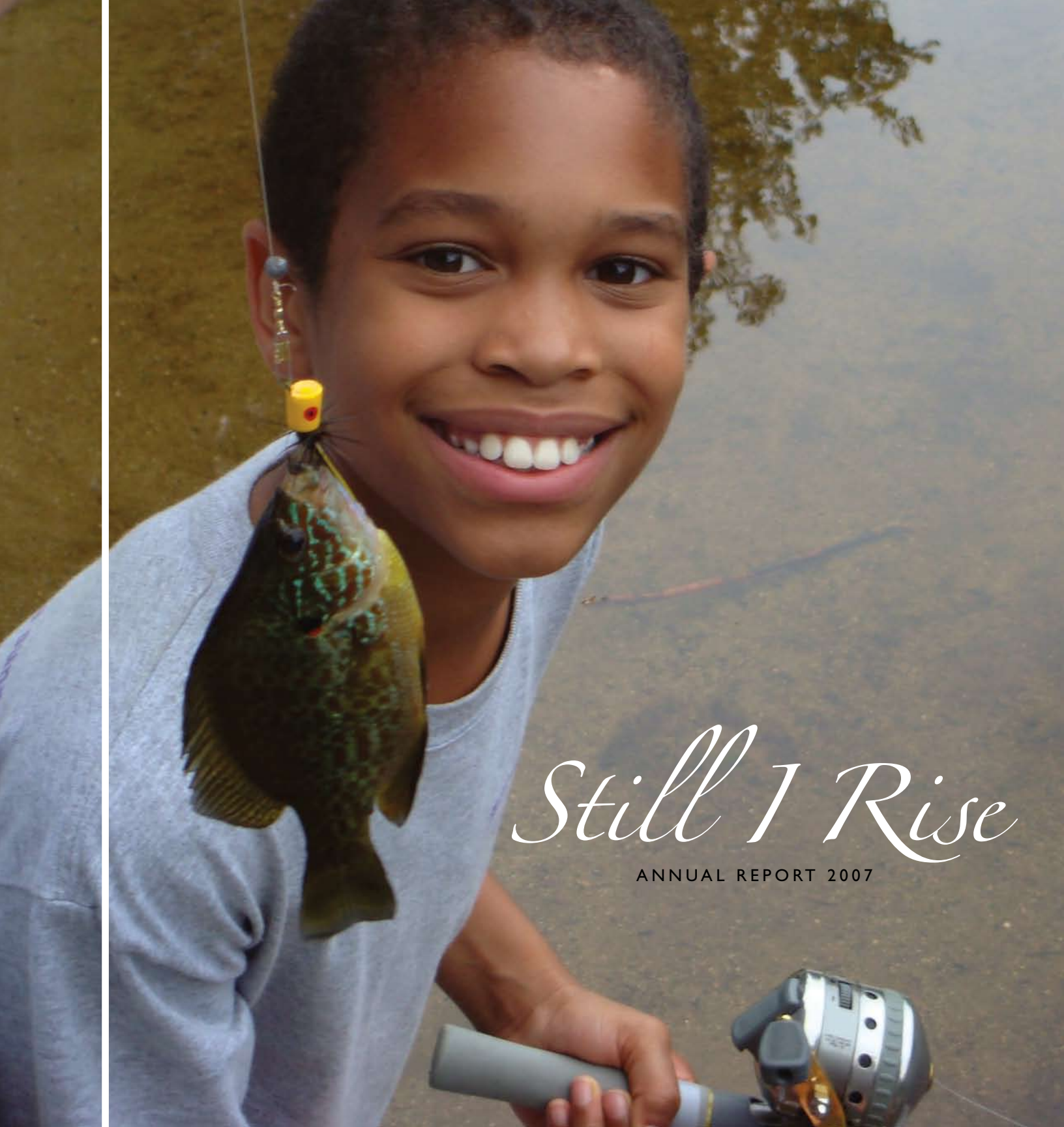


THE
NATIVITY
SCHOOL OF WORCESTER



Educating
the Body,
Mind and
Spirit of
Worcester's
Disadvantaged Boys



Still 1 Rise

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



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Director of Admissions*

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Sean Dillon, *Teacher*

Teneka Hardy, *Teacher and Graduate
Support Director*

Alice Mudiri, *Mathematics Teacher*

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Matthew Brunell, Esq., *Executive Director*

Dear Friends of Nativity,

"*Still I Rise.*" Gracing our Nativity t-shirts and communicating an idea of persistence and resiliency, this simple phrase served as the theme of Nativity's 2007 Summer Session. Taken from Maya Angelou's poem of the same name, the words also help to frame what made 2006-07 such a magical year for the school.

