

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

February may be the month of love, but friends of CLEF demonstrate the Valentine's spirit year-round! Thank you for all that you made possible in 2006!

In this newsletter you will see the names of 223 individuals, congregations, foundations and corporations who have shared their spirit with our children in Chicago. With your help, our students felt incredibly loved in 2006:

- More than 500 children stayed in their Chicago Lutheran school
- Bethesda Lutheran School received a brand new gymnasium floor
- Bethlehem Lutheran School received all new windows
- Students at five schools received all new computer equipment and software
- Children at Holy Spirit Early Childhood Center enjoyed monthly field trips
- Students at eight schools benefited from special education teachers and tutors
- Students at 27 schools celebrated new textbooks – from religion to science

In addition, we launched two new programs:

- High School Scholarship Program
- CLEF/Walcamp Outdoor Ministries Partnership Program

Yes, friends of CLEF made many things possible in 2006 – and now we turn our attention to 2007 with great excitement and anticipation. What can we do *this year?*

I encourage you to check our calendar of events, as it is already full of opportunities to celebrate with CLEF – including our Teacher Recognition Dinner on May 3, and our Black Tie Scholarship Dinner on November 10.

CLEF is delighted to report that we are making it even easier to make your gifts year-round in 2007! Become a 2007 Partner in Education by making a monthly commitment to CLEF. This year, you can make that monthly gift by cash, check or charge – yes charge! CLEF is now accepting MasterCard and Visa charges, and we can even offer monthly withdrawals.

What a wonderful way to share that Valentine spirit year-round! Won't you be a 2007 Partner in Education?

Over the past 14 years, friends of CLEF have given more than \$9.5 million to support the work of our Chicago Lutheran Schools. Thank you for all that you have made possible – and for all that we will make possible in the year to come!

Continued Blessings!

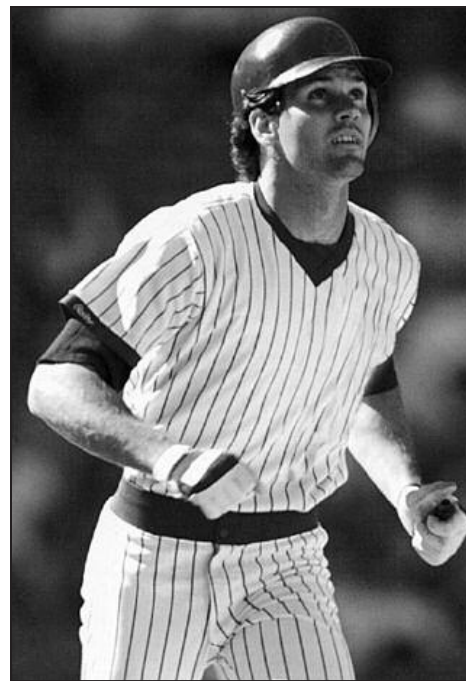
Robin Doeden, Executive Director

BLACK TIES AND BASEBALL BATS

Mark your calendars for November 10, 2007! CLEF's Black Tie Scholarship Dinner will feature none other than Hall of Famer and former Cubs second baseman, Ryne Sandberg. Sandberg played fifteen years of major league baseball and played on ten National League All-Star teams. He has recently stepped up to manage the Peoria Chiefs Class A baseball team.

This year's Chair for the benefit, CLEF board member Laura Madsen, stated, "This should be our most successful fund-raising event

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Keynote speaker Ryne Sandberg

In and Around Chicago

AN ENERGETIC GROUP of students and teachers at **Pilgrim Lutheran School** are passionate about feeding Chicago's hungry and serving the less fortunate. *Pilgrim Kids Care* was founded by the children and youth of Pilgrim in 2005 as a way to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. Since then, the program has shifted focus to include support of several local charities.

As part of their Lutheran education, the students of Pilgrim are encouraged to search for ways to reach out to their community and help those in need. Children of all ages at Pilgrim have an opportunity to participate in *Pilgrim Kids Care*. Youth can get involved in fund-raising events benefiting First Slice, a local café serving healthy food to homeless families.

Teacher and advisor, Karen Huelskoetter, explained "We are so very excited about *Pilgrim Kids Care*. The kids are actively involved and

have taken such ownership of feeding the hungry." So far this school year, the children of Pilgrim School have prepared 175 box lunches, 140 packets of hot cocoa, and an amazing 850 containers of their original recipe trail mix were packed and distributed to homeless on the street.

