



NATIVITY SCHOOL
of WORCESTER



2013-2014 Annual Report



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Letter

from the President and Chairman

Dear Friends of Nativity School of Worcester,

It is in the spirit of immense gratitude that we share this annual report with you. Our 2013-2014 academic year was filled with continued growth, an unbridled enthusiasm for the school, and great success thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students, graduates, their families, our board of trustees, and a community of supporters that make the Nativity Worcester Experience available for over 170 Nativity Men.

- In the spring, we celebrated two graduation milestones:
 - Nativity School of Worcester's first college graduations as members of the Ignatius Class of 2006 received their degrees from Providence College. Two members of that class have joined the faculty of our school as Nativity Teaching Fellows.
 - One-hundred percent (100%) of the Christopher Class of 2010 graduated from high school in four years and all will be starting college in the fall.
- Our most recent graduates, the St. Alberto Hurtado Class of 2014, tested during the spring of 2014 at an average of a 10th grade level as a group in mathematics and their reading and language usage spring scores put them at above an 11th grade level as a group – demonstrating significant growth in their four years at NSW. All 12 members of the class were accepted into at least one private high school and received sufficient financial aid to attend. Historically, 100% of Nativity Worcester's 113 graduates have achieved this distinction.

- Our co-curricular and extended day program continues to be a hallmark of a Nativity Worcester education. Student performances and art displays are exciting times during our Winter and Spring Arts Nights, and our interscholastic teams demonstrate the best of sportsmanship and effort. Our 5th and 6th grade basketball team earned a league championship and the runner-up trophy at the Diocese of Worcester tournament.
- All five of our second-year Nativity Teaching Fellows completed the program and earned master's degrees from Clark University and Assumption College. After completing the Fellowship, a remarkable 89% of our fellows have continued their work in education and nearly 70% of those in the field of education are continuing to educate the urban poor.
- Lastly, we are grateful that fiscal year 2014 was the most successful fundraising year in the history of our school. Through the commitment of our loyal donors and with the support of nearly 160 new donors, the Nativity Annual Fund raised over \$1,211,000 with an additional \$1.5 million raised for our first-ever capital campaign, "It's OK to be Good Here: The Campaign for Nativity School of Worcester." (see page 30)

We also want to express our thanks to Fr. Jack Fagan, S.J. who served as Chaplain, Director of Mission and Identity, and Director of Admissions for the last 5 years. Fr. Fagan concluded his service to Nativity Worcester this spring. We welcome Fr. Thomas McMurray, S.J. to our community and are grateful for the continued presence of a Jesuit on our staff.

The success of our mission, our work, and our Nativity Men is possible thanks to your support and belief in our school – a place where boys grow and learn to do their best and be their best. A place where every day boys defy the odds. A place where boys become Nativity Men. Thank you again for all of your support – a support that makes an impact not just for a summer or a year, but a lifetime.

Gratefully,

Alex Zequeira and Chris Collins



Top row, from left to right: Brandon Torres, Jairo Colon, Eury Rosario, Nicholas Le, Angel Flores, Joshua Ferreira
Bottom row, from left to right: Emmanuel Segrain, Jr., Shadrach Adu-Boateng, Caine Marnalse, Samuel Odjidja, Bryan Montenegro, Elliot Robinson

GRADUATION

of the Saint Alberto Hurtado Class of 2014

Family and friends joined the 12 members of the Saint Alberto Hurtado Class of 2014 on Friday, June 6 to celebrate their graduation from Nativity School of Worcester.

Student speaker, Bryan Montenegro, and community speaker, Benjamin Gitkind, spoke to the audience assembled in the school's gymnasium. Additionally, Bryan Montenegro received the Nativity Spirit Award, celebrating his commitment to Nativity Worcester's four pillars of strength, scholarship, character, and service through his four years at the school.

Shadrach Adu-Boateng
Saint John's High School

Jairo Colon
Saint John's High School

Joshua Ferreira
Saint John's High School

Angel Flores
Worcester Technical High School

Nicholas Le
South High School (Goddard Scholars Program)

Caine Marnalse
Saint Peter-Marian Junior-Senior High School

Bryan Montenegro
Bancroft School

Samuel Odjidja
Worcester Academy

Elliot Robinson
Homeschool

Eury Rosario
Holy Name Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School

Emmanuel Segrain, Jr.
Saint John's High School

Brandon Torres
Saint Bernard's High School



BRYAN'S graduation speech



Good evening, Mr. Zequeira, Mr. Dillon, faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, ladies and gentlemen, friends and family. It is an honor for me to speak to you on this special occasion on behalf of my fellow graduates.

My brothers, we arrived at Nativity Worcester just four short years ago, and now it's already time to leave. It seems like just yesterday we were little boys trying to figure out how we were going to manage an 11-hour day schedule and a 10-month school year. We were all scared and terrified of the change. On our first day, we just looked at each other and nodded our heads knowing that at least there was going to be someone else to suffer along with you. We all put our angelic masks on and greeted the teachers at the door. On our first day we learned the Nativity greeting taught by Mr. Dillon and we also learned what we got ourselves into but here we are, ready to graduate and move forward to a new episode in our lives.

How have we measured the time we've spent in middle school? In the beginning, we measured it in class periods, counting down the hours and minutes to freedom. Though as the days and weeks passed, we measured it in months and soon in how many years we had left until we were done with it all. Now as I stand on this podium about to leave, I now measure my time here in a much different way. I measure it in all the friendships I've enjoyed these last four years. Some were pretty

casual and others were much closer, but I'll remember each one fondly, as I'm sure you all will, too. And when many of our middle school memories of Adventure Bound, Felix's last day of school, our first hot lunch accompanied with beans, our secret, not so secret, code in seventh grade, or our good friends Petunia, Bonquiqui, Smooth Move, and Billy Dinklstein, begin to fade, that's how we'll ultimately measure the time we spent here, not in class periods or days or years, but in the friendships that we made, the times we shared together and the life lessons we have acquired.

