



Dominican Sisters  
VISION OF **HOPE**



Love  
Hope  
Family.





Dominican Sisters  
VISION OF **HOPE**

# We Love Our Vision of Hope Family.

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope  
2024 Annual Report to our Friends





Dear Vision of Hope Family!

**Every family begins with a vision!** What began with Mother Pia Backes and the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose has grown to include our schools, students, teachers, families, friends, donors, foundations, and academia. Each member of our family, whether immediate or extended, plays a critical role in the vitality and continued success of our Vision of Hope schools.

Nearly 30 years ago, in 1995, the Dominican Sisters founded Vision of Hope to ensure the quality, affordability, and sustainability of eight of their most underserved schools. We've come a long way since then. Thanks to our Vision of Hope donors, foundations, and friends, we are able to provide an average of \$150,000 annually to each of our schools. They also receive curricular support for their teachers and administrators, and programs are provided for parents and the school community that empower them to build a foundation for their child's personal, spiritual, and academic success.

As a member of our Vision of Hope family, YOU are helping us to keep the dreams of our founding Sisters alive by not only keeping the doors of our schools open but also positioning these schools and the children they serve for success. The 2023-2024 school year has been a pivotal period of growth and reflection for the Vision of Hope schools. Through the continued support of donors, foundations, and the iDEAL Institute at Loyola Marymount University, our schools have made significant strides in growing their enrollment and programs, and in implementing and enhancing their pedagogical practices. We are eager to see the continued progress of our schools in the coming academic year, and we are working harder than ever to grow our organization and the support that we provide to our schools, students, and families.

Thanks to your generosity our schools are thriving, thus ensuring a vibrant future for the communities they serve. I am confident that with you as a part of our Vision of Hope family, our schools will continue to succeed because we are well-positioned for a bright future.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Nicole Johnson  
Executive Director

# Family. Friend-raising



Sister Laurence Marie Diaz, O.P., Antonio Felix, Ed.D., Sister Maria Elena Gutierrez, O.P. and Sister Maria Reina Perea, O.P. at the Jonathan Club, Los Angeles.

The word *family* has special meaning when we gather at Vision of Hope events. We gather as a community, a family of friends, old and new, in learning and laughter. But more importantly, we are a family in kinship, supporting Vision of Hope in ensuring children have access to a quality, affordable Catholic education regardless of their economic circumstances. This is the legacy of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose.

In November, we held our Giving Matters Fall Luncheon at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Antonio Felix from Loyola Marymount University School of Education, encouraged us to be “spiritual giants” by honoring those that served us in life and carrying it forward by serving others. Over \$96,000 was raised with more than 150 people in attendance.

Reflecting on the event, Vision of Hope friends, Laurie and Jeff Smith remarked, “We always enjoy the annual luncheon as it showcases the impact Vision of Hope has in giving students a solid academic and faith-based education. It’s heart-warming to meet enthusiastic students who show their appreciation for what Vision of Hope provides. They make us proud to support Catholic education and ensure their bright future.”



**Los Angeles Advisory Board**  
2023 Fall gathering at the  
Bacall residence

## Interested in joining the Los Angeles or Bay Area Advisory Board?

Advisory Board members are a group of hands-on volunteers who work directly with our staff to support Vision of Hope and its mission.

Member participation includes:

- Attending 2 to 3 meetings throughout the year to discuss fundraising
- Sharing ideas for growing our Vision of Hope Family
- Strategizing the best ways to further support our schools and students
- Attending events and introducing new friends to Vision of Hope
- Getting to know our principals and schools on a more personal level
- Gathering socially at least once per year—just for fun!

For further information please contact:

Shannon McDonald, Annual Fund Director, [smcdonald@msjdominicans.org](mailto:smcdonald@msjdominicans.org)



**Bay Area Advisory Board**  
2023 Fall gathering at the  
Bliss-Olson residence



A "photo finish" at the final Day at the Races, May 18, 2024, at Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley, California.

<b>Day at the Races</b>	<b>Since 2008</b>	<b>\$1,368,208.59</b> total raised	<b>3,571</b> in attendance
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In May we gathered at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley for our final Day at the Races event before the racetrack closed its doors in June. It was a wonderful send-off, filled with merriment and camaraderie.

Since its inception in 2008, 3,571 people have attended Day at the Races in the North at Golden Gate Fields and in the South at Santa Anita Park. In total, including our auctions and online auctions, we raised a grand total of \$1,368,208.59 in net proceeds for our eight Vision of Hope schools. We are grateful for our Vision of Hope family and each member's integral part in supporting our Vision of Hope schools and students, ensuring a vibrant future for them and the communities they serve.



**Lori & Patrick Imburgia**

"We were glad that we attended *Day at the Races*– it was a wonderful event! All three of our children attended Catholic schools and we realize how important Vision of Hope is for the future of those in need."



We're already working on an exciting Bay Area event for 2025 so please **STAY TUNED!**

# Family. Legacy



**Mike Heffernan** had been connected with the Dominican Sisters for years when Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P., “...came to me with her dream about what she wanted to do for the inner-city schools.” He believed in her and the mission, eventually serving for years as Vision of Hope’s first Chair of the Board of Directors until his departure in 2016.

Mike has always felt that the Dominican Sisters care about the students and how the schools are run and operate, which translates into a better experience for the children. Considering the challenges of our schools, Mike remarks, “I would say that a lot of the inner-city Catholic schools have had a hard time surviving, and a lot of those children don’t have options. Vision of Hope provides them with an option that will give them a better chance of getting out, moving on, going to high school, and going to college. Those students who make it to college will hopefully have a better life and be more supportive of society overall.”

“Sister Johnnie had a pretty big goal that many people, I think, were saying was going to be hard to do. But I believed in her and the mission and joined up.”

**Mike Heffernan**

Mike continues to support and give to Vision of Hope, knowing that some schools need more help than others and that a quality Catholic education should be cherished. He not only regularly participates in our fundraisers and events, but he takes our slogan “bring a friend” to heart. Last spring, Mike went above and beyond, bringing enough friends to fill two tables at our final Day at the Races event. This fall, he has generously offered Vision of Hope to use his elegant boat, the *Nokomis*, for a Bay Area cruise and gathering. We are grateful to have such an active and valued Vision of Hope family member.

Mike continues to support and give to Vision of Hope, knowing that some schools need more help than others and that a quality Catholic education should be cherished. He not only regularly participates in our



“Knowing we can make a difference after we’re gone can be powerful.”