In December, the group purchased and delivered 170 toys to Pablo Casals school. January and February goals include baking and packaging 30,000 cookies for Night Ministry and bagging 400 packages of hot cocoa. Coming up on March 31st, 2007, they are hosting the first-ever Pilgrim Kids Care 5k Fun Run along Chicago's lakefront.

CHILDREN AT THE SVETLY PUT ORPHANAGE in Kyrgyzstan will be warmer this winter thanks to the generosity of **St. James Lutheran Church and School**. This fall, the St. James community collected clothing and winterwear to send to the region

via the Orphan Grain Train. Pastor and Mrs. Donovan of St. James traveled on a mission trip to Kyrgyzstan last summer, leading to their response to the extreme need of this orphanage, located near a mountainous Lutheran mission outpost. Of the clothing drive, Pastor Donovan said that this was a great opportunity for school and church families to come together with a common goal. "We have been blessed, and we are trying to live out what mission means in our city and beyond," he explained. The generosity of the families was overwhelming and some even went beyond winter outerwear to bring in other clothing and undergarments. The loving arms of the people St. James reached all the way to the other side of the world to keep orphans warm.

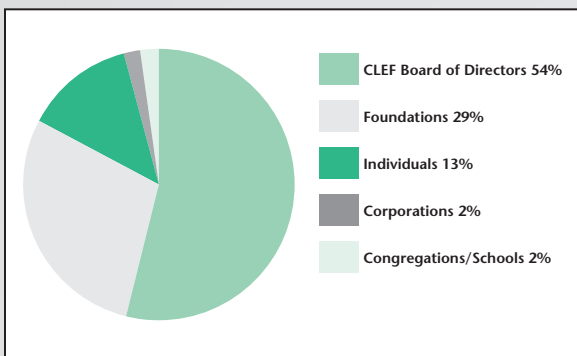
THE STUDENTS OF Holy Family Lutheran School are digging deep to raise money for leukemia patients. During February and March, students in grades K-8 are asked to bring in their spare change for the Pennies for Patients campaign, benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The class that raises the most "dough" wins a pizza party. The middle school students of Holy Family also participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon to raise money for children with cancer. Holy Family's mission "to educate, inspire and transform today's youth" is active among the students and teachers. ☀



Students and adults of Pilgrim Lutheran School proudly display the tower of trail mix, packaged and ready for distribution to Chicago's hungry.

CHICAGOLAND LUTHERAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

2006 DONOR LIST



We are truly grateful to our 223 individuals, congregations, foundations and corporations who generously supported CLEF during 2006. The individuals highlighted in bold italics provided support at a level of \$1,000 or more.

Congregations

Concord Lutheran School Booster Club, Bensenville
Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights
First St. Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago
Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest
Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs
Holy Family Ministries, Chicago
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elmhurst
Redeemer Lutheran Church Women's Guild, Elmhurst
St. Matthew Men's Bible Study, Barrington
Women of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Park Ridge

Corporations

Altria Group, Inc.
Eerdmans Publishing Co.
Hewlett-Packard, Inc.
Lutheran Church Extension Fund
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Northeast DuPage County Chapter
West Cook County Chapter
North Cook County Chapter
Northwest Cook County Chapter
Yukon Charlie's

Foundations

Anonymous (1)
Montgomery Ward Foundation
Christopher Family Foundation
Geary Rimmer Vincent Wolf Foundation
Donald P. and Byrd M. Kelly Foundation
Luther Village Spiritual Enrichment Foundation
McGraw Foundation
Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation
Rusch Memorial Fund
Dr. Scholl Foundation
W.P. and H.B. White Foundation
The Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust

Individuals

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Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Arey
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Asche
Miss Eunice Bajus
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Balavender
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Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Latzke

Mr. and Mrs. Willis E. Lindeman

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Liput Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Locke

Ms. Kathryn M. Lucht



THANK YOU TO BOARD MEMBER LAURA MADSEN

who made the most of the employee giving program through Hewlett-Packard, Inc. Students at five of our schools – Bethel Christian, Christ the King, Luther North, Lutheran Day Nursery,

and New Hope – benefited from \$20,000 worth of computer hardware, including desktops, laptops, printers and a digital camera package! Here, students at Lutheran Day Nursery have computers in their classrooms and learn to count and read through various programs and games.

Thank You!

