compared to students who didn't attend the programs. Also for students consistently participating in quality after school programs, the students typically gain 13 to 15 points on standardized tests over four years much stronger than the average or anticipated growth over that time.



## Engage to lead.

### *Chairmen's Advisory Council and Auxiliary Board*

Twenty-five years ago, corporate leaders serving both as titans of industry and civic engagement came together to found the Big Shoulders Fund with the vision of sustaining the opportunity provided by inner-city Catholic schools. While the founders remain actively engaged, today we have been invited to bring new leadership, fresh vision and vital energy to drive this tremendous organization into the future. We have been charged with broadening Big Shoulders' scope of service and sustaining the momentum. Over the past four years, the Chairmen's Advisory Council and the Auxiliary Board have developed and grown exponentially, building awareness and raising significant funds for Big Shoulders. Moreover, these two groups have contributed their sweat equity, time and talent to the 93 Big Shoulders Fund schools. We are engaged. We are committed. Whether it is sharing the mission with new corporate and social networks or it is spending a Saturday morning painting and clearing out a classroom, we see the impact of this engagement in the scholars we support, the schools that we help to keep open and the principals we meet at Lend a Shoulder Day. Out of this engagement, we hope comes the energy, drive, and yes, leadership to carry the Big Shoulders Fund mission confidently into the future.

## Building the Next Generation of School Leaders

With many veteran principals set to retire in the next several years, the development of new leaders to serve in Chicago's inner-city Catholic schools is critically important to the Big Shoulders Fund.

To that end, the Big Shoulders Fund created the Leadership Development Program in 2007. Big Shoulders supports qualified teachers to pursue master's degrees in educational administration at five local universities: DePaul University, Dominican University, Loyola University Chicago, University of Notre Dame and Saint Xavier University.

This year, Big Shoulders received additional funding directed at developing teacher leaders. Big Shoulders introduced a Teacher Development Program to support promising teachers in their work towards a master's degree or endorsements in a variety of content areas. In this way, Big Shoulders hopes to retain more high-quality teachers in inner-city schools.

Sandria Morten, principal at St. Matthias Transfiguration School in Lincoln Square, is mentoring two of her teachers through the Leadership Development Program. She is working with Sheila Klich, the assistant principal and an 8th grade teacher at St. Matthias, who's attending Notre Dame, and Anne Gallagher, who's attending DePaul.

Morten herself had been teaching just two years at St. Matthias when the retiring principal identified her as a great candidate for the principal's job. Morten says she was flattered and excited to become a principal, but a leadership development program through Notre Dame helped her gain confidence to do her best possible work.

"What makes me a real believer in these programs is that I feel I got the preparation I needed very quickly. Leadership programs give you the support network and the access to experts. It was really helpful for me to have that network in the first few years of my being principal," she says.

Meghan Hurley Gibbs, co-principal at St. Agnes of Bohemia School on the city's West Side, was among the first cohorts of teachers to graduate from Big Shoulders' leadership development program. While teaching at St. Agnes, she was identified as a great principal candidate, and went on to a master's program at Loyola University Chicago.

Less than a year after graduating from the program herself, Gibbs began mentoring a teacher on her staff - Kathleen Duffy - who teaches 8th grade math and religion. With Gibbs' encouragement, Duffy is working toward her master's degree in administration from Notre Dame.

Gibbs says Catholic school principals have to wear so many hats that a program specifically tailored to their needs is a major boost.

"It's a really difficult job," Gibbs says of the Catholic school principal's post. "The main thing I've realized is you just have to attempt to cultivate leaders for this job. If you're tapped for the job without any guidance, it's a really hard thing to walk into."

This school year, Duffy is taking over the reins as principal of St. Agnes as Gibbs has stepped away to spend time with her family.

## Engaging School Leaders

Only a few years ago, enrollment at St. Sylvester School in Logan Square had dipped to about 150 students. Today, 250 students are enrolled, and many staff and supporters say the school has seen an impressive transformation thanks to the leadership of Principal Dan Bennett.

Since coming on board in 2007, Bennett has expanded the preschool program, greatly improved the after school club and sports offerings, introduced a differentiated reading curriculum, enhanced technology and launched a summer school program, among other things.

Most importantly, Bennett has built a supportive, progressive and responsive atmosphere that's been well received by prospective parents, students and teachers.

"He models what a Catholic principal should be as a man of faith and an educator," said the Rev. Paul Stein, pastor of St. Sylvester Church. "... St. Sylvester is not just a good school now. It's an excellent school."

Bennett is among a cohort of 20 principals whose quality leadership was recognized by a grant from the Big Shoulders Fund made possible by the Polk Bros. Foundation. This year, each of winners were awarded an \$11,500 grant to support programs of their choice at their schools. Award recipients also met regularly throughout the school year to share ideas and work through challenges together.

St. Sylvester has received a Polk Bros. grant for the past several years, and Bennett said the award has been a welcome vote of confidence.

"Just getting that letter of acceptance is great, knowing what we're doing is being affirmed by the foundation," Bennett said. Over the past year, St. Sylvester applied the grant toward improvements in the hardware and software in the school's technology lab.

Bennett had been teaching third grade at St. Sylvester when he was selected for the principal's post. He concentrated on building up the preschool enrollment and making the after school programming more attractive to students. Through his leadership, the school introduced a variety of new sports teams and clubs such as yoga, Mandarin Chinese, arts and crafts, Girl Scouts, and tutoring.

"Every day, there's a different offering that really gives a lifeblood to the school after dismissal," Bennett says. "That's a huge thing for me and for the parents. When 2:30 comes along, I don't want the school to just shut down."

Bennett has also worked to accommodate more students with special needs by dedicating a staff person to help children needing extra supports in the classroom with learning disabilities. Bennett said many of his initiatives were driven by things prospective and current parents asked for.

