I have a dream...

I see hundreds of families, and individuals with incomes which allow them to support comfortably, or even sacrificially, one, two or more students in our Catholic schools.” - Bishop Timothy Harrington, 1989

In 1989, the late Bishop Timothy J. Harrington stated in an article in the Catholic Free Press that he had a dream. The dream was that the generosity of committed benefactors would help families demonstrating financial need to send their children to Catholic schools.

This dream soon had a name, the Adopt-A-Student program. The program was blessed to have the late William O’Brien as its first chairperson. With assistance from the late Charles McManus, former superintendent of Catholic schools and Owen Coogan, former Diocesan director of development, they recruited and formed a steering committee.

Mr. O’Brien’s involvement in the program seemed providential. He was an early pioneer in institutionalizing a “vision-driven, value-guided” organizational culture at The Hanover Insurance Company in 1971.

Mr. O’Brien saw the importance in social capital and the need to provide financial assistance to those in need of assistance.

Thank you!

Robert R. Pape
Chairman

Celebrating 25 Years of Changing Lives

We are able to celebrate the success of the program due to the generosity of you our loyal supporters and a dedicated group of volunteers, some of whom are no longer with us but provided us with their talents, treasure and guidance.

This year our annual recognition dinner will continue to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our scholars and we are honored to have Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley O.F.M. Cap, Archbishop of Boston as our guest speaker. We are also honoring retired Auxiliary Bishop George E. Rueger for his lifelong dedication and commitment to Catholic schools and education.

Save the date — March 27, 2014 — for our Seventh Annual Recognition Dinner at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, and continue to help provide the opportunity for those in need of assistance.

Thank you!

Robert R. Pape
Chairman
who seek a Catholic education grounded in academic excellence and rooted in Gospel values.

Mr. O’Brien’s legacy and vision have continued through The William J. O’Brien Lecture series (williamjobrien.org/lecture-series/) which has been held at the College of the Holy Cross and provided over $80,000 for the Adopt-A-student program.

Volunteer Driven
Since its inception the program has been coordinated almost entirely through the efforts of volunteers who created the program’s bylaws, and eligibility guidelines.

Over the years the program has received support from now retired Bishop Daniel P. Reilly, retired Auxiliary Bishop George E. Rueger and our current Bishop Robert J. McManus. They have tirelessly maintained Bishop Harrington’s vision of making a Catholic school education accessible to qualified students of need.

Scholarships are presented to students who not only academically qualify but who specifically seek an education in the tradition and environment of Catholic schools, which uniquely educates them to be people of faith and strong moral values.

The Selection Committee reviews every application to determine those in need and most qualified.

Unfortunately they are not able to cover all of the requests due to unavailability of funds.

Expectations
The scholarship is not a handout, but an opportunity for children to change their lives. Each recipient must strive to reach his or her full academic potential. Their behavior must adhere to the school’s code of conduct, and every student is expected to become involved in a school activity — a school club, student government, annual musical or sporting activity. They must also commit to giving back in their church or community.

The program also partners with the students’ parents or guardians, who must commit to pay a small percentage of the tuition and agree to assist the school in various activities.

“You can’t get anywhere without people helping you and believing in you.”

— Erin Sullivan, M.D., Adopt-A-Student scholar

Adopt-A-Student scholars representing each of the four Diocesan Catholic schools: St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School, Holy Name Central Catholic High School, St. Bernard’s Central Catholic High School and St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School.
Program Growth
During the first year, 16 students received $23,000 in scholarships. The groundwork for growth was in place. Since 1989, over 1,100 Adopt-A-Student scholarships have been awarded to over 600 students totaling more than $3.2 million. Program alumni have been accepted at and are attending or have graduated from colleges and universities such as Anna Maria, Assumption, Boston College, Clark, Cornell, Holy Cross, Princeton, Seton Hall, University of Massachusetts, University of New Hampshire, and many others.

Once a student is accepted, the Liaison Committee meets with each student after each marking period to ensure they are working up to their ability, adhering to the school’s code of conduct and are involved in extracurricular and service activities so that the scholarship can be maintained until they graduate.

“I don’t know how else I could otherwise be at Holy Name. [Adopt-A-Student] provides another incentive to do well.”

—Tom Brennan, Adopt-A-Student scholar

Sustaining the Mission
Adopt-A-Student scholarships have been funded entirely through direct donations, interest from growing endowment funds and proceeds from fundraising events.

Over the years, those events have varied from small events to two major annual fundraisers; a golf tournament held in August (August 25, 2014) and our recognition dinner in the spring (March 27, 2014 see pages 7 and 8 for details). The program has been blessed over the years by strong and talented volunteers who work on the Development, Selection, Liaison, Dinner, Golf and Talent Show committees.

We are grateful to Assumption College, Anna Maria College, the College of the Holy Cross and many local businesses and individual sponsors who support these events. (See page 5 for more on our college collaboration.)