I have been involved in so many endeavors such as plays, sports teams, student council, the leadership group, and much more. There are simply no words to thank Nativity Worcester for allowing me to try all of these things and become a better person. My eyes have been opened and now I am more willing to try new things. I have obtained skills such as patience and the ability to take into account everyone's thoughts through these extra-curricular activities which both make a good leader. I also learned that you must do what you ask others to do and to personally get to know the people you are leading. All of these skills I have picked up and not many thirteen year old boys have these virtues.

We worked hard to be triumphant today, but we didn't do it by ourselves. The merit of achievements of the Hurtado class would not have been

possible without the help, support, and guidance of our parents, teachers, coaches, and the overall inspiration and love from the entire Nativity Worcester community. You set the bar high and challenged us to live up to it.

To all those who believed in us, I say: Our success is your success, for you have given us the courage to dare, the knowledge to excel, and the belief that we can succeed. You were there for us with encouragement and care; you had faith when we doubted ourselves. You instilled in us the self-confidence needed to reach our dreams. As a matter of fact, the Hurtado Class has had many accomplishments over our time there. We were the first class to go on the Agape Retreat as seventh graders, we were the first class to promote the first spirit week at the school, and we had the first ever 8th grade game night. Also, coming in as fifth graders we averaged scores for a fifth grader in MAP testing. As our time has progressed, we are now leaving having average scores at an eleventh grade level. Although, most importantly, you made Nativity Worcester more than just a school, but our second home and for all of this and more, the Class of 2014, thanks you.

Today, we finish our prologue in life and will begin to write our first chapters. We will be faced with adversities and challenges that will cause us to second-guess ourselves and we will be faced with victories offering the next level of difficulty. Whichever

it may be, I know that I will have God, my family, the Nativity Worcester community, and my brothers to go to, and I know this isn't something very many kids can say. I have been planted at Nativity Worcester and they will keep watering me until I have finished college. Nativity will always be on top of me to make sure I keep up my grades. Along the 12-year journey, I will also get to catch up with my bothers during graduate nights or during days we both happen to be at Nativity Worcester. I have been blessed with many gifts, as have my peers, and we will return the favor, one president, or one lawyer, or one doctor, or one Navy SEAL at a time.

To my life-long brothers, I am not here to give you much advice, as I will ride this roller coaster of change along with you guys, but I can say this, remember to trust in yourself and never give up! No matter where we go or what we do, there will always be challenges ahead of us. What I'm asking from each of you, and from myself, is to meet those challenges head-on with our heads held high and our hearts wide open. It's not enough to simply try to get by in life; to do the minimum. That doesn't move the world forward. We must try to excel in everything we do; strive for excellence in every task, as large or small as it may be. Although it may not be easy, your individual successes benefit society as a whole because when we succeed, we lighten the burden on the people around us. When you succeed, you are in a position to give rather than take. We have been blessed to take so much away from our time and experiences at Nativity Worcester. Now, it's our time to return the favor to the community that has molded us from boys into young men!

Before finishing, I would like to leave you with a quote from Saint Hurtado - "If he fails here, his life is worthless; if he succeeds it means happiness forever more. So be it!"

Thank you for being here tonight and please keep the Hurtado Class in your prayers!

First Nativity Worcester Grads Receive College Degrees

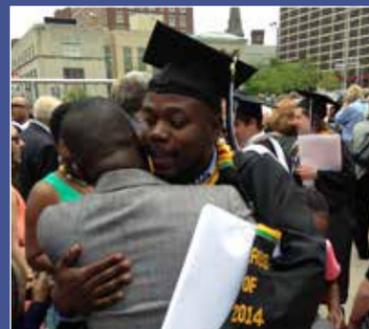
Nativity Worcester proudly watched its first graduates receive their college degrees from Providence College on Sunday, May 19. All members of the Ignatius Class of 2006 at Nativity Worcester, Juainer Beato-Lopez and Jacob Kelley both received bachelor of arts degrees, and Daniel Dompheh and Gunlee Segrain both received bachelor of science degrees at Providence College's 96th commencement exercises held at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. The graduates were addressed by Temple Grandin, a world-renowned advocate and educator on autism and animal welfare, specifically livestock handling.

"Words cannot express how unbelievably proud our entire community is of this group of young men," said Nativity Worcester President Alex Zequeira. "These men continue to be the pioneers for our school and the role models for all of our students."

Eighty-five percent of Nativity Worcester's student population is made up of minority students, all admitted students have a family income that falls below the federal poverty line. Nationally, only 28 percent of young African American men and 16 percent of young Latino men have obtained an associate's degree or higher. Nearly 90 percent of Nativity Worcester graduates are enrolled in either high school or college.