Teachers at the school say the Polk Bros. Foundation support is well-deserved for a leader who has done so much to improve the overall program at St. Sylvester. "He leads so well by example in terms of what we should be doing in our classrooms," said first grade teacher Lynn Gilmore. "And he literally would drop everything the moment a family comes to the door."

Adds teacher Molly Graber: "If he could, he would do anything for this school. I think it means that much to him. He wants whatever is best for it."





# Chairmen's Advisory Council.

Since 2007, the Chairmen's Advisory Council has engaged mid-career professionals to contribute their time and financial support to the Big Shoulders Fund. The goal has been to attract business executives who may not have the financial means to become school patrons, but can volunteer their expertise and talent to the schools.

Now led by Fred O'Connor, Lori Dawson and John Podjasek, over the past year the council has grown to more than 50 members and hopes to increase its membership again in the coming year. Big Shoulders would also like to attract a more diverse base of business leaders for the future, reflecting the large minority representation in its schools.

Among the council's most successful programs so far is the Stock Market Program based on a program Director Charlie Bobrinsky started at one school, which puts volunteer business leaders into classrooms to teach the basic principles of saving, investing and the nation's stock market. The children, all 8th graders, use donated funds from the Big Shoulders volunteers to create a hypothetical stock portfolio and pick their own stocks, based on actual research of companies. Once a month, the volunteer executives teach new concepts of investing and saving, and give students an option to change their portfolios.

Students with the best stock picks can generate money for their school each year. In most cases, the 20 to 30 students in each class receive a 1 percent "management fee" for their portfolio, which typically amounts to about \$30 for each student, with any remaining portfolio going directly to the school. The program has grown significantly from 3 to 11 to over 20 schools are participating this year.

The Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board exceeded expectations once again this year, raising more than \$125,000 and reaching 205 members by the end of 2010.



# BSF Auxiliary Board.

Now in its fourth year, the Auxiliary Board is a significant source of scholarship support and service to inner-city Catholic schools, funding 89 scholarships last year alone.

More than \$85,000 of the funds raised came from the Big Shoulders Fund Ball and nearly \$15,000 from the Bowl for Big Shoulders.

"It's amazing that even in a down economy, Big Shoulders continues to surpass our goals from a year ago," said Mark Kirchner, president of the Auxiliary Board.

Launched in 2007, the Auxiliary Board ended its first year with 58 members and has continued to build momentum ever since. Often, potential members are identified at volunteer events, such as "Give Back Days" at Big Shoulders schools. During these events, volunteers spend a weekend day in a morning of service work, such as painting, landscaping, cleaning, filing or other needed tasks.

The Auxiliary Board often partners with a corporation or alumni group to sponsor the volunteer events. The events are one of the board's best promotion tools for new members. "Once we get someone to an event, it's very hard for them to turn away," Kirchner said.

Many members also work in Big Shoulders schools on a regular basis as school board members, tutors, mentors, coaches or guest teachers. The value of the time donated by these young professionals is incalculable. Kirchner said the board has had success promoting its events through social media outlets and is also looking to reach out to more corporations in the coming year for sponsorships.

## Exelon's Energy for Community Volunteer Recognizes Big Shoulders Volunteer Michael Simelton

The Big Shoulders Fund has received a \$10,000 grant from the Exelon Corporation, thanks to the hard work of Big Shoulders Fund auxiliary board member and volunteer Michael Simelton.

Simelton, 28, a senior analyst for Exelon Corporation, received the recognition as part of the "Energy for the Community Volunteer Awards" to recognize employees working on promising initiatives as volunteers. The award serves as an incentive to employees to continue their work.

Simelton started volunteering for Big Shoulders more than two years ago as a way to give back for his own mentoring help from Kimberly Querrey, a Chicago business executive who recently launched the Querrey-Simpson scholarship program for Big Shoulders. Querrey was a long-time mentor of Simelton, a former ward of the state who spent years in foster care.

Simelton meets with Querrey-Simpson scholars in Big Shoulders Fund elementary schools, seeing them after school and encouraging them to set goals and follow their dreams.

Many of the students live in poverty and in neighborhoods plagued by violence. Their challenges remind Simelton of his own childhood, and he's excited by the opportunity to help positively shape their future. The award from Exelon will help Big Shoulders support its scholarship programs.

"This award has really helped me to focus," Simelton said. "I understand now what I'm supposed to do and that is to continue trying to impact kids' lives."

As part of a national movement to enroll more Latino students in Catholic Schools, the Big Shoulders Fund has launched its "Excelencia Initiative," working to engage more of the Latino community in Catholic education.

With its Excelencia Initiative, Big Shoulders hopes to identify and recruit many more Latino leaders to serve as mentors to students, and set up a new scholarship fund encouraging more Latinos to attend its schools.

"We need to build a culture of giving in the Latino community," Omar Duque said. "... If we get them engaged at a relatively young age, then over the course of many years, we can really help build that culture."

## The Excelencia Initiative

The single largest student population in the 93 schools that Big Shoulders Fund supports is Latino children, at 40 percent. That figure is in stark contrast to the national trend. According to a recent University of Notre Dame study, only 3 percent of Latinos send their children to Catholic schools, partly because of financial and language barriers and poor access to quality schools.

With its large percentage of Latino students, Big Shoulders has an opportunity to become a leader in significantly increasing exposure of the Latino population to Catholic schools.

"There are very few Latino families nationally enrolled in Catholic schools and there really should be a lot more," Big Shoulders Fund Executive Director Joshua Hale said. "Our efforts are geared at addressing that need."

At the same time, Big Shoulders is working hard to diversify its own volunteer leadership to include more Latinos. Two key leaders in this effort are Omar and Clarisol Duque. Clarisol is now the Chicago chief of staff for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and recently became a member of the board of directors for Big Shoulders. She graduated from a Big Shoulders elementary school, Maternity BVM, and a Big Shoulders High School that is no longer open. Her husband, Omar Duque, is the president and chief executive officer of the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He, too, attended Catholic elementary school and high school.

