



FALL 2020

The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION



SALUTE TO THE GAME EVENT ROARS TO RECORD NET \$500,000!

Astonishing Result Surpasses Previous Year Mark of \$450,000!

(See article on page 3)

WAVE 3 "Listen's Live" host John Ramsey discusses the record amount raised with Foundation president Rich Lechleiter

Catholic Elementary School Tuition Assistance Rockets to New Heights

All-Time High 3,350 Students Earned Record-Tying \$6.5 million



The Catholic Education Foundation and the Archdiocese of Louisville recently announced that tuition assistance for Catholic elementary school families across central Kentucky reached new heights for the 2020/2021 school year.

Tuition assistance awards reached an all-time high **3,350** students, roaring past last year's record 3,250, while aggregate tuition assistance funding hit a record-tying **\$6.5 million.**

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Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Over \$42 Million Awarded Since 1995 Founding



It was on November 1, 1995 – All Saints Day – that **Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly** founded the **Catholic Education Foundation** of Louisville. And what a fabulous idea it was!!

Fast forward 25 years and the question is, "So how did we do?" After doing the research, the answer surprised even the Foundation staff - aggregate awards were an astounding **\$42 million!**

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

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Our Message To You

Pandemic or not, it's truly awesome to see the magic sauce that's always been at the core of Catholic education. It's called **COMMUNITY!!**

It's the unmistakable coming together of everyone in each of our 48 primary and secondary schools that simply says "This experience is unique, it's valuable, and it's worth every investment that families make for the future of their children!"

Examples? We've got plenty.

Last summer, Archbishop Kurtz courageously announced a plan to safely return to in-person instruction for all our schools for the fall term. While nobody knows how this will ultimately play out, our pastors, school leaders, instructors, staff, students and families lined up to do their part to make it happen - and with **resounding early success!**

Here's another example right here at the Foundation. After school starts in August, a young single mother residing in the Camp Taylor neighborhood called our office and desperately wanted to enroll her first and third grader in a Catholic school. We asked her to fill out the online application and her request was approved the next day - way past all our so-called application deadlines. Within 24 hours, she had her tuition assistance award in hand (substantial in amount!) and immediately enrolled both kids in St. James School in the Highlands.

Can you imagine how that single event will change this family's pathway forever? We can't wait to see the outcome!

For that Camp Taylor family and so many others who reach out to us daily in search of a better answer for their children in a Catholic school, **"The Answer is YES!!"**

Thanks entirely to our unwavering donors who make our work even possible.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village." And our Catholic schools - and those who support them - are the best definition of community we've ever seen! Thank God. ■

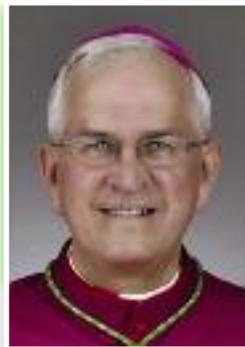
May God bless you and your family always,

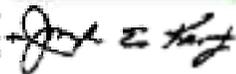



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Our Vision:
Every family has access to a Catholic education.

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



Catholic Elementary School Tuition Assistance Rockets to New Heights

Continued from page 1

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** remarked, "Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and the unwavering support of our funding partners - even during a world-wide health pandemic - we provided tuition assistance awards to every single family who demonstrated a financial need – **for the sixth year in a row!** This astonishing result serves as a great testament to the power of Catholic education and our community's recognition of its importance and its future. Indeed, at a time when everyone's lives have been so disrupted, our entire community rallied together and embraced the excitement and opportunity behind our slogan, **"The Answer is YES!"**"

Archbishop Kurtz reflected with gratitude on the continued progress to improve access to Catholic education. "I am deeply thankful that we can come together to create so much hope for so many families. God has blessed our families, our schools and this community. Please join me in giving thanks to the Lord that so many students have access to this life-changing opportunity called Catholic education."

