

FUTURES IN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND FOR BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

May 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,

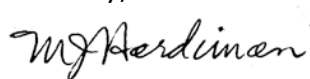
As we prepare to close out another academic year, we look back on the past nine months with a tremendous sense of gratitude. The students whom we helped through tuition assistance are forever grateful for all of your help and support.

Last year, the Endowment Fund provided 273 scholarships to needy children. These children were able to attend a Catholic School in Brooklyn or Queens because of the generous supporters of the Endowment Fund. Without this assistance, these kids would have been unable to go to a Catholic School because of their family's financial situation as the average household income of scholarship recipient families is only \$26,852. Despite these challenging circumstances, the families continue to sacrifice so that their children can have a better future.

I am so energized when I can meet with the schoolchildren who are helped by the Endowment Fund. Whenever I walk into one of our Catholic Schools, I see the miracles taking place. I invite you to witness this first-hand. Participating in a site tour of one of our schools is a tremendous experience. This can easily be arranged by contacting the office at 718-399-5900 ext. 5106.

Please know of my assurances for a safe and joy-filled summer.

Sincerely,



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



Nerd Herd Competes Against the World's Best

Five bright young men from St. Edmund's elementary school in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, participated in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League Robotics International Championship in Atlanta, Georgia last April. The students – Simon Skreli, 12, Benjamin Kelk, 12, Gregory Chin, 12, Daviel Alvarez, 14 (now a freshman at St. Edmund's Prep), and Richard Chian, 14 (now a freshman at Regis high school) – call themselves the "Nerd Herd."

The five spent the better part of the fall creating and programming a motorized robot. Their creation, dubbed "Thingamajig," can pick up and move small objects, such as toys, balls, and other miscellaneous items.

The Nerd Herd took First Place in Robot Design at the Brooklyn Qualifier round in January. From there, they beat teams from all over New York City to take First Place at the Javitt's Center competition in March.

Unfortunately, the cost for the team to make the trip to the international finals in Atlanta was estimated at \$7,000, which was much more than they could afford. After reading about the Nerd Herd's plight in the Daily News, support poured in to help the hometown boys make their dream a reality. All totaled, the Nerd Herd raised \$17,000 – enough to cover expenses for the trip and maintain the technology program at St. Edmund's.

The team travelled to Atlanta for the Robotic World Festival, where they competed against 1,000 students from around the world. Although they did not win the first prize, the Nerd Herd scored high in robot design and were singled out for superior teamwork. Said Ms. Christina Zaremba, their coach, "I think the real success here is that it got these boys in love with technology, and that's the most important thing – hearing them so excited about learning."



Standing (L to R): Jean McAvoy (Principal at St. Edmunds), Christina Zaremba (Coach and Computer teacher), Erica Barbieri (Computer teacher). Seated (L to R) are three members of the Nerd Herd: Gregory Chin, Benjamin Kelk, and Simon Skreli.

The Endowment Campaign – Addressing Critical Needs

It is essential to the long-term stability and growth of our Catholic Schools that \$100 million endowment is realized through charitable giving. With almost \$15 million raised in early leadership support, we are enthusiastically moving forward with this initiative to offer a desperately needed option, particularly for low-income, minority families in under-served neighborhoods. The funding allocations for this extraordinary endeavor are:

Case Component	Allocation	Outcomes
<p>Scholarship Support:</p> <p>With an average household income of \$26,852 for scholarship recipient families, finding \$3,350 for one child’s tuition is a serious challenge for most families.</p>	\$80 million	A fully funded endowment will provide approximately \$4 million annually which is enough to assist as many as 2,500 students with scholarships.
<p>Program Support:</p> <p>We strive to teach the “whole” child and provide each student with a well-rounded education. This component will help schools fund Art, Music, or gym programs.</p>	\$15 million	A fully funded endowment will enable us to reinstate or maintain approximately 30 programs annually.
<p>Capital Repairs:</p> <p>To ensure that children are always learning in a safe environment, monies will be allocated to supplement costs for capital repairs and deferred maintenance.</p>	\$5 million	A fully funded endowment will generate approximately \$200,000 annually to make certain that any safety-related repairs in the schools are addressed appropriately.
Total:	\$100 million	

After only two and a half years, we have been able to secure significant financial support which speaks to the compelling nature of this case and the unparalleled leadership of all Board members and other volunteers. We look forward to the future with such optimism because of the strong foundation that has been built since our founding 30 months ago

Bob Catell Elected Board Chair

At the March 31st meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously elected Robert Catell to serve as the Board Chair for the next year. Bob brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and experience to the position. He has been a part of the Endowment Fund since its inception three years ago.

As the recently retired US Chairman of National Grid (formerly Keyspan), Bob is an active leader in the community. He is also involved with several charities which will serve the Endowment Fund well moving forward. "I am truly humbled to serve as Board Chair and look forward to the next year with great optimism. It is an important time for the children who benefit from our work because now is when they need us the most and I am eager to help them realize the dream of a Catholic School education," said Bob recently.

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

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