On March 13, 2020, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Thomas Carroll announced the closure of all schools within the Archdiocese of Boston in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Right away, the students, teachers and faculty at the Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF)’s 85 supported schools got to work transitioning to a fully remote curriculum.

Using some creative thinking as well as all the resources available to them, CSF’s incredible school leaders began teaching their classes at a distance, while still finding unique ways to engage their students and families.

“We were amazed as to how quickly Saint Columbkille was able to institute remote online learning,” said a parent of two students at Saint Columbkille Partnership School. “Each day we do morning exercises, prayers, and then our children begin studies remotely on their computers. The teachers have done an outstanding job in providing assignments, commenting on their work, and providing Zoom meetings for the entire class as well as individually. The Saint Columbkille staff has certainly taken what could have been a negative and turned it into very positive.”

Over at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy’s Lower Mills Campus, Principal Lisa Warshafsky hosts a Virtual Family Coffee Hour that allows each classroom and their families time with the principal to ask questions and connect about their home learning experience.

Each week, Superintendent Carroll sends out a newsletter with highlights from various schools’ distance learning experiences as well as resources for students and families, including where they can go to receive boxed to-go lunches.

In a time of great crisis, the CSF community has rallied around service to its mission. While CSF supporters help get these students in the door of their respective schools, it is the school leaders, teachers and faculty doing the work that is changing lives and transforming futures every day.
YOUR SUPPORT HELPED RAISE OVER $525K IN EMERGENCY AID FOR IN-NEED STUDENTS

The families served by the Catholic Schools Foundation’s Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) are living paycheck to paycheck, and many have incomes at or below federal poverty guidelines. During this crisis, their incomes, derived mostly from hourly service sector jobs, are facing significant pressure.

Compounding this pressure is the fact that 65% of students are from single parent homes and now children are unexpectedly home, making work, even when it is available, potentially impossible. Each year, the Inner-City Scholarship Fund allocates 5% of its budget to an emergency fund to respond to urgent needs during the year. At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, these dollars were almost depleted.

With this in mind, CSF reached out to its dedicated community of supporters asking for help. President Emeritus Peter Lynch and 2020 Dinner Chair Mike Minogue and his wife Renee announced they would be matching their gifts to the annual Gala to the emergency fund, and many others followed suit. To date, CSF has raised over $525K in emergency aid for families who are most in-need during COVID-19.

With an unprecedented amount of emergency applications coming in, CSF is leaving its emergency fund open to help meet demand.

If you are interested in supporting families impacted by COVID-19, please visit us at:

[csfboston.org/emergencyfundrequest]

CSF COMMUNITY STEPS UP TO THE PLATE AS ICSF GALA GOES VIRTUAL FOR FIRST TIME EVER

When events and businesses shut down in March because of COVID-19, CSF was less than a month away from its biggest fundraiser of the year, the 30th Annual ICSF Gala. Each year, this event raises over $3M in support of students in-need and hosts over 1,000 attendees. CSF made the decision to transform the event to a virtual gala for the first time in its history. Not knowing what to expect, CSF staff said a prayer and moved forward with its virtual planning.

At the time, CSF did not know what to expect. It did not know that the Dinner Chair, Mike Minogue and President Emeritus, Peter Lynch would match their gifts to start an emergency fund. Or that Putnam, WCVB Channel 5 and Abiomed would extend their services to help produce the Gala. It did not know its generous and incredible community of supporters would rally around the cause and not only “show up” but give generously.

On Thursday, April 2, 2020, nearly 500 friends of CSF gathered virtually to celebrate the 30th Annual Inner-City Scholarship Fund Gala. What’s more, CSF raised over $3.6M towards scholarships for low-income students and even more through the emergency fund.

The virtual event was Emceed by Ben Simmonneau of WCVB Channel 5 and was held in honor of Bank of America, who received the Carolyn and Peter Lynch Award for their dedication to providing young people the opportunity of a high-quality Catholic education. The event was chaired by Mike Minogue, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Abiomed.

Virtual attendees got to enjoy the incredible singing talents of Amanda Mena, junior at Saint Mary’s High School in Lynn, a video presentation courtesy of Putnam Investments, and a powerful message from student speaker Aisha Veras from Saint Joseph Preparatory School.

“My parents took the great risk to leave everything they knew behind them,” Veras shared. “[Their story] sparked in me an interest in law, and how it can help better people’s lives. Without my scholarship from the ICSF, I would never have been able to grow my passion and pursue my dreams. My dream of becoming a lawyer and helping the disadvantaged has been made possible by the Catholic Schools Foundation.”

The virtual presentation was made possible by Putnam Investments, WCVB Channel 5 and Abiomed. The success of the evening was made possible by all of you and CSF remains grateful for your support!
A legacy gift could be the most important charitable gift you ever make, and one of the easiest.

A legacy gift is not a donation. It is an investment. Legacies are about carrying on your values, your beliefs and your commitment to making a difference in your community. Your legacy will inspire others.

**Bequest**

A legacy gift in the form of a bequest is a gift you make from your will or trust and one of the most common and simplest ways to leave a lasting legacy. They can be gifts of cash, stock, real estate or other assets. Bequests allow you to support the Catholic School’s Foundation (CSF) without effecting your current lifestyle.

**How to Make a Bequest Gift**

To start, decide how you would like to divide your assets. Consider your heirs first; charity second. Once you’ve decided to name CSF as a beneficiary of your will or trust, you’ll need to:

1. Provide a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate
2. Leave a particular asset like stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, artwork or other property to CSF
3. Name Catholic Schools Foundation, Inc as a residual beneficiary, so that CSF receives the remainder of your estate after all other bequests have been satisfied and final taxes paid

For more information or to let CSF know of your intention to make a bequest, contact Gina Rindfleisch at gina@csfboston.org

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