"One of the reasons we got involved with Big Shoulders was their track record in working to keep Catholic schools open," said Omar Duque. "Both of our high schools have closed. We wanted to get involved and try to do what little we could to support this great organization."

The Duques plan to help recruit more Latino leaders to support Big Shoulders as volunteers and with financial assistance. The overall goal is to attract 50 young, professional Latinos as mentors, tutors, school board volunteers and coaches in Big Shoulders schools in the next year.

Excelencia is also designed to combat an achievement gap among Latino children. In the 50 largest cities in the U.S., less than one half of Latinos will graduate from high school. Only 25 percent of Latinos aged 18 to 24 enroll in college, according to the Notre Dame study.

For the 2011-2012 school year, Big Shoulders has raised over \$30,000 for a new Excelencia Scholars program. The goal is for 10 middle school students to start as scholars, with each of those students matched with Latino mentors.



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

## Leadership Message.

Why engage in the mission of Big Shoulders? For those of us who have been involved in the Big Shoulders Fund since its inception twenty-five years ago, why continue to engage?

Big Shoulders was founded in 1986 to provide support to the Catholic schools that serve the neediest communities in Chicago. The current educational landscape of our city and nation underscore the critical nature of this work, and the results demonstrated by the Big Shoulders Fund compel us to engage even further. In April 2011, the Annie E. Casey Foundation published the results of a study which tracked a sample of children born between the years 1979 and 1989. The researchers found that 22 percent of children who lived in poverty at any point during their childhood did not graduate from high school by the time they were 19, and that increased to 32 percent for children who lived at least half of their life in poverty. The National Center for Education Statistics found in 2009 and 2011 that African-American and Hispanic students trailed their white peers by an average of about two grade levels on the national math and reading assessments at fourth and eighth grades.

Across the 93 Big Shoulders Fund schools, 65 percent of the students live in poverty and 80 percent are minority students. By the time a Big Shoulders Fund student reaches the seventh grade, on average, the student is performing above the national norm on student achievement tests despite having scored below the national norm as third graders. Despite all of the well-documented challenges faced by youth living in poverty, students in Big Shoulders Fund schools thrive and succeed.

The word about Big Shoulders Fund schools is out. Last year parents in Englewood, Pilsen and the West Side of Chicago enrolled their children in Big Shoulders Fund schools at increased rates. Big Shoulders Fund Patrons' investment in school-based marketing and enrollment directors paid off, and more families have chosen to entrust their children with Big Shoulders Fund schools. The Big Shoulders Fund is playing a critical role in ensuring that students of all backgrounds and socio-economic levels have access to a quality education in Chicago.

Our schools' faculty and staff do incredible work and carry on a legacy of educational excellence that is more than 100 years old. Through the support of many of Chicago's finest philanthropic foundations, Big Shoulders Fund's professional development, extended day, STEM education, early childhood, literacy improvement, and fine arts programs help ensure that schools stay current and have access to the best educational training and resources around. In fact, in a school where we conducted a pilot with science students, eighth graders scored 81 percent. This represented an improvement of more than two and half standard deviations above their scores as seventh graders which was 65 percent against a national benchmark.

Because of Big Shoulders Fund schools' consistently high quality work with students, we know that half the battle, particularly in an economy that continues to struggle, is to work hard to hold on to students through elementary and high school. Our many committed scholarship donors ensure that tuition does not become an insurmountable barrier to hard-working families, and last year Big Shoulders distributed \$4.2 million in scholarships to nearly 5,000 students. And, once these scholarship recipients graduate from high school, they are attending college - 90 percent attend the year following graduation - which is higher than national, state, and city averages.

We thank all of our incredible supporters for your ongoing generosity. As we celebrate our 25th year, we recognize the many successes you have made possible as well as your ongoing commitment to actively engage in the challenges facing our students. Whether you are engaged as a Patron, mentor, scholarship sponsor, Give Back Day Volunteer, Auxiliary or Chairmen's Advisory Council member, or school volunteer, please know you are helping to assure that the legacy of high quality values-based education continues to be available to those who need it most.

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,758,777	\$ 3,100,885
INVESTMENTS	34,560,907	32,862,902
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE – Net	6,856,599	6,289,279
OTHER ASSETS	100,367	64,955
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 43,276,650</b>	<b>\$ 42,318,021</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
PLEDGES & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 3,043,760	\$ 3,737,352
DEFERRED REVENUE	281,025	292,855
Total liabilities	3,324,785	4,030,207
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Unrestricted	18,781,934	18,295,243
Temporarily restricted	15,988,966	14,847,782
Permanently restricted	5,180,965	5,144,789
Total net assets	39,951,865	38,287,814
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 43,276,650</b>	<b>\$ 42,318,021</b>

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

	2010				2009			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUES:</b>								
Contributions (net of School Major Gift Campaign contributions)	\$ 2,790,779	\$ 8,310,721	\$ 36,176	\$ 11,137,676	\$ 3,759,709	\$ 6,318,054	\$ 38,919	\$ 10,116,682
Net special event revenue	550,080			550,080	404,147	2,290		406,437
Net investment return (excluding School Major Gift Campaign)	2,545,323	741,339		3,286,662	(7,424,743)	(62,597)		(7,487,340)
Less amounts designated to other organizations by donors		(891,293)		(891,293)		(794,329)		(794,329)
Net assets released from restrictions	7,019,583	(7,019,583)			5,557,353	(5,557,353)		
Reclassification of net assets					(615,868)		615,868	
Adoption of FSP 117-1					(2,730,109)	2,730,109		
Total revenues	12,905,765	1,141,184	36,176	14,083,125	(1,049,511)	2,636,174	654,787	2,241,450
<b>EXPENSES:</b>								
Program expense	11,279,730			11,279,730	11,346,703			11,346,703
Management expense	802,354			802,354	501,437			501,437
Fund-raising expense	336,990			336,990	340,267			340,267
Total expenses	12,419,074			12,419,074	12,188,407			12,188,407
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	486,691	1,141,184	36,176	1,664,051	(13,237,918)	2,636,174	654,787	(9,946,957)
<b>NET ASSETS – Beginning of year</b>	18,295,243	14,847,782	5,144,789	38,287,814	31,533,161	12,211,608	4,490,002	48,234,771
<b>NET ASSETS – End of year</b>	\$ 18,781,934	\$ 15,988,966	\$ 5,180,965	\$ 39,951,865	\$ 18,295,243	\$ 14,847,782	\$ 5,144,789	\$ 38,287,814

