



THANK YOU, TEACHERS!

Willie Wade, Seventh District Alderman from Milwaukee, inspired and thanked Chicago's Lutheran School teachers during the annual CLEF Teacher Recognition Dinner on May 1. "You are taking care of the children, and God would not leave that responsibility to anyone who is not worthy," said Wade.

From poor, humble beginnings, Wade committed himself to being the smartest kid in his class. Eventually he made it to college, and returned to teach students who were like himself. "I know what you go through as teachers – because I was one of you," he shared. "I remember watching the news every night, and praying that one of my students did not make the headlines."

"Look at me now, and know that I am one of your students – I am what is possible for each of your students." Wade concluded with a directive to the teachers: "If you work for an administration that tells you not to hug a child – break the rules," he said. "Those children need your hugs. More than anything, they need to know you care."

Following Wade's inspirational message, Jennifer Heinze, chair of the CLEF Awards Committee, presented three teachers with a \$2,000 grant to make their "dreams" come true.

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Winners of "Dream a Little Dream..."
Patricia House from Ashburn Lutheran School,
Donna Tennis from St. Philip Lutheran School and Teresa Dixon from St. Paul Lutheran School on Dorchester Avenue.



CLEF IS TURNING 15 THIS YEAR! CELEBRATE WITH US!

Mark your calendars for the 2008 Black Tie Scholarship Dinner on Saturday, November 8, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, in Rosemont. Help CLEF celebrate "15 Years of Creating Success Stories." Throughout the evening, attendees will hear from



current and former students, as they share what their experience at a Chicago Lutheran School has meant to them.

Ken Carter – featured in the 2004 Disney movie *Coach Carter* – will provide an inspirational message on the importance of instilling values in

children. Coach Carter grew up on the mean streets of a Los Angeles suburb, and later returned to that neighborhood to raise his family and coach basketball at his former high school. So determined to help these students make the most of their lives, he locked his team out of the gym – during an undefeated season – because they were not living up to the academic requirements he imposed upon them.

His story is sure to inspire you, and his determination to help children succeed mirrors that of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation over the past 15 years. All proceeds from this event benefit CLEF's Scholarship Fund, which has provided nearly \$4 million in scholarships to students in Chicago's Lutheran schools over the past 15 years.

Make plans to attend this event and celebrate a milestone with CLEF. ☀

TEACHERS

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Donna Tennis, St. Philip, dreamed of offering an Artist-in-Residency Program that would expose children to a live theatre performance of Peace Tales Around the World. “The children will learn about different countries, the value of reading and writing, and the message of peace,” said Tennis.

Teresa Dixon, St. Paul on Dorchester, dreamed of a movement and gym class for her school. “Currently, we have to take the students off campus for gym, and oftentimes this consumes an entire morning,” said Dixon. “If we had basic equipment and training we could offer gym class more regularly at the school.”

Patricia House, Ashburn, dreamed of offering a Top Chefs Arising Culinary Class to students in 4-8 grades. “This idea came out of conversations with teachers and parents reminiscing and reflecting on the simple joys of life – and food was definitely one of those joys worthy of sharing,” said House. “Students will learn the art of preparing a variety of meals, learn

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basic cooking terms, and the importance of nutrition.”

“This is wonderful night,” said Chuck Asche, CLEF Education Director. “We know teachers make incredible sacrifices to teach in our Chicago Lutheran schools, and this is an opportunity for CLEF to thank them, and honor them. It really is a celebration.” ☀



Michael Allen, LEAPs teacher at New Hope School, and Willie Wade.



Keynote speaker Willie C. Wade



CLEF Leadership

The CLEF Board of Directors held their annual retreat at The Geneva Inn, in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in May, where they elected a new Executive Committee: (L-R) Terry Pfortmiller, Vice President; Laura Madsen, Treasurer; Jeff Blackman, President; Mike Welch, Immediate Past President; Paul Soderholm, Secretary. Not Pictured: Jay Christopher, Chairman.

At-Large members of the CLEF Board of Directors include: Bill Everson, Kaia Koerm, Bill Mattes, Ann Marie Rundio, Clarence Schawk, Jack Stoneman, Al Steinhaus, and Richard Vie. ☀

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP EQUIPS FOR SUCCESS

“What am I doing on a School Board? What is my job? How can we solve all these problems? I’m so confused.”

These questions and others were answered on Saturday, April 12 at Concordia University when school board directors from more than 20 schools participated in CLEF’s first urban school board workshop. Chuck Asche, CLEF’s educational administrator, feels this is a perfect extension on leadership training involving city schools. “For the past three years, we have conducted Leadership Training for Lutheran school educators.

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volunteers in school government.”

Keynote speaker Jim Provenza, a Lutheran attorney recognized for his work in assisting tax exempt organizations in their strategic planning process addressed topics such as school mission statements, board duties, recruitment for board positions, and

strategic planning. CLEF Board members facilitated follow-up

discussions giving all the city school participants opportunities to share their diverse experiences.

