



Hope and Opportunity through Catholic Education

Day at the Races Best Ever!

This year, both of our 2017 Southern and Northern Day at the Races events were tremendous successes. With our Dominican Sisters leading the way, fun was had by all – including Sister Lawrence who bet 10 cents each on ten races at Santa Anita --- and on the final race won \$60!



This year, the two events combined netted nearly \$160,000 for Vision of Hope schools, \$20,000 more than last year's events. Tickets to Saturday Night Live built excitement in the South's silent auction, and online pre-bidding and increased underwriting boosted revenue

in the North. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the generous support given by our local committee members, who work to make each year better than the last.



Kids Helping Kids in Vision of Hope Schools

Every year students in the 22 elementary and high schools affiliated with the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose personally demonstrate the Dominican mission through Koins for Kids. Their efforts support Vision of Hope's Annual Fund.

Since Koins for Kids began in 1998, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies donated individually by students have totaled more than **\$669,000** -- averaging almost \$35,000 a year!

This year, students at St. Catherine Academy in



Anaheim were the top givers at \$3,000, followed closely by students at two Vision of Hope schools, St. Michael in Los Angeles at \$2,934 and St. Elizabeth in Oakland at \$2,500. It's all about kids helping kids.

Chrisete Marie Walker, 2nd grader, is pictured with the K4K door decorations at St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School in San Francisco. For every \$10 raised, a class received a Koins for Kids Penguin for their classroom door.

Celebrating a Faithful Friend and Board Member: Liz Montes



After almost 20 years of service on our Southern Advisory Board, Elizabeth Montes has decided it's time to step away.

Liz recalls learning of the 1995 unanimous vote by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose to stand behind schools at risk of closing and commit to their future. "This still gives me chills," she says.

Feeling compelled to become involved, Liz began helping Sister Johnnie, other Sisters in LA, and a core group of people to establish development offices and regional fundraising efforts for the eight Vision of Hope schools. She remembers being so inspired by the generosity of early major

donors that she became a leader in forming the advisory board and recruiting individuals to serve, especially at St. Ignatius, where she served as chair for many years. She also helped Sister Johnnie and principals with marketing materials — as editor of newsletters, annual reports and other campaign materials — to publicize this "incredible endeavor of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose."

The Sisters continue to inspire Liz with their vitality and vision. "It has been an honor to be a part of Vision of Hope and the ministry of the Dominican Sisters," Liz says, and "just being part of this Dominican family is all the thanks I need."

Liz continues to be a faithful friend to us all.

Bragging Writes

St. Ignatius of Loyola East Los Angeles

Broadway came to Highland Park on May 20-21, when St. Ignatius students performed the musical, "Annie" and fulfilled a dream of Mrs. Ileana Wade, Principal.

With the overwhelming support of parents and students, director Kathy Fitzpatrick assembled the cast and crew.

Ticket sales raised more than \$4,000 for the school's theater program, and a parent has pledged \$500 to assist with the cost of next year's musical.

The arts are alive and well at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish School! Stay tuned for the next production... coming May 2018!



St. Michael Elementary South Los Angeles



To help stimulate creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills in students (the very skills employers desire), St. Michael's is adding a Blended STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) pedagogy over the next five years.

During the 2016-2017 school year, Coding was added in first through eighth grades. Students enjoyed learning this new language while working in pairs to build websites and program tasks for computers.

Next fall students will participate in STEAM Project-Based Learning (PBL) Fridays where they will work in groups on such activities as building towers or rockets using limited resources. Recently, students participated in their first STEAM PBL Friday where they built towers using only uncooked spaghetti, marshmallows, and tape.

Junior High Science and Math teacher Mr. Medrano said, "STEAM PBL Fridays encourage a growth mindset. Small teams of students use the engineering design process to solve a problem. They ask a question, imagine a solution, make a plan, create the object, and then improve upon the process. Through this process they learn a lot about themselves and STEAM while also building valuable skills."

Principal Anabel Rodriguez said, "To introduce STEAM to our families, we held our first STEAM Visioning Night this month. Parent teams built marshmallow spaghetti towers like their children did. Parents are looking forward to participating in more STEAM Visioning meetings next year."



Santa Teresita East Los Angeles

Santa Teresita School has a beautiful hand-crafted mini mobile library thanks to Class of '70 alum Mrs. Monica Gallardo-Sandoval, Community Service Officer 1, Department of Public Safety, Health Sciences Campus, Keck Medical Center of USC.

Monica spearheaded the effort along with Char Ryan, Patient Experiences and Employee Engagement Officer, Keck Medicine of USC, and members of The Literacy Club, Jean Chadwick, Douglas Chadwick, and Christopher Pollard.

Children can take a book, read it, share it with friends, return it and take another. Because of the wonderful partnership with Keck Medical Center of USC, Santa Teresita students' thirst for knowledge and the world of imagination are continually nurtured. We are so grateful to Monica, our Keck Medical Center of USC partnership and the Literacy Club.



St. Elizabeth Elementary Oakland



For the last twenty-five years, St. Elizabeth has been the only elementary school in the Diocese of Oakland to offer a special needs program. Inspired by Mother Pia Backes, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Mission

San Jose, the St. Elizabeth Mother Pia Special Needs Program serves over 200 students. This year, we were fortunate enough to add modified classes for 5-8th graders.