From left to right: Jacob Kelley, Juainer Beato-Lopez



From left to right: Gunlee Segrain



From left to right: Daniel Dompheh



STUDENT REFLECTION

Eury Rosario, Hurtado Class of 2014

It all started on my first day of school here at Nativity. I could feel the beautiful atmosphere in the air as the day was passing by. It was my first day so of course I was nervous or shy to do anything when it came to doing something in front of the class. For example, in the beginning of the year we had to make a skit and we had to pick partners. I remember it was Nick, Shaddy, and me. I was really nervous to perform in front of the class because I kind of felt embarrassed when I had to play the role of Snoopy. However, I was always happy when I came to school because I knew that I would not be alone to share my experience. I had my older brother, Francisco who was and still is there for me when I need him the most. For the rest of my fifth grade year everything went smoothly. But let me tell you, I did not want to come here at first. There was maybe more than one reason why I didn't want to come here and the first was because this was an all-boy's school, and I'm sure you can all agree with me as I say this, but when you've been going to a co-ed school for 6 years it's not all that easy. But as the year went by, I began to realize that I could really see my classmates as brothers for life.

From 5th to 8th grade I think my 8th grade year was my best year yet. I really made sure of that. I had the best time

in my experience here at Nativity during my 8th grade year. I have been given many privileges personally and have been honored to serve the school. For example, I was able to emcee the 3rd quarter's awards luncheon, receive Nativity Man, and earn an award during the awards ceremony.

Outside of the classroom, I feel like my best times here at Nativity were the field trips and traveling with my class. I can really say that I had the most fun during my 7th and 8th grade years because we were given privileges to go to Adventure Bound which is always a lot of fun and I feel like I can always express myself during those 3 days and really get to know my class mates even better. I especially remember one memory where I fell out of the raft and into the water and while I was screaming for help Emmanuel and Caine were laughing at me while Mr. and Mrs. Kent were trying to pull me back onto the raft.

As we move on to the next stage in our lives remember that we will always still live here even when we're not present. We will still think of Nativity as another home for us and as a community that we all dearly care for. Hopefully you will all remember the 8th grade Hurtado class and not give up on our future because we will certainly not give up on you.

Thank You!

Nativity Worcester's Office of

GRADUATE SUPPORT

Nativity School of Worcester is committed to each and every student's education even beyond his graduation from eighth grade. The Nativity Worcester Office of Graduate Support starts working with students in their sixth-grade year. Meredith Kent, Director of High School Placement, works to expose students to high schools in the area and then teaches the school's High School Placement class for seventh and eighth grade. Mrs. Kent works very closely with each student and his family throughout the application process. Whether it be taking entrance exams, attending shadow visits, filing financial aid paperwork, or submitting recommendation letters, Nativity Worcester's Office of Graduate Support walks students and families through the high school application process from beginning to end. However, once a student has enrolled in high school, the support does not end there. Graduates remain in contact with Mrs. Kent during their first two years of high school, ensuring that they are making progress and achieving success inside and outside of the classroom. Graduates frequently return to Nativity Worcester, as the school has space dedicated solely to graduates where they can interact with each other and also have a quiet space to work on homework assignments. Graduate Support tracks students' progress and will work with high schools teachers and counselors throughout a graduate's high school career – even scheduling extra help and tutoring sessions when necessary.

At the end of their sophomore year of high school, Herb Woodard III, Director of Graduate Support, starts the preparation for the college application process. The Director of Graduate Support works with students to plan course schedules and extra-curricular activities that will make each student a viable candidate for college acceptance. Students and their families are expected to attend meetings about the college application process, select initial colleges of interest for visit, take SAT/ACT preparation classes, and begin filling out applications during the summer months before their student's senior year of high school. Mr. Woodard supports students and families through each step of the college application process – arranging college tours and interviews, guiding parents through the difficulty of filling out financial aid forms, facilitating meetings between college admissions directors and interested families, and counseling families as they make the right decision for their son and their family's future. During any given year, the Graduate Support Program has aided our high school seniors in filing close to 100 applications to over 60 unique colleges and universities. As each Nativity Worcester graduate decides on a specific college to attend, Mr. Woodard connects students with the appropriate support person at each institution of higher learning. Throughout this process, Mr. Woodard acts as an advocate and ensures two-way communication and understanding between guidance counselor and parent.

- 100% of graduates were accepted into and received sufficient financial aid to attend private high schools
- 100% of high school aged graduates are enrolled in school and on track to graduate
- 90% of graduates have graduated from high school in four years
- 100% of graduates have been accepted into a four-year college or university or a specialized post-high school program
- 100% of graduates attending a four-year undergraduate college or university are on track to finish their degree in four years

Nativity Worcester Graduates Receive Diplomas from PRESIDENT OBAMA at Worcester Technical High School's Graduation

On Wednesday, June 11, President Barack Obama visited Worcester to deliver the commencement address for Worcester Technical High School. President Obama pointed out Worcester Tech as a model for the United States in an increasingly competitive global workforce and praised students and teachers alike. He said the graduates were finishing senior year knowing how to run a restaurant, fix a computer or manage a household — skills that he said would let them begin their careers right away. "I want the entire nation to learn from Worcester Tech," the president said. Sixteen years ago, the Worcester campus located at Lincoln Square was so outdated it was nearly shut down. Obama praised the school's remarkable transformation into a school with a demographic and educational profile that makes it a model of achievement.

"If it can happen in Worcester, it can happen in any place," Obama said. The "school that works" is funded by City of Worcester public school budget funds, but also receives supplemental assistance to ensure state-of-the-art equipment and training through the Skyline Technical Fund and a corporate partnership program, headed by President Ted Coghlin.

Nativity Worcester graduates, Anael Fernandez and Michael Stevens (Christopher Class of 2010) both received their high school diplomas from Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty and congratulations from Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Melina Boone, Principal, Dr. Sheila Harrity, and President Obama at the ceremony. Both students will be pursuing a specialized post-secondary education at Quinsigamond Community College this coming fall.



