

FUTURES IN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND FOR BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

March 2009



What is FIEEF?

The Futures In Education Endowment Fund is a non-profit organization. Its mission is to support those who want a Catholic education in Brooklyn and Queens

Dear Friends,

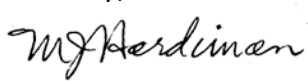
As the Executive Director of the Futures In Education Endowment Fund, I am blessed to have the opportunity to lead such an important initiative. The Catholic schools of Brooklyn and Queens provide so much to their students, families, and teachers as well as the communities which they serve. It is paramount to continue the successes that these schools produce and thus we have endeavored to build an endowment fund that will provide financial assistance for:

1. scholarship support to families who are unable to afford the cost of tuition;
2. support of art, music, and gym programs; and
3. support for capital repairs and deferred maintenance.

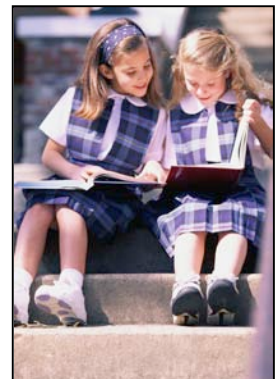
Our efforts are indeed challenging, but we have tremendous hope for the future because our leadership team is strong and active. Importantly, our initial outreach has been well received by the community and will lead to even more success in the years ahead.

I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress as we, together, work to ensure a positive future for the children of Brooklyn and Queens.

Sincerely,



Msgr. Michael J. Hardiman
Executive Director
Futures In Education Endowment Fund



Preserving the Vision

When it was determined that the Diocesan schools were operating at 85% capacity, it was obvious that they had to plan strategically for the long-term future and a task force was formed to lead the effort. The strategic planning process, entitled "Preserving the Vision," began in September 2008 and held more than 35 meetings in every region of the Diocese to better examine the schools.

Studying the entire landscape was a lengthy and consultative process. The decisions were not easy to make, but will best position the schools to provide Catholic education more effectively in the future. The reconfiguration plan which was announced on February 12, 2009 involves eight school closings; the conversion of some schools into academies; and the reclassification of one school into a mission school. Additionally, three schools that were originally recommended to be closed will now remain open. The full reconfiguration plan can be found at the following link:

http://www.fieef.org/news/news_prfull.html

The next few years will bring exciting innovations, additional programs and the creation of new, vibrant academies that will pass on the vision of Catholic education for generations to come.

We know that tuition assistance is essential to continue to allow children access to the kind of quality education that the Catholic schools in Brooklyn and Queens provide. The need for the Endowment Fund to be successful is all the more important in the current financial climate, as it will help families in need obtain access to these transformed schools.

Key School Statistics

- Number of elementary and secondary schools:.....132
- Number of students: 52,249
 - Elementary school enrollment: 35,894
 - Secondary school enrollment: 16,355
- Percent of students who are non-Catholic:..... 25%
- Percent of students who are minorities:..... 64%
- Secondary schools graduation rate:..... 99%
- Average tuition, elementary schools: \$3,354
- Average tuition, secondary schools:..... \$6,875
- Average household income of scholarship-recipient families \$26,852

Tuition-Free School Planned for Bushwick

As reported in *The Tablet*, a new tuition-free Catholic elementary school will open in Bushwick this fall. The school will be named Pope John Paul II Family Academy and will be located at St. Barbara's Parish in Brooklyn.

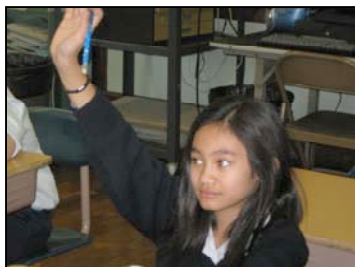
The students, whose family income must be at or below the poverty line, will have the opportunity to attend a Catholic school that they otherwise could not have afforded. The project will be funded by an anonymous donor who is a graduate of a Brooklyn Catholic elementary school.

Each student's family will be required to sign a covenant with the Academy in which they commit themselves to active membership in the life of the school. "The covenant is essential and forms the basis of the partnership between the academy, its students, and their families. It is intended to assist students and their families deepen their relationship with God, family, school, and the greater community," said Bishop Caggiano, who also chaired "Preserving Our Vision."

The school will take a holistic approach to education and will have an all-Catholic co-educational population. Students will receive daily instruction in the Catholic faith and once a month they and their parents will attend a family Mass that will be followed by workshops and dinner. In addition to the standard academic curriculum, the Academy will offer athletics, music and art, an after-school program with evening study hall, and serve two meals a day.

"This is an exciting development at a time when good news is uncommon. It is a wonderful opportunity to witness the importance of giving back as the impact of this gift is unparalleled," Caggiano said.

If you would like more information on how you could support a similar endeavor at another school, please contact the Endowment Fund office.



Futures In Education Endowment Fund

The Futures in Education Endowment Fund for Brooklyn and Queens is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that was established to ensure that the gift of an excellent education continues to be a viable option for future generations of students in Brooklyn and Queens.

With an average household income of only \$26,852 for scholarship recipient families, it is clear that finding at least \$3,300 for one child's tuition poses a serious challenge to most families. The Endowment Fund was created to help support these children who want to attend a Catholic school and need financial assistance to make this dream a reality.

The Endowment Fund is led by a group of distinguished volunteers. The Board of Trustees has provided us with great leadership and direction since we began our initiative in 2006. The Board members are:

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