



FALL 2025

The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION



SALUTE TO "THE GAME" LUNCHEON EVENT ROARS TO NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD!

**\$675,000 Net from the
Event Rockets Past Last
Year's Record \$650,000**

Story on page 4



HIGH SCHOOL FUNDING TO DOUBLE IN FIVE YEARS!

For many years, the Archdiocese of Louisville and the Foundation have teamed up annually to provide tuition assistance block grants to the nine Catholic high schools in central Kentucky. This program supplements the work of each school in raising funds for tuition assistance, allowing each school to distribute these funds to their students most in need.

The block grants vary in amount by school, depending on their own resources and the needs of each student body. Last fall, the aggregate block grants were a record \$650,000, with the archdiocese providing \$500,000 and the balance by the Foundation.

Under a new plan that began in September, this program is expected to double over the next five years to

Continued on page 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE SOARS TO REACH AMAZING 3,700 STUDENTS WITH ASTOUNDING RECORD \$8.6 MILLION!

***Foundation Slogan "The Answer is Yes!"
Fulfilled for 11th Straight Year***

Over 50,000 Scholarships Awarded Since 1999

For the 2025/2026 school year, the Foundation and its funding partners recently awarded tuition assistance to **3,700 elementary students with an astounding record \$8.6 million** in funding, rocketing past last year's previous record of \$8.3 million!

Foundation **President Rich Lechleiter** exclaimed, "This little engine just keeps chugging down the tracks! No matter the challenge – year after year – our donors stand up for our Catholic school families in need without fail. And think about the life-changing access to Catholic education that our donors are providing to thousands of families across central Kentucky. **WOW!!**"

Continued on page 3

Inside

Page 2 Our Message to You **Page 3** Capital Campaign Reaches 86 Million! **Page 5** Invest In Our Mission
Page 6-10 Salute to *THE GAME* Luncheon Event **Page 11** Young Professional Council
Page 12 5th Annual Bourbon Raffle **Page 13** Planned Giving - The Future of the Foundation
Page 14 Innovation Award Winners **Page 15** Meet Our New Board Members

Our Message To You

Happy 30th Anniversary!

It's time to start the celebration!! It was on November 1, 1995 – All Saints Day – that Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly founded the Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville!

And what a run it's been so far!

We owe such a debt of gratitude to Archbishop Kelly for his courage and vision to launch what is now a beacon of hope to thousands of young Catholic school students and their families across central Kentucky. While perhaps no one at that time dreamed of the Foundation's impact today, let's all thank God for the success that we've all built together and the life-lasting benefit that Catholic education has provided to the tens of thousands of families who have needed our help.

For our part, we're proud to support the four pillars of our work – tuition assistance to families, religious education, professional development of instructors and technology in parishes and schools.

And just think about what we've done already. Over **50,000 scholarships** to Catholic elementary school students since 1999. Over **\$68 million** in grants across all four of our pillars. **And our impact is rising each year!!!**

In 2014, we coined our slogan – **"The Answer is Yes!"** – as an invitation to families who thought that the gift of a Catholic education wasn't possible for their children. Little did we know how that home-made slogan would inspire an entire community to rise up and support thousands of families in need.

As we look forward to further expanding our impact, the recipe is the same – **He knows The Way!**

May God bless each of you abundantly and often,



Richard A. Lechleiter
President



Joseph L. Landenwich
Chair



Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Vice Chair

Board of Directors

President

Richard A. Lechleiter

Chair

Joseph L. Landenwich

Vice Chair

Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre

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Stephen D. Sautel III
Bradley A. Savko
Charlotte K. Stengel
Jennifer M. Stinnett
Charles D. Tewell
Andrew A. Thompson
Very Reverend T. Michael Tobin, V.F.

Our Vision:

Every family has access to a Catholic education.

Our Mission:

To promote the growth and vitality of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville.



Capital Campaign Reaches \$86 Million!!

The Foundation's historic capital campaign, publicly announced at the 2025 Salute to Catholic School Alumni dinner event last March, is rolling toward its once unthinkable goal of **\$100 million!**

Cumulative commitments to the campaign now stand at **\$86 million** and the Foundation staff is gearing up as we enter the final stretch of this unprecedented endeavor.

Foundation **Vice President Julie Baum** exclaimed, "Campaign donors can choose from three giving options – or even better, all of them! Of the \$86 million in commitments so far, approximately \$42 million relate to our Annual Fund, another \$21 million have been designated to fund our endowment, and \$23 million of gifts have been included in donor's estate plans. What a fantastic show of support for Catholic education across central Kentucky!"