**Mary Canobbio Colias**  
Vision of Hope Legacy Circle Member

**Mary Canobbio Colias** was raised by a single parent in the Cypress Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. While there were many struggles, her mother, Mercedes, was a woman sustained by her Catholic faith and passed that down to her children. Mary attended Divine Savior Elementary School, and because of the respect and reputation of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Mary chose to go to Sacred Heart of Jesus High School. Mary recalls that helping the vulnerable was a value the Sisters taught. “Even if we felt we had little, there is always someone who has less...and it’s our job as young women to help them.”

Mary’s relationship with the Dominican Sisters deepened after several classmates with whom she developed meaningful friendships entered the convent. When asked to join Vision of Hope’s Southern California Advisory Board in 1997, Mary remarked, “It was a no-brainer...as I often tell them, they have my soul.” In these early days, Mary worked alongside Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P., Vision of Hope’s Director Emerita. Mary recalls, “Sister Johnnie made me feel that I was making a difference.”

Mary has been making a tremendous difference at Vision of Hope for nearly three decades. She and her late husband, Dr. John Colias, committed to the Legacy Circle to ensure their support continues. According to Mary, “It’s such a personal decision, but those who have been a part of the Vision of Hope family have seen the impact we’ve made to preserve Catholic Education in our inner city schools and communities. It’s a reminder of what a legacy gift will do and how the Dominican Sisters’ vision will continue. Knowing we can make a difference after we’re gone can be powerful.”

## VISION OF HOPE LEGACY CIRCLE 2023-24

In honor of those who have included Vision of Hope in their estate plans through a charitable bequest, charitable trust, or other means.

Elizabeth Beaudine  
Betsy Bliss  
Dr. John Colias † and Mary Canobbio Colias  
Marilyn Charm  
Eric Choi  
Toni and Mike Gillespie  
Lori Hawkins  
Ann Hirsch  
Loretta Holstein  
Holy Family Scholarship  
The Reverend Stephen Howell  
George Jackson  
Kay and Will Lindsay  
Helene Mahboub  
Bill and Stacia Masterson  
Sister Jolene Schmitz  
Laurie and Jeff Smith  
Angela Stanfel  
Katie and Todd Traina  
Jill Wondries  
Jennie Yanez

# Family. Our Schools

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

### St. Frances X. Cabrini



TK students started the CAPIT (Concept And Personality Integration Technique) program that ensures students learn to read by employing Visual Mnemonics that bring personality to otherwise abstract concepts. CAPIT strives for TK students to hit 80% of their Grade Level Goal, but our TK students surpassed that at 91% within three months of application.

Our Soccer Team won the 2023-2024 SSPP (St. Sebastian's Sports Project) Soccer Cup Tournament, May 11th, 2024 at Sr. Johnnie's Soccer Field, St. Frances X. Cabrini School!

Our students participated in *Read Across America Spirit Week*. They picked a favorite book for "D.E.A.R." time: Drop Everything And Read!

### St. Ignatius of Loyola



Our Lady Falcons girls varsity soccer team won first place at the St. Sebastian's Sports Project soccer tournament!

Rythym Basurto '2024 received the San Miguel Scholarship from La Salle College Preparatory High School granting her a full four-year scholarship.

Our school hosted a color run in the spring and raised an amazing \$31,000!

In June, we graduated 12 8th graders. Out of this group, 11 out of 12 are now attending Catholic high schools.

We are planning coding and robotics education that will be implemented for all students starting this 2024-2025 school year.

### St. Michael's



We're proud to report that our 8th grade class has worked hard and performed exceptionally well! 81% of the students will be attending a Catholic high school.

We have two stellar Onwards Scholar recipients: Jordan Glenn '2024 is attending Cathedral High School and Hailey Cerritos '2024 is attending St. Mary's Academy.

Khloe Amezcua '2024 was awarded a full scholarship to Junipero Serra High School.

Our new website is launched: <https://stmichaelguardians.org> Please visit our News section for the latest information at St. Michael's. Our Parents section offers a calendar and useful links to forms and our Parent/Student Handbook.

### Sacred Heart



In the spring of 2024, our school was granted a full six year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Some goals that we will be focusing on include: designing and implementation of systems that properly measure student academic growth, and the mastery of Student Learning Expectations.

In April, the school hosted its first annual golf tournament at the California Country Club. The event was a huge success with over 120 golfers!

Over the summer, six students participated in TACSC (The Association of Catholic Student Councils), where they were empowered to further develop critical leadership skills.

## BAY AREA SCHOOLS

### Santa Teresita



This June, we celebrated the graduation of eight amazing students from Santa Teresita School. Among the schools they will be attending are Salesian High School, Sacred Heart High School, and Cathedral High School.

A new reading curriculum was implemented through the Solidarity Schools Initiative. By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, 86% of our kindergarten students are now reading at grade level. 29% of all students are now reading at or above grade level (in comparison to 14% at the start of the year.)

Our school community came together for events such as the Religion Bee, Spelling Bee, and Science Fair.

### St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception (SAIC)



We're pleased to report that 8th grade Catholic high school acceptance percentage increased sharply from 30-32% in 2022-2023 to 53% acceptance in 2023-2024!

"Back to School BBQ" was so successful at the 2023-2024 school year start that it inspired an event with an even greater turnout of families in 2024-2025.

SAIC Book Fair throughout Catholic Schools Week was a huge success. There was a wonderful selection of books and super sales!

STEM Night! All classrooms hosted super hands-on, fun, and interactive science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities.

### St. Elizabeth



St. Elizabeth saw an 80% increase in the number of students testing at or above grade level in math from the beginning of the year to the end-of-year T-3 Assessment. We also reduced the number of students in urgent intervention by 54%.

St. Elizabeth is making great strides in closing the achievement gap in reading. We have moved 25% of their students out of urgent intervention and helped 22% reach or surpass the reading benchmark, totaling a 38% improvement.

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast welcomed families to a newly remodeled school renovated over the summer thanks to the generous support of the Shea Family Charities.

### St. James



Our middle school science teacher arranged for the entire school to participate in a rare event—the Solar Eclipse! Students documented their observations and enjoyed fun eclipse-themed activities.

St. James Choir attended the annual SF Archdiocese Choir festival where they performed alongside other choirs from the diocese and received feedback.

St. James' Middle School Girls (6th–8th) participated in the Mercy Burlingame HS science fair. Our 8th graders were awarded first place!

Over the summer, Shea Family Charities completed needed school renovations and improvements in preparation for our upcoming centennial!

# Family. Our Partners



Students spend quality time with their teacher during a Blended Learning “Station Rotation” session.