## SUMMARIES OF EXPENSES

For the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

	Program Expenses	Management Expenses	Fund-Raising Expenses	Total Expenses	Program Expenses	Management Expenses	Fund-Raising Expenses	Total Expenses
Operating, capital, and other grants, and other program expense	\$ 6,745,645	\$	\$	\$ 6,745,645	\$ 6,876,670	\$	\$	\$ 6,876,670
Scholarships	4,753,503			4,753,503	4,703,206			4,703,206
Less expended amounts designated to other organizations by donors	(875,525)			(875,525)	(794,098)			(794,098)
Net grants and scholarship expenses	10,623,623			10,623,623	10,785,778			10,785,778
Administrative expenses	656,107	802,354	336,990	1,795,451	560,925	501,437	340,267	1,402,629
Total expenses	\$ 11,279,730	\$ 802,354	\$ 336,990	\$ 12,419,074	\$ 11,346,703	\$ 501,437	\$ 340,267	\$ 12,188,407

Note: The statements of activities and the summaries of expenses exclude revenues 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.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FISCAL 2010

**1,234** Donors contributed funds in fiscal year 2010.

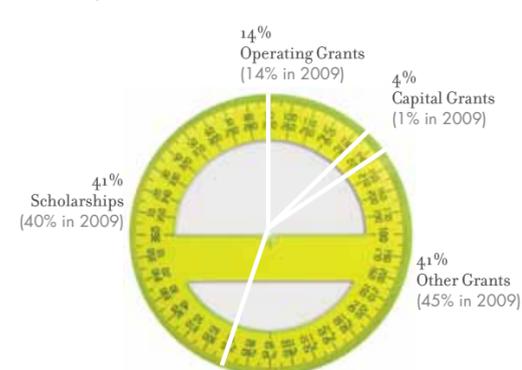
**48** Schools serving **9,757** students received operating grants.

**6,456** Students at **124** schools received scholarships.

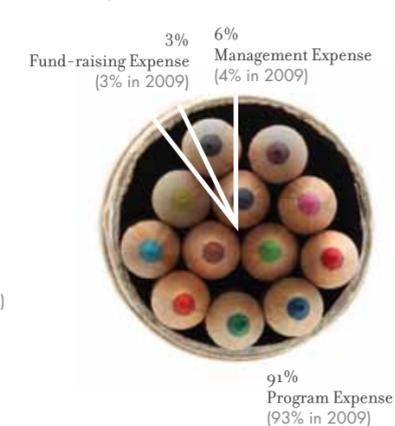
2010 CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONOR TYPE



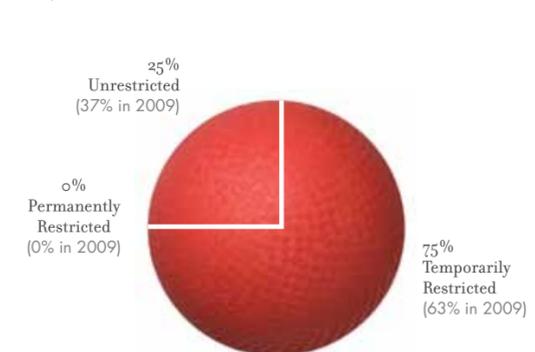
2010 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS BY TYPE



2010 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



2010 CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF RESTRICTION



## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2011 and 2010

	2011	2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,878,502	\$ 1,758,777
INVESTMENTS	37,821,970	34,560,907
PLEDGES RECEIVABLE – Net	7,063,303	6,856,599
OTHER ASSETS	73,678	100,367
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,837,453</b>	<b>\$ 43,276,650</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
PLEDGES & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 3,846,898	\$ 3,043,760
DEFERRED REVENUE	272,600	281,025
Total liabilities	4,119,498	3,324,785
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Unrestricted	20,863,968	18,781,934
Temporarily restricted	16,642,822	15,988,966
Permanently restricted	5,211,165	5,180,965
Total net assets	42,717,955	39,951,865
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,837,453</b>	<b>\$ 43,276,650</b>

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the years ended June 30, 2011 and 2010

	2011				2010			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUES:</b>								
Contributions (net of School Major Gift Campaign contributions)	\$ 2,789,062	\$ 8,051,123	\$ 30,200	\$ 10,870,385	\$ 2,790,779	\$ 8,310,721	\$ 36,176	\$ 11,137,676
Net special event revenue	562,162	2,840	565,002		550,080			550,080
Net investment return (excluding School Major Gift Campaign)	3,952,987	1,223,498		5,176,485	2,545,323	741,339		3,286,662
Less amounts designated to other organizations by donors		(821,236)		(821,236)		(891,293)		(891,293)
Net assets released from restrictions	7,802,369	(7,802,369)			7,019,583	(7,019,583)		
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>15,106,580</b>	<b>653,856</b>	<b>30,200</b>	<b>15,790,636</b>	<b>12,905,765</b>	<b>1,141,184</b>	<b>36,176</b>	<b>14,083,125</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>								
Program expense	12,107,280			12,107,280	11,279,730			11,279,730
Management expense	515,298			515,298	802,354			802,354
Fund-raising expense	401,968			401,968	336,990			336,990
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>13,024,546</b>			<b>13,024,546</b>	<b>12,419,074</b>			<b>12,419,074</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,082,034</b>	<b>653,856</b>	<b>30,200</b>	<b>2,766,090</b>	<b>486,691</b>	<b>1,141,184</b>	<b>36,176</b>	<b>1,664,051</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – Beginning of year</b>	<b>18,781,934</b>	<b>15,988,966</b>	<b>5,180,965</b>	<b>39,951,865</b>	<b>18,295,243</b>	<b>14,847,782</b>	<b>5,144,789</b>	<b>38,287,814</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – End of year</b>	<b>\$ 20,863,968</b>	<b>\$ 16,642,822</b>	<b>\$ 5,211,165</b>	<b>\$ 42,717,955</b>	<b>\$ 18,781,934</b>	<b>\$ 15,988,966</b>	<b>\$ 5,180,965</b>	<b>\$ 39,951,865</b>

