

Adopt A Student

Change a Life!

News

Our 2nd Annual Recognition Dinner

By Patricia O'Connell
CFP Correspondent



The Adopt-A-Student program made it possible for Brenden Walsh to attend Holy Name Central Catholic High School.

Now in a management position at a manufacturing firm, Mr. Walsh credits his Catholic education with launching him onto this career track.

Late last year, he was at home, watching television. An advertisement for the Adopt-A-Student program flashed across the screen.

Mr. Walsh felt a call. "I thought that I should make some attempt to contact them to see if I could help out," he said.

Soon, he was part of the Adopt-A-Student steering committee. He's also on the newly formed "Dash for Cash" subcommittee, which is organizing a run/walk to benefit the scholarship program he remains grateful for.

Last week, the 32-year-old Leicester resident addressed the crowd at the Second Annual Adopt-A-Student Recognition Dinner, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

"I've been guided by the values instilled in me by the Holy Name community," he explained. "I volunteered to work with the Adopt-A-Student organization to help other kids to have the same opportunity I had."

The Adopt-A-Student program was founded 20 years ago by Bishop Timothy J. Harrington. The benefit dinner, which drew about 400 people, highlighted its ongoing success.

The newest component is the "Dash for Cash," scheduled for June 7, and it's expected this event will significantly boost scholarship funding, according to committee member Dan Girard. The entry fee for runners and walkers is \$30. Corporate sponsors are also being recruited.

Mr. Girard, who makes his living as a financial adviser, doesn't think the sluggish economy presents a problem, at least in terms of promoting "Dash for Cash."

"We hope it actually plays into our favor," he stated.

Mr. Girard stressed the potential tuition reimbursement, offered by the upcoming race, is open to all Central Catholic students, and not just scholarship recipients. So there's an incentive for the entire student body to participate, he explained.

Students who raise between \$500 and \$1,499, receive a 50 percent tuition credit. The amount of reimbursement increases incrementally. Mr. Girard, 34, grew up on Worcester's Grafton Hill and is a product of St. Peter-Marian. He's returned to his old high school to coach baseball.

Most of the Dash for Cash subcommittee members are 30-something professionals. This is no accident. It's part of an effort to find younger people to support the Adopt-A-Student initiative.

"We're the younger crowd," said Mr. Girard. "Their board needed to become younger."

"We're hoping to do some great things," Mr. Girard stated.

Sitting at the same dinner table was Mr. Girard's high school friend, Erik Nordahl. His roots at St. Peter-Marian run just as deep. This is where he was graduated from, in 1996. And this is where he met his wife, the former Stephanie Favulli.

Their oldest daughter, Hannah, attends preschool at St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School. A second child, Emma, will enter this fall. Their third child, Erik, is only eight months old. "He will get there some day," according to Mr. Nordahl.

Mr. Nordahl, 32, is a St. Peter-Marian hockey coach. Mrs. Nordahl teaches at St Peter's Elementary School. Her circle of friends, said her husband, spring from this community as well.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Nordahl is passionate about keeping St. Peter-Marian viable.

"We're really reaching out," he explained. "We're trying to grab some of the alumni back in to help us."

"I sell people on St. Peter-Marian," he added. "It provides a structure. There's a sense of community."

"It's more than education – it's friendships that last forever," he said.

Eternity was also a theme of the keynote speech, delivered by Dr. Francesco Cesareo, president of Assumption College.

Dr. Cesareo explained that he's been involved, in one way or another, with Catholic schools for the last 45 years, beginning when he entered first grade.

Throughout his talk, Dr. Cesareo stressed that transmitting the faith is the reason for Catholic schools.

"Religious and spiritual formation is integral to Catholic education," he said. "It is not added to or separate from the education process."

Dr. Cesareo also spoke of "moral absolutes," and of the ability of Catholic schools to teach students that "absolute truths exist."

"One can know with certainty that some actions are truly evil and some actions are truly good," he noted.

"To be a Christian is to follow Christ and be like Him, to share and promote His values and way of life, to share in His suffering, death and Resurrection," he continued. "Presumably, this is the reason these schools exist and the reason we send our children to Catholic school, because we believe that Christ provides the fullness of truth."

Dr. Cesareo said it is true Catholic schools place great importance on high academic standards. But he said that's not enough to justify their existence.

"Catholic education is part of the life of the Church and flows from the heart of the Church," he concluded. "In the end, Catholic education is really about our ultimate destiny, salvation – the salvation of the world and the salvation of ourselves."

Earlier in the evening, several Adopt-A-Student Recognition Awards were handed out. These included The 2009 Paul and Dorothy Kevrick Award for Leadership, presented to Jaime Vinal, a senior at St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School.

The 2009 Charles and Beth McManus Award for Academic Excellence was given to Christelle Boursiquot, a sophomore at Holy Name Central Catholic.

Margret Paul, a senior at St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic, was given the 2009 Bill and Kay O'Brien Award for Best Exemplifying the Values of the Adopt-A-Student Program.

The 2009 Wilfred and Bette Iandoli Award for Service was given to William King, a junior at Holy Name Central Catholic.

