

Foundations in Education is committed to strengthen and transform the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport by supporting innovation in academic and extra-curriculum programs, fostering opportunities for the professional development of school leaders in innovation and leadership and providing tuition assistance to families in need.

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you this newsletter which highlights some of our tremendous growth and impact this year. Thanks to the vision and generosity of YOU—our donors, Foundations in Education continues to make great strides in providing access to Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic elementary schools by awarding tuition assistance to families in need. We are equally committed to promoting innovation and leadership among faculty and administrators through our competitive grant program open to all Diocesan-sponsored Catholic schools in Fairfield County. This great work is made possible by your generous commitment to our students and teachers. Thank you.

As you will read, this has been an incredibly busy spring and start to summer as the Office of the Superintendent now begins the exciting process of implementing several truly vast and transformative projects. The Christopher Ripp Early Learning Program is scheduled to launch in just a few short weeks, while the multifaceted and far-reaching initiatives of the Transforming the Paradigm of Catholic Education project are being established so as to begin at the start of the school year.

It is an extraordinary privilege to work towards realizing the vision Bishop Frank Caggiano has for our schools and to partner with Superintendent Dr. Steven Cheeseman as he gives life to the shared vision he and Bishop Frank have for assuring all our students experience a best in class education that forms, informs and transforms. This is a gift that will serve each student for their lifetime!

My hope is that Foundations in Education will continue to instill in children and families within our Catholic Schools the promise for a better world and the knowledge, faith and compassion to make that better world a reality. Thanks to you, anything and everything is possible!

With appreciation,



Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE  
Executive Director

## \$5.5 Million Gift to Transform the Paradigm of Catholic Education

Tom and Paula McInerney recently gave a \$5.5 million gift to Foundations in Education, which Bishop Frank Caggiano says will “transform the paradigm of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport.”



The gift will finance five unique projects which Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Cheeseman, believes to be “critical to the future of education in our diocese, both in how our Catholic education is delivered and in how our children learn and prepare for the future.”

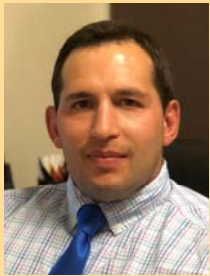
The projects include: 1) Personalized Learning and Technology Immersion Program, 2) St. Joseph Academy in Brookfield Multiage Classroom Model, 3) Leadership Academy, 4) Fellowship Residency Program, and 5) High School Pathways to Success.

The Personalized Learning Initiative will be launched this fall with pilot programs at six schools and eventually rolled out at all Catholic elementary schools over the next three years. It will provide updated technology infrastructure, new hardware and student devices and programs to support the traditional Catholic school educational experience. The technology will not only improve academic performance among students but also increase their self-confidence and provide them lifetime learning skills.

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## Welcome Austin Ryan

## TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



Foundations in Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Austin Ryan as Assistant Director of Development.

“We are delighted to welcome Austin who complements the great work being done by Foundations in Education in support of our schools,” said Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine. “Austin brings his unique talents to our effort with promises to help Foundations advance in our mission in support of students, faculty and of course the Diocese of Bridgeport School Superintendent, Dr. Steven Cheeseman’s vision to create best in class schools for all our students.”

As Assistant Director of Development for Foundations in Education, Austin is tasked with managing a comprehensive development program including annual giving, grants, events, donor cultivation and stewardship.

Austin pursued his Catholic education at Fairfield Prep and Marquette University and began his professional career as a teacher in 2010 at Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, TX. Austin returned to his alma mater, Fairfield Prep, in the summer of 2014 as Director of Alumni Relations and was promoted to Gifts Officer in the winter of 2016.

Austin is currently engaged to his fiancée Melissa and their wedding is set for August 2018!

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## \$1 Million Gift to Create the Christopher Ripp Early Learning Program

Peter and Barbara Ripp of Greenwich, lifelong supporters of Catholic education, directed \$1 million to Foundations in Education to create the Christopher Ripp Early Learning Program, in memory of their son.



