

Giving Matters

We're Making a Difference!

FALL 2007

A Time for Appreciation and Recognition at Foundation's Annual Circle of Celebration

By ANA LOTHSPICH

Member, Foundation Communications Committee

The sounds of Charlotte Catholic High School Jazz Band served as background for Circle of Celebration, hosted by the MACS Education Foundation on September 12th at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert McBride, Jr. This festive event is held each year to acknowledge the contributions and enduring dedication of donors to the MACS Foundation's annual giving campaign. Guests enjoyed the festivities as donors, parents, school principals, and teachers gathered to salute the contributions and work of the MACS Education Foundation on behalf of Catholic education.

Bob Fontana, Foundation Chair, opened the program with a warm welcome and words of appreciation, thanking all the guests for their financial support and commitment. "Both my wife and I are products of our Charlotte Catholic school system, having both attended Catholic elementary schools and graduated from Charlotte Catholic," said Bob. "We know the value of quality Catholic education and are very grateful to you, our donors, for your generosity."

The Most Reverend Peter Jugis, Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, offered a prayerful reminder of the value of parental involvement in the academic and spiritual growth of children.

Promoting excellence in Catholic schools, Jerry Healy, Principal of Charlotte Catholic High School and Honorary Chair of the Foundation for the 2007/2008 Annual Giving



Mecklenburg Area Catholic School teachers who received Grant for Educational Excellence (GEE) Awards for 2007-08 were recognized at Circle of Celebration.

Campaign, reaffirmed the value of parental collaboration with schools to the advantage of all students.

On behalf of the Foundation, Bob presented our MACS principals with a king size check in the amount of \$318,081, which represented 15 Grants for Educational Excellence (GEE) awarded to 23 MACS teachers, a music

grant, and the principal grants for all of our MACS schools.

The evening concluded with an invitation from Bob Fontana to all parents and guests to further involvement and participation in the work of the MACS Foundation to secure funding for programs and technology that will enhance the education of our children in their formative years.

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Director of Catholic Schools Development
1123 S. Church St. - Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3303 - dmdemarco@charlottdioecese.org

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Giving Matters is published quarterly.
The purpose of the newsletter is to update our faithful donors about different programs they have helped to fund within the MACS system.

Foundation Honors Educational Excellence

By BOB FONTANA

Chair, MACS Education Foundation

As many of you already know, our MACS schools have some of the best teachers of any school system out there. The MACS Education Foundation had the privilege of honoring 23 of those teachers at our Circle of Celebration on September 12th. These 23 teachers were the recipients of the MACS Foundation's Grant of Educational Excellence (GEE).

What is a GEE award? Every year, the MACS Foundation sets aside funds that permit teachers to implement one of his/her ideas to improve learning in the classroom for our students. Simply stated, the MACS Foundation does not want a lack of money to get in the way of a good teaching idea, so the MACS Foundation has established Grants for Educational Excellence (GEE) as a way to permit teachers to pursue their ideas. Each GEE grant may be up to \$1,500 per teacher, with a maximum of \$3,000 for two or more teacher programs.

This year, we have GEE recipients from every MACS school. It is thanks to your generosity that we have been able to fund the following grants:

CCHS: *SMART Board & Projector* - Julie Graham and Elizabeth Lerner, *Intelliboard*-Beverly Cooper, *Design Marching Band Program* - Lauren Williams

Holy Trinity: *Bridging the Gap* - Michelle Susan Marcelais, *History Alive*-Judy LaPietro

OLA: *Enrichment Clubs* - Allana-Rae Ramkissoon

St. Ann: *Hand's On Science* - Dana Sorin

St. Gabriel: *"And Justice for All"* - Diane Sullivan, Betsy DesNoyer, Denise Heskemp, Jean Spegal, *Broadcast /Communication Center* - Michelle Snoke, Linda Sim, *IlluStory Books* - Mary Ellen Reese

St. Patrick: *Viva el Espanol* - Yazmin Lizzette Jones, *Literacy Links* - Lyn Clouden, Miriam Olynick, and Carole Schwarzen, *Roll-out Keyboards*- Kathleen Healy

St Mark: *Writers Into Published Authors* - Lisa Modzelewski, *Bridging the Gap* - Michelle Susan Marcelais, *History Alive*-Judy LaPietro

St. Matthew: *Handwriting Without Tears*-Bernardine Armstrong, Jessica Armstrong

Appreciating Catholic Education and Community - the Carlin Family

By CHRIS FINCHER

Member, Foundation Communications Committee

The Carlin family is "making a difference" in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. John and Kim Carlin and their three children moved to Charlotte from Atlanta, Georgia in June 2002. They immediately enrolled their two older children, Megan, 13, an eighth grader at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School and Matthew, 11, a sixth grader at St Matthew Catholic School. Both children enjoy playing soccer and attending Charlotte Catholic High School football games. Their little sister, Emily, is in kindergarten at Endhaven Elementary.

The Carlins have provided financial support to the MACS Education Foundation since day one. "My father was a college professor and my brother and sister are teachers. I know first hand the dedication and effort that teachers put into teaching, as well as the thousands of ways that teachers can influence all kids, and in particular, my kids," said John. "In the years since I was a child of a teacher, the burden of teaching has only gotten heavier. Today, it seems the national view of teachers and the grade that the public would give them is not good, and to me that is wrong. Because of my father, the important role that teachers have on my kids and the increased burden of ever higher expectations that we place on teachers, I simply feel that is the only responsible thing to do. So I support the MACS Education Foundation because they raise funds that provide innovative programs for my children."

"In a dynamic growth environment like Charlotte, finding a sense of community has been important and sometimes a challenge."



The Carlin children - Megan, Emily and Matthew.

John and Kim believe that Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools provide a great connection for Catholic families in Charlotte. In a way, it reminds them of the family atmosphere that they enjoyed growing up in Oakmont, Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh).

The Carlins feel that Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools has helped create friendships and community for the entire family through its focus on a values based education and the families that support the schools. They have also been active with their children's sports endeavors and the Downs Syndrome Association of Charlotte, where John served on the board from 2003 to 2006. John is a member of the Peace and Justice Committee at St. Matthew Catholic Church.

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Director of Catholic Schools Development
(704) 370-3303 • dmdemarco@charlottediocese.org