Bishop McManus, who is also chairman of the Committee on Education for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, delivered the closing remarks. He cited a USCCB document titled, "Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium," which underscores the responsibility of all Catholics to foster Catholic education.

"Catholic education is so fundamentally important to the nature and mission of the Church," said the Bishop.

Promoting Catholic education, he continued, is not just for families with children in the system. Rather, it is "incumbent upon" the wider Catholic community.



The 2nd Annual Adopt-A-Student Recognition Dinner



Message From Program Chair, Robert Pape

I am pleased to report that we are in the midst of the busiest year in the 20 year history of the Adopt-A-Student Program. Thanks to many generous donors and event sponsors combined with the energy of many committed volunteers it is—so far—a very productive year.

While we have various committees meeting every week to raise funds and award scholarships, the requests for financial support have never been higher.

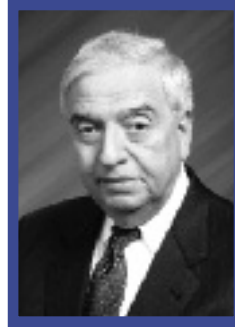
This issue of Adopt-A-Student news will cover some of our past events this year and others in the planning stages. Members of the staff in the Catholic Schools Office are a tremendous resource to us, but the program is operated primarily by volunteers. Outside of the costs to print this newsletter and event expenses, every penny of your support goes directly to families in the form of aid with tuition.

Volunteers are always welcome. As you read about our 1st Annual Dash for Cash on June 7th and the 20th Annual Golf Tournament on August 31st, consider how you may want to be involved.

On a sad note this year, our friend, dedicated Steering Committee member and ardent supporter, Richard F. O'Hearn, Jr. passed away on Christmas Day, 2008. We will miss Dick very much and we continue to remember him and his family in prayer.

As we progress through a very busy year, I wish to thank everyone who has been a part in bringing about our success so far this year and our anticipated achievements in the months ahead.

For information about the program or any upcoming events, please visit our website: www.Adopt-A-Student.net.



Adopt A Student
Change a Life!

Steering Committee

Joseph J. Bafaro
Dr. Francesco Cesareo
Michael Coogan
Atty. Peter J. Dawson
Thomas E. Dunn
Micheal J. Germain
Daniel Girard Jr.
Kevin Gniadek
Timothy M. Griffin
Elizabeth J. Iandoli
Susan Ivas
Robert J. Kenney
Francis J. Kittredge
Hon. Francis J. Larkin
Edward P. Madaus
Marie Maher
Sean M. McCue
Charles E. McManus
William J. Mulford
Catherine G. O'Brien
John D. O'Connell
Robert R. Pape
Thomas Russell
William P. Stolz
Brenden Walsh

Gifts that Keep on Giving

In addition to support from events and direct donations which are used to provide scholarships annually, several individuals, families and/or organizations have established endowment funds for Adopt-A-Student. The current endowments total slightly more than \$700,000. In most cases, the interest earned from the funds is used for scholarships while the corpus of the original remains intact.

For information on how to establish an endowment fund in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one, please call the Catholic Schools Office at 508.791.7171.

Current Adopt-A-Student Scholar— Jaime Vinal



Jaime Vinal is a senior at St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School in Fitchburg. During her four years at the school, Jaime has been an Honor Role student every marking period. She is ranked 20th in her class of 125 students with a G.P.A. of 3.66.

She has been a member of the softball and volleyball teams at St. Bernard's, captaining the JV volleyballers.

Jaime plans to go to veterinarian school and has been accepted at The University of Rhode Island, The University of Connecticut, Becker College, The University of Massachusetts and The University of Vermont. At an interview with Jaime in early April she was undecided on which school she will be attending in the fall but indicated that UConn is her top choice.

A strong Catholic faith is important to Jaime. She is involved in her Parish Youth Group and serves as a Lector at St. John's Parish in Townsend, MA.

Animals are a big part of Jaime's life. She enjoys riding horses and caring for large farm animals in addition to her family dog Tucker, her rabbit, appropriately named "Bunny", and her guinea pig, Dizzy.

She works at Dunroven Farm doing barn chores and taking care of the animals there.

At the 2nd Annual Adopt-A-Student Recognition Awards Dinner on April 2nd, Jaime received the 2009 Paul and Dorothy Kervick Award for Leadership.

"I am very grateful to the people who support the Adopt-A-Program. I have enjoyed my experience at St. Bernard's and without this program it just wouldn't have been possible," Jaime said during the interview for this newsletter.

Jaime is the daughter of Kristy and Bruce Vinal along with her sister Kaitlin and her brother Bruce.

Congratulations, Jaime, on a stellar high school career and good luck in your college studies.

Adopt-A-Student Graduate— Brenden Walsh, Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Class of 1994

Brenden Walsh was an "Adopt-A-Student Scholar" in the very early years of the program. After Holy Name, Brendan continued his education at Nichols College. He graduated magna cum laude from Nichols in 1998 with a degree in Business Administration: Concentration in Accounting.

Brenden exemplifies the mission of the Adopt-A-Student Program. He is a new member of the Program Steering Committee, giving back to help students share the experience he enjoyed at Holy Name.