The gift will create a “wrap around” component to existing programs in pre-K3 and pre-K4 classes and provide three and four-year-olds with academic enrichment and remediation assistance. There will be after-school opportunities for children and programs for parents so that adults can receive guidance in their children’s education and a greater understanding of their faith.

The goals of the program are to assist parents as primary educators of their children by giving them tools to help nurture social, physical, emotional and academic growth in a faith-filled and family-centered learning community and to provide tuition assistance to children who want to attend the state readiness program or who wish to be enrolled in the parochial school pre-K3 and pre-K4 programs.

“Peter and Barbara are people of great faith with a strong commitment to Catholic education,” says Bishop Frank Caggiano. “Their gift will serve the youngest and most vulnerable children in our midst, through an early intervention program that will be piloted at St. Peter School in Danbury. It is my deeply held belief that this program will have a huge impact on the lives of the children and parents who enroll. It is a major piece of the

transformation of our schools.”

Peter Ripp, the chief operating officer for NIC Holding Corporation, a petroleum services and trading company, commented, “Foundations has such an amazing vision, and they were willing to help us realize our hopes.”

“Barbara and I contribute our services and resources as we are able, because we believe that a life lived well is one that contributes as best it can to the good of others,” he added.

The Rippes are products of Catholic education. Barbara Ripp, who has spent much of her professional life teaching in underserved communities in early childhood education and later in child advocacy, emphasized the need for parental involvement. “We wanted a program that would engage parents and provide opportunities, so that once or twice a month they can come and be educated.”

Their son Christopher, who died at 26 after an illness, shared Barbara’s concern for the underserved. A graduate of Colby College in Maine with a degree in English, he became a social worker, serving people on the streets in San Francisco. The Christopher Ripp Early Learning Program serves as a legacy to his selfless commitment to others.



Working Committee Meeting

## Foundations in Education Spring Gala Success

Special thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of the 2018 Spring Gala on April 19th at Woodway Country Club. Nearly 300 gathered to help raise over \$750,000 to benefit Foundations in Education’s Bishop’s Scholarship Fund and Innovation and Leadership Grants, ultimately impacting thousands of students in Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools.

*Mark your calendars—the 2019 Spring Gala is set for Thursday, April 11, 2019.*



Congratulations to our **HONOREES**: Roger Fox, Jo-Anne Jakab, and Dan McCarthy/Frontier Communications! Special thanks to our **2018 GALA COMMITTEE!**



## New Trustee Announced



Foundations in Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Leslie Lopez, JD CFRE to its Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2018.

Ms. Lopez currently serves as Director of Development for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province in Wilton, CT. She is a lawyer (JD) and a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), earning her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law and

Bachelor of Science from the College of New Rochelle. Ms. Lopez currently resides in Greenwich, CT.

Over the past 20 years, as a nonprofit executive, Leslie advised a wide range of organizations – religious, educational, healthcare, international, the arts and community organizations – where she enhanced the culture of engagement in order to grow support and meaningful relationships.

Prior to nonprofit management, Ms. Lopez provided legal consultation in the areas of international business, contracts, real estate, and business development.

Foundations in Education Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine commented, "I have had the very good fortune to know Leslie professionally for many years and am delighted she has elected to share her time, talent and wisdom with us. Her commitment to Catholic education is without limit and her knowledge of our mission extensive, making her an amazing ambassador for Foundations in Education."

"During my formative years, I had 12 years of quality Catholic education," remarked Leslie. "In turn, transforming lives through the same educational system is very dear to me. Joining the FIE Board of Trustees is a grand way for me to share my experience and knowledge to advance the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport."

Leslie Lopez joins the existing Foundations in Education Board of Trustees: Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, David Cappiello, George Coleman, R. Bradford Evans, Michael Hanlon, Lawrence Kudlow, Andrea Maldon, Daniel McCarthy, Anne McCrory, Tom McInerney, Julia McNamara, Joseph Purcell, Bernard Reidy, Gerard Robilotti, Robert Scinto, Michael Shea, Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ and Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE.

## \$5.5 Million Gift cont'd

"These programs will serve as the foundational cornerstone for the transformation of our schools and support our mission as we seek to form hearts in faith, inform minds in truth and transform the lives of young people so that they will live as missionary disciples of our Lord," says Bishop Caggiano.