CLEF Board Member Terry Pfortmiller, instrumental in planning this event, explains the workshop’s importance. “The workshop was a way for CLEF to support the schools by providing continuous learning opportunities. The leadership of the churches and school boards want to proactively do their best, yet they are not always able to break away from the day to day tasks of operating their programs. Through the workshop, we hope to have given them a time to grow in the understanding of the importance that clear strategic vision and good governance principles have towards sustainability. After all, sustainability is CLEF’s long term vision for the schools and their impact on the community.” ☀

HOLY FAMILY OPENS NEW SCHOOL BUILDING!

More than 300 people attended the ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony to celebrate the opening of the NEW Holy Family Lutheran School located on Chicago’s west side in the North Lawndale neighborhood, on June 3. The new facility will allow current enrollment to double and will put an end to 23 years of renting dilapidated facilities and will fulfill the dreams of children and families. The school has never before enjoyed a gym, cafeteria, art room or playground and the new 45,000 square foot school will feature a 27-station computer lab, spacious science lab,

music and art rooms, a 350-seat auditorium, cafeteria, library and gym and a one-of-a-kind “25% green roof” demonstration garden.

This was the first time the current students of Holy Family got to see their new school, and as they stepped off the buses the smiles were so big no one even cared about the rain! Diann Burns, Channel 2 News, emceed an event that featured performances by the Holy

Family cheerleaders, the choir and the step team. In addition, second grader Brianna Embrey, gave everyone in attendance a “big hug” on behalf of the entire student body. Congratulations Holy Family! ☀



Students welcome guests to their NEW school!

2008 CLEF SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

Nineteen students – representing 13 different CLEF grade schools – were awarded a 2008 CLEF High School Scholarship during a reception on May 15. This marks the second year for this program designed to help students at CLEF’s grade schools attend Luther North, Walther or Luther South High School.

Each student received an \$8,000 scholarship - \$2,000 per year for the four years of high school. Winners are selected on the basis of financial need, academics and the submission of essays by both parents and students on why they wish to continue their education in a Lutheran school.



Four new Walther freshmen are joined by CLEF Board member Clarence Schawk, Walther Executive Director Don Gillingham and CLEF Board member Jay Christopher.

“It is so wonderful to talk with these students and hear them share their excitement over attending one of our Lutheran High Schools,” said Robin Doeden, Executive Director.

“They are all grateful for the scholarship and the opportunity.”

During the program, Doeden shared some of the reasons given for wanting to attend a Lutheran High School:

“Continue my faith journey”

“Supportive and caring teachers who will help me succeed”

“Safe, friendly atmosphere”

“This is exactly what we want our schools to be for every student – and we are pleased to know that our students want the same thing,” added Doeden.

If you are interested in adopting a student to receive this scholarship, contact Robin Doeden. A commitment of just \$2,000 per year will allow another student to receive a scholarship. You CAN make a difference! ☀

The following students received a 2008 scholarship:

Luther North

Joshua Banko, *St. John's*
 Kayla Bushey, *St. Luke Academy*
 Devin Jenkins, *Grace English*
 Laura Lespinasse, *Our Saviour*
 Ryan McFadden, *Jehovah*
 Ryan Negron, *Pilgrim*
 Natasha Ocampo, *Messiah*
 Dora Slotnick, *St. Philip*
 Elisabeth Tapoi, *Our Saviour*
 Amber Wilczak, *St. John's*

Luther South

Eddie Cooper, *St. Paul on Dorchester*
 Bianca Kerby, *Luther South Junior High*

Marcus Poole, *Luther South Junior High*
 Dionte Shears, *Luther South Junior High*
 Kishon Young, *Luther South Junior High*

Walther

Israel Alicea II, *St. Paul on Menard*
 Jasmine Dela Luna, *Gloria Dei*
 Angel Jackson, *St. Paul on Menard*
 Marquette Monroe, *Holy Family*
 Tyrin Osborne, *Holy Family*
 Erik Owen, *Gloria Dei*
 Robert Smith, *Our Saviour*
 Ashley Zawila, *Gloria Dei*

Ms. DOEDEN GOES TO WASHINGTON

When the White House calls, one answers the call. That call came for our Executive Director, Robin Doeden, this spring when she was invited to attend the White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools on Thursday, April 24 in Washington DC. The summit brought together 270 individuals from eighteen different religious affiliations to share information and to take a pulse on what is happening in urban faith-based schools. Robin had the distinct privilege of representing CLEF as one of only four Lutheran representatives in attendance.

The summit agenda kicked off with the President's Domestic Policy Advisor, Karl Zinsmeister, sharing a few startling statistics:

- 1200 faith-based schools have closed in the last decade
- 400,000 students have been displaced as a result of schools closing, at a cost of approximately \$20 billion to American tax payers
- Average high school graduation rate in inner city public schools is 51%. Average graduation rate in inner city faith-based high schools is 95%.