## SUMMARIES OF EXPENSES

For the years ended June 30, 2011 and 2010

	Program Expenses	Management Expenses	Fund-Raising Expenses	Total Expenses	Program Expenses	Management Expenses	Fund-Raising Expenses	Total Expenses
Operating, capital, and other grants, and other program expense	\$ 8,125,530	\$	\$	\$ 8,125,530	\$ 6,745,645	\$	\$	\$ 6,745,645
Scholarships	3,928,520			3,928,520	4,753,503			4,753,503
Less expended amounts designated to other organizations by donors	(755,467)			(755,467)	(875,525)			(875,525)
<b>Net grants and scholarship expenses</b>	<b>11,298,583</b>			<b>11,298,583</b>	<b>10,623,623</b>			<b>10,623,623</b>
Administrative expenses	808,697	515,298	401,968	1,725,963	656,107	802,354	336,990	1,795,451
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 12,107,280</b>	<b>\$ 515,298</b>	<b>\$ 401,968</b>	<b>\$ 13,024,546</b>	<b>\$ 11,279,730</b>	<b>\$ 802,354</b>	<b>\$ 336,990</b>	<b>\$ 12,419,074</b>

Note: The statements of activities and the summaries of expenses exclude revenues 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.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FISCAL 2011

**1,395** Donors contributed funds in fiscal year 2011.

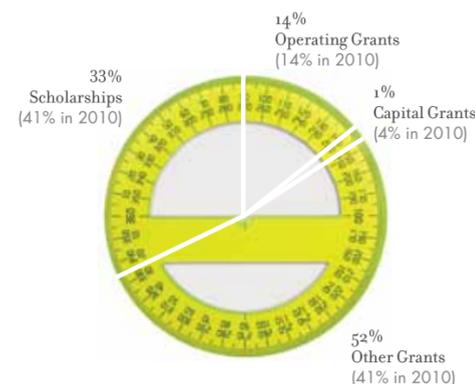
**55** Schools serving **11,067** students received operating grants.

**4,801** Students at **121** schools received scholarships.

2011 CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONOR TYPE



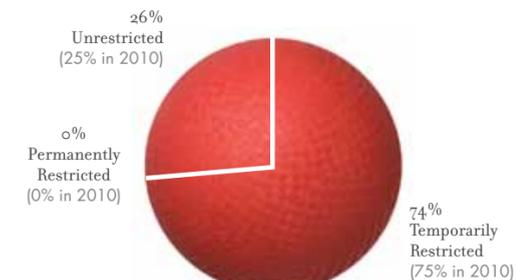
2011 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS BY TYPE



2011 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



2011 CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF RESTRICTION



94 inner-city schools. 24,000 students. The elementary school student attendance rate is 97%. The high school graduation rate is 97% and college entrance is 86%.