Under the Foundation's leadership, a collaborative partnership among the schools, the Archdiocese of Louisville, Community Catholic Center and the Foundation itself combines resources and shares data to determine the best possible award for each family who qualifies for financial assistance. Mr. Lechleiter added, "Now in our sixth year, this creative and highly successful way of allocating funds ensures that each family receives a fair award and that more families are assisted than ever before. **What could be better!**"

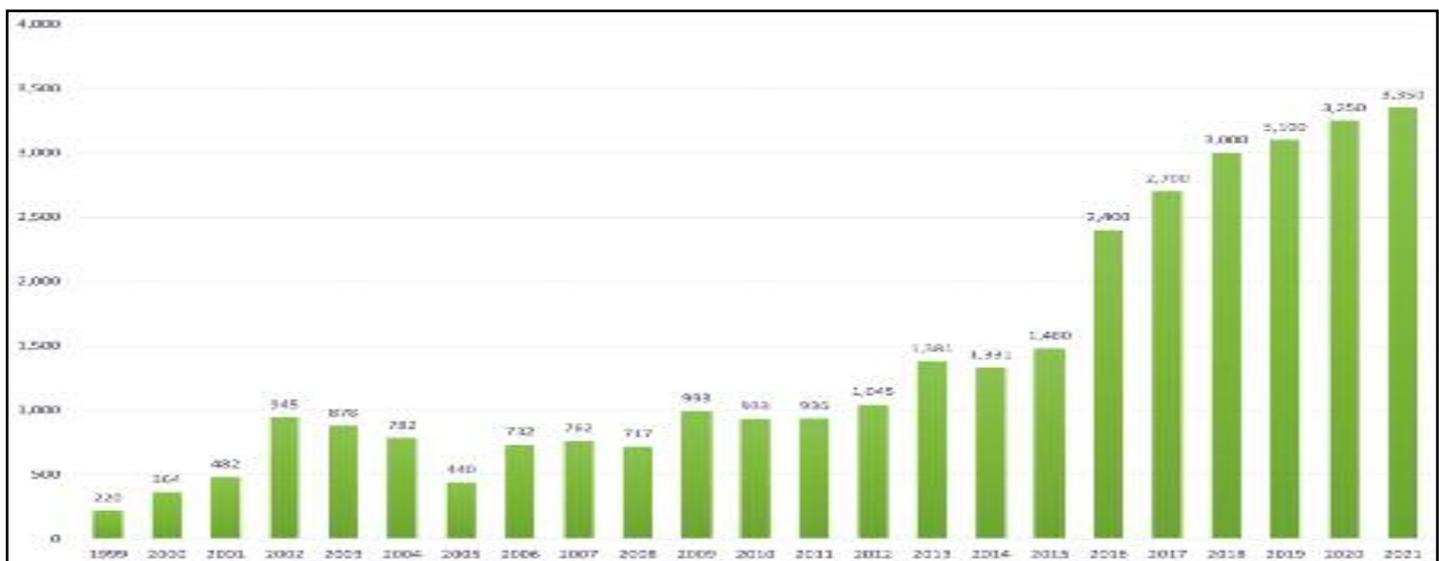
The record-tying \$6.5 million of funding was provided by the Foundation (\$3.0 million), parishes and schools (\$2.0 million), and the Archdiocese of Louisville, including Community Catholic Center (\$1.5 million).

The Foundation continues to receive calls from families who are seeking a better opportunity for their children.

Foundation Board Chair **Charlie Dahlem** commented, "While we are elated that the Foundation and our partners are supporting another record number of families, our work is never done. Each day, families are reaching out to us in search of a better educational pathway for their children. Indeed, our message of growth, outreach and inclusion in Catholic schools is working – even in a pandemic. To every family who yearns for the great gift of a Catholic education, **"The Answer is YES!"**"

Mr. Lechleiter continued, "I couldn't be more proud of our 48 Catholic primary and secondary schools across central Kentucky! And I want to pay special tribute to Archbishop Kurtz, Dr. Brian Reynolds, School Superintendent Leisa Schulz, and all of our school leaders and instructors who have led the way in standing tall for our students and their families through our innovative in-person instruction models in our schools. What a debt of gratitude we owe to each of them!" ■

Catholic Elementary Students Assisted by The Foundation and its Partners



Salute to **THE GAME** Event Roars to Record Net Continued from page 1

So many of us have learned how difficult it is to run an event in the temporary “virtual world” in which we find ourselves. But when you have friends at **WAVE 3 News** like General Manager **Ken Selvaggi** and host **John Ramsey**, you can’t get ‘em any better!

On September 22, the Foundation had the incredibly good fortune to host our 13th annual Salute to **THE GAME** fundraising event on “*Wave 3 Listens Live!*” for the full one-hour telecast seen by approximately 30,000 viewers across our community.

This unique event celebrates the nationally recognized rivalry and thrill of the annual Saint Xavier – Trinity high school football game and has become the largest fundraising event of its kind across the Commonwealth. And our 13th edition of this fun event did not disappoint!

