



CATHOLIC ACADEMY
OF BRIDGEPORT

Something more.



2022-2023 Annual Report





Our school mission

The four campuses of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport provide a Christ-centered, academically rigorous learning environment where cultural diversity is welcomed and celebrated. Students are nurtured, encouraged and challenged in preparation for a successful life of leadership and service.

Our student mission

I am a Catholic Academy of Bridgeport student. I am worthy of the love of God. I am worthy of an excellent education. I am worthy of respect from my classmates and teachers. I recognize my obligation to return that respect and to reflect the light of Christ by living a successful life of leadership and service to others.

Welcome

As Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport and Chair of the Board of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, we are pleased to share with you our Annual Report for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport continued to provide a high-quality education to our PreK-8 students and their families this year. Enrollment grew to 900+ students from a recent high of 892 the year before, and we provided \$2.8M in funds for need-based student financial assistance, which was flat on last year. All told, the Academy underwrote, on average, 70% of the cost of each of our student's education. We remain committed to never refusing admission to a student due to financial hardship.

Under Executive Director Angela Pohlen's leadership, our new Merit Pay initiative was launched this year. Seven teachers completed their portfolios and presented their evidence of mastery before panels that included Angela, the campus principal, a Board member, a colleague advocate and, often, a parent. While the financial investment needed to fully implement Merit Pay in the years ahead is significant, the teacher advancement and pay benefits of the program will ensure that we attract the finest teachers available within a very tight hiring environment.



THE MOST REVEREND FRANK J. CAGGIANO
BISHOP OF BRIDGEPORT



JOHN KREITLER, BOARD CHAIR

With salary, utilities, insurance and other operating costs on the rise, the Academy has had to start passing along some increased costs to our student families. Family contributions have been held flat since prior to the COVID pandemic but are critical to ongoing operations. Our families understand this reality, and are fully committed to investing what they can alongside us to best educate their children. CAB's cost to educate one of its student's remains extremely low at \$7,000 a year, roughly a third of that at Bridgeport public or charter schools.

We aspire to make a CAB education truly unique, not just 'good for Bridgeport' but on par with private and public schools elsewhere in Fairfield County. Our Board and staff members will ensure the success of CAB's cost-effective and scalable mission, and will continue to provide an exceptional faith-based education for our students. With your increased support and prayers, we will change the lives of thousands of Bridgeport students in the years to come.



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Sheila Clancy, Secretary
Angela Pohlen, Executive Director
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Brian O'Hare
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Marylou Queally Salvati
Sergio Toni
Thomas J. Walsh, Jr.

Board of Members

Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano
Dr. Steven Cheeseman

Who We Serve

900+ Students across
4 campuses

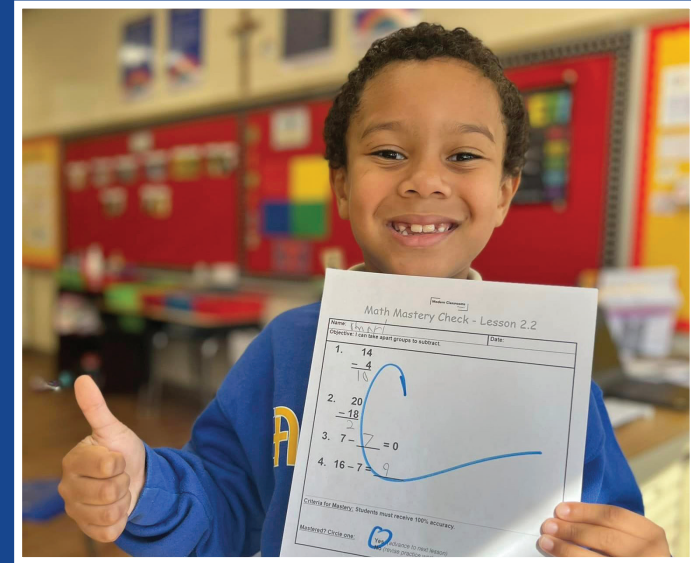
92% of students identify
as people of color

85% of families live at or below
the poverty level

100% of our students receive
free breakfast, snack
and lunch through the
federal food program

\$39,850 mean family
income

50% of students are
non-Catholic



How We Stand Out

98% of CAB 8th graders accepted
to top private high schools

100% of CAB alumni graduate from
high school compared to only
76% of their Bridgeport Public
School counterparts

99% of CAB alumni go on to college or
post-secondary school compared
to only 25% of Bridgeport Public
School students