# Schools

● BSF PATRON SCHOOLS

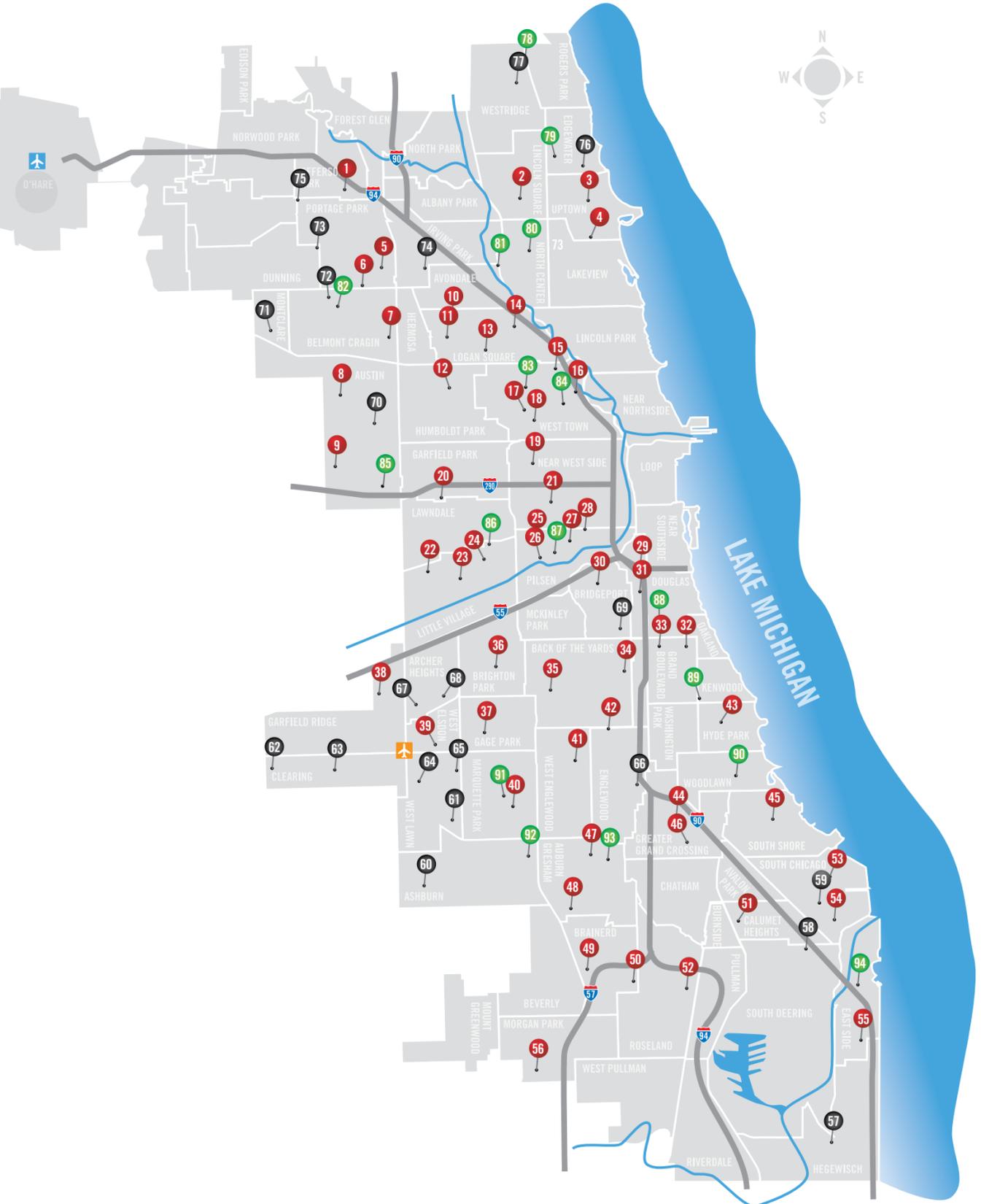
1. ST. CONSTANCE
2. ST. MATTHIAS TRANSFIGURATION
3. ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
4. ST. MARY OF THE LAKE
5. ST. BARTHOLOMEW
6. ST. LADISLAUS
7. ST. GENEVIEVE
8. ST. ANGELA
9. ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA/ST. LUCY
10. ST. HYACINTH BASILICA
11. OUR LADY OF GRACE
12. MATERNITY BVM
13. ST. SYLVESTER
14. ST. JOHN BERCHMANS
15. ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS
16. ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA
17. ST. HELEN
18. ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL
19. ST. MALACHY
20. ST. AGATHA CATHOLIC ACADEMY
21. CHILDREN OF PEACE
22. EPIPHANY
23. ST. AGNES OF BOHEMIA
24. OUR LADY OF TEPEYAC
25. ST. ANN
26. ST. PAUL/OUR LADY VILNA
27. ST. PIUS V
28. ST. PROCOPIUS
29. ST. THERESE
30. ST. BARBARA
31. SANTA LUCIA
32. HOLY ANGELS
33. ST. ELIZABETH
34. ST. GABRIEL
35. SAN MIGUEL - BACK OF THE YARDS
36. POPE JOHN PAUL II
37. ST. GALL
38. OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
39. ST. TURIBIUS
40. NATIVITY BVM
41. ACADEMY OF ST. BENEDICT THE AFRICAN – LAFLIN
42. VISITATION
43. ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
44. ST. COLUMBANUS
45. ST. PHILIP NERI
46. ST. DOROTHY
47. ST. SABINA
48. ST. ETHELREDA
49. ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
50. ST. HELENA OF THE CROSS
51. ST. JOHN DE LA SALLE
52. ST. AILBE
53. ST. MICHAEL
54. OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
55. ANNUNCIATA
56. ST. WALTER

● BSF SCHOOLS

57. ST. FLORIAN
58. SACRED HEART
59. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
60. ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE
61. QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE
62. ST. RENE GOUPIL
63. ST. SYMPHOROSA
64. ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA
65. ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE
66. ACADEMY OF ST. BENEDICT THE AFRICAN STEWART
67. ST. RICHARD
68. ST. BRUNO
69. BRIDGEPORT CATHOLIC ACADEMY
70. SAN MIGUEL - GARY COMER
71. ST. WILLIAM
72. ST. FERDINAND
73. ST. PASCAL
74. ST. VIATOR
75. ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
76. NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY
77. ST. MARGARET MARY

● BSF HIGH SCHOOLS

78. ST. SCHOLASTICA ACADEMY
79. ST. GREGORY THE GREAT HIGH SCHOOL
80. ST. BENEDICT HIGH SCHOOL
81. GORDON TECH HIGH SCHOOL
82. NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
83. JOSEPHINUM ACADEMY
84. HOLY TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
85. CHRIST THE KING COLLEGE PREP
86. OUR LADY OF TEPEYAC HIGH SCHOOL
87. CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL
88. DE LASALLE INSTITUTE
89. HALES FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL
90. MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL
91. MARIA HIGH SCHOOL
92. ST. RITA OF CASCIA HIGH SCHOOL
93. LEO HIGH SCHOOL
94. ST. FRANCIS DE SALES HIGH SCHOOL



# Events.



→ **Big Shoulders Fund Ball**

The Auxiliary Board's *Big Shoulders Fund Ball*, held on Friday, October 1, 2010 at River East Art Center, was a huge success with more than 500 individuals attending. Pictured are Auxiliary Board Membership Committee members Maria Lucca, Charlene Hope, Michael Simelton, Veronica Fritz and Katrina Waldron. The event raised over \$85,000 for the Auxiliary Board Scholarship Fund. The 5th Annual Big Shoulders Fund Ball was held on September 30, 2011 with a record crowd of over 600 guests raising nearly \$100,000 for scholarships.



→ **Bowl for Big Shoulders**

Big Shoulders retreated from the winter with the Auxiliary Board's *4th Annual Bowl for Big Shoulders* at 10pin bowling lounge. The sellout crowd included members of the Chairmen's Advisory Council, Auxiliary Board and other supporters, including John Kelly, Blake Apel, Julia Vettters, Chris Baechtold, Bob Groenke, Mark Holmquist and Kelly Nelson. Through the generous support of 10pin bowling lounge, all of the \$15,000 in proceeds from the night of bowling, contests, great food and drinks went to the *Auxiliary Board Scholarship Fund*.