This year’s event hit an all-time high net result of \$500,000, racing past last year’s previous mark of \$450,000. Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** remarked, “Who would ever dreamed 13 years ago that this event could provide so much hope for so many Catholic school families – and in the midst of a health pandemic to boot! The mission of the Catholic Education Foundation has never been more important and I thank God for this astounding result at a time when it’s most needed!”

Holding the event virtually for the first time wasn’t the only new twist in this year’s event. For the first time, the Foundation was supported by a **Lead Benefactor, Independence Bank of Louisville**, who donated \$40,000 to the success of the event.

The event included appearances by Independence Bank President **Louis Straub**, **Rich Lechleiter**, **Archbishop Kurtz**, Saint Xavier’s newly arrived President, **Paul Colistra**, and Trinity’s long-time President, **Dr. Rob Mullen**. In addition, Coach **Kevin Wallace** and senior offensive lineman **Tucker Greive** represented the Tigers, while Coach **Bob Beatty** and senior quarterback **Nathan McElroy** lead the way for the Shamrocks.

Since its inception, the event has raised over \$3.2 million in tuition assistance funds for families who can’t afford the full cost of a Catholic elementary education for their children.

Mr. Lechleiter spoke of the growing momentum behind Catholic education, “At the Foundation, we look forward with great excitement to providing even higher levels of financial support to our Catholic school families. And the rousing support that we gain at the annual Salute to **THE GAME** event speaks volumes about this community’s passion for the mission and the future of Catholic education!”

Archbishop Kurtz remarked, “To Ken Selvaggi, John Ramsey and our many friends at WAVE 3 News, we couldn’t have done it without you and we are so grateful for your enormous investment in the futures of so many students in need and their families. May God bless you all!”

Other major benefactors to this year’s Salute to **THE GAME** event, each of whom donated \$25,000 or more, were: **David and Cathy Durik**; the **D3 Foundation**; **The Glenview Trust Company**; **Sarah and John Lechleiter**; the **Daniel C. Ulmer Family**; **Tom and Rhonda Wimsett**; and the **Richard and Janice Lechleiter Family**. ■



Our first check presentation at halftime of the 2010 St. X/Trinity football game was \$78,000. What a run it has been!

2020 Salute to *THE GAME* Event



ABOVE: Host John Ramsey speaks with Saint Xavier Coach Kevin Wallace and offensive lineman Tucker Greive.

BELOW: Rich Lechleiter presents the \$10,525 check to "Split the Pot" winner Sharon Callahan.



Saint Xavier President Paul Colistra (left), Rich Lechleiter and Trinity President Dr. Rob Mullen (right).



Trinity quarterback Nathan McElroy shares his thoughts on the game.

John Ramsey discusses the big game with Trinity Coach Bob Beatty and quarterback Nathan McElroy.



Rich Lechleiter, Dwight Witten, Julie Baum and Tony Vanetti picked the Foundation's "Split The Pot" winner on 840 WHAS.



Archbishop Kurtz joins the show via zoom.



Rich Lechleiter (right) shares the story of the Foundation's partnership with Independence Bank and President Louis Straub.

Event photos courtesy of Julie Baum/CEF

Three Local Catholic Schools Win Coveted National Blue Ribbon Award

Award Winning Catholic Education is Available to Anyone Who Seeks It

The Archdiocese of Louisville recently gained significant recognition when three of its schools earned the National Blue Ribbon Award through a program administered by the U. S. Department of Education that recognizes the top public and private schools across the country. **St. Agnes School, St. Raphael The Archangel School, and St. Aloysius School** were each honored in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category as schools of excellence.

This prestigious award is granted to both public and private schools annually. In the private school category, only 50 schools were awarded the National Blue Ribbon in the Pre-K through high school category.

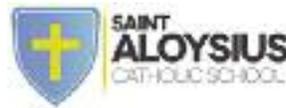
School Superintendent **Leisa Schulz** commented, "We are so blessed to have so many exemplary Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville! I am so proud of the administration, faculty, staff, students and families at each of these three schools who work together each day to earn this amazing honor!"

Archbishop Kurtz added, "When you consider that there are over 34,000 private schools nationwide, our archdiocesan schools have achieved unparalleled success over many years. In fact, of our 48 elementary and secondary schools in central Kentucky, nineteen of our schools have received this award. And when you consider the number of our schools that have earned this award on multiple occasions, our schools have been recognized by the Department of Education a total of 39 times. In a word, **fantastic!!**"

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** remarked, "Thanks to our many loyal donors and our funding partners, 229 students attending these three award-winning schools earned over \$400,000 in aggregate tuition assistance for this school year. Whenever you put together outstanding Catholic schools and the desire to embrace every family in need, everybody wins!" ■

"We are so blessed to have so many exemplary Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville!"