“My mom graduated from St. Frances X. Cabrini. My aunt and my uncle—that was their school. I’ve always been invested in Catholic education. That’s why I do what I do. It’s why we started the institute.”

**Dr. Shannon N. Tabaldo**

Founding Director of the iDEAL Institute  
Loyola Marymount University

## Blended Learning Shines in Our Schools

Since the Fall of 2021, seven out of eight Vision of Hope Schools have benefitted from a partnership with Loyola Marymount University’s iDEAL (Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership) Institute’s blended learning initiative.

The blended learning model allows students to learn at their own pace and level through small group instruction. This approach includes individual and collaborative practice and using adaptive and assignable software. This program allows teachers to obtain immediate data on student learning and differentiate the learning to maximize student success. A “station rotation” method rapidly exposes students to multiple subjects and offers quality time with their teachers. iDEAL Institute’s Founder, Dr. Shannon N. Tabaldo, explains, “Blended learning isn’t magic. It’s just the way we operate. Imagine a river. Teaching is like a river, and we’re kind of like the banks of the river. It gives us the structure, the tools, and whatever else we need so that we know how to get there. It’s really up to the teacher and the individual group of students. We’re just providing the framework for meeting the needs of all of our children using the curriculum, technology, and data that we now have access to. In my opinion, these are the best instructional practices we can have in these spaces. It’s great to meet the needs of every scholar.”

The 2023-2024 school year demonstrated significant engagement and progress across all VOH cohorts. Principals and teacher leaders benefited from professional development opportunities through various workshops, coaching sessions, and meetings that foster collaboration and leadership in blended learning implementation. Teachers across the board encourage blended learning, reporting high satisfaction and positive impacts on their instructional practices. Cynthia Caputo, Vice Principal at St. James and teacher leader, states, “I think the major benefit of blended learning is that a teacher has more student awareness. I see where each student is at their level.”

Vision of Hope’s partnership with iDEAL is promising. Our priority is strengthening parent engagement and further integrating blended learning across all grade levels and subjects, moving towards a more innovative future for our students and their families.

# Summertime Brings Welcome Gifts From Shea Family Charities

For years, Shea Family Charities has been a champion of Catholic education, specifically coming to the aid of marginalized schools in need. This summer was no exception as two Vision of Hope Bay Area schools, St. James and St. Elizabeth, were fortunate to receive significant improvements and renovations at no cost. This tremendous generosity is matched only by the heartfelt gratitude of our Vision of Hope family.



“The recent renovation by Shea Family Charities has brought new life into our historic campus just in time for our centennial year. We are deeply grateful for making this milestone year even more memorable.”

**Principal Alex Endo**  
St. James School



“More than just physical changes, these renovations signify a rejuvenation of our commitment to excellence. These upgrades mark a new beginning, bringing enhanced facilities and opportunities that will enrich the educational experience for our students and community.”

**Principal Michelle Escobar**  
St. Elizabeth Elementary School

## St. James School Improvements

- Classroom rugs
- Classroom lights
- Upgraded stairs
- Electrical work

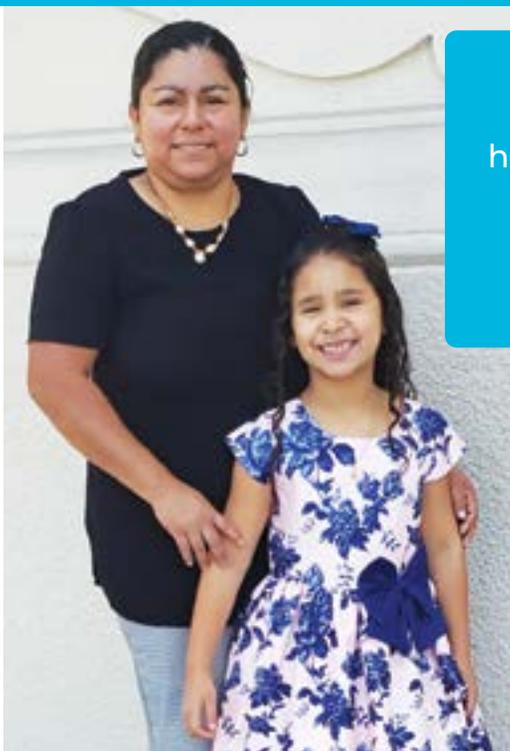


## St. Elizabeth Elementary School Improvements

- Asbestos removal
- New windows
- Security system
- Iron gates around the school
- Fresh paint on the exterior
- Landscaping
- New floors
- New closets & cabinets
- Remodeled bathrooms
- Re-paved playground
- New playground structure



# Family. Parents in Action



Yesenia Amaya de Cabrera and daughter

“I encourage parents to take advantage of these free courses that help you better equip yourself with tools that will, in the end, benefit your daughter or son.”

**Yesenia Amaya**  
Parent at St. Elizabeth

Yesenia Amaya de Cabrera, her husband Mario Cabrera, and two children fled their home in El Salvador because they didn't feel safe. Eventually, they settled in the Bay Area, where her son Luis enrolled in Cristo Rey de La Salle East Bay High School. Her daughter, Maria José, a rising fifth grader, attends St. Elizabeth Elementary, a Vision of Hope school.

Yesenia became interested in Vision of Hope's Parents in Action Program (PiA) when she attended a Dominican Sisters-led Faith Formation workshop that she enjoyed. She followed this with a free computer skills class (provided by PiA) that she found especially beneficial because of the many useful topics and techniques she now applies to her day-to-day life. The class helped her connect with other parents. She even discovered that one of her classmate's daughters was friends with her daughter, so they collaborate and chat often. For completing the course, Yesenia earned a free laptop which she shares with her daughter at home. When asked who has the stronger computer knowledge, she confesses and smiles, “Nowadays kids are so advanced with technology that, for now, her daughter helps her.”

Yesenia grew up Catholic and values Catholic education. She feels Catholic education seems more personalized and that each student is monitored closely and supported throughout their academic journey. In addition, Yesenia specifically likes that on top of required math and English classes, a religious supplement is added to their education so they're well-rounded people. When asked what tuition assistance means to Yesenia, she promptly replies, “Thank you. Thank you very much for the support that Vision of Hope brings.”

## English Second Language (ESL) Workshops



## Southern California Catholic High School Fairs



## Parent Village Leadership Workshops



## Parent Leadership Institute





Although a robust tuition assistance program is the priority of Vision of Hope's mission, student success would not be possible without the partnership of parents and caregivers whose selfless devotion drives them to work multiple jobs, make ongoing sacrifices, and still find the time to better themselves by committing to the workshops and learning opportunities offered through the Parents in Action (PiA) Program.

