



FACE

FAMILY AID – CATHOLIC EDUCATION



BACK TO SCHOOL 2020

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TO MAKE A GIFT
 Please contact Terri Porter at
 510-267-8314 or email at
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oakdiocese.org/face

FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of myself and the entire FACE (Family Aid – Catholic Education) community, we are excited to welcome you back to school! We ended the 2019-2020 school year with creativity, flexibility, steadfast prayers, and are continuing to move forward. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our loyal FACE supporters. Whether you are one of our generous donors, a regular attendee at our first virtual Gala, or one of our many volunteers, we thank you for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference, one student and family at a time.

As I embark on my second year as the Director of FACE, I continue to be humbled and grateful for this wonderful opportunity. Despite this challenging time in our country where we were asked to distance ourselves from one another, we were delighted to provide you an outlet for generosity and support for the children of our community. The importance of the Gala during these highly unusual circumstances led us to pivot to an online event, the FACE Virtual Gala 2020: A Time of Giving. Thanks to the generous support of our attendees, the FACE Virtual Gala raised \$300,000 in support of our most in-need students.

FACE is excited about introducing our FACE Scholars program entitled Visions of Success for our incoming 9th graders in 2021. A Visions of Success is designed to serve as a mentorship, educational, motivational, and interactive catalyst to ensure these students have the support needed for success in high school and college.

The 2020-2021 FACE scholarship award amount is \$2,250 for elementary school students and \$3,500 for high school students. We awarded 540 scholarships throughout Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, including those in partnership with The Basic Fund. Currently, we have 831 students on our waitlist.

As we continue to navigate through COVID-19, climate challenges, and social unrest as a result of racial injustice throughout the country, I hope you and your family remain healthy and safe and also continue to learn ways to contribute to improving humanity. COVID-19 knows no borders or zip codes, but we do know that its impact is disproportionately harmful in low-income communities of color and the long-term effects on student achievement are equally distressing. We pledge our continued support to all students regardless of race, gender, or religion, and believe the value of a great education is invaluable to our adolescents, communities, and the world.

The late activist and former South African President Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Please join me in helping change the world for the better with your contributions and support of FACE students and families.

Please consider making a donation to FACE by visiting the FACE website at oakdiocese.org/face or contact me at 510-267-8314; TPorter@oakdiocese.org



NAMED SCHOLARSHIP

FACE of the Future Annual Named Scholarship program, launched at the 2019 Gala in April, began with a bang!

This program allows the donor to name the scholarship and to select whether they wish to fund a grammar school or high school student. They can name a specific student, or have FACE select the student most in need.

For an elementary school student, the initial gift is \$5,000 and \$7,500 for a high school student.

Scholarships are restricted to those students who demonstrate financial need defined by FACE granting guidelines and meet academic eligibility.

Thank you to our Named Scholarship donors for the 2020-2021 School Year!

THE KELLY FAMILY FACE OF THE FUTURE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Aniya Lewis, 10th Grade, Bishop O'Dowd High School

ANDREW KARLESKIND FACE OF THE FUTURE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Genesis Finley, 6th Grade, St. Leo the Great School

If you would like more information about the FACE of the Future Named Scholarship, please call Terri Porter at 510-267-8314 or email tporter@oakdiocese.org

WHY WE GIVE

Our association with FACE started when we began attending the yearly auction event with friends from St. Philip Neri in the nineties. We were grateful our children were at SPN in a nurturing Catholic school community. We wanted to be a part of helping close the tuition gap for other children. Thanks to a friend, Trish started volunteering and later joined the board.

One reason we support FACE is because we are grateful for our own experience at Catholic schools growing up. It was foundational and transformative, and we were supported by community during times of challenge. Due to the generosity of the religious orders and the generation that preceded us, we paid low tuition and were able to attend due to the affordability, especially Mike's family of nine children.

It is much more challenging for families now. Our giving to FACE is in gratitude to those before us and in recognition of the life building experience Catholic education can provide. In a small way, paying it forward to the next generation.

FACE has demonstrated over 42 years of successfully providing tuition assistance to families in need. Funds go directly to students through a professional screening process assessing financial need, allowing students and their siblings to continue their Catholic education and keep Catholic schools open.



The most important reason we give to FACE is because all financial assistance goes to families in need. The majority of students are in urban Catholic schools, where a nurturing faith-based education can help students thrive. This access is important to us, faith, educational opportunity, diversity, equity, and shared community.