This December the Big Shoulders Fund scholars spread holiday cheer and said thank you to Chicagoans at the downtown train stations – Ogilvie, Union and Millennium – by caroling during the morning and evening commute.



← **Thank You Chicago!**

St. Bartholomew School was the 2009-2010 recipient of the Croghan Teachers Award. St. Procopius School won the award in 2010-11. The award recognizes the faculty and administration at the Big Shoulders Fund school that demonstrates the largest gains in attained over anticipated standardized test results. The funds the school received are used as an incentive for the staff, as well as scholarships for students.



← **Croghan Teachers Award**

The *Big Shoulders Fund Golf Classic* continues to be a driving success with with more than \$4.2 million raised for the *Friends of Big Shoulders Fund Scholarship* over the last decade. The 2010 and 2011 event brought out record breaking numbers of golfers, 325, including Executive Director Josh Hale's foursome of John Canning, David Herro and Jim Perry, Mark your calendars for next year's event on Monday, August 13, 2012.



← **Golf Classic**



→ **Lend a Shoulder Day**

Every fall the Big Shoulders Fund invites supporters to go back to school to see first hand their impact at *the the annual Lend A Shoulder Day*. It is an opportunity for individuals, like banker Michael O'Rourke, to go back to school and interact with the students whose lives they are transforming. Join us for the *13th Annual Lend a Shoulder Day* on Thursday, November 8, 2012 and see for yourself the difference you are helping make in these students' lives.



→ **Shadow Day**

Students' lives are being impacted not only by generous donations, but individuals giving their time to mentor students throughout the year. Over the last four years, the Auxiliary Board has provided the opportunity for scholars to connect with their mentors during the summer, tour two businesses in the Loop and have lunch. Auxiliary Board President Mark Kirchner, Big Shoulders Fund Director Robert Gallagher, Jr. and Sylvia Gary spent their morning touring the Chicago Board of Options Exchange with nearly 40 scholars. It was a once in a lifetime experience for many of the students.



→ **Wrigley Rooftop Game**

For the fourth year in a row, the Big Shoulders Fund invited its Board of Directors, Chairmen's Advisory Council members, Patrons, Auxiliary Board Executive Committee members and major supporters to a witness a Cubs game in style thanks to Tom Gramatis of Wrigley Rooftops ([www.wrigleyrooftops.com](http://www.wrigleyrooftops.com)). Pictured are Big Shoulders staff and supporters Kaberi Banerjee-Murthy, Erik Hall, Tony Ortiz, Josh Hale, and Omar Duque.

On Wednesday, July 7, 2010 PNC Bank hosted Big Shoulders Fund scholars for the Road to Wrigley game as the Kane County Cougars took on the Peoria Chiefs. Students were not only able to see the game from the Batter's Eye, but were able to run the bases and lead the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the game.



← **PNC Road to Wrigley**

The Big Shoulders Fund Chairmen's Advisory Council hosted more than 220 scholars, Auxiliary Board members and other supporters for the *2nd Annual Big Shoulders Fund Field Day* on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at De La Salle High School where they competed together in a variety of activities, including a relay race, while raising over \$6,000. During the event Kristina Jakstys, Chairmen's Advisory Council member, and a Big Shoulders Fund scholar competed in the potato sack leg of the relay race.



← **Big Shoulders Fund Field Day**

The Big Shoulders Fund Auxiliary Board continues to make a major impact in the 93 schools by providing more than 2,000 hours of service – tutoring, mentoring, school board, stock market teachers and service days – each school year. One of the major ways they are doing it is through their bi-monthly *Give Back Days*, which are not only days of service, but outreach opportunities since they bring out an average of 150 to 200 volunteers to help clean, brighten and revitalize aging inner-city Catholic schools.



← **Give Back Days**

Big Shoulders Fund  
Executive Director  
Joshua Hale  
was featured by  
Crain's Chicago Business  
as one of the  
40 under 40  
making a difference  
in Chicago.