It was a year of great academic achievement, a year of remarkable high school placements and a year of profound generosity. It was a year of ever-higher expectations.

It was a year of rising.

Faced with escalating crime in the City of Worcester (a near 10% increase in arrests over the past year) and a sobering high school drop-out rate (only 65% of our boys' peers will graduate from the resource-strapped Worcester Public Schools), our students arrive every morning at 7:30am – and stay most days until 6:30pm - trying to buck these odds.

They come with a desire to do more for themselves and more their families. They come to silence the deafening pressures and to let their hearts and minds be free. They come to learn. They come to *rise*.

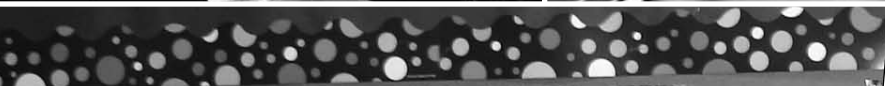
And what *has* risen this past year?

- We placed members of our Xavier Class into the area's best high schools. As you read this, members of our Xavier Class now attend Canterbury School, St. John's High School (8 students!), Worcester Academy, the newly-constructed Worcester Vocational Technical High School, and A Better Chance New Canaan School.
- We further put into practice a rigorous curriculum designed to meet the different learning styles of our students, effectively setting the stage for the next two years of the accreditation process.
- We observed and assessed growth and deficiencies in student achievement, heightened through our implementation of the thorough Stanford-10 standardized test.
- We saw our boys transformed by their informational visits to Babson College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the College of the Holy Cross and Williams College.
- We witnessed the generosity of two colleges – Assumption College and Clark University – as they met the professional development needs of our Fellows.
- We watched a highest caliber production of *Wizard of Oz*, replete with a cameo by our Board Chairman (Chick Weiss) as the Wizard.
- We honored two of the most distinguished persons this school has ever seen – Dr. Kathleen Gorski and Rev. William Campbell, S.J. – at this year's Spring Gala.
- We were awestruck by the generosity of our donors in a record-breaking year for donations.
- And most of all, we continued to teach the mission of our school: to make our boys *men for others* in the Jesuit tradition.

We thank you for believing in this mission. It is because of you that we will continue to rise.

Best,

Matthew Brunell, Esq.
Executive Director



THE CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR KONSTANTINA B. LUKES

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; The Students of The Nativity School are very bright, well behaved and motivated young adults,

WHEREAS; These same students are also excellent athletes and were victorious over the fine faculty members of this superior Institution in a game of Basketball on March 27, 2007, with a final score of 45 to 41,

WHEREAS; If these terrific students were given free time they would never waste it by sleeping late, or playing video games, or going on to My Space or You Tube, or playing loud music,

WHEREAS; These students are all good practicing Christians and they should enjoy the Peace that the Easter Holidays proclaim,

WHEREAS; Easter Monday is a day that these young men can continue to feel inspired by this great Celebration,

THEREFORE; I, Konstantina B. Lukes, Mayor of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts do hereby proclaim Easter Monday, April 9, 2007 a Holiday from classes at The Nativity School of Worcester. I urge all students to have fun on their day off.

Konstantina B. Lukes
Konstantina B. Lukes
Mayor

One time that I showed perseverance was the time that my brother and I made a pie. It wasn't going very well and my brother started to give up. He told me to not to continue with it. But I said to take risks, take changes, make mistakes, and if it works, great! If it doesn't, at least we tried! I kept on going and it worked.