THANK YOU TO CONCORD LUTHERAN SCHOOL, BENSENVILLE, for helping St. Paul, Dorchester get new windows for their school! Both schools partnered for an afternoon of exercise in the annual Concord Walk-a-Thon, with all of the funds going to St. Paul. Each student was expected to walk at least two miles – but many of them far exceeded that goal reaching five or six miles!

Thank You!

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lucht

Mrs. William Lusthoff

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Lysen

Ms. Linda Madsen

Ms. Laura D. Madsen

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mai

Mr. Edward S. Manka

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Markworth

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Ms. Cathy Ann Schawk

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence W. Schawk

Mr. Richard A. Schepler

Mrs. Robert H. Schlesselman

Mr. Bryan A. Schneider

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard H. Schoepp

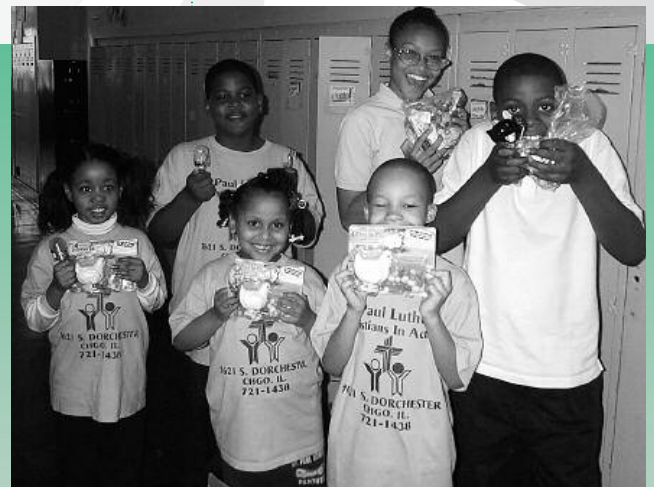
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Schroeder

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Schubkegel

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schueler

THANK YOU TO DAN SPINAZOLA

who regularly provides candy to our schools. Teachers use the candy as treats for good work, good behavior or just for fun. Dan makes a donation of candy five-six times per year, and the kids always enjoy receiving his gifts. Here, students at St. Paul, Dorchester show off some of their latest goodies!



Thank You!

Mr. Ralph F. Schulz

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Sears

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Shone

Ms. Margaret Sichau

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick W. Slupik

Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Soderholm

Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Soderholm

Mr. and Mrs. Rogelio Solís

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sorokie

Mr. Daniel Spinazola

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Mr. and Mrs. Al Steinhaus

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Ms. Rosalie Streng

Mr. and Mrs. Lee H. Struebing

Ms. Elsa A. Swartz

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Ziemer

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard W. Zimdahl

Dr. and Mrs. R. Allan Zimmer

Ms. Christine M. Zrinsky

Thrivent Provided an Added Boost in 2006

The following 51 individuals took advantage of Thrivent's GivingPlus Matching Gift Program in 2006, helping CLEF receive an additional \$9,245 in support. We are grateful to Thrivent, and all of those listed here who "grew" their gifts in 2006!

Charles Asche

Xandria Balcer

Dorothy Belau

Marilyn Bergmann

Evelyn Berning

Clarisse Brown

James Brown

Stephanette Brown

Marilyn Busse

Dorcas Claussen

Howard Claussen

Stephen Claussen

Steve Diekmann

Carolyn Doeden

Robin Doeden

Vernon Duckmann

Helen Ebert

William Everson

Paul Gahl

Roselyn Gieschen

John Groskopf

Marlene Hagendorn

Kenneth Heinitz

Carol Hill

John Hinck

Janice Johnson

Kaia Koerm

Lasse Koerm

Howard Kraegel

Richard Kroepel, Jr.

James Lange

Andrew Locke

Kathryn Lucht

Edward Lysen

Mary Madsen

Allen Mattes

Donald McDonald

Charles Novak

Terry Pfortmiller

Evelyn Racek

Velma Roush

Walter Ruehrdanz

Marilyn Schawk

Bryan Schneider

John Schroeder

Karen Schroeder

George Shone

Paul Soderholm

Diana Solis

Elmer Wille

Sandra Wackenhuth

Are you a Thrivent member? For more information on how you can have your gift to CLEF matched through the GivingPlus Program contact your local Thrivent representative, or Robin Doeden at CLEF, 630.595.9310. ☀

NEW! HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Remember high school? Whether you wear a wistful smile thinking back on that time, or are shaking your head recalling the memories, there's no doubt about the importance of those years. Our Lutheran high schools provide an excellent venue for children to grow into adulthood.

