



Foundations in Education Inc 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,

**What a year it has been!** We have each suffered personal loss and a collective trauma this past year. Yet, amidst the difficulties, we have seen heroism, beacons of light and many great promises of hope. Now that we anticipate a most welcome resumption of normalcy, we wish to extend our thanks to each of you who contributed so much and helped to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Foundations in Education is grateful to the men and women making up our Board of Trustees. Their commitment to our mission and support of our programs was never more evident than this year. Individually and as a group they stepped up to help guide us through the crisis. Thank you.

To our donors and friends, we are deeply appreciative of all your support in words of encouragement and deeds. Our donors are near and dear to our hearts, including our "Anonymous Angel" investor in COVID tuition assistance relief as well as each donor known to us. With your help, we were able to reach more teachers, students and families than ever before. Thanks to you, Foundations in Education awarded more than \$3.5 million in tuition assistance, and recognized 100% of Diocese of Bridgeport teachers and staff for their Innovation and Leadership. Thank you.

We are grateful to the teachers and staff of the Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools for their Leadership and Innovation, most notably for their personal sacrifice and commitment to their students and Catholic education. A GREAT reminder as to why we are all so committed to our mission! Thank you.

Finally, thank you to Bishop Frank for your vision and support and to the Foundations in Education staff for keeping the ship on course, amidst some turbulent seas. It is humbling to know only collectively can we accomplish the good work before us and achieve our mission. Thank you one and all for being part of the Foundations in Education family and for the very special place you hold in bringing our mission to life and in transforming the lives of our students, one student at a time. Thank you.

Stay safe, be well and may you enjoy a well-deserved restorative and restful summer.

God bless you.

*Holly Doherty-Lemoine*

Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE, Executive Director

## SPRING BENEFIT RAISES \$900,000+



We celebrated our annual fundraising event on May 6, 2021 with a "Virtual Hybrid Spring Benefit." The evening featured home hosts as well as a few "in person" guests at Woodway Country Club in Darien, which served as the communication hub for the live streamed awards and auction.

Bishop Frank Caggiano was on hand at Woodway to welcome friends virtually and to recognize honorees Lynn and Francis Mara (New York Football Giants, Inc.) and Dr. Julia McNamara (President Emerita Albertus Magnus College).



These honorees truly embody excellence in education and generosity in philanthropic support of Catholic education.

The awards were followed by a video of students with Bishop Frank. Auctioneer Pat Tully led the virtual audience in a high energy live auction and Raise the Paddle for tuition assistance. The night was highlighted by a surprise appearance by Eli Manning, who along with Frank Mara will join one lucky donor on a golf outing for two at Winged Foot in Mamaroneck, NY!



cont'd on Page 3

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEO



Visit our Website

[www.foundationsineducation.org/  
foundations-in-education-videos](http://www.foundationsineducation.org/foundations-in-education-videos)

Inside this issue:

- Annual Board Meeting.....2
- Board Member Recognized...2
- New Board Member.....2
- Spring Benefit cont'd.....3
- Bishop's Scholarship Fund.....3
- Legacy Giving.....4

## ANNUAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Foundations in Education Board of Trustees held their Annual Meeting on June 17, 2021. Special thanks to Board member Robert D. Scinto, who hosted the evening meeting and dinner at Il Palio restaurant in Shelton featuring renowned chef, Margherita Aloi.

The Board reviewed Foundations' progress during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the number of students, teachers and families impacted by our programs and the fundraising results for the year, including the successful Virtual Hybrid Benefit held on May 6, 2021. They approved the budget and program features for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1.

A Board retreat is planned for the fall.



## FIE BOARD MEMBER RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to Board of Trustees Vice Chair Joe Purcell, who was recently recognized with the 2021 Caroline House Award of Philanthropy.

For six years, Joe was an exemplary Caroline House Board Member, instrumental in securing funds, recruiting board members and advancing their mission of enabling women and children to reach the fullness of their potential through education in English language and life skills.



Fellow FIE Board members, committee members and staff joined Joe as he was honored at the Inn at Longshore in Westport, CT.



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Henry Rondon was appointed to the FIE Board of Trustees in April. Henry currently serves as Assistant Executive Director at The Connecticut Association of Schools and Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CAS-CIAC). He joined CAS-CIAC in July of 2019 after serving 22 years in education. Rondon is the CIAC sports liaison for Cross Country, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, Ice Hockey, Baseball and Softball. He also works with student activities groups such as the Student Equity Advisory Board and the Student Athletic Advisory Board.