Cost to provide “Something More”



96%

of students qualify for and receive need-based financial aid



\$19K

what local public schools receive per pupil in direct aid from the state and spend each year

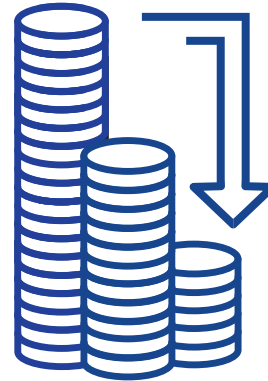


\$0

what the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport receives per pupil in direct aid from the state each year

\$7K

what CAB spends per student each year with \$0 received from state



\$5.3K

what CAB charges per student annually

\$2.6K

what CAB families, on average, are able to pay per child each year



\$2.8M

must be raised annually for need-based aid alone



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANGELA POHLEN TALKS
Access & Opportunity

In '22-'23, we built on the strengths of our community and championed our tagline, "*Something More.*"

Providing on-campus access to the Performing Arts took center stage last year, with the launch of our new **Alegre Program for the Performing Arts**. Drama, dance, and choir were offered to students in 6th-8th grade, with 50 participants this initial year. Each semester culminated with a Performing Arts Festival where students showcased jazz and tap routines, short-form stage acts, and choral pieces with multi-part harmonies. CAB is grateful to Jim Colica and his late wife, Kathy, for underwriting this initiative.

Also available to CAB students were over 40 new or longtime-favorite after-school activities. There was something for everyone and all grade levels — from Chess Club, Art Club and Robotics, to Basketball, Cheerleading, and Ping Pong.





Cultivating meaningful partnerships — both externally and internally — were key to our growth and success in this past year. This included:

Advocating for school choice and promoting the value of Catholic school education by attending legislative breakfasts and writing timely editorials that were published across several Hersam Acorn media outlets.

Remaining committed to Social-Emotional Learning and building on the strengths of our Student Success Program through new grant awards to better serve our students and their families.

Opening the Christopher Ripp Early Learning Program on our St. Raphael campus to offer physical, academic, spiritual, and cultural enrichment to students after school along with monthly parent education sessions.

Hosting Board, staff and faculty retreats to build culture and connection, while providing forums for strategic planning and soliciting feedback. We even provided our faculty with “emergency provisions” during Teacher Appreciation Week!

Opening access to our Jump Start summer enrichment program to students from *all* CAB campuses in grades 4–8.

Expanding our students’ minds through dynamic field trips and on-site experiences — from a visit to the The Ecology School in Saco, ME, to a visit from a petting zoo, and so much more.



Exceeding Merit Pay Expectations

After unanimous Board and faculty approval, CAB proudly implemented an innovative Merit Pay program in July 2022. The result? 100% of our faculty are now paid closer to what their public-school counterparts make, and the pay scale is based on competency rather than longevity. By June 2023, teacher turnover notably dropped while reported job satisfaction grew.

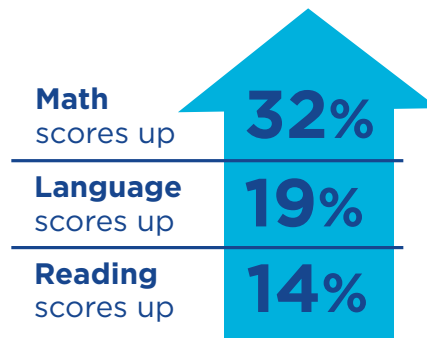
Seven teachers deemed ready to jump to a new level of mastery by their principals spent the year putting together comprehensive portfolios and providing evidence of professional competency at their aspiring levels. They then presented their evidence of mastery to a panel that included

their principal, a Board member, and a colleague, among others. With their new titles, each received a significant salary increase as they now work toward meeting their next set of educator goals. CAB is grateful to every donor who contributed financially to this transformative program.

TEACHER TURNOVER DOWN...



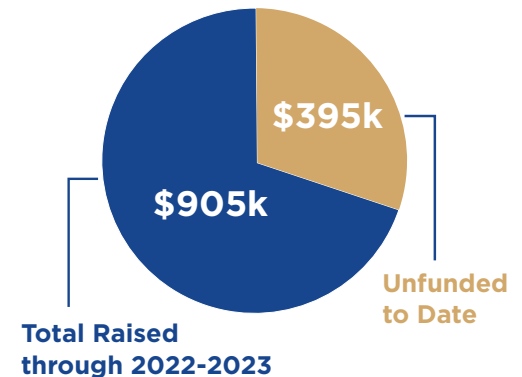
...TEST SCORES UP!



