

Beyond the Classroom



Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | **Winter 2025**

Inner-City Scholarship Fund students are experiencing a transformative year, thanks to the unwavering support of our community. Beyond the classroom, these young scholars explored the possibility of diverse career paths in law, medicine, finance, and more.

One of the highlights was a visit to American Express headquarters, hosted by CEO and Chairman, Stephen J. Squeri. High school students from St. Jean Baptiste and Cardinal Hayes gained invaluable insights into the business world through sessions with the company's corporate archivist and the head of their US internship program. The morning culminated with an intimate and friendly Q&A with Mr. Squeri where he generously shared the story of his professional journey and his keys to success.

Twenty-eight Jimmy Lee Scholars from Catholic high schools across the Archdiocese of New York had the unique opportunity to spend a day at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Under the guidance of experienced healthcare professionals, they engaged in hands-on learning in the field of orthopedic surgery. Activities included



practicing casting techniques, intubation simulations, suturing, and bone drilling.

Nine scholars attended the prestigious 79th Annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Dinner, expanding their horizons and building valuable connections. The Hon. William C. Conner Inn of Court gave 22 students the chance to participate in a mock trial, providing them with a window into the legal profession. Inner-City's annual Job Opportunities Program also played a crucial role, equipping students with essential skills and knowledge for their future careers.

These invaluable experiences, made possible by the generous support of individuals and organizations, empower Inner-City Scholarship Fund students and broaden their understanding of the diverse career paths available to them. 🇺🇸

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

When I have the wonderful opportunity to visit our scholarship recipients in their schools across the Archdiocese, it serves as a clear reminder of the benefits and impact of Catholic education. The values imparted by their teachers and the care provided to each student cannot be highlighted enough.



Through your support of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, it is clear that you both understand and wish to enhance our mission of providing scholarships to low-income students. Their lives will be transformed by the opportunity to have the nurturing and high-quality educational experience that is on full display in the classrooms and hallways of our Catholic schools throughout the school year.

Our cover story features some incredible experiences that our scholarship recipients enjoyed outside of the classroom recently. Meeting and being inspired by CEOs, surgeons and former NFL players are not common occurrences for these students. Combined with what they learn in the classroom, it's what we mean when we speak of

delivering hope and opportunity through the scholarships you help provide.

Simply by walking into their Catholic school building, these students are accepted daily into a safe and loving environment that sets them on a path to a brighter future. It would not be possible without the support and generosity of our wonderful community of donors like yourself who prioritize the value of Catholic education. In today's world, it is truly a gift that has an impact far beyond graduation by developing students into thoughtful citizens who care deeply about service to their communities.

All the above happens day in and day out in Catholic schools. Thank you for making the experience possible for students who otherwise would not have that opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Lloyd". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill Turner Lloyd

Executive Director, Inner-City Scholarship Fund

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(left) Pro Players, The Group, (middle) Good Shepherd School Choir with Cardinal Dolan, (right) Stephen J. Squeri and Cardinal Dolan

47th Annual Awards Dinner

Inner-City Scholarship Fund successfully raised over \$1.55 million at the 47th Annual Awards Dinner held on December 3rd at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. The event honored Stephen J. Squeri, CEO and Chairman of American Express.

This year’s dinner began with an enthusiastic performance by the choir of Good Shepherd School that got everyone in the holiday spirit. His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, and Peter T. Grauer, Chairman of Bloomberg L.P. and President of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, presented the 2024 Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award to Mr. Squeri in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Catholic education.

Mr. Squeri expressed deep gratitude for the award, noting that it held significant personal meaning for him as a product of Catholic education. “(My parents) believed that by going to a Catholic institution, the whole person would be educated—spiritually, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. They believed a Catholic education would provide you with the tools to be successful in life, that it would provide you the discipline for learning.”

Mr. Squeri went on to explain why supporting Inner-City made all the attendees’ heroes in his eyes. “Through your generosity, you have given (the students) the tools to be successful in life.... Maybe they will not become CEO, but they will have the foundation now to become successful. They have

the ability to change the course of their families’ lives. That is a gift that is extraordinary which is what Inner-City does.”

We were privileged to hear from Rick Cordero, a 2024 La Salle Academy graduate and former Inner-City Scholarship Fund recipient. Rick spoke about how he has used the tools his scholarship gave him to shape his own success. Rick is now a freshman at Manhattan University, where Mr. Squeri serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Rick told us the scholarship empowered him to excel academically. “Thanks to the support of my sponsors, I didn’t have to navigate my education alone. Your generosity has helped thousands of students feel more secure, encouraged, focused, and confident in reaching their potential.”