Prior to joining CAS-CIAC, Rondon spent 21 years at Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, where he served as a teacher, coach, club moderator, athletic director, dean of students and ultimately principal, a position he held for five years.

Rondon is a New York City native where he attended Cardinal Hayes High School. He is a 1996 graduate of Sacred Heart University where he played both baseball and basketball and earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Sixth Year in Administration Degree. Rondon served as the assistant coach for Sacred Heart University's men's basketball team and the head coach for the University of Bridgeport's women's basketball team. Henry currently volunteers with the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport and is a member of the Academy's Board of Trustees.

"With more than 20 years spent at Kolbe Cathedral High School, it is a pleasure to be able to serve the Diocese of Bridgeport in any way I can," shares Rondon. "Foundations in Education is really there to be sure Catholic education continues into the future, and I am very happy to be able to help."

## SPRING BENEFIT CONT'D

Thanks to benefit co-chairs Barbara Ripp and Xandy Duffy, the entire benefit committee, and the generosity of the many donors and sponsors, the evening was a great success, raising over \$900,000. Special thanks to the sponsors who assure hundreds of students will receive assistance this year.



"We missed not gathering as a community over these past two years and are eager to see you all again in person next spring," said Board of Trustees Chair Tom McInerney. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for continuing your support of our students and teachers. The enormity of our work has never been more important than it is today. We look forward to seeing you next year and invite you to stay abreast of our good work. Until we meet again, stay safe and God bless you."



Please save the date of May 5, 2022 and join us for next year's event!

The Bishop's Scholarship Fund (BSF) application deadline for new K-8 families has been extended as funding permits, with the intention of helping to boost enrollment and encourage consideration of Catholic education for families.



The mission of the BSF is to help families afford Catholic elementary school tuition in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Now in its 7th year, the fund has awarded nearly \$15 million in assistance to thousands of students attending Diocesan schools in Fairfield County who demonstrate financial need.

Last year, an anonymous donor to FIE provided \$1 million in additional funding for COVID-19 emergency tuition assistance for K-8 families suffering financial hardship from Coronavirus-related illness, loss of employment, or loss of business. Together with this fund, we awarded 1,480 students over \$3.5 million in tuition assistance for the 2020-2021 academic year.

"We have a lot of great donors who really believe in the value of Catholic education because they received so much from their own Catholic education or have seen the great work Catholic schools are doing," said Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine.



After witnessing a delay in new student applications last spring due to COVID-19, FIE extended last year's deadline. In doing so, a record high 260 new students applied for assistance. This year, the deadline is being extended as a result of a continued surge of interest from families.

"We saw firsthand the difference Catholic schools make in the lives of students," shares Doherty-Lemoine. "For the most part our teachers met in person with their students five days a week throughout the year, putting students first. They are our unsung heroes and are instrumental in delivering an exceptional education to students. Now is a great time to assure your child's academic future by enrolling in one of our Catholic schools."

According to the Office of the Superintendent, the nineteen Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport welcomed 1,114 new students in September 2020.

Bishop's Scholarship Fund tuition assistance is made possible through donors to Foundations in Education. To find out how your tax-deductible gift to FIE can help transform the life of a student, visit [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).



Transforming Lives Through Catholic Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport

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

## WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Foundations in Education Inc is inviting membership to the Legacy Society. Become a partner in Legacy by making a gift to Foundations in Education through a bequest or by naming Foundations in Education as a beneficiary in your insurance, retirement or estate plan. We seek to aid donors and friends with their philanthropic goals of supporting Catholic education as a living legacy and continuing the work you deemed important during your lifetime.



As a Foundation of people helping people, we share your goal of supporting teachers, students and their families. The tuition assistance we provide enables student success, growth, and character development in Catholic elementary school, thereby providing the foundations for future success in high school, higher education, and life. By partnering with Foundations in Education, you can rest assured knowing your legacy will be fulfilled for future generations.

Planned gifts such as bequests, gift annuities or charitable trusts allow you to strategically plan to benefit you, your family, and hundreds of future students. Your gift will provide the resources Foundations in Education utilizes to meet our shared mission of helping students, families and teachers for years to come.

Please consult with your tax advisor or estate planner to determine how best to create your legacy gift. To learn more, visit our website for a list of attorneys who offer a free consultation to donors and friends of Foundations in Education Inc interested in providing support of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport as part of their estate plans.

***What will your legacy be? Create your Legacy today!***

To learn more about planned giving opportunities with Foundations in Education, please contact Holly Doherty-Lemoine at [holly@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:holly@foundationsineducation.org) or Megan Quinn at [mquinn@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:mquinn@foundationsineducation.org) or call 203.416.1405.