Overall year-over-year results since Merit Pay launched.

MERIT PAY 5-YEAR COST

\$1.3 million





TOP: After spending a year putting together comprehensive portfolios and providing evidence of professional competency at their aspiring levels, seven CAB teachers delivered successful Merit Pay presentations this year and jumped to the next level on teaching mastery and pay scales. CAB is grateful to every donor who contributed financially to this transformative initiative.

BOTTOM: CAB's four campus principals oversee the Merit Pay program, which is leveling the "paying field" and stemming teacher turnover. Shown here from left to right are Mr. Gene Holmes (St. Andrew campus), Dr. Allison Hurtt (St. Augustine campus), Mrs. Patricia Griffin (St. Ann campus), and Sr. Elizabeth Doyle, ASCJ (St. Raphael campus).

A Year in *Development*

We are most grateful to everyone who contributed financially to CAB this year. You allowed us to be faithful and true to our mission — whether through one-time gifts, multi-year pledges, or by attending one of our well-loved events. You are helping to change lives today and in perpetuity.

NIGHT UNDER THE STARS GALA



During our spring gala and auction, held on March 30 at Woodway Country Club, we honored the legacy of The Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education. For 30 years, the Foundation had a tremendous impact on our students and provided the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport with over \$10M in scholarship funding. Shown above are some of the former Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education Board members and friends who attended this celebratory event.

11TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



On May 16, we were thrilled to honor longtime supporters and friends Jody and John Myers during our annual golf outing at the Country Club of Fairfield. Nearly 200 guests were present to applaud their faithfulness and generosity, and all in attendance were also deeply moved by a testimony from

CAB 8th grader Danny Amadiz, who will be going to Fairfield Prep for high school. The Myers are pictured here with CAB Coordinator of Major Gifts Sr. Joan Magnetti, rscj.

RISING STARS STUDENTS & SPONSORS



On May 16, we also had the opportunity to celebrate our Rising Stars graduating 8th graders and their stalwart sponsors, who made a CAB education possible for these boys and girls. Pictured here are CAB 8th grader Elmer Madrid and his mother, along with Rising Stars

sponsor Jim Colica, who has assisted more than 20 students at CAB through the years. Rising Stars brings in more than \$300K annually for student scholarship.

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES YIELD RESULTS

ANNUAL FUND
GIVING

UP
396%



FIRST-TIME
DONORS

UP
29%



GIFTS TO
RISING STARS

UP
15%

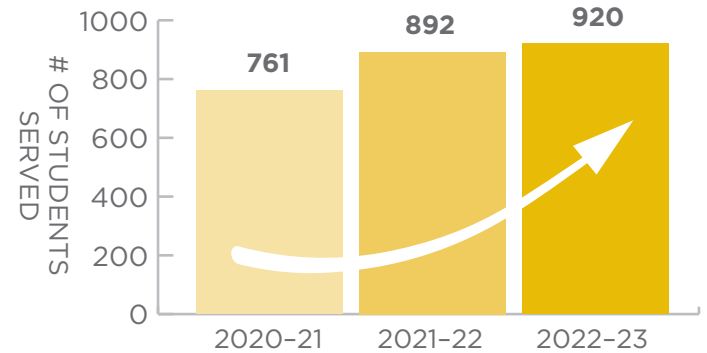


GRANT MONIES
FROM FOUNDATIONS

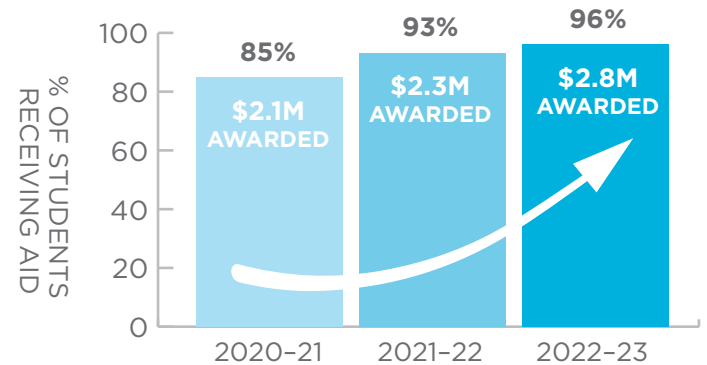
UP
24%



AS ENROLLMENT HAS RISEN...