We concluded the program with a lively performance by Pro Players, The Group. The choir features a roster of former NFL players, including Super Bowl champions, Pro Bowlers, NFL Men of the Year, and Pro Football Hall of Fame inductees. Their talents extend far beyond the field and they provided an energetic and inspiring end to the evening.

Save the date for the 48th Annual FRIENDS Gala which will be held on May 13th at Cipriani 42nd Street. 🍷



Pro Players, The Group inspired and performed for students in the Bronx at All Hallows High School, Cardinal Hayes High School, and Cardinal Spellman High School on October 1st and 2nd. Additionally, the band from All Hallows High School opened for the choir before their performance at the Sheen Center for Thought & Culture on October 3rd.

Pro Players, The Group with students and staff from All Hallows High School

Prayer Service

Every other year, His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, invites our supporters to gather at the St. Patrick's Cathedral Lady Chapel for evening prayer in recognition of their generous commitment to Inner-City Scholarship Fund.

We had the pleasure of enjoying performances from the choir from Our Lady of Lourdes School in Upper Manhattan and a cantor from Dominican Academy. Following the prayer service, a reception was held at the University Club.

If you would like to learn more about supporting Inner-City Scholarship Fund, please contact Kimberly Branach at branach@innercitynyc.org. 🇺🇸



Choir from Our Lady of Lourdes School



Cantor from Dominican Academy



Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund

Golf Fore Catholic Schools

The 48th Annual Golf Fore Catholic Schools LPGA Pro-Am on September 10th at Siwanoy Country Club, was a resounding success, raising over \$360,000 for deserving students.

The generous support of our sponsors, golfers, and donors is crucial to the continued success of our mission. By investing in the education of low-income students, we empower them with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in college, their careers, and their communities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who participated in and supported this year's Golf Fore Catholic Schools LPGA Pro-Am. 🇺🇸





Maciel Minaya

35th Annual St. Thomas More Award Luncheon

The 35th Annual Saint Thomas More Award Luncheon, held on October 23rd, raised over \$500,000! The event honored Kevin and Kathleen O'Connor for their steadfast commitment to education and serving their community.

Kevin currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Carrier Global, while Kathleen is Vice President, Legal at AQR Capital Management. Kathleen became our first multi-generational recipient of the St. Thomas More Award. Kathleen's late father, Bill Plunkett, was honored at the luncheon in 2000.

Maciel Minaya, a senior at the Academy of Mount Saint Ursula, moved the attendees with her speech about the sacrifices her parents made to provide her and her older brother with the life and education they deserved. "This scholarship truly motivates me to strive for excellence and make the most of every opportunity I'm given... I hope to use my Catholic school education and experiences to make a positive impact, not just in my career, but also in my community, helping young girls like me to achieve their own dreams along the way, just as you have helped me."

Kevin O'Connor shared how supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund empower students to succeed simply by believing in them and offering them a chance, saying it mirrors the support both he and Kathleen have received throughout their lives to get to where they are in their career. He emphasized, "I

think anyone in this room would agree, we are where we are because people care. Both Kathleen and I know that we have had so many people in our lives, professionally, who cared. People gave us a chance, just like you do every day, and we made the most of it."

We are deeply grateful to Kevin and Kathleen O'Connor, our Lawyers Committee, and all who supported this event for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of our students. 🙏



Kevin and Kathleen O'Connor with Cardinal Dolan

Student Spotlight

Maya Z., a freshman at St. Jean Baptiste and a scholarship recipient, thrives in her Catholic school environment.

She graduated from Our Lady Queen of Angels in Manhattan where her little brother, also a scholarship recipient, is currently in the 6th grade.

“I think going to a Catholic school like St. Jean Baptiste is unique because we are all connected through our common belief system,” Maya explains. “The sisterhood at St. Jean’s has helped me to adjust and make connections at school.”

Maya actively participates in the debate club, crediting it for boosting her confidence and communication skills. “Debate club is a great opportunity to branch out and connect with other students who have similar interests. It is helping me to be more confident in my speaking skills and to stand firm in my own opinion.” She is looking forward to joining the choir club next.

Maya recently enjoyed reconnecting with her sponsor, Mary Jo Weinig, whom she has had the privilege of visiting with several times during previous school visits. She says “I really like the conversations that we have, and I enjoy answering her questions. It is always a good experience.”