(Brandon Locke, 6th Grade)



Summer Session 2007

A mixture of academics and activities, our Summer Session is a three-week program dedicated to improving the minds, bodies, and spirits of our students. During the first and third week of camp, students and faculty met every morning for creative language arts and math lessons at the school. Afternoons were filled with off-site activities and field trips, including visits to the EcoTarium, the Big Dipper Ice Cream Festival, and the Basketball Hall of Fame. The second week of camp took place at *Camp Wind in the Pines* in Leicester, MA. At camp, students had the opportunity to spend some time outside of the city and enjoy such activities as hiking, fishing, and swimming. Our offsite time at *Camp Wind in the Pines* allows teachers to introduce team-building exercises and other initiatives that help build individual leadership capacities, as well as a sense of community. Throughout the Summer Session, our students also spent time discussing difficult situations in their lives, and how to overcome – all tied into the theme “Still I Rise.”





I think that Rosa Parks was resilient. During her time, African-Americans were treated wrongly by white people. When she sat in the white section of the bus, she was faced with adversity, but she overcame it and helped African-Americans and whites become equal. We should admire her because of her bravery.

(Michael Perry-Moen, 8 Grade)

One time that I showed perseverance was when I learned how to skateboard. When I was learning I would always fall and get cut, so then I stopped skateboarding. Then after a few days I got back on my skateboard and I didn't stop trying until I learned.

(Alexis Santiago, 6th Grade)



When I tried out for the basketball team, I was having trouble during try-outs. I didn't end up making the team, but instead of giving up, I asked to be manager. The manager goes to practices and games, but doesn't get to play. After practicing with the team for awhile, the coach saw me hustle and asked me to play on the team. During the season I did pretty well.

(Jordy Melendez, 8th Grade)



Graduation

XAVIER CLASS ■ JUNE 15, 2007

On June 15th, the Nativity community celebrated the graduation of our second class of graduates, the Xavier Class. It is the preeminent day on the school calendar, a pinnacle in the Nativity education. And yet, the graduation of the Xavier class was less about their past Nativity experiences and more about the future opportunities that await them at the area's most select high schools.

The night was marked by inspiring words and lasting images. Graduates processed into All Saints Church, adorned in Nativity ties, raising high their self-designed class banner. Teachers, families, and supporters of the school looked on proudly. Cristian Esparza gave the valedictory speech, charging his classmates to continue to look out for each other. He also spoke of a deep sense of gratitude: "Thank you for joining us in celebrating our achievements, and our dreams." Nino Rivera presented the class banner, noting the courage and mental acuity needed for the world outside of Nativity. Noel Stemm closed the ceremony with a heartfelt blessing.

The Xavier Class chose Dr. Kathy Gorski, Nativity's founding teacher and esteemed winner of the Einstein Fellowship, to deliver the keynote speech. Dr. Gorski reflected upon the Xavier Class's time at Nativity through "the three c's" (a sense of Community, a development of Confidence, and the ability to adapt to Change). All three are pivotal, Dr. Gorski stated, to the stable foundation that Nativity has laid for their futures. And certainly, a bright future awaits all of our graduates.

The road to graduation is long and hard. Much is demanded from the 12-hour school days for students and staff alike. And yet, there is tremendous joy in seeing our boys speak of returning to Nativity to do community service, to mentor our other students and to return (one day) as Nativity Fellows.

Mark your calendars: The Faber Class graduates on June 13, 2008!



Today is a day of particular joy and pride, since we, the Xavier Class, culminate a milestone in our academic lives. I am here to talk about my experience and life at Nativity. First I'd like to start off by saying that my tenure here has been both an interesting and enriching experience. It was very hard in the beginning when I came here because I am smaller than my other classmates (I still am by the way!) and I think most of you can relate to how it feels to be the new kid. Another challenge that I faced at Nativity was gym class. Dodge ball was the root of all evil to me since I was always facing the Ignatius class. But when I look back at those times I notice that dodge ball is sort of like life. Sure there are some pains but you can't help it, you're having fun! It's a game of gain and loss or loss and gain – however you look at it, it's still one of the greater joys of life. Thomas Paine once said, "the harder the conflict the more glorious the victory." Because of these learned lessons, within a short period of time, with the assistance and commitment of everyone here at Nativity, I began to settle in. I soon realized that Nativity was the place I wanted to be and the place where I belonged.

Let me tell you why I hold such high regard for The Nativity School of Worcester. Nativity gives every student a unique opportunity to be educated by dedicated, conscientious, supportive, and incredibly smart teachers. They do not only help you academically. They are also keen in assisting us with our confusions, frustrations, stress, and even the girl problems (thanks Ms. Hardy and Ms. Taylor).