...SO HAS OUR NEED



A Scholar is *Reborn*

Angry, frustrated, discouraged. Those were the words 7th grader Angelica Macedo used to describe herself before enrolling at the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport this past year.

Having been a “strong student” at a Bridgeport magnet school since Kindergarten, Macedo began finding classes there challenging starting in 6th grade. “My classmates started to give me a really hard time, and many of my teachers were not supportive at all. One even told me that I ‘used to be smart’ and she didn’t know what happened to me, like there was now something wrong with me,” she recalled.

Feeling alone and unmotivated, Macedo began having behavioral issues and even received two in-school suspensions. “It was totally unlike my personality,” she said.

When Angelica’s mom, Angela, came across CAB’s St. Ann campus, she told her daughter, “This is the place. We can’t say ‘no’ if they’ll accept you.” St. Ann Principal Pat Griffin did indeed accept Macedo, while setting some clear parameters. “Mrs. Griffin saw in me what my mom saw — that I am smart, and if I set my mind to something, I can achieve it.”

And achieve it she has. This past year, Macedo made the High Honor Roll for the first time, and was chosen by Principal Griffin to attend a Leadership Institute at Fairfield University. “I felt so proud!” Macedo exclaimed. “With the support of everyone at St. Ann, I am working hard and confident I will achieve my dreams.”

Recently, one of Macedo’s teachers used the word “scholar” in class, and Macedo asked to be called by that moniker going forward “because this is how I see myself today,” she said. The teacher readily complied and now refers to Macedo as her “favorite scholar.”



“If I knew how amazing CAB was, I would have put Angelica here from the beginning,” said Mrs. Macedo. “Angelica has more motivation to get up in the morning, and the teachers here have more patience and make efforts to help students get a better education and be better people. And it’s a safe space.”

Mrs. Macedo says her daughter is also more caring and attentive since attending St. Ann and more comfortable interacting with other children and sharing her faith. “Every last penny we have spent has been worth it when it comes to the change in Angelica, but financial aid has helped us so much too. I don’t have to worry about school costing too much and not being able to cover our other bills and expenses. The school has been a blessing to our family. I pray to God every day that Angelica will continue with a Catholic education one day in high school and for the rest of her life.”

Angelica dreams of giving back to her parents what they have given to her. “My mom and dad work very hard for everything my brother and I have. My dad was even injured last year, so it has been tough for him. He goes to work anyway, but it’s been tight. If it weren’t for financial assistance, I wouldn’t be able to come to school here. I’m grateful to those who give so students like me can chase our dreams and benefit from the education and opportunities that happen within the positive, caring and challenging campuses of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport.”



Angela and Heder Macedo are grateful to CAB for helping to change the trajectory of their daughter's life. "Every last penny we have spent has been worth it when it comes to the change in Angelica, but financial aid has helped us so much too," said Mrs. Macedo.