Lunch and Learn
Regular lunches held at St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School was the very first event that was held to promote an understanding of the Adopt-A-Student program. Members of the steering committee invited friends or business associates to a luncheon. A brief explanation of the program was provided along with a tour of the school led by students.

Once people heard the message of what their support could accomplish, visited the classrooms and met the students, many offered their support either by financially or volunteering or both.

Because of their success, these lunches continue today. If you are interested in seeing the program in action, please attend one. To set up a visit please contact Bob Pape at Rrpape@aol.com or 508-523-3542.

A Parent’s Gratitude
The impact the Adopt-A-Student has on students extends to their families. Recently, we received the following email from a very proud and grateful mother:

Hi Mr Pape,

I can not believe how the years have passed! It seems just like yesterday Kourtney was applying for the Adopt-A-Student Program. I want to catch up with you on Kourtney.

She applied for Boston Teachers Residency (BTR) program in Boston and was accepted. It is a program for her to become a teacher through the Boston Public Schools. She is currently teaching in Roxbury at the Dudley Street Charter School. It is a neighborhood school. It just opened this year. They only have grades K-3. Next year they are going to add more grades. It is a tough neighborhood, but, Kourtney loves giving back. She is so happy! I found a safe place for her to live in Dorchester. Her dream is coming true to teach.

I am so blessed as are my children to have the Adopt-A-Student Program in our lives. If it wasn’t for this program I don’t know where my children would be in their lives. I thank you and your committee for being by my side by helping me able to afford Catholic Education for my children.

Thank you,

Kathy

“I am very grateful to the Adopt-A-Student Program. I have enjoyed my experience at St. Bernard’s and without this program it just wouldn’t have been possible.”

—Jamie Vinal, Adopt-A-Student scholar
Despite Our Success, We Face Challenges

All the planning and dreaming of what could be is meaningless without you. Your support is the foundation upon which we can continue to offer assistance to these students. We ask that you consider a gift of support to the Program. If you are unable to at this time, remember our effort in your prayers. A response envelope is included.

It’s an exciting time for Catholic schools and for our Adopt-A-Student program. As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. The financial burden on families seeking to send their children to our Catholic schools has only intensified and the need for assistance from Adopt-A-Student has become even more apparent. The great life changing good that it has provided to students of the program cannot be over stated.

The Adopt-A-Student Program Steering Committee extends our gratitude for your commitment to the program and welcomes new participants. Scores of young men and women have received a quality and Catholic education through your generosity and commitment to the spirit of stewardship, an opportunity that would otherwise be unattainable for them. They are truly benefactors of your kindness.

Please be assured, as we work together, that our greatest accomplishments still lie ahead of us. It’s an exciting time for Catholic schools and for our Adopt-A-Student Program.

A Former Scholar Pays It Forward

Brenden Walsh was an “Adopt-A-Student Scholar” in the very early years of the program. After Holy Name, Brenden 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 member of the Program Steering Committee, giving back to help students share the experience he enjoyed at Holy Name. Brenden is currently employed as the Internal Audit Manager at Rogers Corporation.

In his spare time, Brenden 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.”

The Seton Legacy Foundation

The Seton Legacy Foundation was established in 2006 and is a new area for growth in our program. The concepts of the Foundation are:

• Provide individuals with an opportunity to create a lasting legacy of commitment to the program by donating $50,000 over 5 years.

• Each year 80% of a Seton Legacy gift is deposited into an interest bearing account and the income is directed to the current year scholarship award for a student, while the remaining 20% is placed in a growth account to ensure the future growth of the endowment.

In Memoriam

As we reflect on our 25 years of history we recall the following members of our team who are no longer with us. Each gave so generously of their time, talent and treasure. They will forever be a part of the program’s fabric. In this year of celebration, we remember them and their families:

Jeanne Y. Curtis
Elizabeth “Bette” J. Iandoli
Dorothy B. and Paul J. Kervick
Charles E. McManus
William J. O’Brien
Richard F. “Dick” O’Hearn, Jr.
Collaboration with Colleges

In 2008, Anna Maria College, Assumption College and the College of the Holy Cross agreed to provide a four year scholarship for local Catholic high school students who receive an Adopt-A-Student grant and who meet the colleges’ entrance requirements.

At the time, Adopt-A-Student chairman, Bob Pape, noted, “We are thrilled that the local Catholic colleges have embraced this endeavor. These scholarships are a great demonstration of these colleges’ commitment to reach out to members of the community and provide new opportunities.”

In addition to the scholarships, the colleges have maintained sponsorships of the program’s annual recognition dinner and golf tournament.

When the collaboration was initiated, each of the college presidents believed in the importance of Catholic education and were happy to support a program that helped local families. Through their involvement with the AAS program, these families have demonstrated a personal commitment to Catholic education at the grammar school and high school levels and the colleges wanted to help them continue that experience at the college level.

“We believe in the importance of Catholic education and are happy to support a program that helps local families. These families have demonstrated a personal commitment to Catholic education at the grammar school and high school levels and we want to help them continue that experience at the college level. It aligns perfectly with the mission of Assumption College.”

Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D., president, Assumption College

“The Sisters of Saint Anne founded Anna Maria College in 1946 with the goal of improving access to higher education in central Massachusetts. Participating in the Adopt-A-Student program by providing a needy student with a scholarship is in keeping with our mission and continues the tradition of our foundresses by better serving the educational needs of the communities we serve.”

Jack P. Calareso, Ph.D., president, Anna Maria College

“Holy Cross is very proud to be working with the Diocese of Worcester in advancing the Adopt-A-Student program. We are committed to continuing to build strong relationships with high schools and families in the City of Worcester, and to communicating the opportunities available at Holy Cross for the talented graduates of our diocesan schools.” Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J., former president of the College of the Holy Cross

The AAS program's mission aligns perfectly with each of the college's mission. To date 10 Adopt-A-Student scholars who met their acceptance standards have been awarded scholarships by Anna Maria College and Assumption College. These students have gone on to matriculate at these institutions and some are now alumni.
The Adopt-A-Student Program hosted its 2nd Annual Catholic Schools have Talent Show to the delight of an excited crowd of over 200 people.

The show is modeled on the same concept as the popular America’s Got Talent TV show where contestants compete in early rounds with hope of making it to the season finale.

Catholic Schools have Talent showcases the musical talent of students from the central school of the Diocese of Worcester: St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, Holy Name Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School, St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School, and St. Bernard’s Central Catholic High School. A total of 12 acts, consisting of sixteen students, made the cut to the final show after being selected from over 80 contestants.

The show, hosted by two-time Worcester Entertainer of the Year Dale LePage, was spectacular and demonstrated the wide array of talent that exists in our schools. The diversity of selections was impressive, as the show included performances of classical piano, contemporary pop and rock, Irish step dance, salsa, a Broadway musical, and the ocarina.

And the Winners Are …

The top three acts were selected by celebrity judges, Mary Knight of WXLO, Hank Stolz of WCRN, and Cindy Dorsey of 1230 AM Emmanuel Radio. Third place was awarded to a brother and sister duo Natalia and Deigo Rozo from St. Peter’s who charmed the crowd with their salsa dancing.

Megan Dickie, also from St. Peter’s, sang her way into second place with a beautiful rendition of “I Could Have Danced All Night.” The winner of the show was Holy Name’s Sarah Lim who thrilled the crowd with Chopin’s “Opus 10; No. 4”.

Proceeds from the show are used to benefit the Adopt-A-Student program’s tuition assistance efforts.
Celebrating 25 Years of Changing Lives

Recognition Dinner • Thursday, March 27, 2014

The Adopt-A-Student program marks a significant milestone—its 25th Anniversary. We will celebrate this achievement at our annual recognition dinner on Thursday, March 27.

We are honored to have Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston as our featured speaker. The Cardinal is a strong believer in and an advocate for Catholic Schools. Pope John Paul II appointed him Archbishop of Boston in July 2003. Pope Benedict XVI named him a Cardinal in 2006. Most recently, he was selected by Pope Francis to serve on the Council of Cardinals, which advises the Pope on Church governance.

Additionally, this year’s dinner gives us an opportunity to recognize and thank a staunch supporter of our program, the Most Reverend George E. Raeger, D.D., retired Auxiliary Bishop of Worcester. Bishop Raeger has dedicated his life to promoting Catholic education and is an ardent supporter of our Diocesan schools.

Since its inception in 1989, the Adopt-A-Student program has dedicated itself to changing lives by providing tuition assistance scholarships to students who otherwise would not be able to attend a Diocesan Central Catholic school. To date, over 1,100 scholarships totaling over $3.2 million have been awarded to students attending Holy Name and St. Peter-Marian Catholic Jr./Sr. High Schools, St. Bernard’s Central Catholic High School and St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School.

After 25 years of service, our desire to offer scholarships to families in need has not waned. However, the economic climate continues to challenge our fundraising efforts. Each year, our applicant pool increases but our ability to meet the need of some very deserving students falls short. Please consider helping us by attending the dinner and/or considering one of the sponsorship opportunities below.

I/We want to support the Adopt-A-Student Recognition Dinner as follows:

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

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**ADVERTISEMENTs IN PROGRAM BOOK* / TICKET PURCHASE / DONATIONS**

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Please make checks payable to Adopt-A-Student Program or pay by credit card; mail check/completed form to Robert Pape, Adopt-A-Student Program, 49 Elm St., Worcester, MA 01609.

Name: __________________________________ Email: __________________________
Street: __________________________________ City/Town: __________ State: __ Zip: __________
____ MasterCard ____ Visa ____ AMEX  Credit Card #: __________________ Exp. Date: __________

Name as it appears on card _____________________________________________________________
Signature ____________________________________________________ Date: __________

*Deadline for inclusion in the Program Book is Wednesday, March 5, 2014.*
Inside this Issue

- Celebrating 25 Years
- Talent Show Recap
- Sponsorship Opportunities

We are on Facebook, visit us and Like our page.