This year, our Parents in Action Program continued offering free English as a Second Language, digital skills classes, and incorporated a leadership workshop called Parent Village to foster a local network of leaders who collaborate with the principal to promote community, forge collective identity, and inspire change for a better future. We also successfully hosted some major events: two Catholic high school fairs in the fall which welcomed over 155 families and 18 Catholic high schools, and this spring we hosted a Financial Literacy Conference with USC Credit Union at which 167 participants learned about budgeting, money management, and putting together a wealth building roadmap through a vision board activity.

Led by Jacquie Hernandez, the Parents in Action (PiA) Program in the Bay Area has seen significant improvement by hosting a series of digital skills workshops in partnership with Compudopt and faith formation activities hosted by a team of six Dominican Sisters. These initiatives have allowed Vision of Hope to connect with each school community while fostering meaningful and authentic relationships with families. Strategic efforts are raising awareness of the PiA Program's offerings and have gradually earned the trust of the communities and increased parent engagement. By bringing opportunities for professional development where parents feel valued, heard, and included, we have observed a positive shift in the overall school experience.

**USC Financial Literacy Conference**



**Digital Skills Workshops**



**Sister Rose Marie Hennessy, O.P.**

“Our Faith is such a great gift! I hope parents recognize their importance in the Faith lives of their children. We need to pass on its meaning and living to the next generation!”

**RESPONDENTS STRONGLY AGREED...**



\* Vision of Hope Parents in Action Program Year Three Evaluation Summary, prepared by Public Profit, April 2024.

# Family. Giving Back



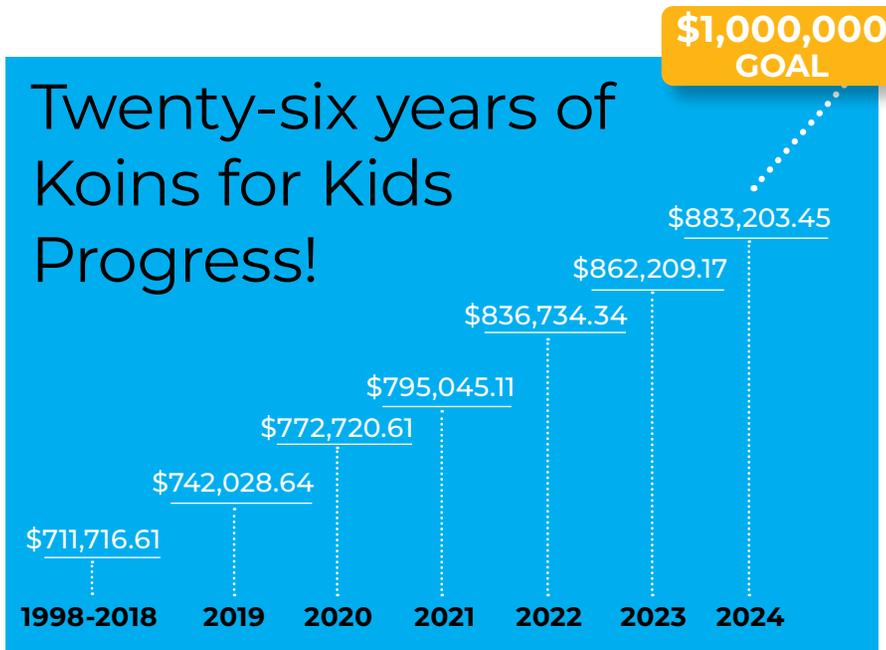
St. Catherine's Academy students show off their number one winning Koins for Kids class tallies totalling an astounding \$2,871!

## Koins for Kids Leads by Example

From the very beginning, Koins for Kids was more than a fundraiser. It was intended to instill in our students a sense of giving back, of helping others who are less fortunate. For the past twenty-six years, that has been the two-fold purpose of Koins for Kids. Koins for Kids is both a fundraiser and a teaching moment. Although schools throughout the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose ministry participate, all the funds raised are allocated to Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope schools.

This year's theme was "Kids Helping Kids, Coin by Coin." With enthusiasm and dedication, our students reached out to friends, family, and their local communities, raising \$20,994.28! St. Catherine Academy led the pack with \$2,871, followed by Sacred Heart School bringing in \$2,400, and St. Edward School with \$2,075. Some classrooms were inspired by the much-sought-after "Pia Penguin," while others rallied around pizza parties and bragging writes. To date, Koins for Kids has raised a phenomenal \$883,203.45! The question is, "Who will collect the coin that brings us to \$1,000,000?"

## Twenty-six years of Koins for Kids Progress!



Over the years, Koins for Kids has truly provided "teaching moments." I am continually moved by the stories I hear of the lengths students go to for Koins for Kids, often giving their small savings. They definitely have grasped the message of giving back.

**Sister Karen Elizabeth Zavitz, O.P.**

## Shared Values Bring a Tradition of Support

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope receives support from various foundations and institutions whose missions of helping the vulnerable and investing in quality Catholic education align with our own. Below is a list of just some of the grants awarded during our fiscal year of August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024.



### **Specialty Family Foundation**

LA Schools: Blended Learning and Programming

[Funder since 2013](#)

### **The Green Foundation, Pasadena**

LA Schools: Blended Learning and Programming

[Funder since 2009](#)

### **Hilton Foundation**

LA Schools: Parents in Action (PiA) Program

[Funder since 2020](#)

### **Fred and June McMurray Foundation**

LA and Bay Area Schools: Tuition assistance

[Funder since 2020](#)

### **Robert Stewart Odell and Helen Pfeiffer Odell Fund**

Bay Area Schools: Tuition Assistance

[Funder since 1998](#)

### **Irene S. Scully Fund of the Marin Community Foundation**

**Irene S. Scully Foundation**

Vision of Hope operations

Bay Area Schools: Blended Learning and PiA Program

[Funder since 2003](#)



**Dan Estes**

**Specialty Family Foundation**

“Specialty Family Foundation is both proud to support and be part of the Vision of Hope Family. Specialty’s mission is to alleviate the conditions that lead to persistent poverty.

Vision of Hope’s dedication and commitment to providing a quality and affordable Catholic education to families in our underserved communities means the families they serve will have a chance to end the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

For that we are grateful. Thank you Vision of Hope!”