McInerney attends introductory session of Personalized Learning Initiative

Tom McInerney adds, "To survive and prosper, we have to provide an education at least as good as and ideally better than the public schools. It has to be an excellent education. And I think individual learning is a clear improvement on the educational methodology."

Tom McInerney is Foundations in Education's Vice Chair and CEO and co-founder of Bluff Point Associates, a private equity firm based in Westport.

Tom is a product of lifelong Catholic education. He attended Holy Cross Elementary School and St. Augustine High School in Brooklyn, followed by Cathedral College, a junior seminary, and later St. John's University, where he received a degree in English literature and served on the board of trustees for 13 years, five as chairman. He also attended New York University Stern School of Business and received an honorary doctorate of commercial science from St. John's in Education.

The six pilot schools where the Personalized Learning Initiative will be unveiled are Assumption in Fairfield, St. Gregory the Great in Danbury,



Holy Trinity Catholic Academy in Shelton, the Upper School at the Catholic Academy of Stamford, Our Lady of Fatima in Wilton and the new multi-age school, St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Brookfield.



FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION

## New Scholarships

Foundations in Education received two NEW scholarships for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year, both presenting unique opportunities to give back to those who serve others.

Mary Alice and Thomas O'Malley committed \$500,000 to Foundations in Education over the next five years to establish a scholarship for children of current Stamford/Greenwich police officers or firefighters and nurses at Stamford/Greenwich Hospital to attend Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford. Seven students have been awarded these grants which cover 80% of their tuition. A reception for the O'Malleys to meet their scholars will be planned for the fall.

Lynn and Frank Mara committed \$10,000 to provide scholarships for children of active Military or Veteran families to attend a Diocesan-sponsored Catholic elementary school. Five families were awarded this grant.

For more information on how donors can establish endowed scholarship opportunities, please contact Holly Doherty-Lemoine at [holly@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:holly@foundationsineducation.org).



O'Malley Scholarship Recipient  
(photo taken 2006)

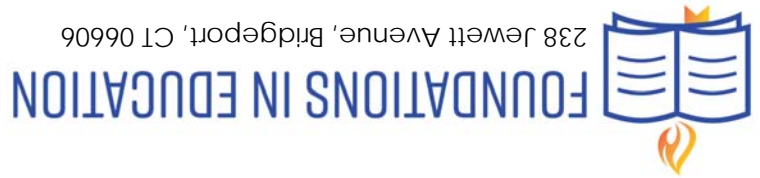
## CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO



Visit our website:  
[www.foundationsineducation.org/  
2018-foundations-education-video](http://www.foundationsineducation.org/2018-foundations-education-video)

[wwwFOUNDATIONSineducation.org](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSineducation.org)

*Committed to Strengthening and Transforming the Mission of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport*



# BISHOP'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Nearly **8,500** students attend the Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools in Grades PreK-12.



A total of **3,673** students applied for tuition assistance for the 2018-2019 academic year.\*



To date, **1,348** students in K-8 have been awarded **\$2,463,750** in Bishop's Scholarship Fund tuition assistance.\*



**\$6,133,232**

Overall Calculated Need

**\$1,828**

Average Award



**51%**

Female

**49%**

Male



**53%**

Qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch



**\$55,431**

Average Gross Income



- 39% Hispanic
- 29% White
- 17% African American
- 3% Asian
- 2% Multi-Racial
- 2% Other
- 1% Native American
- 7% N/A

\* as of 7/26/2018

## SAVE THE DATE! April 11, 2019

The 2019 Gala is set for Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Woodway Country Club, Darien.

Mark your calendars! The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundations in Education Gala, chaired by Bishop Frank Caggiano, will celebrate the tremendous generosity of supporters who make a competitive, exceptional Catholic education possible for low-income children throughout Fairfield County.

*EXCITING NEWS—Beginning September 2018, Foundations in Education will be e-mailing monthly updates. To be added to our digital mailing list, contact us at [info@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:info@foundationsineducation.org).*