Maya’s story is a clear example of the transformative impact of our scholarship programs. “The *Be*



Maya Z.

A Student’s Friend Scholarship is definitely a big help to my family. It has helped me and my brother continue to attend great schools like Our Lady Queen of Angels and St. Jean Baptiste. I am forever grateful and will always remember the great experiences I have had due to my scholarship.”

Are you a sponsor who is interested in hearing more from your scholarship recipient? Contact Jackie Kielty at kielty@innercitynyc.org to schedule your visit today. 🙏

Early Acceptances to College

We are thrilled to announce the incredible achievements of two of our exceptional scholars!

Edwin R., a Barry Scholar from Xavier High School, has been awarded a full scholarship to Columbia University to pursue his passion for engineering.

Jaidaly C., a Schwarzman Scholar from Dominican Academy, has received a full ride to attend Skidmore College. She dreams of becoming a dentist. These are just a couple of the many success stories we will be sharing with you. Our supporters are helping pave the way for a brighter future. 🙏



Jaidaly C.



Edwin R.

FROM KINDERGARTEN TO CAREER: A Scholarship Success Story

Imani Washington's journey to success began with an act of extraordinary generosity.

In 2007, Imani started to receive a scholarship from her sponsors, Laura Richards and James Naughton, who would support her education from kindergarten all the way through high school at Notre Dame Academy in Manhattan where she served as class president all four years! This unwavering support proved invaluable to Imani, whose single mother, a Catholic educator at Incarnation Elementary School, instilled in her the profound importance of education.

"School has always been my niche," Imani tells us. "I love learning and I'm a proud nerd. I appreciate everything Ms. Richards and Mr. Naughton contributed to my education; they are a huge part of the woman I am today."



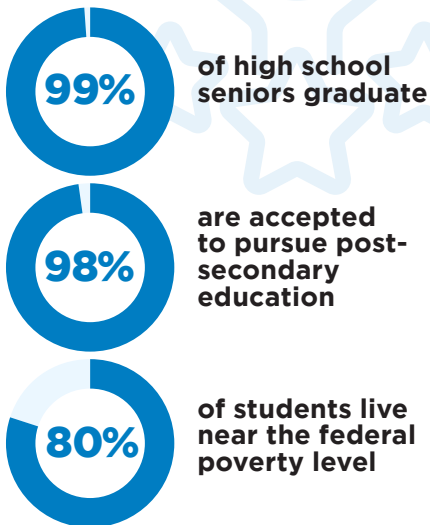
Imani is now a senior at Delaware State University. A highly engaged student, she serves as Miss Delaware State University and is an active member of the NAACP and Women's Senate. Spoken Words Art United is a school organization that she resurrected out of her passion for poetry. Imani's goal was to have a job offer going into her senior year of college, and she received an impressive four! She credits much of her success to the strong foundation provided by her Catholic education and her sponsors.

Imani tells us she "honestly can't wait to provide the same benefits of a scholarship to a young student who looks just like me one day."

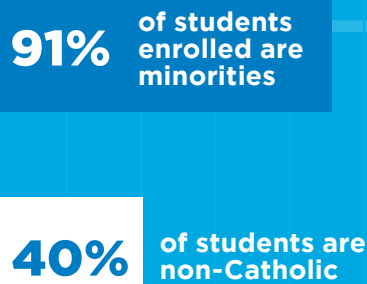
We are incredibly grateful to share just one of the thousands of success stories among our alumni. Our supporters are truly changing the trajectory of students' lives. 🎓

INNER-CITY BY THE NUMBERS

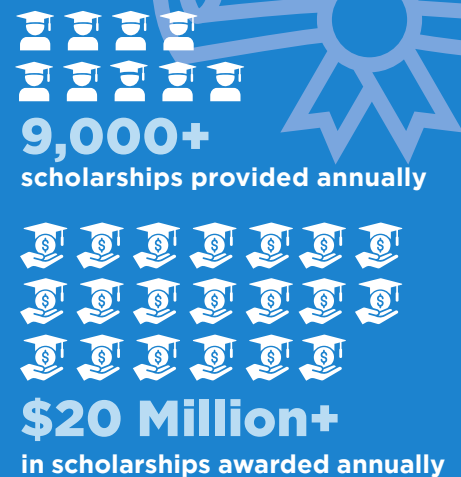
Our Students



Our Schools



Our Impact





SAVE THE DATE

48th Annual FRIENDS Gala: *Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at Cipriani 42nd Street, FRIENDSGala25.org*



inner-city scholarship fund

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