Brenden is currently employed at Kadant, Inc. as a Corporate Senior Internal Auditor. In his spare time Brendan enjoys soccer.

At the recent Adopt-A-Student Recognition Awards Dinner, Brenden addressed the gathering of almost 400 people.

Among his remarks, Brenden stated, "My academic and professional achievements are directly linked to the values that I acquired during my time at Holy Name. And none of it would have been possible without the Adopt-A-Student Program. Looking back and realizing how much the opportunity meant to me and the endless possibilities that arose from this opportunity, I volunteered to work with the Adopt-A-Student organization to ensure other kids have the same educational opportunities presented to me."

When the Adopt-A-Student Program began in 1989, it was the hope of the founding members that those who are helped would, in turn, support the Program and help others. Brenden has made that vision a reality!





In response to an increasing need for tuition assistance, The 1st Annual Dash for Cash will be held on June 7. This is a 5K run or a 2.5K route for walkers. This new event has been established to achieve two objectives:

1. Offer ALL students attending our Diocesan Central Catholic Schools – Holy Name Jr./Sr. High School, St. Bernard’s High School, St. Peter-Marian Jr./Sr. High School and St. Peter’s Elementary School—an opportunity to earn credit toward their tuition accounts.
2. Provide financial support through the Adopt-A-Student general fund to these schools to help other families in need.

Detailed information about the event can be found on our website—www.adopt-a-student.net. Individuals pay a \$30.00 entrance fee and are encouraged to register online through our website. Participants can be students but all are invited to participate. Runners and walkers can designate themselves as the beneficiary of sponsorship support or, if not a student, they can choose an individual, school or the General Fund, to receive credit for the support they raise.

The amount of money raised by an individual or a team for a student attending a high school is applied to tuition accounts as follows:

- \$500 to \$2,999**—50% will be applied to a student’s 2009-2010 tuition account.
- \$3,000 to \$7,499**—75% will be applied to a student’s 2009-2010 tuition account.
- \$7,500 and up**—100% of the student’s tuition is credited.

The amount of money raised by an individual or a team for a student attending St. Peter’s Elementary School is applied to tuition accounts as follows:

- \$500 to \$1,499**—50% will be applied to a student’s 2009-2010 tuition account.
- \$1,500 to \$3,999**—75% will be applied to a student’s 2009-2010 tuition account.
- \$4,000 and up**—100% of the student’s tuition is credited.

Example: If a Holy Name student and his/her sponsors raise \$2,500, the student will receive a \$1,250 credit to his/her tuition account. The remaining funds will go into the Adopt-A-Student general fund which will be distributed to Headmasters to assist families who need a little help.

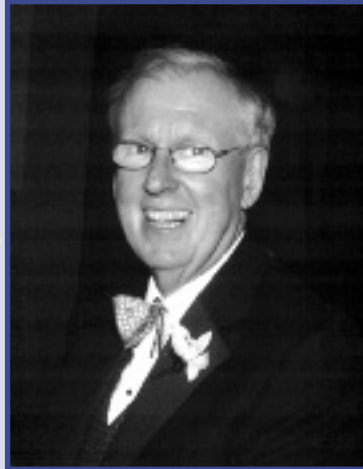
Details of the Day:

- 9:00 to 10:15 am: Registration at Institute Park in Worcester.
- 10:30 am: Bishop Robert J. McManus celebrate an outdoor Mass in the park.
- 11:30 am until noon: Registration continues
- 12:15 pm: The Run/Walk begins
- 1:00 to 2:30 pm: Family Picnic with food, family games and music.

Bring the whole family for what is sure to be a wonderful day!

For more information call Dan Giard at 508.865-9599 or e-mail info@adopt-a-student.net.

In Memoriam



Richard F. O'Hearn, Jr.

“The message he left was that in order to make dreams come true, you needed a passion, and if you choose to go this route, allow the passion and its journey, with all of the ups and downs to become a dream, in of itself...for if so, the journey itself will become a dream, a dream that you will be able to experience every day.”

“Dear to his heart was helping to fund Adopt-A-Student.”

~ Kathryn O'Hearn

Excerpt from comments at the Funeral Mass for her dad, Richard F. O'Hearn, Jr.

December 30, 2008

The 20th Annual Adopt-A-Student Golf Tournament

**Dedicated In memory of
Richard “Dick” O'Hearn**

Monday, August 31 at Wachusett Country Club

It is a special year for the annual golf outing...20 years. And we are honoring the memory of a special man. Dick O'Hearn was a major part of our success for many years. It is an honor to dedicate this 20th annual event in his memory.

The tournament will be at Wachusett CC as it has been since 1990. Lunch begins at 11:30am and the shotgun tee-off is scheduled for 12:30 sharp.

The fee per player is \$175.00 and includes a gift at registration, lunch, greens fees, cart and a delicious prime rib dinner.

There are many sponsorship packages available starting with Tee Sponsors at \$250.00 and corporate packages start at \$1,000.00.

The day will include contests on the course as well as many fantastic auction prizes.

Get your foursome together and look for details in the mail very soon but **SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