# Memorial Scholarships

## Carlson Family Scholarship

*This scholarship was established by the Carlson family and serves African American families who desire a Catholic education for their children but need financial assistance. This scholarship is restricted to our five Los Angeles schools.*

### Recipients

Williams Family  
*St. Frances X. Cabrini School*

Pickering/Jackson Family  
*St. Michael's School*

Johnson/Russell Family  
*St. Ignatius of Loyola School*

Reed Family  
*Sacred Heart School*

### Donors

Teresa and Brian Carlson  
David Hernandez  
Renee Hill  
Anne and Clay Hoffman

## Christian Parenting Scholarship

### In Memory of George and Evelyn Smith

*Each year a \$2,000 award is given to two families at Santa Teresita School and two families at St. Ignatius of Loyola School. It honors parents who raise their children with Catholic values and work hard to be good parents living out their Catholic faith in their home and in their community.*

### Recipients

Casilla Family  
Gonzalez Family  
*Santa Teresita School*

Aguilar Family  
Moscoso Family  
*St. Ignatius of Loyola School*

### Donors

Joan and Eugene Bock  
Claire and Patrick Bonacci  
Josephine Dahlstrom  
Nancy Javore

## Holy Family Scholarship

*A scholarship(s) restricted to St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School is awarded to a student(s) who demonstrates character and perseverance.*

### Recipients

Rosales Family  
Martinez Family

### Donors

Carol and Bob Ellingson  
Nina Gaetos-Estrada  
Reverend Stephen Howell  
Caroline Stiggins  
Jan and John Stiggins

## Julia Sierra Memorial Scholarship

*In memory of Julia Sierra, whose sons both attended St. Anthony's School, this scholarship is awarded at St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School to a student(s) of an immigrant single parent, as Julia Sierra was, and exemplifies great need.*

### Recipients

Alai Coello  
Danna Esquivel  
Mia Navarette  
Jimmy Najaera  
Scarlett Toledo

### Donors

Maria Dolores Chapa Clark  
Jorge Sierra and Frederick G. Miller



## Kathleen E. Fixa Memorial Scholarship

*The Kathleen E. Fixa Scholarship was established in tribute to "Mom Fixa's" unyielding generosity and stalwart commitment to Catholic education. Two families at each school in the Bay Area are awarded \$3,000 in tuition assistance for extraordinary service to the school.*

### Recipients

Lucia Henriquez and Peter Harp  
Luis and Lorena Alfaro Padilla  
*St. James School*

Alicia Loza  
Gabriela Flores and Jose Sanchez  
*St. Elizabeth Elementary School*

Melissa and John Lamming  
Maria Toruno and Camilo Puente  
*St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School*

### Donors

Noreen Divito  
John and Mary Hanlon  
Kay and Will Lindsay  
Julie Lyons  
Francis Neves  
Dorothy Partridge  
Ammie Rosenberg  
Patricia Stachowiak

## Levy-Smith Family Scholarship

*Established by Laurie and Jeff Smith, this scholarship was established in memory of Laurie Smith's mother and supports new students in grades K-2 at Santa Teresita School and St. Michael's School whose families might not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education. Each recipient receives \$3,000 annually for two years.*

### Recipients

Itzia Murillo  
Banksy Arazo  
*Santa Teresita School*

Alexandra Garcia  
Karla Garcia  
*St. Michael's School*

### Donors

Laurie and Jeff Smith  
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

## Robert M. Holstein Jr. Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,700 scholarship is awarded in the fall to three eighth grade students from each of the eight Vision of Hope schools who carry on Bob's legacy of being "a person for others."

### Recipients

Rickelle Estrada  
Linardo Lumbi  
Natalia Guzman  
*Sacred Heart Elementary School*

Alejandra Covarrubias  
Alison Gomez  
Hazel Medrano  
*Santa Teresita School*

Tristan Higuera  
Sarai Espinoza  
Jayleen Chavez  
*St. Elizabeth Elementary School*

Abigail Landaverde  
Benjamin Argueta  
Mauro Tejada  
*St. Frances X.Cabrini School*

Allan Silva  
Jacob Amayo  
Isaac Frias  
*St. James School*

Samuel Malave  
Rythym Basurto  
Max Flores  
*St. Ignatius of Loyola School*

Maya Ugalde  
Hailey Cerritos  
Yanely Lopez  
*St. Michael's School*

Daniel Hernandez  
Andrea Alvarez  
Alejandra Jacobo  
*St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School*

### Donors

Mary Catton Newman  
Jay Navarro  
Joanne and Robert Smith III

## McKenna Family Memorial Scholarship

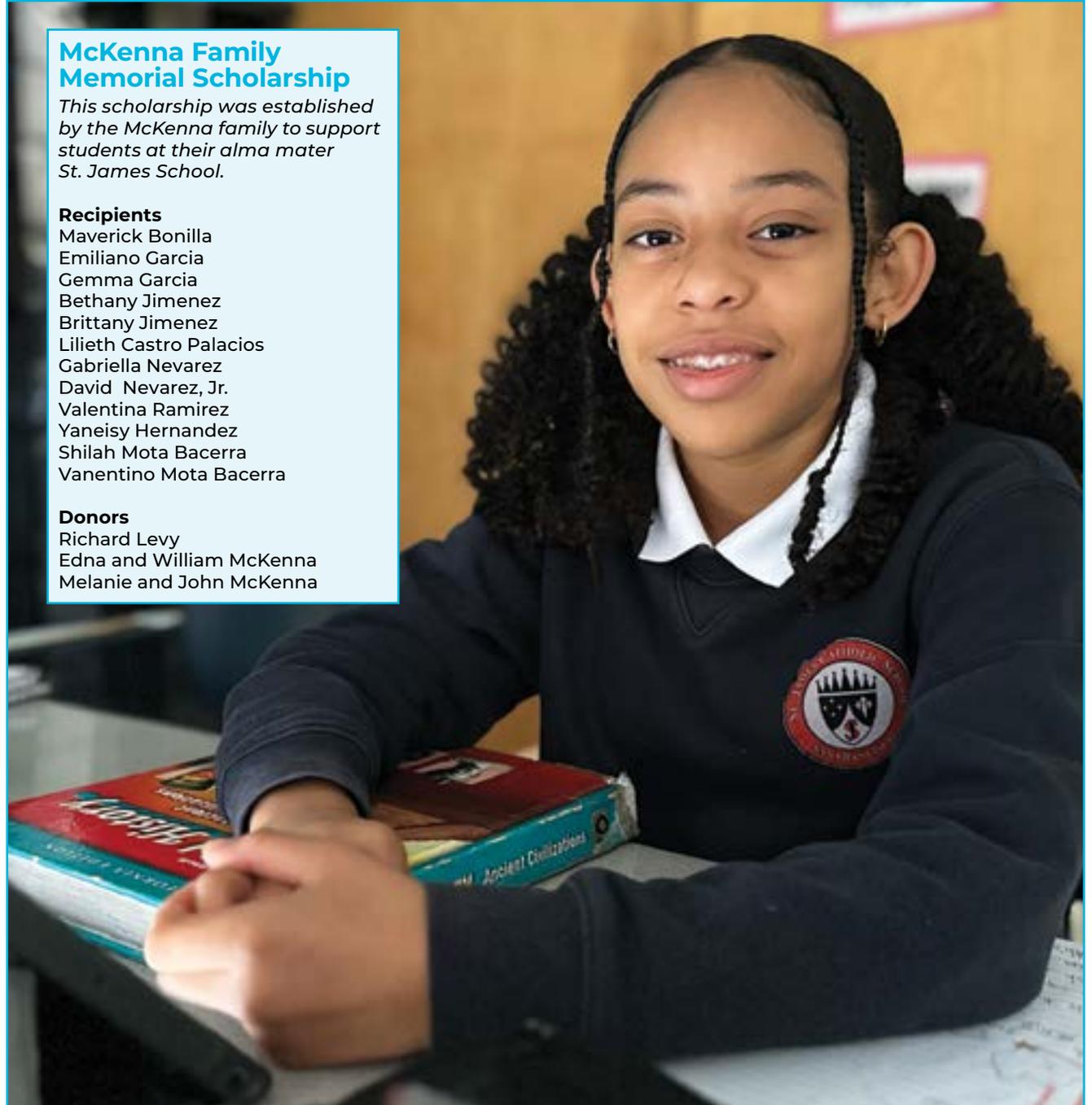
This scholarship was established by the McKenna family to support students at their alma mater St. James School.