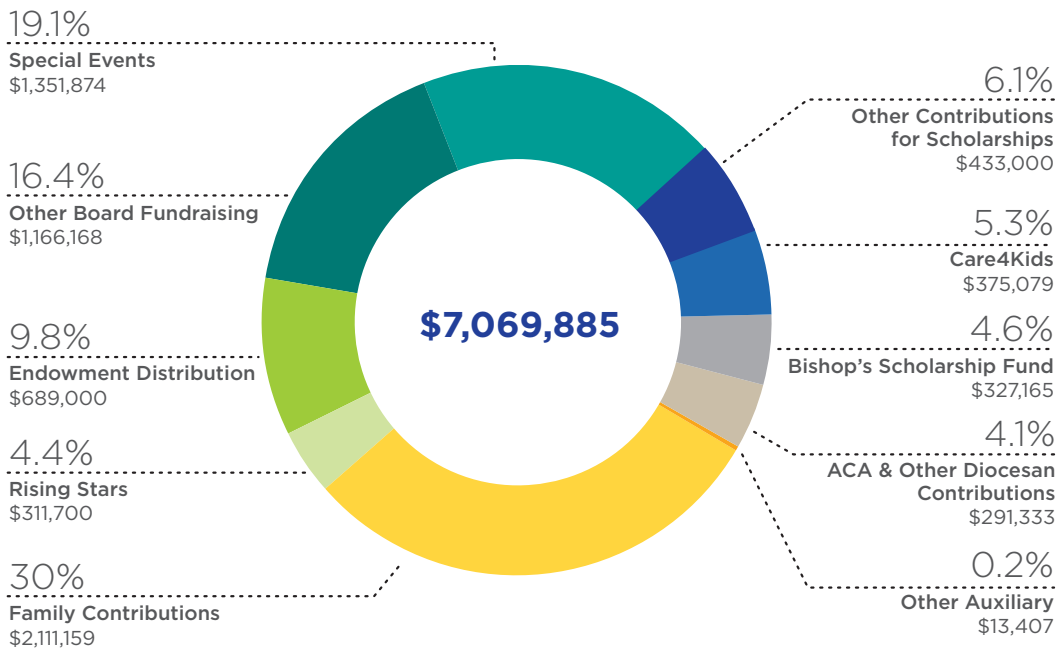
Financial Summary



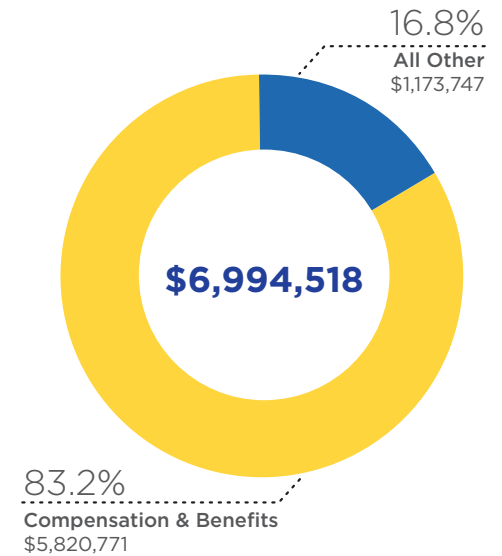
CAB received programmatic grants from several new foundations this year, including Impact Fairfield County, which chose CAB as one of two \$100,000 grant recipients out of 60+ proposals. This award will go toward funding “The Happy Hollow Outdoor Learning Center” on our St. Raphael campus.

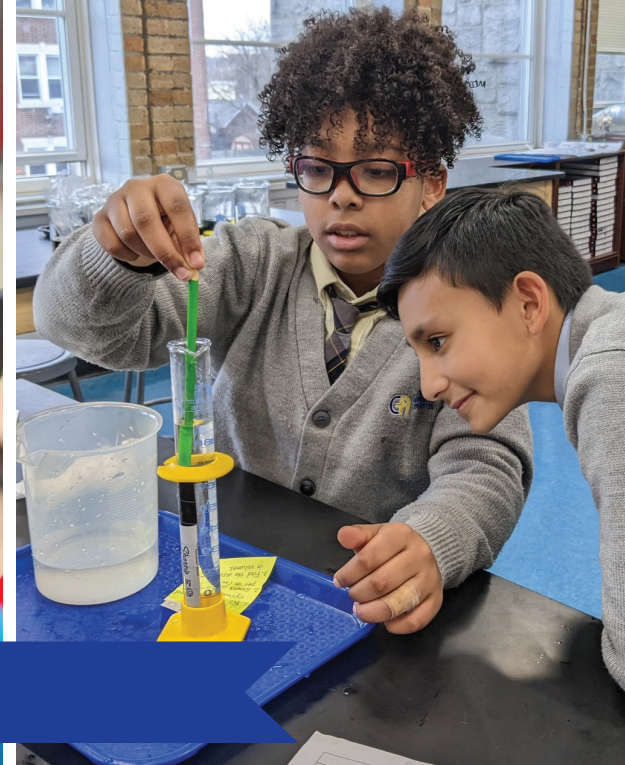
Revenue, Support & Expenses

REVENUE & SUPPORT



EXPENSES





Our Donors

Gifts by Amount

\$100,000 AND OVER

Bishop's Scholarship Fund /
Foundations in Education
Mr. James A. Colica
Diocese of Bridgeport ACA
Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Evans
Impact Fairfield County
The Inglesea Charitable Trust
Mr. Chang K. Park
The Queally Foundation, Inc.
Tauck Family Foundation, Inc.

\$50,000-\$99,999

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Ms. Sheila J. Clancy
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Foley
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy D. Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Kreitler
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Myers
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Settelmeyer

\$25,000-\$49,999

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Mr. Edward Caffrey
Cardinal Shehan Center
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jacullo
The John and Ethel Kashulon
Foundation
The George and Mary Kremer
Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Matteis
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Russell, Jr.