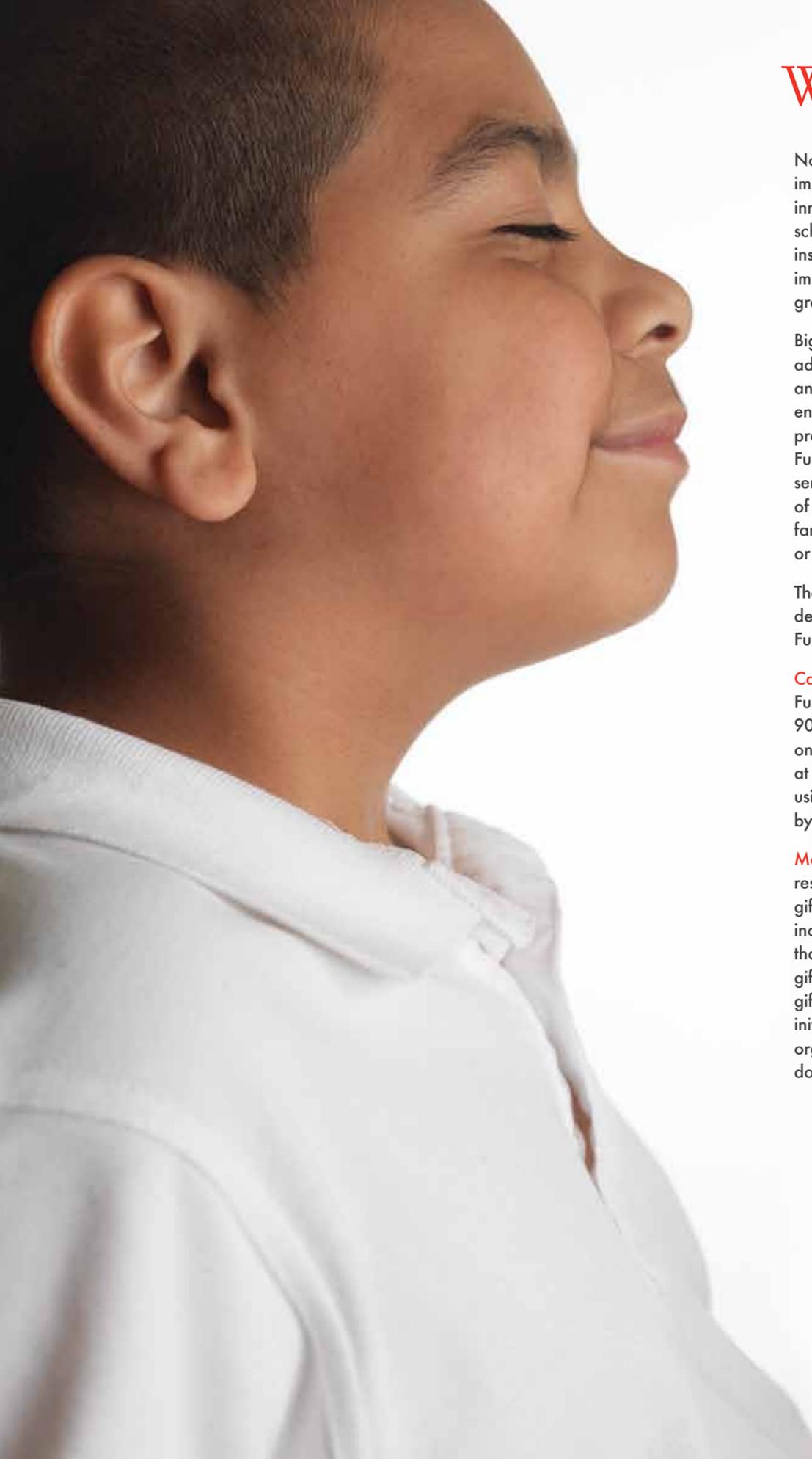
Big Shoulders Fund Executive Director Joshua Hale (R) with supporters Michael and Lindy Keiser (L and 2nd from R) and one of Big Shoulders founders and Director Sr. Mary Brien Costello, R.S.M. (2nd from L)

Mr. Hale joined the Big Shoulders Fund in 2005, which at the time had a strong board filled with local executives but lacked strong administrative leadership, says the fund's co-chairman, John Canning, chairman of Chicago-based private-equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners LLC.

"Josh transformed Big Shoulders, no questions about that," Mr. Canning says. "He's just a tireless worker and a can-do guy. I get exhausted when I spend two hours with him."

In his time at Big Shoulders, Mr. Hale has tripled the donor base and doubled the annual income from fundraising to \$12 million from \$6 million. And the number of children on scholarship has grown to more than 5,000 from 2,400.

Mr. Canning isn't the only big-name exec spending a lot of time with Mr. Hale, who arrives at his Loop office by 6:30 a.m. "I try to have a breakfast, lunch and dinner every day" with potential donors, Mr. Hale says. "You have to have the right message, but you also have to get on a megaphone and get it out everywhere." Big Shoulders is proud to congratulate Mr. Hale for this recognition and his leadership.



## 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!

Big Shoulders Fund is unique in that administrative expenses are supported by an endowment and other income which ensures all funds currently raised go toward programs that benefit the Big Shoulders Fund 93 schools and the students they serve. 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: 212 West Van Buren St, Suite 900, Chicago, IL, 60606. Make a secure online donation with any major credit card at [www.bigshouldersfund.org](http://www.bigshouldersfund.org). Make a gift using any major credit card over the phone by calling 312-751-8337.

**Matching Gifts.** Contact your human resources department to determine if your gift to Big Shoulders can be matched to 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, Director of External Affairs, at 312-751-3851/[rlindsayryan@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto: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, Controller, for further information or to make your gift of securities at 312-751-5294/[lrossi@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto: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, Executive Director, at 312-751-5395/[jhale@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto:jhale@bigshouldersfund.org).

## Help Make a Difference.

For more than 25 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 continue 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 you get a glimpse of what happens at the schools through visits, attending class and networking.

**Mentor.** Mentors work directly with students and 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](mailto: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 a 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](mailto:jmoran@bigshouldersfund.org).

**Fundraise.** Plan the annual Big Shoulders Fund Golf Classic which raises essential scholarship funds to enable 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 Amelia Drozda, Associate Director for Events and Publications at 312-751-3850/[adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto:adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org).

**Join.** Become a part of the Auxiliary Board or Chairmen's Advisory Council which are designed to engage active and altruistic professionals. Members can be part of committees such as fundraising, outreach, schools, scholarship and more. 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 Chairmen's Advisory Council, 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](mailto:adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org).



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 commitment to this most important partnership.

## Big Shoulders Fund Team

Joshua Hale	Executive Director	312-751-5395
Araceli Arroyo	Development Assistant	312-751-8337
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
Michaela Metzger	Manager, School Data and Mentor Relations	312-544-8680
John Moran	Director, Patrons Program	312-751-3897
Juli Rossi	Office Administrator	312-751-3895
Linda Rossi	Controller	312-751-5294
Sara Staral	Associate Director, Patrons Program	312-544-8684
Natalie Sullivan	Development Assistant	312-751-3898
Thomas Zbierski	Director, School Relations	312-751-8365

## In Memorium

The Big Shoulders Fund remembers the following supporters who passed away this year for their tremendous generosity and leadership.

George J. Cotsirilos

Thomas J. Donnelly

Thomas J. Foley

Ernest J. Klimczak

William A. Maloney

James C. Tyree

Ralph S. Vennetti

**Big  
Shoulders  
Fund.®**

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

The Big Shoulders Fund is 501 (c) 3  
charitable organization.