What FACE Means to me

Meet Christopher Higgins

Christopher Higgins is a Senior this year at Salesian College Preparatory in Richmond, Ca. Enjoy his story.

“I would like to thank the FACE organization for providing the financial assistance my family needs so that I can attend Salesian College Preparatory.

Attending Salesian has allowed me to meet so many new people and learn so much in a safe Catholic environment. During my time at Salesian I have become the team captain of the cross-country team and taken part in multiple campus ministry and volunteer positions.

I am thankful for being able to learn under the Oratory Model of Home, Church, School, and Playground—this has provided me with a fun learning environment and plenty of challenging classes. I am grateful for being allowed this experience. Thank you so much!”

Christopher Higgins



Principal's Corner

Sonya Simril of Saint Leo the Great School

The School of Saint Leo the Great, an educational ministry of the Church of Saint Leo the Great, is a Pre-Kindergarten to eighth grade Roman Catholic Elementary School. The school serves Oakland and surrounding communities and is open to families of any faith who accept its philosophy and mission. The school's mission is to help every child feel welcomed, connected and a part of the Saint Leo the Great Catholic School community. Students are challenged to reach their academic abilities while learning age appropriate religious, social, cultural, and physical values.

Due to COVID-19 and recent social justice events, the complexity of educating children has increased. Saint Leo the Great School students, teachers, staff, and families are adapting well to their online virtual learning program. 2020 has also brought much attention to major social justice issues. The administrative leadership team has been working with teachers and faculty to develop class time, curriculum, and open student discourse related to race, equity, safety, and violence prevention. Voting rights, global warming, and California wildfires are also part of the discussion. The village concept is the heart and soul of Saint Leo the Great School, and is needed now, more than ever to support success for its students



Unfortunately, the 2020 pandemic has created a financial hardship for many Saint Leo the Great School families.

Without financial support from the FACE organization, these families would be unable to afford a Catholic school education for their children. The school's principal, Sonya Simril stated, "We are thrilled to have a partnership with FACE. Through FACE scholarship donations we have been able to accomplish a healthy enrollment and maintain our operating budget. FACE truly makes the difference for us, and we are extremely

FACE Scholars - Visions of Success

Coming in January 2021

The Visions of Success program is designed to serve as a motivational, educational, and interactive experience for 9th grade students who are recipients of a FACE Scholarship in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The Visions of Success program has a multifaceted purpose to:

- Motivate students to strive for excellence in high school, college and beyond.
- Emphasize and model good lifestyle choices to improve overall health in their homes and communities.
- Engage students with innovative opportunities in potential employment areas that are not traditional in content or scope.

FACE Scholars will have opportunities to achieve these goals through coordinated events and activities as well as ongoing personal development and mentoring opportunities. Thanks to our partnerships with local Universities and Colleges, community members, and stakeholders, our efforts to provide students with the tools they need to learn and succeed will be invaluable.

For more information about the FACE Scholars and Visions of Success program or to learn how to become a community partner, please contact Terri Porter at tporter@oakdiocese.org

FACE Named Scholarship Awardee 2020



My name is Genesys Finley and I'm in the 6th grade. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting me to receive the Andrew Karleskind Face of the Future Annual FACE scholarship. I am honored that you are supporting my Catholic School education and rewarding my hard work.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. My favorite subjects in school are history and science. I am interested in becoming an author because I like to come up with stories in my head. I am also interested in becoming a therapist so that I can help people deal with their problems. I see no reason why I can't do both.

I play on the girls' basketball team and I was a member of the student council. In my free time, I enjoy art, watching tv about crimes and detectives, playing video games. I also like reading books and watching documentaries about animals. COVID-19 and distance learning has been a challenge, but I have adjusted pretty well.

I am very grateful for this scholarship. It really means a lot to me and my family. Because of FACE, I can continue going to the school that I love. Saint Leo the Great School helps me to prepare for my future even when I have to go to class virtually. I can't see myself going to any other school. Thank you again for this great honor!

Thank you to our 2020 FACE Gala Donors

Cartoon Art Museum,
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SAVE THE DATE
December 1, 2020

GIVINGTUESDAY

Please join us for our 2nd Annual #GivingTuesday on December 1st.

You can give anytime on our website at oakdiocese.org/face



KENDRA SCOTT

Join Us on December 8th & 9th for our 2nd
 Annual Fundraiser with Kendra Scott!
 Details to come!



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