### Recipients

Maverick Bonilla  
Emiliano Garcia  
Gemma Garcia  
Bethany Jimenez  
Brittany Jimenez  
Lilieth Castro Palacios  
Gabriella Nevarez  
David Nevarez, Jr.  
Valentina Ramirez  
Yaneisy Hernandez  
Shilah Mota Bacerra  
Vanentino Mota Bacerra

### Donors

Richard Levy  
Edna and William McKenna  
Melanie and John McKenna



## Sister Renilde Cade Memorial Scholarship

The Sister Renilde Cade Memorial Scholarship was established to honor Sister Renilde's compassion, trust, and courage. Each spring six incoming eighth grade students are chosen to receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

### Recipients

Olivia Delgado  
Sacred Heart  
Elementary School

Abigail Martinez  
St. Anthony-Immaculate  
Conception School

Mia Hernandez  
St. Elizabeth School

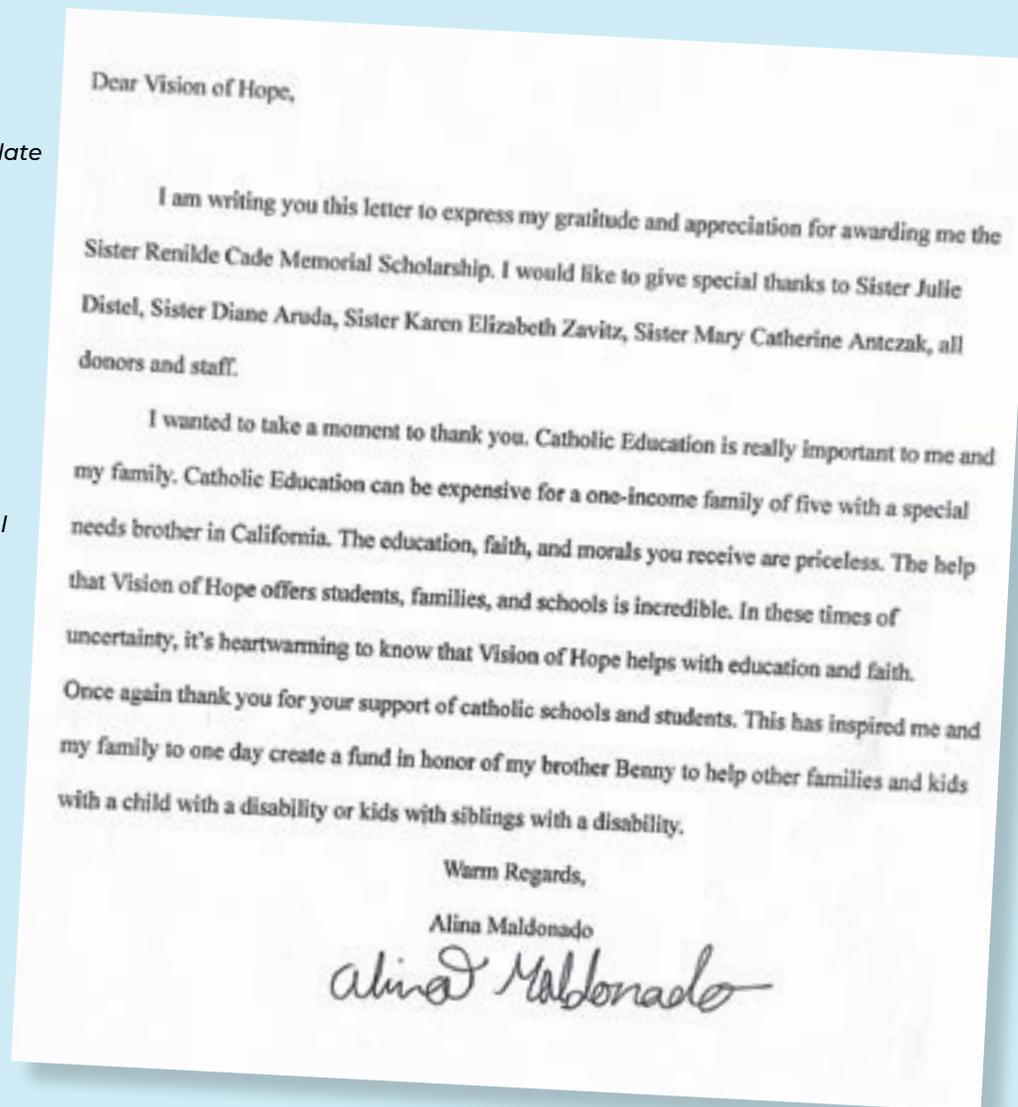
Alina Maldonado  
St. Ignatius of  
Loyola School

Sebastian Avila  
St. Michael's School

Jahen Ruelas  
Santa Teresita School

### Donors

Frances and Bob  
Bridenbecker



## Sister John Martin Fixa Memorial Scholarship

This year, one student at each of the eight schools received a \$1,875 scholarship. The students exemplify Sister John Martin's extraordinary kindness, humility, dedication, joy, and commitment to academic excellence.