During fiscal year 2014, Nativity School of Worcester received funding specifically from The 200 Foundation, Inc. and National Grid Foundation to help cover the costs of applying to college for each student, which often is an insurmountable burden for students from low-income families. Nativity School of Worcester makes a financial commitment to each one of its graduates to help with the college application process. Whenever possible, the Director of Graduate Support helps graduates obtain waivers

for application fees for the first two times they take the SAT. However, waivers barely cover the cost to apply to college. Our graduates would not be able to apply to college if we did not help them with additional process fees, such as filing the CSS Financial Aid Profile, registering for the SAT/ACT exams, sending SAT/ACT scores to colleges, taking an AP exam, sending AP scores to colleges, and mailing applications. Nativity School of Worcester spends about \$150 per student on the college application

process each year – an amount overwhelming for families barely making ends meet.

By providing graduate support beyond the middle-school years, Nativity Worcester plays a significant advisory and advocacy role in the lives of our graduates, their families and, in a broader context, the community. It is not only the expectation that our graduates will go on to well-respected colleges and universities, but also that our graduates will become productive members of their communities.

YEAR END AWARDS CEREMONY



On Monday, June 2, Nativity School of Worcester held its year-end awards ceremony. At this event, which begins the week leading to graduation, the school's faculty and staff present awards to students in all grades that best reflect the four pillars of strength (*vires*), character (*mores*), service (*christianitas*), and scholarship (*studium*). Awards are given for three of the pillars to one student from the eighth grade, and one student from the fifth-, sixth-, or seventh-grade, while the final pillar award of scholarship is presented to one student from all four classes. The *Vires* Award was given to Nicholas Le, Hurtado Class of 2014 and Stanley Hernandez, Fernando Class of 2015. The *Vires* Award is given to the students who show exceptional strength during their time at Nativity Worcester. This student faces struggles head-on, and doesn't shy away from a challenge. The *Mores* Award was presented to Jairo Colon, Hurtado Class of 2014 and Ariel Rodriguez, Brooks Class of 2016. The *Mores* Award is given to the students who display exceptional character and distinguish themselves with qualities of honesty, politeness, and fairness to others. The *Christianitas* Award was presented to Samuel Odjidja, Hurtado Class of 2014 and Adrian Taveras, Fernando Class of 2015. This award is given to the students who show exceptional dedication to service both inside and outside of the school and who never hesitate to put others before them. The *Studium* Award was presented to Rosend Peña, Ikonza Class of 2017, Prince Collins, Brooks Class of 2016, Brian Benoit, Fernando Class of 2015, and Bryan Montenegro, Hurtado Class of 2014. The *Studium* Award goes to the student who shows the greatest dedication to scholarship by displaying intellectual curiosity and a drive for academic success. Congratulations to all of this year's award winners!

SARA STERLING Named National Science Teachers Association Academy Fellow



Sara Sterling, a second-year Nativity Worcester Fellow, was accepted into the DOW Chemical Company-National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) New Science Teacher Academy Fellowship Program this past January. This marks the second year in a row that Nativity School of Worcester has had a NSTA Fellow on staff. Ms. Sterling had the opportunity to continue her passion in science and teaching students through the NSTA initiative created to help promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge.

Ms. Sterling is a native of Mansfield, Mass., and a graduate of Saint Anselm College, obtaining her bachelor's degree in 2012 as an Environmental Science major, with a certificate in International Relations. She received a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at Clark University in May 2014.

The National Science Teachers Association was founded in 1944. NSTA is the largest organization in the world committed to promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership of 60,000 includes science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in and committed to science education across the country.

SUMMER OF SERVICE 2014



During Nativity Worcester's Summer of Service, students spend their mornings in language arts, mathematics, and service learning classes, and their afternoons at community service sites. This summer, fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-graders performed community service at three different sites in mixed-grade groups; the groups visited each site twice. These sites included Andy's Attic, where students helped an all-volunteer staff sort through and organize clothing and sneaker donations for homeless teenagers. The students also had the opportunity to visit AIDS Project Worcester, where they tended the community fruit and vegetable garden and assisted in stocking the food pantry. The third site the students visited was the Greater Worcester Land Trust. The Nativity Men cleaned the grounds in and around the properties, and also cleared trails.

For the sixth consecutive year, the eighth-grade students had the opportunity to work on the Highland Street Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Initiative. Students working on this project learned about philanthropy and nonprofit organizations in their service learning classes. They reflected on their own personal values to determine what community services they deemed most important for the people within Worcester. The students then chose how to disburse the \$5,000 of grant funds to these six organizations. This year, the eighth graders worked specifically with: Straight Up Café, The Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Education and Agriculture Training (EAT) Center, The Mustard Seed, Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cottage Hill Academy (You Inc. residential program). Over the course of the Summer of Service 2014, the Nativity Worcester community completed over 1,700 hours of service in the greater Worcester community.

NATIVITY WORCESTER ON INAUGURAL JETBLUE FLIGHT



In November, four members of the Nativity School of Worcester community were on board during JetBlue's inaugural flight from Worcester to Fort Lauderdale, Florida thanks to a generous invitation from JetBlue. Mr. Zequeira, along with teaching Fellow Angela Sigismondi and students Bryan and Nick, departed from Worcester Regional Airport at 4:25 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, and spent the following day visiting their brother Jesuit institution, Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, located in Miami, Fla. While at Belen Jesuit, Nativity Worcester community members shadowed students and administrators, deepening their understanding of schools that provide a dynamic environment for academic, spiritual and social growth. JetBlue debuted in Worcester with one daily flight each to Orlando and Fort Lauderdale this fall. The City of Worcester was named JetBlue Airways' 80th service city on April 3, 2013. Operated by the Massachusetts Port Authority, Worcester Regional Airport's amenities include a \$15.7 million passenger terminal and over \$12 million worth of airside improvements such as lighting systems, navigational aids and a new control tower.