In 2007, CLEF will launch a new initiative to help our students extend their Lutheran

education into and through high school. A special CLEF High School Scholarship Program will offer eighth grade graduates of Chicago's Lutheran grade schools the

opportunity to receive an \$8,000 scholarship – \$2,000 per year for four years – to attend Luther High School North, Luther High School South or Walther Lutheran High School.

One year ago, CLEF board member Clarence Schawk initiated the concept of a designated scholarship fund that closely reflected CLEF's missions. Clarence explains, "The focus of CLEF has been to fill and support our Chicago Lutheran Schools. Now that programs have been established at the elementary level, I thought we should move our focus to filling our Chicago Lutheran high schools with children that have come up through CLEF grade schools. These kids are growing up in an urban area and need our help with their education. The CLEF high schools have room for them and I want to do what we

can to keep the kids that have been in our schools in an environment where they can thrive and possibly go on to college."

Our sincere thanks go to Clarence and Marilyn Schawk, Richard and Joan Vie, and Jay and Doris Christopher for their generous financial support of this scholarship endeavor, and the opportunities they are extending to students to



continue their Lutheran education through high school and beyond. This is the first scholarship of this kind to be run through CLEF.

Our students need more generous donors to contribute to

this pioneering scholarship effort. For eight thousand dollars, you can "adopt" an eighth grader and watch that child mature and grow at one of CLEF's great Lutheran high schools. The expectations of the student will be that he maintain his grades and keep the lines of communication open with his benefactor. This is an incredible opportunity for students who may not otherwise be able to attend one of our three CLEF high schools.

Every eighth grade student in our CLEF schools has the opportunity to apply for these scholarships. Originally, five applications per school were distributed, but every school has requested more applications. Financial need will be a key factor in awarding these scholarships. Length of time spent in Lutheran grade school and the student's grades are other factors that will be considered. CLEF has contracted with a third party for analysis of financial need. The initial application deadline was January 31, 2007. ☀

Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 3

Teacher Recognition Dinner
Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont, IL

June 17-22

UKANDU Mission Trip
Various CLEF schools

Monday, August 13

CLEF Networking Conference
Featuring Keynote Speaker: Marva Collins
Walther Lutheran High School

Saturday, November 10

CLEF Black Tie Scholarship Dinner
Featuring Keynote Speaker: Ryne Sandberg
Hyatt O'Hare, Rosemont, IL

Partner with CLEF in Education

part·ner (pärt'-nər) NOUN: One that is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest

ed·u·ca·tion (ěj-ə-kā'-shən) NOUN: 1. The knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process
2. An instructive or enlightening experience



Let's see . . . what words jump out? United. Others. Activity. Common interest. Knowledge. Skill. Instructive. Enlightening experience. Isn't that what CLEF is all about? Yes! We believe that every child deserves an equal opportunity to have a Christian education and that, with your help, we can make that opportunity come to fruition.

Now is the time to become a 2007 Partner in Education. It has never been easier to pursue an ongoing relationship with CLEF and the children we help. CLEF can now accept your monthly or quarterly gift by cash, check or charge. Your recurring contribution allows our students to have the consistent support they need to reach and maintain their full educational and spiritual potential.

Your gift allows children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Lutheran school to do so. Seventy-five dollars per week is what it costs to have one child in a CLEF school. Won't you consider giving a gift that offsets part of that monthly expense? As a Partner in Education, you will make a child's future brighter.

Here is my commitment to be a 2007 Partner in Education

I wish to contribute:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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 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.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: KAIA KOERM

Welcome to our newest board member, Kaia Koerm! Kaia is President of North Continental Enterprises in Nilus, IL.

Q: What inspired you to serve on the CLEF board?

A: CLEF does a wonderful job in promoting our Lutheran schools and providing support for their beleaguered teachers. I consider it a joy and a blessing to have been asked to participate in the endeavor. Visits to Our Saviour, St. Philips and Pilgrim schools this past year highlighted the programs created by some of our most dedicated Lutheran school faculty. What could be more inspirational? ☀

BLACK TIES AND BATS

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ever." Our Black Tie Event is the highlight of CLEF's 2007 calendar, offering the opportunity to have a wonderful evening while supporting our schools and students with the substantial proceeds the event will provide.

The benefit committee needs your help! Call Robin to see how your talents can be used. ☀