

Saint Catherine Academy Annual Report 2010- 2011





SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY

Where learning and caring lead to personal best

Fall 2011

Dear Friends of Saint Catherine Academy,

At the close of this year, we presented a ten minute photo montage to our students and parents as a way to summarize the activities of the year. It was a wonderful reminder to all of us of the richness of our program and the extent of the support that we receive from volunteers and donors. Our students continue to thrive in this wonderfully caring and supportive environment that is Saint Catherine Academy.

This year was one of transition for so many of our students. It was in 2010-11 that we saw growth and maturity in a number of our students and they had the opportunity to display this in so many ways. Students were in job placements at Bigelow Tea, St. Ann School, FYE in Trumbull Mall, Fairfield University Food Service, Notre Dame High School and Black Rock Food Pantry. These experiences allowed them to try out their newly developed vocational skills in real work situations. Under the watchful eyes of our staff, SCA students packed and unpacked, shelved, filed, cleaned, tutored, and sorted. We will continue to focus on these skills and the application of them in authentic situations to expand and enhance the vocational skills of our students.

The community became our classroom this year. Visiting the Post Office, the supermarket, the library all offered our students the opportunity to practice their daily living skills while completing real tasks. Our students also attended theater productions at the Quick Center, The Downtown Cabaret Theater and Notre Dame High School; marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bridgeport; swam at the Sheehan Center and made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches monthly for Merton House. All of these experiences are part of our curriculum aimed at developing independent living skills for our students according to their abilities.

Our annual Scholarship Dinner honored the religious who have been an integral part of our mission since our inception. This year's event, chaired by Chris Herman and Nancy Fontana, provides scholarship support for students in attendance who do not have the financial means to attend. This event is the centerpiece to our development effort.

We continue to receive support from the Inner City Foundation for Charity and Education that funds partial scholarships for eight students from Bridgeport. Grant support for a number of initiatives came from TD BANK, the New Canaan Foundation, The William Pitt Foundation, David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation, the Order of Malta, KOHL's Cares, and The Bank of Fairfield. The Knights of Columbus local councils, state and supreme council all continue to provide significant financial support of our mission.

The volunteer base for our mission has grown and has become part of the fabric of our school. Our organization is blessed to have a caring and involved board led by Charles Chiusano. The Diocese of Bridgeport supports our efforts most notably the support comes from Bishop Lori, Chancellor Matthews and Superintendent Dames. Our library volunteers led by Virginia Dwyer-Aoyama and our PB&J volunteers led by Judy Miller fill our corridors with energy and enthusiasm. The Duckie Derby Team led by Kelly Luff Weldon and Liz Tamarkin and our Dinner Committee give so much of themselves on our behalf. Individuals that include Gina Barber, Bill and Chris Lytton, Alyssa Mocco, Jeanie Tisdale, Janet Gordon, Eileen Blee, and Sr. Henry, represent the spirit that defines our mission. We are indebted to them for their unselfish dedication to Saint Catherine Academy.

The future looks bright. On behalf of the students and staff of Saint Catherine Academy, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and generosity. We begin the new school year renewed in spirit and focused on the future.

Sincerely yours,

Helen C. Burland
President

Honor Roll of Donors 2010-2011

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Saint Catherine Academy apologizes for any errors or omissions.

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