The administration's three-pronged approach to addressing these alarming statistics includes (1) the slow process of turning around failing inner-city schools, (2) the expensive undertaking of creating new charter schools, and (3) saving the high performing faith-based

schools that already serve difficult neighborhoods, which was the focus of the summit.

Three different speakers, including President George W. Bush, addressed the one essential fact needed to accomplish this third approach: "the short-term future of faith-based schools is dependent upon philanthropy." Robin states

"The short-term future of faith-based schools is dependent upon philanthropy...philanthropy and creative new approaches need to be researched, developed, enhanced and implemented. Our theme needs to be 'innovate or perish.'"

one of the challenges set for faith-based school advocates, "philanthropy and creative new approaches need to be researched, developed, enhanced and implemented. Our theme needs to be 'innovate or perish.'"

Robin went on to say, "I am so proud of our schools. Faith-based schools are being taken seriously. It was great to meet as a group, regardless of which faith our schools represent. We are all serving the community by working together to provide safe,

high quality schools where the kids are the priority. Locally, we will continue to work with Big Shoulders and the Jewish schools to provide Chicago students with a safe and positive place to learn."

Our inner-city schools offer exactly that. In 1983, the United States was named a "Nation at Risk" for its education system. Today, 25 years later, we still hold that title. In fact, 4 of 10 parents have sent at least one child to a non-public school – and 40% of public school teachers do the same. Faith-based schools offer academic benefits and continue to outperform public schools in safety, effort, discipline, racial harmony, and setting/meeting higher standards. 95% of our students graduate from high school and go on to attend a 2 or 4-year college. In spite of this, it was recognized that school vouchers are not going to happen, which once again establishes the necessity for philanthropic efforts to keep schools alive and successful.

Former students of faith-based schools shared their emotional testimonials, further motivating attendees to return to their home cities and start implementing what they learned. ☀

Valparaiso LEAPS Program Completes Another Year



The 2007-08 Valparaiso LEAPS teachers celebrated the completion of another successful school year at the CLEF Teacher Dinner with Chuck Asche, CLEF Educational Administrator: Tom Strube, Ashburn; Brad Boggs, St. Paul-Dorchester; Michael Allen, New Hope; Kelly Cowan, Jehovah; Jason Strains, Luther North; Brian Schultz Bethesda; Rich Garduno, New Hope.

SUMMER SCHOOL IS IN SESSION...SORT OF

Ah, Summer. Books are back on shelves, waiting for the next eager group of readers, desks and chairs are stacked, the halls are quiet, anticipating the return of skipping feet and giggling voices. These are our Chicago Lutheran Schools. These are the buildings that offer so many children the opportunity to learn in a positive, safe, Christian environment – thanks to contributions from donors like you.

As we learned from the White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools, the short-term future of faith-based schools is dependent upon philanthropy. Philanthropic donations are the lifeblood that enable Chicago Lutheran Schools to keep their doors open and keep children in desks, to say nothing of fixing broken windows, replacing tiles on worn floors, and countless other maintenance issues that arise.

Summer is the time when these vital projects are accomplished. Through volunteers and mission teams like UKANDU and school staff, the work can be done. The other essential ingredient for success is the money needed to buy paint, floor tiles, glass to replace windows, and other odds and ends it takes to prepare a safe place for children to learn in the fall.

This is where you come in. Contributions from generous CLEF donors keep desks filled and keep Chicago Lutheran Schools open and secure. Your monthly commitment enables us to allot resources where they are most needed, during the summer and throughout the school year. Please consider making CLEF and the children of Chicago Lutheran schools the recipient of your generous financial support. Have a blessed summer! ☀

Here is my commitment to the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ annually
(\$ _____ per month) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200 annually (\$100 per month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 annually (\$125 per month) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 annually (\$85 per month) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 annually (\$42 per month) |

I wish to contribute:

I would like to submit my contribution by:

- Enclosed check
- Charging my credit card
- Visa Mastercard
- Monthly Quarterly One-time gift

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name (as it appears on card) _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Please mail your gift to: CLEF, 861 S. Church Rd., Bensenville, IL 60106.
Or contact us at 630.595.9310.



Walk...Walk...Walk

The children of St. Paul Lutheran School weren't exactly "singin' in the rain" on May 2, but they were definitely having fun! The students at St. Paul joined with the students at Concord Lutheran School, in Bensenville, to raise funds for both schools. Despite rain showers all morning, the clouds parted just enough for the kids to get their 45 minute walk in, and enjoy some treats and fellowship before boarding buses back to Chicago.

Thanks go to Ken Badger, a friend of the school's, who donated bikes and Toys R Us gift cards to the highest fundraisers at each school. Not only did it add to the excitement of the event – but it also encouraged more pledges and gifts for the schools. Thanks, Ken! ☀