Teachers are the basis of our knowledge and they teach us that we can build an empire with our minds. Today we are being crowned kings of knowledge of a certain level, but there will always be higher ones to conquer. Thanks to the skills we have learned at this unique school, we are confident that this conquer is possible.

This evening may be about our graduation but this moment is really a promise and a hope for a luminous future for us as students.

Our dreams of obtaining and achieving excellence through quality education have been realized.

Cristian Esparza

"A special thanks to Ms. Hardy for her guidance and unconditional support that have allowed us to apply and be accepted to high school that for some of us were just a dream...."

(part of Cristian's speech)



Bancroft High School
The Canterbury School
New Canaan High School
St. John's High School
South High School
Worcester Academy
Worcester Technical High School





The Nativity School is very thankful for the continued support of Jim Coghlin, Sr., CEO of the Coghlin Companies. Mr. Coghlin and his companies recently donated 30 iPod Shuffles, which have been great additions to our Music and Foreign Language Programs. We were lucky enough to have Mr. Coghlin stop by recently and join Mr. Schnelle's music class for a demonstration of his donation!

Last year, the Nativity School of Worcester and Coach Jim Briggs, a former baseball coach at Williams College, forged a very special and important relationship. Not only has Coach Briggs become an avid supporter of our school, but he has also introduced many of his former Williams' players and current Williams staff to our community. Their visit was positively inspiring; the energy and enthusiasm of this group is a real testament to their unwavering belief in our school and its mission. Their belief has transformed into a desire to make Nativity into the flagship of an entire network of schools, an army of schools that help guarantee an excellent education in academics and in life. The group believes that there is truly something special in the hallways and corridors of Nativity-Worcester, something to which countless more disadvantaged boys and girls in America are entitled. We are deeply grateful for support of this Williams College group, and look forward to working with them closely in the future.



Jim Coghlin, Sr., CEO of Coghlin Companies, Inc., with Nativity Fellow John Schnelle, and 6th Grader Daniel Davis

As a school, we were able to take a trip to Williams College this past spring, where our entire school was able to meet with Coach Briggs and other supporters for an informational and fun day at the college. Our students were even invited to spend some time with the Williams College Baseball Team, where they attended a baseball clinic and joined forces with the team in order to scrimmage against each other. It was a great day for both our boys and the Williams College baseball players – we look forward to another opportunity to play ball at Williams this spring!

The Nativity School of Worcester has meant a lot to our family over the last four years. We have cleaned classrooms, stuffed fundraiser envelopes, collected sports equipment for the school, been counselors at the summer camp, and attended awards ceremonies, Christmas plays and the spring awards gala.

What we realize in all of these interactions is what great kids there are at Nativity. They are bright, interested in learning and really engaged in the School – probably moreso than any students we have ever seen. The experience with Nativity has opened up a whole new world for them – and for us. And it certainly makes us better appreciate all that we have – growing up in a world where we don't have to worry daily about the stability of our family lives.

-Gil, Todd, Sarah and Chase Haylon



We are proud to support the Nativity School of Worcester because it fulfills an incredibly important mission in our city. Through the school and its programs, Nativity helps young men from challenging circumstances recognize and reach their full potential. We see how these young men benefit from a supportive environment where they learn the value of education and the importance of respect and dignity for all. They then go on to area high schools where they reflect the wonderful values they have learned at Nativity and ultimately become an inspiration for others.

-Patricia and Jeff Forts



The collective commitment to the education and development of these young men is staggering and the results speak for themselves. My family and I are thankful that we can contribute to and be part of something that is truly great.

-Eric Harthun

The Nativity Fellows – those recent college graduates who devote two years of their life to the school – serve as the emotional and physical heart of Nativity. Possessing great passion and persistence – as well as educations from Boston College, Holy Cross and Boston University - they play a focal role in this fight for quality urban education. A perennial institutional need was how to take this goodwill and generosity and translate it into quality classroom instruction. Assumption College recently helped us take a major leap in the professional development of our Fellows. Assumption will offer five graduate degree programs – including Master’s degrees in Special Education and School Counseling – completely free of tuition cost to our Fellows. This represents an extraordinary statement of Assumption’s answering the call to do more for the less fortunate. Assumption also warmly invited our entire school to visit for dinner and a home football game. Current Assumption undergraduates and administrators made a presentation about the importance of a college education and the application process. The visit was a great way to start off the school year, allowing our boys to envision the promising academic future which can be built on top of their Nativity foundation. We are grateful for the administration of Assumption – particularly President Francesco Cesareo, Dr. Fred Bayon, Christian McCarthy, Michael Tsotsis, Dean Mary Lou Anderson and Prof. Cathy Stutz – for seeing the value and purpose of such a program and high regard for our school.