Sara Sterling



Alex J. Bazarian



Lance Stewart



Kaytlyn Kelley



Angela Sigismondi

Fellows

GRADUATION

- Alex J. Bazarian
- Kaytlyn Kelley
- Angela Sigismondi
- Sara Sterling
- Lance Stewart

The end of the academic year means saying goodbye to not only the graduating students, but to also our Second Year Fellows. This year, five Fellows concluded their two years of service at Nativity School of Worcester and moved on to new positions. Alex J. Bazarian is a graduate of Saint Anselm College and joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: Northwest following graduation and moved to Ashland, Montana to serve as a House Parent Assistant for at-risk adolescents on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. In November of 2009, Alex returned to his hometown in Marlborough, Massachusetts working as an Applied Behavioral Analyst for middle school youth. Alex will be staying on at Nativity Worcester next year to teach social studies and language arts while completing his Master's Degree in School Counseling at Assumption College. Kaytlyn Kelley, from Jefferson, Mass. is a 2012 graduate of Saint Michael's College, who completed her Masters in Special Education this past May at Assumption College. While at Saint Michael's she was a four-year member of the swim team. Kaytlyn will also be at Nativity Worcester next year, as she takes over in the the role of 5th Grade Lead Teacher. Angela Sigismondi, of Brooklyn, New York, is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross with a Bachelor of Arts in both English and Psychology. She was an active participant in Student Programs for Urban Development (SPUD) through which she volunteered at Nativity Worcester as a tutor and was hired as a summer intern in 2011. Angela

received her Master's degree in the Art of Teaching from Clark University this past year. Next year, Angela will be teaching 8th grade English and 8th grade history at the Bancroft School in Worcester. Sara Sterling, of Mansfield, Mass. came to Nativity Worcester with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Saint Anselm College and just received a Master's degree in the Art of Teaching from Clark University. While attending Saint A's, Ms. Sterling was an active member of the varsity field hockey team and served as President of the Honors Program. Sara was Nativity Worcester's second Fellow to be named a DOW Chemical National Science Teachers Association Academy Fellow. Sara will be teaching 8th grade science at Hopkinton Middle School starting in the fall. Lance Stewart, a native of Worcester, traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to attend Morehouse College and attain a B.A. in Economics and Mathematics. Prior to relocating back to Worcester, Lance held positions as an Analyst with the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. and as an Assistant at Visions Academy Charter High School in Newark, New Jersey. Lance received a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching at Clark University along with a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Nonprofit Leadership from Assumption College. Lance will be joining Centro Las Americas, a social service non-profit agency in Worcester, as their Marketing and Community Outreach Coordinator next year.

STATS

NATIVITY WORCESTER FELLOWS

Over the past **11** years...

42 Fellows have taught students at Nativity School of Worcester and had a tremendous impact on the lives of our students and their families.

86% have remained in the field of education.

70% of those in education have remained in an urban setting.

REFLECTIONS

Nancy Williams, *Donor*

Jennifer Roy, *Volunteer*

Joseph Nabil Riad Iskandar, S.J., *Staff*

Gunlee Segrain, *Graduate, Ignatius '06*

DONOR REFLECTION

Nancy Williams *Vienna, VA*



During my life, I have given to various charities; however, I never felt I was able to affect change and was removed from the outcome. When the Holy Cross Magazine featured a story about my roommate, Joanne McClatchy and her husband starting up the Nativity School in conjunction with the college in 2002, I was excited at the opportunity to help. While attending Holy Cross, I was afraid of even driving into sections of the City of Worcester because of the poor and crime-ridden neighborhoods. Unfortunately, I know that not much has changed since then. Why I believe in

Nativity Worcester and all the efforts of Joanne, Holy Cross, the Nativity Worcester faculty and staff, and all the driving forces behind the school is that we can affect the outcome. We can't change the circumstances of these neighborhoods, but we can change the opportunities available to its residents. The young men at Nativity Worcester are bright, full of hope and promise, and deserving of a chance at a successful future. I know that any and every donation makes a direct impact on these boys' lives and the lives of their families. That's why I am involved and give to the Nativity School of Worcester. •

Like many other citizens in our community, I volunteer for causes that I care about. I often post these experiences on social media outlets because I want to encourage other people around me and in our community to volunteer as well. I am often inspired when I read stories about the Junior League of Worcester, StArt on the Street, and companies that make things better for our young people, like Unum did at South High helping to get walls installed, and like Saint Gobain did for Girls Incorporated of Worcester renovating their gymnasium floor.

This week I spent two hours at the Nativity School of Worcester. I am starting my own public relations business and recently inquired about volunteering to teach public speaking skills to some of their students. Little did I know what a special experience I would have with some pretty amazing up and coming young men from our own community.

I have had some previous experience with Nativity School of Worcester, attending their annual Spring Auction Night, a large fundraiser that helps support the school, and its summer program, so I was already familiar with the school's mission and the strong support students and staff must receive from the Worcester community to be successful. According to the Nativity Worcester website, "Nativity School of Worcester is modeled upon effective practices that provide students from low-income homes the opportunity for academic excellence." The Nativity model began in New York City in 1971. In 2003, Worcester opened its own Nativity school thanks to then President Rev. Michael McFarland, S.J., and Charles Weiss, Ph.D. of the College of the Holy Cross, who championed the idea in Worcester. The school is open to male students of all faiths attending grades 5-8.

