



NATIVITY

SCHOOL OF WORCESTER

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



Be the Change

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

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Dear Friends of Nativity,

A Nativity education, at its most elemental, is about seeing the world through a new set of eyes.

We ask our boys to radically alter their perception of what is possible in life. Put another way, we ask our boys to now see themselves as individuals who reason thoughtfully, who act compassionately, and who lead justly. We ask them to see the world as one filled with countless opportunities, and not a world of indifference and marginalization.

In the same vein - as a friend in this mission - I like to think that Nativity might also help you see the world through a set of new eyes, through a prism of hope. You have joined us in promoting a simple, hopeful, time-tested truth: life, family, and community can all be improved through hard-work, courage and persistence.

That being said, it has not been an easy year for hope-seekers. This past year, we have seen bulls morph into bears and lifestyles change, all seemingly overnight. And yet, Nativity has continued to be a source of hope. Consider a few of this year’s achievements:

- * Our school entered into an incredible new space in January, moving into a facility that more fully compliments our comprehensive educational programs. For example, the new space allowed for Saturday tutoring classes for rising high school seniors, preparing them for the SAT. It has given us institutional site stability, at a reasonable cost and in a glorious new environment.
- * We witnessed Nativity graduates continuing to thrive in high school, from starring on the state championship winning basketball team to gracing the stage in a production of *The Crucible* to traveling to Florida for crew races to positioning themselves with strong grades for acceptance and achievement in college. To that end, we are grateful to a number of generous donors who have established full-scholarships for Nativity students at Providence College, College of the Holy Cross and Becker College.
- * Six years into our Nativity Fellows/Lead Teacher teaching-model, we continue to see results here and beyond. The model is based upon the recruitment of talented recent college graduates, the development of these teachers with assistance from Assumption College and Clark University, and the retention of successful urban educators as lead teachers. This past year, we introduced and committed to a structured co-teaching model, drawing even more from the deep reservoir of talent that our teachers possess. It is also with pride that I write how over 90% of the two-year graduates of the Nativity fellowship currently work in education and a remarkable 70% are currently working in urban education.
- * We were struck by the commitment of our benefactors, helping us meet fiscal year 2009’s budget in the most challenging economic environment in recent memory. It is because of your support that our 8th grade class made a remarkable two years of academic growth in this past instructional year.
- * Lastly, we saw all members of our graduating 8th Grade Arrupe Class gain acceptance to, receive full financial aid to, and enroll in private high schools.

Thank you for choosing to see the world through a new set of eyes, for believing in our mission. On behalf of our graduates and students, I am grateful for your support.

Best,

Matthew Brunell, Esq.
President

A YEAR OF...

Change



A Different Way to Learn – The Nativity Speaker Series

Nativity School of Worcester started a different program this year – the Nativity Speaker Series. The Nativity Speaker Series invites distinguished members of the professional community, both local and nationwide, to speak to Nativity students about the necessity, value and opportunity-enhancing role of education. Speaking through the prism of their life experiences, speakers help students to broaden their worldview, to find models for those who follow their passion in life, and to see the merit of committing to one's education.

Transforming a Life

“Now that my time at Nativity is wrapping up I’ve started to look back. I came to Nativity in the 6th grade, not serious about my work or goals. My eighth grade year I took very seriously. I skipped football for the Pop Warner league so I could focus on school. I applied to five private schools and got accepted into every one. Without the help of Nativity I would have never been attending Saint John’s in the fall. So thank you for all of the support and help you have given to me and my classmates.”

A New Future for All

Two nights ago I stood at the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. From there, I saw the tall, pointed Washington Memorial and its reflection in the pool in front of it. King, Lincoln, and Washington all were figures who fought for equal rights. The event at the Holocaust Museum shows us that this fight is not over. We all need to contribute to our country and to our world to make it a better place. Nativity has taught us to do that by providing an open, tolerant environment where we have been able to learn and grow. This opportunity we had at Nativity has prepared us to succeed in high school and throughout life.