Ms. Baum continued, "This fall, we're already seeing the fruits of the campaign. Our elementary tuition assistance funding hit a new **record high \$8.6 million**, and our high school tuition assistance program funding will **double** over the next five years!! How **AWESOME** is that!!"

Rich Lechleiter remarked, "This capital campaign is truly a game-changer for both the Foundation and the families we support. And we couldn't be more excited about how our donors have embraced our simple campaign slogan, **"The Answer is Yes! For Everyone. Forever."** So come aboard and join the largest campaign for Catholic education ever seen in the Archdiocese of Louisville – and let's change the face of this community like never before!!!"

To participate in the campaign, contact **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org or visit the Foundation's website at ceflou.org. ■

Catholic School Tuition Assistance Soars to New Record!

Continued from front page

"And here's the best news. For the 11th year in a row, every family who reached out to the Foundation and demonstrated a financial need in fact earned an award – **every single one! Indeed, "The Answer is Yes!"**

The **Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre**, Archbishop of Louisville and Foundation Board Vice Chair, reflected with gratitude on the continued progress to improve access to Catholic education. **"The Answer is Yes"** is much more than a slogan. It's a sincere invitation to families who only dream of a gift of a Catholic education for their children. Let's all give thanks to the Lord that over 2,500 families can have access to this life-changing journey."

Amy Nall, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, commented, "The collaboration between the Catholic Education Foundation, the Archdiocese of Louisville and our Catholic schools is propelling thousands of families to heights they never imagined for their children. **We are overjoyed with the results!**"

The record \$8.6 million of funding was provided by the Foundation (\$4.7 million), parishes and schools (\$2.3 million), and the 107 parishes of the Archdiocese of Louisville, along with Community Catholic Center, (\$1.6 million).

Foundation Board Chair **Joe Landenwich** commented, "While we are elated that the Foundation and our partners are supporting families like never before, our work never ceases. Each day, families in need are reaching out to us in search of a Catholic education that they can't afford for their children. To each of them, our reply is always the same. **"The Answer is Yes!"**

This year's scholarship grants pushed the Foundation over the 50,000 mark since it awarded its first scholarships in 1999. Mr. Lechleiter reflected, "In 1999, we awarded \$110,000 in scholarships to 220 students. Who would have ever dreamed that our donors would elevate our mission to such heights? Thanks be to God and to each and every one of them!"

Julie Baum commented, "I couldn't be more proud of our 48 Catholic primary and secondary schools across central Kentucky! What a huge debt of gratitude we owe to our priests, administrators, teachers, counselors, coaches and staff! Their work each day to transform the lives of young students through the Gospel message will empower each of them for the rest of their lives. Spread the word – **In Catholic schools, everybody's winning!!**" ■



High School Funding to Double in Five Years! *Continued from front page*

\$1.3 million annually, with this year's block grant hitting a new record \$780,000.

Rich Lechleiter exclaimed, "While we will never wain in our efforts to ensure that every family has access to a Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Louisville, our next bold move expands our impact to these families when their children are ready for high school."

"I'm continually amazed by the great works of each of our high schools to ensure family access to a Catholic education during perhaps the most formative four years of a person's life. But at the Foundation, we must do more. Now is the time for us to stand taller and fill the high school funding gaps that we see for our families who struggle the most."

Mr. Lechleiter concluded, "Over time, with the formidable resources of each high school's continued fundraising success and the increased investments by the archdiocese and the Foundation, we're confident that more families will have access to the life-changing experience of a Catholic high school. **What could be better!!**" ■

Salute to "THE GAME" Event Roars to New Fundraising Record *Continued from front page*

Since its beginning in 2008, the Salute to **THE GAME** luncheon event has set a new fundraising record every single year, raising a then-record \$650,000 at last year's event alone. Happily, the 18th edition of this amazing event was no exception, setting yet **another fundraising record of an astounding \$675,000** for the mission of the Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville.

Rich Lechleiter exclaimed, "The long-running success of this event is all made possible by the generosity of the **Saint Xavier** and **Trinity** communities who allow us to benefit from their storied football rivalry! Who would have ever guessed that this event would become such a hallmark gathering for the entire community, propelling thousands of young students to new heights in our Catholic elementary schools!"