### Recipients

Samantha Garcia  
St. Elizabeth Elementary School  
Cyprian Lamming  
St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School  
Gemma Reyes  
St. James School  
Reynaldo Reyes  
St. Michael's School  
Camille Sanchez Sloan  
St. Ignatius of Loyola School  
Jesus Osorio-Munoz  
Santa Teresita School  
Jayden Martinez  
St. Frances X. Cabrini School  
Athena Stringfield  
Sacred Heart Elementary School

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Kay and Will Lindsay  
Marie Lundahl  
Julie Lyons  
Socorro McGowan  
Bob Mumper and Beckey Rosenberg  
Francis Neves  
Patrick J. O'Neill  
Arleen T. Osuna  
Sandra Quilici-Oltranti  
Ammie Rosenberg  
Petronella Selders  
Ann and James Shea  
Patricia Stachowiak  
Angela Stanfel  
Ann and Ronald Wong



Sisters Mary Dominic Engelhard, Mary Thomas Lillis, and Renilde Cade.

### **Veritas Scholarship** **Sister Mary Dominic and Sister Mary Thomas**

*Through this tribute, two incoming eighth grade students receive a \$3,000 scholarship award for Courageous and Compassionate Leadership, a hallmark of the two outstanding congregational leaders.*

#### **Recipients**

Fatima Rafaile  
St. James School

Jadden Alessandro Herrera  
St. Frances X. Cabrini School

#### **Donors**

Christine DeLeon  
Patty and James Grass  
Roseanne and Paul Lyon  
Alice G. Salazar

## **Veritas Scholarship Thrives for Two Decades**

This year, 2024, is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Veritas Award. This scholarship was created as a memorial to three extraordinary Dominican leaders –Sisters Mary Dominic Engelhard, Mary Thomas Lillis, and Renilde Cade—who served a total of 33 years as the Congregational Prioress. These women also devoted their lives to teaching and administering in Catholic schools. In honor of these Sisters, the scholarship is given annually to students who exemplify the same “courageous and compassionate leadership.”

Through these years, \$141,000 has been given to the families of the nominated students. Recently, a young recipient wrote a thank you letter. She stated, “Catholic education is important to my family and me. (It) can be expensive for a one-income family of five...” She continued, “The education, faith, and morals we receive are priceless.”

To date, 115 students have received scholarships. In order to assist these young people to receive a Catholic education, it is essential that the Vision of Hope family continues to invest in the leadership gifts of our children.

The Veritas Award is a vital part of Vision of Hope—it is not only a tribute to these Sisters who continue to inspire with their leadership, but also enables many young people to receive the gift of Catholic education. Both of these are indeed “priceless.”

Sister Julie Distel, O.P.  
Chair, Veritas Committee

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Yvonne Yildirim  
Ray Zenoni  
Dean Zimmerman  
Carol Zweifel

# Gifts in Honor

**All of the great teachers**

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**Sister Mary Catherine Antczak, O.P.**

Peter Bina

**Denise Bacall and Lori Hawkins**

Delia and Edward Corey

**Collins René Berger**

Lori Hawkins

**Sister Celeste Marie Botello, O.P.  
for her dedication to education**

Marilyn Murray

**Carol Cogliandro**

Karen Leach

**The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose**

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Sandra Quilici-Oltranti

Elizabeth Moore

**Nancy Fusco**

Valerie Lewis

**Cindy Gabaldon**

Jennie Yanez

**Lori Hawkins**

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**Nicole Johnson**

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**Ann Magovern and Kate Carter**

Bill Blackwell

**Sister Mary Christopher Miller, O.P.**

Maritza and Timoteo Ilario

**John Moriarty**

Nina Gaetos-Estrada

**Sister Mary Teresa Parker, O.P.**

A.J. Johnson, Jr.

**Sister Elvera Pellettieri, O.P. in honor of  
service to Lord and MSJ community**

Lori and Patrick Imburgia

**Reverend Paul E. Perry**

Mary Berner

**Sister Suzanne Marie Prows, O.P.**

Susan and Albert Alioto

**Susana Real**

Judith Mears

**Sister Jolene Schmitz**

James R. Schmitz Family Foundation

**Sisters of St. Michael's Elementary**

Marilyn Falvey

**Christina and Erica Sorenson's Wedding**

Keri and Michael Botello

**Sister Janice Therese Wellington, O.P.**

Our Lady of Light Community

**Emma Grace Ziemann and Mary Anna Ziemann**

Lori Hawkins



# Gifts in Memory

**Jose Juan Almodova**  
Jennie Yanez

**Lynn Anderson**  
Jennie Yanez

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Sister Maryanella**  
John Gianino

**Sister Erica Bonnett, O.P.**  
Diane and Dennis Creedon

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Kevin Gerber  
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Shannon and Sean McDonald

**Agnes Wallace**  
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**Sister Patricia Marie Walsh, O.P.**  
Julie Apel



**Dominican Sisters**  
OF MISSION SAN JOSE

## 2023 JUBILARIANS

### **Triple Diamond**

*75th Jubilee*

Sister María Teresa Almaguer Martinez

### **Double Diamond**

*70th Jubilee*

Sister Rosaleen Stoiber

Sister Giulii Zobelein

Sister Catherine Marie Bazar

Sister Lucia Prado Flores

Sister Celina Anaya Trejo

### **Diamond**

*60th Jubilee*

Sister Mary Diane Foley

### **Golden**

*50th Jubilee*

Sister Donna Marie Nicholas

Sister Suzanne Marie Prows

### **Ruby**

*40th Jubilee*

Sister Angelica Velez

Sister Juanita Chávez Tovar

### **Silver**

*25th Jubilee*

Sister Beth Quire

## In Remembrance

2023-2024



Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope remembers the following individuals who have recently passed away.



Sister Barbara Darby, O.P.

Nancy Fusco

Toni Gillespie

William Hautt

Sister Antonia Leber, O.P.

Sister Moira Macpherson, O.P.