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous
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Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Batrus
The Bridgeport Rotary Club
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Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Buchalter
Dr. Frank P. Cammisa, Jr.
Mrs. Susan McGettigan Carroll
Ms. Susan P. Carroll
CEO Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Raj Nooyi
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Walsh

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Mr. S. Daniel Melita and
Mrs. Kristy L. Santimyer-Melita
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard O'Hare
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Paliotta
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Queally Family Foundation, Inc.
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Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Quinlan
Mr. James A. Read / MML Capital
Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Shea, Jr.
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Society of the Sacred Heart,
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\$1,000-\$2,499

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The Honorable Mary E. Sandak
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Dr. Gioia Jo Sullivan

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Mrs. Concettina G. Von Zwehl
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\$500-\$999

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 Mr. Andy McMaster
 Ms. Monica McMullan
 Ms. Lisette McVey
 Ms. Wendy Mendes
 Ms. Debbie Mitchell
 Ms. Thelma Montenegro
 Mr. and Mrs. James T. Morley, Jr.

Mrs. Jennifer Mozdzer
 Ms. Sasha Mrdelja
 Magtype, LLC
 Ms. Talya Natlo
 Ms. Ashley Neeley
 Mr. Bryan Nelson
 Ms. Sandy Nesheiwat
 Ms. Karen O'Brien
 Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Palmieri
 Mr. Robert Parinelli, Jr.
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 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pate
 Mr. John Pellegrino
 Mr. Juan Pernia
 Ms. Marie Pierre-Paul
 Mr. Matthew Pinder
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 Mr. and Mrs. Danny Rainho
 Ms. Linda Ramlakha
 Mr. Ryan Raveis
 Mr. Walt Richter
 Ms. Nicole Roberts
 Ms. Stephanie Robinson
 Ms. Lisa Roman-Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rondon
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rowella
 Ms. Catherine Rubano
 Ms. Marke Rubenstein
 Ms. Ruth A. Ryan

Mr. Richard S. Salvaggio
 Mr. Kevin Sandler
 Sillo Construction LLC
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This list contains names of donors from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. We have tried to include all names. If we inadvertently omitted yours, please pardon us and call 203-362-2990. Thank you.

Why I Give

Dr. John Gresh, Ocala, FL
CAB RISING STARS SPONSOR
1973 alumnus of CAB's St. Raphael Campus



"I think the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport provides an incredible, Christ-centered, enriching educational experience for all of its students.

I know this firsthand because I graduated from their St. Raphael campus 50 years ago. Having recently retired from a wonderful 38-year career in medicine, I am certain that the foundation I received there provided the basis for my success. Despite growing up in 'The Hollow' and living in a multigenerational, 3-apartment home, I was never made to feel 'less than' at St. Raphael. Instead, I was encouraged, educated, embraced, and loved. I have incredible memories and lasting friendships from those years, resulting from the common bond of shared ethics and core values.

I am blessed to be able to gift CAB now by sponsoring a student through its Rising Stars program as well as continue that giving at the time of my passing through a charitable gift. I am further blessed by the pure sense of joy in doing so.

My heart was warmed when I met 'my' student earlier this year, and I am more excited than ever to help nurture this child by committing annually to his scholarship. The potential impact a sponsorship means to him, coupled with the anticipation of his achievement and development from a young boy into the man he will one day become through a strong foundation at CAB, increases my desire to support him for years to come.

I think finances are an emotional consideration for everyone. To those considering making a gift to CAB, know that all donations are always graciously accepted and appreciated. Please reflect on the gifts you have received in your life and then imagine the impact you can have on these young lives — children you may not yet have met but whose future could be transformed forever because of your generosity."

How can you give to the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport? There are several easy options:

TO DONATE ONLINE: Go to www.catholicacademybridgeport.org and click the "DONATE NOW" button at the top of the home screen.

TO MAIL A GIFT: Send a check payable to "Catholic Academy of Bridgeport" to:
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport
Attn: Development Office
63 Pequonnock Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

TO WIRE STOCK / SECURITIES: Instruct your broker to "deliver free" to: National Financial Services, DTC 0226, Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corp. Account Number: Q81-086780. Please email *both* marisa@wcmfm.com and prowella@diobpt.org to let them know this gift is for Catholic Academy of Bridgeport.

TO DONATE TO OUR ANNUAL FUND: Scan the QR code here →





EXECUTIVE OFFICES
63 Pequonnock Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Thank you for
your support!