The event was held in the sold-out Grand Ballroom of The Galt House Hotel on Thursday, September 25, the day before **THE GAME**. Trinity alumnus and local radio personality Tony Vanetti served as the master of ceremonies, while U of L Men's Head Basketball Coach Pat Kelsey kicked things off with a bang! The event was highlighted by a student-athlete from each school – senior linebacker and tight end **Karsten Busch** from Saint Xavier and senior offensive lineman **Nate Shields** from Trinity – who shared their stories about how their Catholic elementary and secondary education has impacted their lives.

Louisville-based **LPX Group** served as the Lead Sponsor of the event with an investment of \$40,000. Mr. Lechleiter exclaimed, "To Joe Dougherty, Hunter Strickler and all our friends at LPX, **THANK YOU** for your exemplary leadership in making this event the largest of its kind across the Commonwealth! You are true heroes to so many families in this community."

Mr. Lechleiter exclaimed, "The Salute to **THE GAME** event has now raised over \$6.2 million for the mission of the Foundation in 18 years, with over \$3 million in just the last five years – **WOW!!!** We can't wait until next year!!"

Major benefactors of this year's Salute luncheon, each of whom donated \$25,000 to the event, were: **Abell Law Group; David and Cathy Durik; the Dale and Donna Gettelfinger Family; David Graeser; Sarah and John Lechleiter; Charlie and Dolores Leis; Keith and Jeanie Mouser; the Ott Family Foundation; the Ramsey Family; Karen and Hank Robinson; Deacon Mark and Kim Rougeux; the Shannon Family; Len and Susan Spalding; Brad and Charlotte Stengel; the Dan Ulmer Family; and the Richard Lechleiter Family.** ■



Invest in Our Mission - Today & Tomorrow!

Ways To Support Our Mission:



Donor Advised Funds

Donor advised funds offer tax benefits, simplify giving, and allow for legacy planning.



Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Donating appreciated securities like stocks can maximize the Foundation's impact and offer benefits to the donor. Avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable deduction. The process is easy and straightforward.



Bequests

A bequest is a powerful way to support the Foundation by including a charitable gift in your will or trust. It allows you to allocate a specific sum, a percentage of your estate, or even specific assets to benefit our mission.



Qualified Charitable Distributions

Individuals aged 70 1/2 and older can make tax-free Qualified Charitable Distributions directly from their IRAs to the Foundation. This counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution while you support causes you care about.



Endowment for Now and Later

When you contribute to our endowment through a current or future gift, you will join a group dedicated to our long-term mission. Your generosity will make a lasting difference and help us build a brighter future.



Beneficiary Designations

Beneficiary designations are a straightforward way to allocate assets from your retirement accounts, life insurance policies, or other financial accounts to support the Foundation. By naming us as a beneficiary, you ensure that your support continues even after your lifetime.

At the Catholic Education Foundation, the Answer is Yes!

2025 Salute to "THE GAME" Luncheon Event

BELOW: Gus Maxwell and Diane Gahafer



ABOVE: Alex Cecil, Eric Niemann, Mack Cox, Andrew Thompson, Patrick Kosse and Adam Keal

MIDDLE: Coach Pat Kelsey, Dawne Gee and Archbishop Shelton



ABOVE: Karen Krill, Father Michael Schultz and Caroline Berger



ABOVE: The Galt House management team



ABOVE: Chris Kircher, Father Dave Zettel and Matthew Palmer-Ball



Event photos courtesy of Talgrace Mobile Media



ABOVE: Larry and Michele Klein, Matt and Sherry Ott with Sam Marrillia

BELOW: Tommy Mitchell, Charlie Dahlem and McCay Chauvin



MIDDLE: A packed audience enjoys the exchange between Tony Vanetti and the players from Trinity and St. X



ABOVE: Lee and Jamie Weyland



ABOVE: Travis Hill, Darryl Metzger, Greg Daunhauer, David Daunhauer and Dyke Holbrook



ABOVE: Charlie Leis and Charles Paradis

BELOW: Oscar and Donna Brohm and Father Bill Hammer



MIDDLE: Trinity's Nate Shields and Saint Xavier's Karsten Busch



ABOVE: Coach Kevin Wallace and Rich Lechleiter



ABOVE: Brandon Jagers, Andrew and Rupika Klein and Blair Bell



LEFT: Will Stewart picks up his Split the Pot Raffle check from The Foundation

BELOW: Eric, Nate and Renee Shields



MIDDLE: Ancient Order of Hibernians with Coach Kelsey



ABOVE: Karsten and Joe Busch, Coach Kevin Wallace and Alice Busch



ABOVE: A packed house enjoys the best Salute luncheon ever!