On the day I visited, I spent two hours teaching public speaking to 10 young men in grades six, seven and eight. When I entered the school at 3 p.m., the charismatic Yachira Torres, 6th Grade Lead Teacher and Director of Afterschool Programs, greeted me with a big smile and directed me on a tour of the building led by two students from the seventh grade. The boys proudly and somewhat shyly pointed out classrooms, the library and the gymnasium. They also talked about their quarterly award ceremonies, and showed me a display case filled with awards won by their sports teams, specifically their basketball team. In the hallway, they pointed out flags of countries where Nativity Worcester students and their family members are originally from. My two guides came from Vietnam and El Salvador.

During this tour, the boys held the door for me. They answered my questions, and took turns pointing out highlights like acceptance letters from local high schools that hang on the walls and college pennants of the colleges where their graduates currently attend. I asked the boys where they hoped to attend high school. One student is hoping

VOLUNTEER REFLECTION

Jennifer Roy

Two Hours at the Nativity School of Worcester

for Holy Name Central Catholic and another is determined to get into Worcester Academy. Both are undecided about where they want to attend college, but are excited that they will attend college one day.

At 3:30, my tour guides led me to the classroom in which I would be working with these students. I have to admit, I am comfortable teaching high school girls at Girls Inc., so I was a bit intimidated to lead a class of junior high school boys. I heard the students had been practicing presentation skills, so I began the class by asking them to tell me what they had already learned. They excitedly raised their hands and one by one let me know they had emceed award ceremonies at their school, or made speeches for events like their Winter and Spring Arts Nights, when students display their art and perform plays for a large audience that includes families and friends.

My lesson asked the boys to formally debate topics regarding requiring school uniforms and a ban on soda. I gave them about 10 minutes to prepare and choose a side, then debate for about 5-7 minutes. It was evident that the students were comfortable exhibiting humor, confidence, and intelligence, all important factors in successful public speaking. Sometimes, I couldn't help but think I was watching a few future senators in the making, and these boys were in seventh grade!

As I watched and critiqued these students, I wished they could see what I saw; that when they reached my age, they could go back in time and watch themselves present as intelligently and convincingly as they did.

It's clear to me that despite the growing and learning these boys have ahead of them, they were all very mature and polite for their ages. They were confident. They were intelligent. They all said they know education is important. One of the boys said they wished their 11-hour school day was longer. A few of them mentioned that they want to be a doctor or professional basketball player so they can eventually help to support their families. After my visit to Nativity School of Worcester, I am fully confident that they will. I saw everything I need to know in just two hours. •

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Joseph Nabil Riad Iskandar, S.J.
Jesuit Regent



GRADUATE REFLECTION

Gunlee Segrain
*Ignatius Class of 2006
Noble and Greenough Class of 2010
Providence College Class of 2014*

I am a young Jesuit from Egypt who is preparing for ordination to the priesthood. I am currently a member of what is known as the Near East Province of the Society of Jesus which is based in Beirut, Lebanon. My provincial superior, Fr. Victor Assouad, S.J., sent me here to the United States in February 2013 in order to improve my fluency in English and to learn about the Nativity model of education by participating in the daily operations of the Nativity School in Worcester. I am very interested in this model of schooling and have been very excited to learn more about it.

Fr. Victor and I feel we need the Nativity model of schooling in our province. And we believe that it is important for me to experience the school and not simply to tour it as a visitor. My interest in this model of education has been fostered by my desire to work in education with the poor and the marginalized.

During my first day at Nativity Worcester, Mr. Zequeira, the president of the school, asked two students from the Hurtado Class – Bryan and Shaddy – to give me a tour of the school. Actually, I wondered why Mr. Zequeira didn't give me the tour himself because I thought that he would know more about the school than the two students. Indeed, it was a remarkable insight for me to realize that each and every person at Nativity Worcester has a very broad range of knowledge about the school.

Everyone at Nativity Worcester has a fabulous smile. When I first entered the building, I found a bulletin board with a display of enthusiastic smiley faces of all the staff members and students. During the course of any given day, I have seen people who were very tired but who still had a delightful smile. Moreover, I encountered a vibrant sense of hospitality from all staff members and students. Smiles and generous hospitality were my first impressions of Nativity School of Worcester.

During my time here, I have discovered a remarkable community. Everyone works together very well and helps each other to achieve Nativity Worcester's mission and goals.

I was touched by their enthusiasm for continually improving the students' skills. Students are their top priority. They constantly encourage them to strive for success in their lives. They are not only a remarkable group of teachers and staff members, but they contribute daily in many ways to the overall formation of the students and their families as well. Also, they not only give the students much information but, perhaps more importantly, they teach them how to find it themselves.

In addition, I was very impressed when I noticed that the staff members follow the principles of the Ignatian spirituality. One of them is the process of discernment which one undertakes in order to make a good decision based on all circumstances and considerations. A good example of this discernment is the Friday afternoon faculty meeting where the staff chooses the Nativity Man, a student of the week who is recognized for his outstanding achievements. The staff takes time to discuss each candidate and evaluates how each boy has behaved during the week and how he has progressed academically. This process of discernment and evaluation has become for them a principle of Ignatian pedagogy.

My intent in coming here to the Nativity School of Worcester was not to teach, but to observe and learn from the entire staff. Indeed, they taught me how to build a positive lay community, how people can become men and women with and for the others. I am now leaving with many fond memories such as their smiling faces and generous hospitality. Consequently, when my province eventually starts a Nativity school at home, I intend to invite all Nativity Worcester graduates to come and help us teach English as a second language.