I am so proud of my Holy Cross roommate, Joanne McClatchy, for all her efforts as the first Executive Director of the school. I am pleased that my children, Anne and Jimmy have had the opportunity to help, volunteering their time and donating money, and to learn the meaning of “men and women for others.” For all of us in this endeavor to continue to make Nativity a success, every little bit helps.

-Nancy & Jimmy Williams

In supporting NSW, we see an immediate benefit to the boys who gain access to a great academic and moral education in the Jesuit tradition. Beyond this, we have great hopes for the improved opportunities this education can bring within reach not just to the students themselves but, over time, to the whole of their extended families.

-Mike and Julie Kaneb





Still I Rise

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

ANNUAL STATEMENT 7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007

\$100K

Highland Street Foundation
Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP

\$100K - \$75K

Jesuit Community (Holy Cross)

\$75K - \$50K

Mary DeFeudis
Bill & Polly Haylon

\$50K - \$25K

Hermann Family Foundation
Mike & Julie Kaneb

\$25K - \$20K

Anonymous
Alden Trust
Bill & Lynda Glavin
Chris & Shirley Kelly

\$20K - \$10K

Clark Charitable Foundation
Stephen Doherty
Nancy & Joe Flaherty
George & Sybil Fuller Foundation
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Al & Diane Kaneb
Linda & Austin Lydon
Rose & John Mahoney
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Shields

\$10K - \$5K

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Katie & Don Bramley
Susan & Jim Briggs
Citigroup Foundation
Carolyn & Eric Harthun
Michael & Carol Haylon
Dennis Murphy
Michael & Kathleen Nilles
Sue & Spike Schellenger
Charles Thurston
UnumProvident

\$5K - \$1K

Wayne & MaryAnn Archambo
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Eileen Botty
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Society of Jesus of New England
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Massachusetts
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Joseph Yamron
Kelsa & Don Zereski

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Michael Welch
Wellesley Gentlemen's Society
Wells Fargo
Deirdre White
Beth Wilberding
Nancy Williams
Travis Woodward
Donna Wrenn
Natalie & Rod Wright
Worcester Academy
Melissa Zangari
Cathy & Don Zereski

IN-KIND GIFTS

John Carey – *Knitted Materials*
Prof. Judith Chubb – *Books for our Library*
William Ells – *Costume materials, window candles, and batteries*
Lisa Gonyea – *New Stargazer Acoustic Guitar*
Michael Hamill – *Recorders*
Jamie Oil Company, Inc. – *Oil donation (To St. Bernard's for Use of Gymnasium)*
Alice Laffey – *2 floor lamps and one wood coffee table*
Society of Jesus of New England – *Computer, Printer and Related Equipment from Archivist*
Worcester Sharks – *Tickets to a game*
Joseph Yamron – *Baby Grand Piano, \$3000*

OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2007: \$XXX,XXX

Of this total – X% went to programming.

Donations increased X% from fiscal year 2006.

Last year, we contributed \$15,000 to met the gap between the financial aid awarded to our students and the remaining cost of tuition at our graduates' high schools.



10 Irving St.
Worcester, MA 01609

Phone 508.799.0100
Fax 508.799.3951

Visit us online at
www.nativityworcester.org



Our Mission

Nativity School of Worcester is a tuition-free, independent Jesuit middle school for inner-city boys living in the vulnerable neighborhoods of Worcester. Now in its fifth year, Nativity exists first and foremost to provide an exceptional educational opportunity to boys from disadvantaged backgrounds. In a structured learning environment – including an 11-hour school day, an extended school year, individualized tutoring and less than 15 pupils per class – our students are pushed to higher and higher academic heights while being supported by an unwavering, compassionate staff.