Below: The Foundation team



Middle: Coach Pat Kelsey



ABOVE: Joe and Kelly Landenwich



ABOVE: Kim and Deacon Mark Rougeux



ABOVE: Joyce and Bill Godfrey



ABOVE: Brad Savko and Greg Zeller

Event photos courtesy of Talgrace Mobile Media

Please Welcome The Catholic Education Foundation Young Professional Council

Always working to enhance the long-term success of the organization, the Foundation recently launched the Young Professional Council to attract younger people who share the same excitement and passion for Catholic education across central Kentucky.

Rich Lechleiter noted, "I'm super excited to work alongside younger men and women in our community who care deeply for the families that we accompany each day! They are our future leaders, full of enthusiasm and new ideas that will elevate our game for years to come!"

Julie Baum exclaimed, "We're reaching out to invite the next generation – many of whom have benefitted from a Catholic education right here in this community – to join us as we all work together to expand our impact and add thousands more students in need to our unexcelled Catholic schools. How wonderful it is to experience their gratitude for their own lives and their selfless efforts to help others!"

To learn more about this dynamic group and how to become part of it, contact **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org or call 502.585.2747.

Meet our inaugural members! ■



Jacob M. Burch
Technology Solutions Business
Manager
Brandeis Machinery &
Supply Company



Dylan J. Cole
Partner, Private Wealth Advisor
Blueprint Financial / Northwestern
Mutual



Jaclyn Darst
Field Sales - Physicians Office
Medline



Patrick S. Gilmore
Tax Analyst
Ventas, Inc.



Megan M. Greer
Assurance Senior Manager
PwC LLP



Brandon T. James, DMD
Dentist
Mortenson Family Dental



Katherine E. Reid
Specialty Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
AbbVie Inc.

**Stay Connected to
the Foundation!**





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Fifth Annual Bourbon Raffle to Launch May 2026

Get ready for the best Bourbon Raffle ever!! The Foundation's fifth annual **Bourbon Raffle** fun-fest will launch in May and it promises to be our best ever! Last year's event was a resounding success for our Catholic school families in need, raising over \$300,000 in tuition assistance funding this fall.

And we're aiming even higher next spring!! Stay tuned and join in the fun - you'll have multiple chances of winning with each ticket you purchase!

Scan the QR code on the right to be added to the Bourbon Raffle mailing list. You can learn more about the raffle at ceflou.org/bourbon-raffle/



See you in May for this fun online event! ■

Join Our Podcasts!



Keep up with what's happening in our vibrant Catholic community through the Foundation's monthly podcasts! On the first Wednesday of each month, we'll share with you some great stories from guests whose lives have been changed forever through their Catholic faith and their Catholic education. So come aboard and join in the journey at <https://www.ceflou.org/podcast/>!



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Planned Giving - The Future of the Foundation

A planned gift to the Foundation is a great way to make a lasting impact and ensure that families in the community are afforded the opportunity to attend a Catholic school. Gifts planned for the future can be structured in a number of forms: bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, or life insurance.

The Foundation has established a Legacy Society to recognize the generosity of donors who have included our organization in their estate plans. Following is a listing of Legacy Society members as of October 20, 2025:

*Anonymous
Mitch Barnes
Stephen Barry Family Fund
Dutch & Diane Boehnlein
Roger Costello
D3 Foundation, Inc.
Charlie & Lisa Dahlem
Reverend Patrick D. Delahanty
Greg & Margie DeMuth
The Dobson Family
Dr. & Mrs. Pat Donovan
Joseph & Sherry Dougherty
David & Cathy Durik
Diane M. Gahafer
Gathof Family*

*Dr. Linda H. Gleis
Deacon Scott and JoAnn Haner
John & Jeannine Hayes
Carl & Carleen Herde
Ja & Amy Hillebrand
John A. Hubbuch Sr.
Steve & Mary Ann James
Todd & Shannon Klimek
David & Lynne Koch
John & Leigh Ann Koch
Kramer Family
Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
The Landenwich Family
The Richard Lechleiter Family
Lincoln Lewis Jr.
Reverend Joseph T. Merkt*

*David H. & Linda A. Miles
The Ott Family Foundation
Thomas & Shelley Perrone
Sharon S. Roberts
Brad & Leslie Savko
Paul & Sue Schulte
Leisa & William Schulz
Stephen & Robin Sedita
Mary Angela Shannon
Len & Susan Spalding
Charles D. Tewell
Very Reverend T. Michael Tobin, V.F.
Gil & Teresa Wentzel
Beth & Ron Wiseman
Carol & Stuart Woolsey for Jennifer Egelsky*

For more information, or if you already have the Catholic Education Foundation in your estate plans, contact **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org. ■



At the Catholic Education Foundation, the Answer is Yes!