Finally, at the Nativity School of Worcester I found the face of God through the work of the entire staff. I am so grateful and thankful for their generous hospitality. I appreciate all that they did for me. I will never forget that I was once a Nativity Worcester staff member.

Thank you, Nativity! •

Nativity School of Worcester provides underprivileged boys the opportunity to excel academically and become great young men. Nativity Worcester attempts to mold and develop the critical thinking skills of the boys not only in academic settings, but also in everyday normal life. It is impossible to truly gauge the impact Nativity Worcester has on its students because the school is so deeply rooted in the lives of its students and their family. Nativity Worcester strives to have a personal relationship with each student because they understand that different individuals possess different strengths and weaknesses.

When I initially enrolled into Nativity School of Worcester I was extremely short tempered. I lashed out against fellow classmates simply because that was the only way I knew how to express myself when I was angry. I can remember spending countless hours having discussions with teachers such as Mr. Dillon or Mr. Gallagher after having one of my temper tantrums. They helped me realize the importance of having self-control even in the midst of anger and frustration. Harkening back, the most profound and life changing conversation I had at Nativity Worcester involved Mr. Dillon and myself. He taught me the importance of being humble and having patience. I was upset with Mr. Dillon because he decided to have individual meetings with some of my fellow classmates in order to show them their quiz grades and provide feedback on how they could improve their grade. At the time, I felt I was entitled to know my grade, and as a result I bombarded Mr. Dillon with a series of questions in order to come to an understanding of his decision. He simply responded by stating "I would see my grade the next time we had class". I became annoyed with the notion of having to wait an entire twenty-four hours to see my grade and as a result I began to give attitude to Mr. Dillon and other members of the faculty.

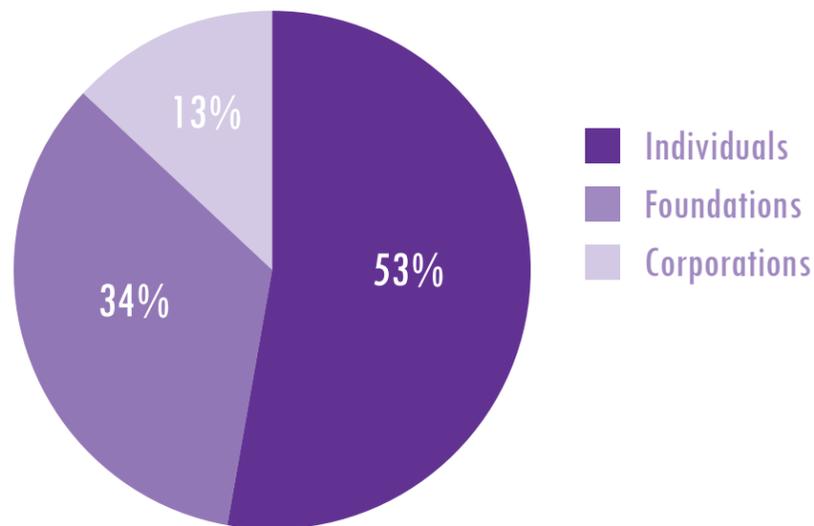
Eventually, Mr. Dillon called me into his office and we began to talk and I explained that he was being unfair by only allowing certain students to see their grades. Without saying a word, Mr. Dillon pulled out my quiz and there was a 92 written at the top of the page. He explained that he did not feel the need to go over my grade because I was performing at a consistently high level. He wanted to cater to some of my fellow classmates because they were in need of assistance. He also went on to explain the importance of helping and assisting my fellow classmates because we are brothers and that we should want each other to succeed. Along with that, he highlighted that I had the tendency to sometimes call out answers without being called on. By the end of the conversation, I came to understanding that success is meaningless if it cannot be shared with others, and finally patience provides the mind and the heart appreciation for the journey to success. I take the lessons that I learned from that conversation with me everywhere I go because humility and patience are the foundation to becoming successful.

The faculty, staff, board members, and other contributors to Nativity School of Worcester have truly created a special place for young men to grow and become great men. Every student that has been a part of Nativity eventually understands and appreciates that everyone at Nativity Worcester goes above and beyond the duty of educators. They dedicate their lives to the mission and values of the school. This explains why Nativity Worcester has become a proud staple of the City of Worcester. Nativity Worcester has never strayed away from the promises it made to my family over ten years ago; therefore, I can never turn my back on the school. It will always be my second home because of the love and dedication displayed by the school and the people involved with it. •

