



*Women Committed to Quality Education, Hope and Opportunity for
Baltimore City School Children*

March 2009

*Women's Alliance Raises \$321,000 in Response to the
Bunting Inner City Scholarship Challenge*

In 2006, philanthropist Mary Catherine Bunting made a precedent-setting, three-year, \$300,000 challenge grant to seed a new women's philanthropic initiative in support of scholarships for financially disadvantaged students wishing to attend one of 20 city Catholic schools. The impact of her vision has been awesome and the newly formed Women's Alliance of the Partners In Excellence scholarship program has raised approximately \$321,000, besting the challenge!

The timing of the challenge could not have been better because new gifts qualified for a matching grant from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. As a result, an additional \$548,542 was raised for scholarships. Thus, the total impact of the Bunting Challenge was \$869,374.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Ms. Bunting, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the women of the Alliance and their families. Their investments are helping to ensure that Baltimore City school children receive the values and the tools necessary to move past the hopelessness that robs young minds and hearts of their energy, enthusiasm and creativity--to acquire the knowledge, discipline, courage and determination needed to achieve their highest aspirations.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



In the coming year, the Women's Alliance will be announcing new programs and activities, a website and more. We particularly want to alert you to the fall Inaugural Gala of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which will benefit Partners In Excellence and give a tremendous boost and commitment to the work already set in motion by the dedication and participation of members of the Women's Alliance and friends.

*Celebrate 200 Years of Catholic Education at a Gala to benefit the
Partners in Excellence Inner City Scholarship Program*

SAVE -THE-DATE

When: Saturday, September 26, 2009
7:00 p.m. – Midnight

Where: Hyatt Regency - Baltimore

What: Cocktail Reception
Dinner and Program
Music and Dancing

The Archdiocese of Baltimore's 2009 Inaugural Gala will benefit the Partners In Excellence (PIE) Inner City Scholarship Program, which provides partial scholarships for students wishing to attend a city Catholic school. Twenty Pre-K-12 schools offer a student-centered learning environment where the focus is on strong academics and values on which children can build a life. Since its inception, Partners In Excellence has provided more than \$20 million in scholarships to thousands of students who have gone on to excel as students, workers and leaders in their communities.

*Blue Ribbon Committee to Develop A
21st Century Plan for All Catholic Schools*

Local businessman Frank P. Bramble and Monsignor Robert L. Hartnett are leading a Blue Ribbon Committee that will dedicate 18 months to developing a strategic plan for all Catholic schools. According to Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, the Blue Ribbon Committee will take the lead in developing a plan that "will help keep Catholic education affordable and accessible to non-Catholic youngsters in some of Baltimore City's most impoverished communities." Partners In Excellence continues to be essential to this effort.

To read about the Blue Ribbon Committee and what it means for Catholic schools, please visit www.archbalt.org/schools/strength.

Father Timothy Brown Visits the Reading Scholars at Ss. James and John School



*Principal LaUanah King-Cassell
looks on as Father Tim Brown
visits with the Reading Scholars.*

Twenty Reading Scholars enthusiastically shared with Father Tim Brown what the Reading Scholars program means to them. "Greater comprehension," "improved vocabulary," "better study habits" and, of course, "the fun of reading" are among the important benefits. The program named for Father Brown, now at Loyola College, requires that students read 20 chapter books and submit 20 book reports over and above their regular school work. Scholars receive a \$500 scholarship for school. The program is conducted under the auspices of the Partners In Excellence scholarship program. Father Charles Hall School and St. Mary's School-Govans also participate in the program.

Ty'chelle Godwin and Armoni Gaddy share with Father Brown their amazing progress in the Reading Scholars program. With three months remaining the school year, they have nearly completed all of the program requirements. At that point, they will become reading mentors to Pre-K students.



Service Activities Highlight Catholic Schools Week

Outreach to the Troops in Afghanistan



During Catholic Schools Week, students from [St. Bernardine Elementary School](#) prepared 7 boxes of toiletries and snacks for troops serving in Afghanistan. The packages along with greeting cards filled with prayerful good wishes were presented to Staff Sergeant Leaker.

Students from Ss. James and John School Featured in the Hippodrome Foundation's 5th Anniversary Video



To mark its five year anniversary, the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, home of the Hippodrome Theatre, prepared a video that was shown at a recent luncheon attended by community leaders and dignitaries. The video featured teacher Miss Williams and students in her 2nd grade class at Ss. James and John School who eagerly shared their excitement at seeing Flat Stanley the Musical last March. The program was sponsored by the Hippodrome Foundation and nearly 1,200 city Catholic school students attended the live performance and participated in a wide range of fun learning activities.

The Recessionary Economy Hits Student Families Hard

Working families, who historically have paid an average of 60% of their child/children's tuition costs, are being hit hard by the economic downturn. Following a medical emergency and losing her job, one parent recently wrote to the principal at Father Charles Hall School, "My financial situation has become very difficult to manage and I cannot afford my daughter's tuition. My daughters and are now living in a homeless shelter and I am trying to save enough money to be able to find a suitable home. Please grant me more time to pay the tuition as I am seeking outside resources to assist in the process." Even in the face of amazing challenges, this mom demonstrates incredible determination and courage in wanting to provide for her daughter's education.

For the remainder of the school year, Partners In Excellence will be making supplemental scholarship grants to families facing lost wages and jobs.

If you are interested in learning more about this special effort, or the Women's Alliance, please contact Jennifer Hammand at 410-547-5461 or email jhammand@archbalt.org.



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