Michael Masterson

Robert E. Moodie

Darlene Rodriguez

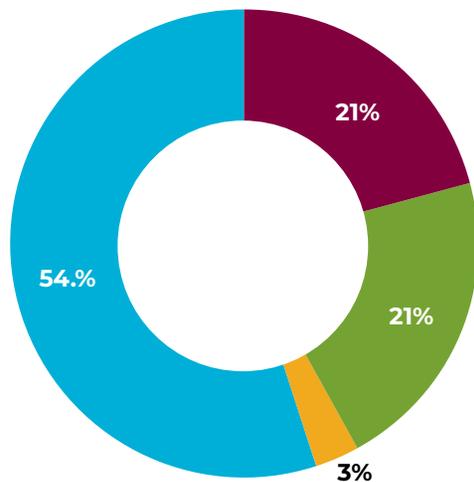
Sister Mary Melanie Tokar, O.P.

# Financial Highlights of Fiscal Year 2023-24

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the friends, families and organizations who have supported Vision of Hope. This year, our total income was \$2,521,770. This revenue was generated from our annual fundraising, memorial scholarships, gifts and proceeds from the endowment. From this, schools received \$1,566,153 in tuition and program assistance.

As of July 31, 2024, Vision of Hope's total assets remained strong and were valued at \$15,625,460. Our investments gained 11.97% net of all fees. Financial Highlights are presented using accrual accounting. Audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2024, will be available in December 2024.

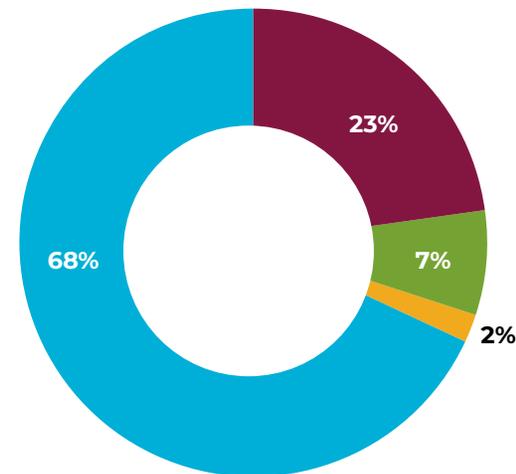
## Income



■ Unrestricted Income and Events	\$531,536
■ Tuition and Program Assistance	\$525,885
■ Endowment Gifts	\$85,898
■ Temp. Restricted Endowment	\$1,378,451

**TOTAL** **\$2,521,770**

## Expenses



■ Operations	\$147,963
■ Personnel	\$540,813
■ Event Expenses	\$53,893
■ Tuition and Program Assistance	\$1,566,153

**TOTAL NET INCOME** **\$2,308,822**  
**\$212,948**

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 Mary Canobbio  
 Ed Corey  
 Sister Georgette Coulombe, O.P.  
 Therese Funk  
 Lori Hawkins  
 Loretta Holstein  
 Lynne Hook  
 Nick Rasic  
 Bob Roginson  
 Ann Shea  
 Rob Smith  
 Catherine Strauss  
 Jeannette Valdivia  
 Jill Wondries

## Los Angeles Principals

Sacred Heart Elementary  
**Adriana Bronzina**

St. Frances X. Cabrini  
**Carmen Hart**

St. Ignatius of Loyola  
**Ileana Wade**

St. Michael's  
**Anabel Rodriguez**

Santa Teresita  
**Vernice Grajeda**

### Welcome to our 2024-2025 incoming Principals!

St. Ignatius of Loyola  
**Audrey Blanchette**

## Development Directors

Sacred Heart Elementary  
**Isela Martinez Urteaga**

St. Ignatius of Loyola  
**Isela Martinez Urteaga**

St. Michael's  
**Colleen O'Brien Consola**

Santa Teresita  
**Terry A. Olmos**

Santa Teresita  
**Ruth Villaneda**

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**Lori Hawkins**  
**Bill Masterson**, *Vice Chair and Secretary*  
**Robert Roginson**  
**Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez, O.P.**  
**Sister Mary Yun, O.P.**

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**Sister Georgette Coulombe O.P.**  
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**Jacquelin Hernandez**  
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**Sister Karen Elizabeth Zavitz, O.P.**  
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 Irene Scully  
 Angela Stanfel  
 Dr. Judith Stanley  
 Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez O.P.  
 Carol Zweifel

## Bay Area Principals

St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School  
**Barbara Moodie**

St. Elizabeth Elementary School  
**Michelle Escobar**

St. James School  
**Alex Endo**

### Development Directors

St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School  
**Julia Clark Dobel**

St. Elizabeth Elementary School  
**Sister Julie Distel, O.P.**

St. James School  
**Francess Santos**



Dear Friends,

When I reported to you in our last Annual Report, I had the pleasure of welcoming Nicole Johnson into our Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope Family as our new Executive Director. Since then, Nicole has embraced her role with enthusiasm and expertise and has firmly established herself with our eight schools and staff. Thank you, Nicole, for your hard work and future service.

Vision of Hope continues its strong presence in helping our partner schools maintain the level of service that they have provided to their communities for many years. We continue to work with them on the issues that greatly impact their mission, all with the desired result of having them become stronger institutions. Vision of Hope contributes financially to our schools and assists in other ways, including our parent outreach and education program, which has been a resounding success.

Thanks to our supporters, Vision of Hope remains strong financially. Like many of you, we have been impacted by investment returns, but the organization will still be able to contribute nearly \$1.1 million to our schools in the coming year. These contributions could not be made without all of our long-time supporters. Work remains to be done, and your continued support is much appreciated.

On a bittersweet note, I have announced my departure from Vision of Hope's Board of Directors. After serving six years on the Board and three as its Chair, I am grateful for the honor of being a part of this great organization. I will continue to support Vision of Hope in all of its efforts. In my place, I am pleased to announce that Denise Bacall and Lori Hawkins, both of whom are incredible board members, will be taking over the Board Chair duties jointly.

As we reflect on our accomplishments and look to the new school year, we thank you for your support and pray that we can count on your generous response once again.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Corey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Corey  
Board Chair



Denise Bacall  
Board Co-Chair



Lori Hawkins  
Board Co-Chair





# SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 22, 2024

*Fall Luncheon*

Jonathan Club, Los Angeles

For more information, please visit [www.visionofhope.org](http://www.visionofhope.org)

Honoring  
**SHEA FAMILY CHARITIES**  
 for decades of service to our schools  
*and*  
**Featuring Guest Speaker**  
**ANITA RON**  
 President, BriteWorks, Inc.  
 Sacred Heart Elementary and  
 High School Alumna