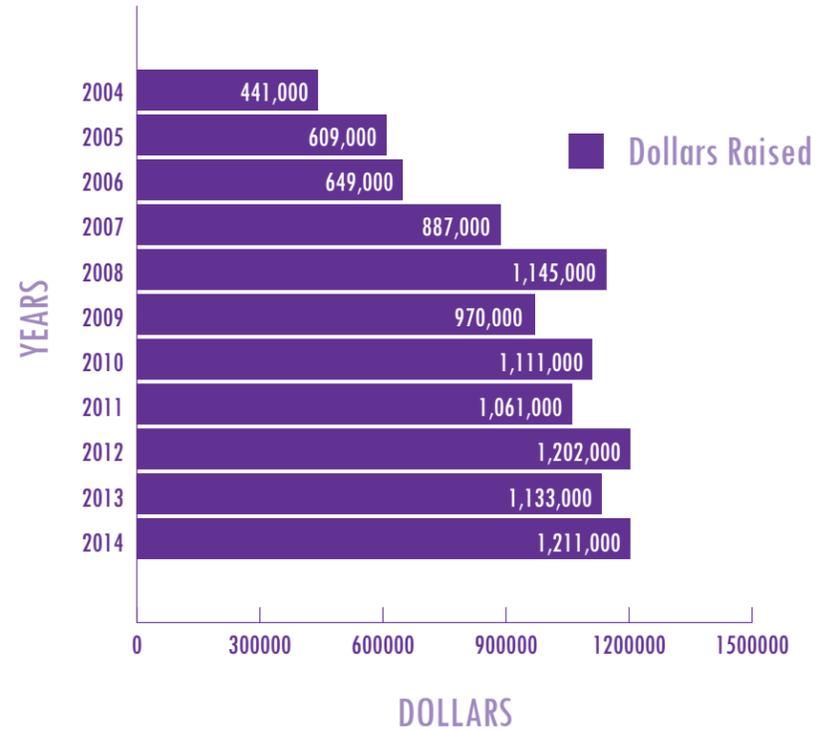
We are truly grateful to the following individuals, organizations, corporations, and charitable foundations for contributions to Nativity School of Worcester during fiscal year 2014 *July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014*. We have made every effort to include all of those who have contributed during this time period. We sincerely regret and would like to know about any inadvertent omissions or errors. Without all of you and your generous support, we would not be able to transform the lives of our students, faculty, staff, and community members. Thank you!

- \$1,211,704 was given to the Fund, which is the highest dollar total in the history of the school.
- 712 donors made gifts to Nativity Worcester, the second-highest number of donors.
- Students and faculty performed over 1,700 hours of community service in Worcester during the Summer of Service in July 2014.
- The Hurtado Class of 2014 graduated in June and graduates enrolled at Bancroft School, Holy Name Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Saint Bernard's High School, Saint John's High School, Saint Peter-Marian Junior-Senior High School, South High School (Goddard Scholars Program), Worcester Academy, and Worcester Technical High School.
- Members of the Christopher Class of 2010 will be attending Assumption College, Clark University, Franklin Pierce University, Quinsigamond Community College, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, University of Massachusetts – Lowell, and Worcester State University.
- Five members of the Ignatius Class of 2006 received their college degrees in 2014 from Providence College and Emmanuel College.
- One hundred percent of 113 graduates were accepted into and received sufficient financial aid to attend private high schools.
- One hundred percent of high school aged graduates are enrolled in school and on track to graduate.
- One hundred percent of graduates attending a four-year undergraduate college or university are on track to finish their degree in four years.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR Nativity School of Worcester

At the end of Nativity's first school year, a founding donor asked a young Nativity Man named Joseph what he liked most about the school. His response captured the mission, culture and spirit of the school:

“I like Nativity School because it’s OK to be good here.”

The culture that often swirls around urban students from low-income homes can make school a place where it is not OK to showcase academic talents. Boys from low-income homes can have many emotional and academic needs that large school systems simply lack the individualized resources to address. Unfortunately, some students with the potential for college degrees and brighter futures drop out without a sense of self-discovery or responsibility. Joseph’s poignant statement clearly underscores the power of the Nativity Worcester environment.

In the fall of 2011, Joseph became the first in his family to attend college.

Our mission - as an accredited, independent, Jesuit middle school (grades 5-8) - is to provide a quality, all-scholarship education to underserved boys of all faiths. Drawing upon four pillars - strength, scholarship, character, and service - a Nativity education inspires self-discovery, responsibility, spiritual growth, and a lifelong dedication to learning. We are committed to the success of our students not only in middle school, but—with guidance, tutoring, and financial support—throughout high school and college. Nativity School of Worcester makes a twelve-year commitment to the boys we enroll in 5th grade.

And yet, sustaining this proven middle school for boys from low-income homes involves unique funding challenges:

- Nativity Worcester does not charge tuition. Each student receives a full scholarship to cover costs associated with his structured, personalized Nativity education.
- Nativity Worcester does not receive any financial assistance from the federal, state, or local government, or from the Diocese of Worcester for operating costs.
- Nativity Worcester is the recipient of many in-kind donations from the College of the Holy Cross, but does not receive direct financial assistance from the College for the school’s operations.
- Unlike most non-profit institutions where fundraising bridges a budget gap, the generosity of others is Nativity Worcester’s sole source of income.



“It’s OK to Be Good Here”: The Campaign for Nativity School of Worcester will ensure that future generations of boys from low-income homes in Worcester will benefit from this mission. At the very heart of this three-year comprehensive fundraising effort (\$7.5 million to capital programming; \$3 million to annual operating expenses) is the compelling need to strengthen programming, improve facilities, and solidify the finances of this immensely successful school.

GOALS

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Retire the Debt and Renovate the School Facility at 67 Lincoln Street | \$3,000,000 |
| 2 | Retire the Debt and Renovate Teachers’ Residence in the Main South Neighborhood of Worcester | \$500,000 |
| 3 | Establish an Endowment Fund for the Nativity Men of the Future | \$4,000,000 |
| 4 | Current Operations: Ensure the Mission for the Three Years of the Campaign | \$3,000,000 |
| | | \$10,500,000 |



MISSION STATEMENT

Nativity School of Worcester is an accredited, independent, Jesuit middle school that provides a quality, all - scholarship education to underserved boys of all faiths. Drawing upon four pillars - strength, scholarship, character and service - a Nativity education inspires self-discovery, responsibility, spiritual growth and a lifelong dedication to learning.

Nativity School of Worcester is proud to be an accredited member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).
Member of the Nativity Miguel Coalition of Schools
Member of the Jesuit Secondary Education Association



NATIVITY SCHOOL *of* WORCESTER

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