-Andrew, Arrupe Class '09

-Kyle, Arrupe Class '09

A SUMMER OF... *Service*



Summer session aims to empower students to realize that they are capable of making a positive difference in their community. Guided by a different theme each year - this year's was Mahatma Gandhi's words, "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - students spend their summer building up their academic ability and giving back to the community from which they come. Students take rigorous math and English courses in the mornings and work on community service projects in the afternoons.

This summer, students rotated through three community service projects. One group worked to alleviate hunger by volunteering at a Heifer farm outside the city and at a food pantry within the city. Another group spent time reading to and organizing games for younger children at various day camps. Still another group learned from veterans about service and the readjustment process.

This session helped me remember all of the things I learned last year. If it wasn't for summer session, I would have a much harder time starting the next school year.



I learned how to give back to the community and the importance of it.

I overcame my fear of falling out of the raft while white water rafting.





I learned just how much people care for each other in this community.



During the summer, we read this really cool book called *That Was Then, This Is Now*, which tells us the story of two best friends who were like brothers until they started growing apart. It was one of the best books I ever read.





Graduation

ARRUPE CLASS ■ JUNE 12, 2009



A half an hour after Ms. Crowley, Nick, Tarik, and I exited the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., an 88-year-old White Supremacist named James W. Von Brunn entered the museum and shot and killed a security guard. If we had taken any longer eating breakfast or walking to the museum, we would have been caught up in that tragedy. Though that thought is scary, there is also much to be learned from what happened. Racism will always be a problem in our world unless we expose ourselves to an open, tolerant environment and receive an education so that we don't remain ignorant. Thankfully, I've experienced both of these lessons in my years at Nativity School.

Nativity has allowed me to be in an open, tolerant environment. I spent eleven hours a day for 180 days a year with the thirteen other Nativity men in my class. We all have different lives and different backgrounds, but our differences have allowed us to become closer. Each and every one of them have become more than just friends; they are more like brothers. Without these thirteen gentlemen who are graduating with me, my two years at Nativity would not have been the same. I thank my classmates for being there for me and making life easier. They've taught me to not be the quiet one who separates himself from the crowd, but the one who is always involved and a part of a community with others.

-ANDREW FERREIRA, VALEDICTORY SPEECH

Where the
ARRUPE CLASS
is Going



RaeShawn Adams
Holy Name High School

Nicholas Alejandro
Bancroft School

Quran Avery
St. John's High School

Eliezer Delvalle
Holy Name High School

Andrew Ferreira
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Junior Kegbeh
Holy Name High School

Patrick Lidonde
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Tarik Octave
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Holy Name High School



ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING 2009

We gratefully recognize the following individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations for contributions to Nativity School of Worcester between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.



We have made every effort to include all of those who have contributed to Nativity School of Worcester during this time period and sincerely regret and would like to know about any inadvertent omissions or errors.

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FISCAL YEAR 2009 AT A GLANCE

- Total Operating Budget: \$902,000.00
- Donations from the Worcester-area individuals and corporations increased 69% from 2008.
- Nativity contributed over \$50,000 in graduate support services, including financial aid, tutoring, and community service opportunities to our graduates.



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Visit us online at
www.nativityworcester.org

THE YEAR AHEAD

Nov. 20th ■ 12:00pm
1st Quarter Awards Luncheon

Dec. 22nd ■ 6:00pm
Winter Arts Night

February 5th ■ 12:00pm
2nd Quarter Awards Luncheon

April 16th ■ 12:00pm
3rd Quarter Awards Luncheon

May 25th ■ 6:00pm
Spring Arts Night

June 11th ■ 5:00pm
Christopher Class Graduation



Mission Statement

Nativity School of Worcester is a tuition-free, independent Jesuit middle school (grades 5-8) for materially-disadvantaged boys living in the vulnerable, low-income neighborhoods of Worcester, MA. In a structured learning environment - including an 11-hour school day, an extended school year, and less than 15 pupils per class - Nativity encourages its boys to attain great academic achievement while nourishing their individuality, emotional growth and overall well being

Nativity's comprehensive graduate support program offers critical academic tutoring to all graduates and tuition assistance to those graduates attending private high schools.