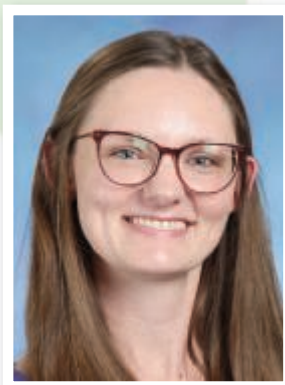
The Catholic Education Foundation Innovation Award

Sponsored by The Dan Ulmer Family

The Catholic Education Foundation Innovation Award was established by the Dan Ulmer Family to honor excellent and dedicated Catholic school teachers, with 2-5 years of experience, whose innovative and creative approach to learning inspires outstanding student achievement.

We invited principals in the Archdiocese of Louisville to nominate one teacher from their school community for consideration of this distinguished award.

Recipients of the Innovation Award each received a \$2,500 monetary prize.
The 2025-2026 honorees are:



Emily Harrison
Saint Agnes



Emily Laninga
Saint Aloysius



Megan Mullaney
Saint Stephen Martyr



Elizabeth Ramirez
Saint Margaret Mary

Congratulations to each of these outstanding Catholic school educators!

Meet Our New Foundation Board Members!

In June, Board members **Doug Abell, Dr. Mary Beth Bowling, Jane Morreau** and **Chris Reid** retired following years of exemplary service and stewardship to the Foundation. **Board Chair Joe Landenwich** noted, "I want to extend my deep thanks to each of our retiring Board members for their selfless service to our Catholic school families in need at a time in which we provided the greatest community impact in our 30-year history. May God bless each of you for your great works!"

In July, the following new members joined the Board:



Christopher C. Burckle, Jr. - Born and raised in Louisville, Chris attended St. Francis of Assisi School and graduated from Trinity High School, after which he earned degrees from the University of Louisville (BA) and Indiana University (MBA).

Following a career start in banking, Chris became a business entrepreneur, successfully operating and selling several businesses, most recently Blairwood Tennis, Swim and Fitness. He now serves as President of Club Management Group, Inc.

Chris and his wife, Jill, have three adult children and one grandchild and are members of Holy Spirit Parish.



Amy J. Nall— Amy became Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Louisville in July, succeeding Dr. Mary Beth Bowling. She began her career in 1988 as an English teacher at Holy Rosary Academy and then moved on to Mercy Academy in 1992. In 2002, she joined the English department at Sacred Heart Academy and, in 2004, she rose to Assistant Principal, a role she held for 17 years.

Amy has earned degrees from Ball State University (Journalism and English) and the University of Louisville (Masters in English and Teaching).

She and her husband, Pat, have three adult children and three grandchildren and are members of St. Agnes Parish.



Charles D. Tewell – Charlie attended Holy Name School and graduated from DeSales High School in 1980. He then earned his undergraduate degree in computer science and his MBA from Bellarmine University.

Over a 34-year career, Charlie was an information technology executive with Ford Motor Company and then NTT DATA, YUM! Brands. Following his retirement in 2017, he began his own real estate company, CDT Real Estate.

Charlie has a married son, Matthew, and three grandchildren and is a member of St. Partick Parish.



Andrew A. Thompson - Born and raised in Owensboro, Andrew attended St. Angela Merici School and graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School. Then it was on to Bellarmine University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in accounting.

Andrew began his career at EY in Louisville, where today he serves as an Audit Partner with the firm working with clients across numerous industries.

He and his wife, Melissa, have two children and they are members of St. Albert The Great Parish. ■



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401 West Main Street
Suite 806
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(502) 585-2747
(502) 583-4929 fax
www.ceflou.org

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Save The Dates!



36th Annual Salute to Catholic School Alumni Dinner

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026
The Galt House Hotel
Grand Ballroom**



5th Annual Catholic Education Foundation Bourbon Raffle

**Online Raffle
Launching May 2026**

www.ceflou.org