School Superintendent Leisa Schulz



Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary Continued from page 1

Indeed, it is great cause for celebration and thanksgiving!"

The Foundation provides awards in support of four elements of Catholic education: tuition assistance, religious education, professional development of instructors and technology in parishes and schools.

Foundation Chair **Charlie Dahlem** noted, "I'm really proud to be a part of this wonderful organization! It amazes me that the Foundation can keep up with the explosion in family demand for tuition assistance, particularly over the past several years. And to provide an award to every single qualifying student in each of the last six years is just unthinkable – **The Answer Truly is YES!!**"

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** remarked, "Our team here at the Foundation is so God-blessed to do this work and we have so many friends and benefactors to thank for these very gratifying results! In 1999, the first year of our tuition assistance program, we supported 220 young students. By God's Grace, this fall we are supporting an incredible 3,350 – an all-time record!"

Of the \$42 million of awards over its 25-year history, the Foundation has granted \$19 million during the past five years. Reflecting on the Foundation's recent prolific growth, Archbishop Kurtz said, "God provides hope when it's needed the most. How truly magnificent it is for all of us to see!" ■

The Answer Truly is YES!

More Families Choosing to Pay it Forward in Perpetuity

16 Endowments – and Growing – to Support Catholic School Families Forever!

In five short years, the Catholic Education Foundation has grown from the original founding endowment, The Endowment for Excellence, to 16 endowments - and growing! During that same period, the endowment has skyrocketed from \$15 million to over \$23 million. Each year, earnings from the endowment provide approximately \$1 million in tuition assistance to Catholic school families.

Foundation Director of Development **Kevin Woodward** remarked, “The momentum around this exciting growth is contagious – more and more families are recognizing the role that Catholic education played in their own lives and are choosing to pay it forward for generations to come!”

Most recently, **Jean Deye** created **The Deye Family Fund**, noting, “I believe that education is the best pathway to escape poverty and to provide hope for a young child. Catholic education is a gift that allows a young person to reach a potential they never thought possible and changes the trajectory of their lives forever. I’m so pleased to help the Catholic Education Foundation provide that opportunity to students for generations to come!”

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** noted, “Whether it is to memorialize a family member, honor a loved one, or simply recognize the benefits that a Catholic education has provided to one’s family, the common message that we hear from donors is the desire to pay it forward to those less fortunate. The permanent endowment is an awesome way to provide hope to families for the rest of their lives!”

If you or someone you know would like to “Pay it Forward” by participating in the Catholic Education Foundation’s permanent endowment program, contact **Kevin Woodward** at 502.585.2747 or kwoodward@ceflou.org. ■



Kevin S. Woodward, Director of Development for the Foundation

It's as Simple as 1,2,3! Giving to the Foundation has never been easier!

1. Donate to the General Fund by visiting our website www.ceflou.org and click on the donate tab or return the envelope provided in this newsletter.
2. To support the 31st Annual Salute to Catholic School Alumni dinner set for March 24, 2021, contact **Julie Baum** at jbaum@ceflou.org.
3. For information on stock gifts, planned giving, or bequests, contact **Kevin Woodward** at kwoodward@ceflou.org.

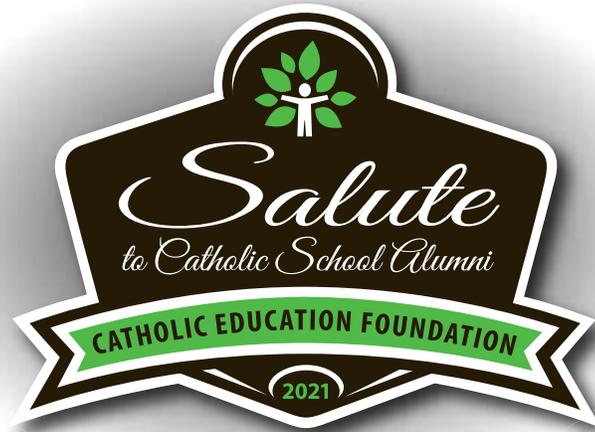


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31st Annual Salute to Catholic School Alumni Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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vitality of Catholic education.*