"For years, these very important classes were only offered to the youngest students because of budget constraints. This was a great disservice for our older students," said Sister Julie Distel, Development Director. "Now, the specialized attention can extend beyond 4th grade. This is a major plus for our program."

Above, teacher Katie Ascencio works with a sixth grader in the program.

Donate now to our Annual Fund at www.visionofhope.org

Bragging Writes

St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception San Francisco

St. Agnes Parish in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district is teaming up with SAIC! This was demonstrated in April when the parish dedicated its Lenten almsgiving generating over \$3,200 to the school.



Building on that generosity, Natalie Terry, the parish Faith Formation Director, then hosted 16 eighth graders for a retreat. The day was spent in the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center, a sacred space next door to St. Agnes Church. Challenged by the theme, "Launch Us on the Adventure of Mercy," the students were invited to reflect upon the "two feet of love in Action" that are needed to further the Kingdom of God on earth — specifically Charitable Works and Social Justice. Exploring ways they might participate in this two-fold mission we have received as disciples of Jesus, the eighth graders heard a reflection from Natalie, participated in small group discussions, enjoyed personal quiet time and closed with a Communion Service they helped to prepare.

We are most grateful for this growing connection with St. Agnes.

Sacred Heart Elementary East Los Angeles



Sacred Heart Elementary School's technology program has really taken off in the last year with whiteboards and Apple TV academic resources in every classroom. We recently received a grant from the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Foundation which has allowed us to purchase iPads for an online learning station in our TK classroom and a subscription for Accelerated

Reader, an online reading program for grades K through 8th.

This month we were also notified that we've been accepted into the C3 Ignite program of the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese, which will further our call for our technology and online learning goals. The program includes over 100 iPads for our primary grades and professional development for our teachers in the blending of technology and online learning in curriculum.

The school also has over 75 Chromebooks and three charging carts in the upper grades and plans on adding additional devices by the end of the next school year.

St. Frances X. Cabrini South Los Angeles

The SFXC soccer team definitely has the fire in their hearts, speed at their feet, skills in maneuvers and execution, and the determination to get the "WIN" done.



On May 13, our team played in the annual soccer tournament sponsored by The Saint Sebastian Sports Project and hosted by St. Frances X. Cabrini on the beloved Sister Johnnie's Soccer Field, which was donated by Dorothy and John Shea.

Our students, Joshua Reyes (captain & goalie), Ramiro Avina, Salvador Cisneros, Fernando Castellanos, Juan Salse, Jonathan Buezo, Salvador Clemente, Jose Gallegos, Alan Martinez, Edward Mendizabal, Carlos Sanchez, Javier Estrada, Jacob Argueta and Eduardo Garcia rose to victory and took the championship playing against seven other teams in the tournament.

They also played for CYO and won the Conference as well. These hardworking and dedicated young men exemplify the meaning of what it means to be a well-rounded SFXC student.

St. James San Francisco

Each spring, the St. James campus is transformed into a marine study lab! The school participates in Marine Activities and Resource Education (MARE), a program of the Lawrence Hall of Science that seeks to increase ocean literacy.



Students in each grade are immersed in all things to do with our ocean and waterways. For example, kindergarteners studied pond life to learn what grows there and how they interact in the pond environment. Every year as a culminating activity, students make their own MARE t-shirt, using paint and stamps of ocean animals.

We celebrate what our students learn with a MARE festival, when families are invited to school and participate in a school-wide scavenger hunt.

Your dollars create hope and opportunity through Catholic education.



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Sister Johnnie Honored With Mother Pia Backes Award

Sacred Heart High School in Los Angeles rolled out the red carpet at the Biltmore Hotel for its 3rd Annual Gala on Saturday, April 29. This event was also special for Vision of Hope as our very own Sister Johnnie was one of four honorees to receive the 2017 Mother Pia Backes Award.

There to celebrate with Sister Johnnie were eleven members of her Fixa family, along with Vision of Hope friends, Board Members, Principals and Development Directors.

Sister Julie Distel, introduced Sister Johnnie with a moving quote by Harriet Tubman: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Sister Julie continued, "Tonight we honor one of Mother



Pia's daughters who has made dreams come true for many through her love for the Lord and his children." Sister Johnnie received this award in recognition of the Dominican Sisters' foundress, Mother Pia, who Sister Johnnie described as an "unstoppable woman who forged ahead in establishing Catholic schools where she saw both need and

promise, and she did this with love."

Sister Johnnie recalled the 1995 historic and unanimous vote of 200 Dominican Sisters to provide

a life line to eight of their inner city schools and lay the foundation for what became Vision of Hope.

Sister Johnnie shared this award with all of her Dominican Sisters, who together have been an unstoppable force when it comes to Catholic education.

We thank Sacred Heart High School and congratulate Sister Johnnie for her faith-filled leadership, dedication, visionary spirit and loving heart.



Sister Johnnie with Vision of Hope Advisory Board members, Cathy Molloy, left, and Angela Stanfel.

Our **2017 Annual Fund Campaign** seeks to raise \$1 million for tuition assistance and program support.

To date we have received gifts/pledges totaling \$800,000. We must raise \$200,000 by July 31st to reach our goal. Open pathways to opportunity for our students by donating today at www.visionofhope.org.