



## Message from the Executive Director

It is hard to believe that just a few, short weeks ago Chicago was overwhelmed with the third largest blizzard in the City's history. I came outside that morning to a wall of snow in my driveway over four feet high. Three hours later I broke through the wall and arrived at the street – exhausted but with a smile on my face. When I started, the task seemed overwhelming, and there were certainly times during the process I wanted to quit and just wait for the melt.

Thinking back, that must be how some of our schools must feel as they struggle with the daily requirements and needs of our students in Chicago. Everyday they face what to many may seem an insurmountable task, and yet our principals and teachers arrive at school each day to greet children and parents with smiles and encouragement.

It is in great thanks to each of you listed in this newsletter that the City of Chicago can still boast 29 Lutheran schools – the third largest school system in the City. Together your continued generosity and prayers make it possible for CLEF to help our schools break through that incredible wall, and reach success.

In the words of Chuck Novak, principal at Grace English: "You are truly a blessing! We will never know the full extent to which you have helped, but I am most sure that a child will be in heaven one day because of your love."

Robin Doeden  
Executive Director

## CLEF, CCT and SchoolRise Come Together to Raise Expectations

**P**artnerships. Some people refer to it as the new buzz word for corporate survival, but here at CLEF it is nothing new. Since 2003, CLEF has partnered with Chicago Community Trust (CCT) to provide training and educational support for our teachers and administrators. Grants over the years have supported "train the trainer" type programs, such as the Leadership Series, the Curriculum Training Series, and even individual Teacher Scholarships.

This year, CCT refined their methodology, focusing less on improving individual teacher talents and more on a disciplined approach toward whole-school improvement. As a result, we received a grant to partner with the successful SchoolRise Program developed out of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Three CLEF schools – Ashburn, Grace Christian Academy, and St. Paul on Menard Ave. – participated in the first step of this standards-based process to improve reading comprehension. The outcome of these Needs Assessments opened the door for a second grant, which will bring together up to five CLEF Schools as they walk through a procedure to enhance the reading comprehension curriculum and instructional practices within each of these schools.

The staff of these schools will meet as a group four times over the coming year - in addition to four times individually - to create a vision of the excellent eighth grade reader, and construct a staircase for learning that will identify what students will learn at each grade level. These expectations will not only be clearly understood by the entire staff, but will be openly shared with parents and students.

"Our teachers need to start talking to one another about what our students are expected to know at each grade level," said one of the principals.

"The teachers are driving the bus but the kids have no idea where they are going or why they are going there. Having everyone on the same page in terms of expectations will improve teaching quality at every grade level, and create a cohesive team with parents and students."



From left to right: Dr. Joy Packard-Higgins, Principal of Ashburn Lutheran School; Dr. MariAnne George, SchoolRise; Carlo Giannotta, Principal of Grace Christian Academy; Dr. Taffy Raphael, President of SchoolRise; Dr. Peggy Mueller, Senior Program Officer, Chicago Community Trust

*“Thank you for the gift card...I only hope you can understand how much it is needed. It came right in the knick of time. My two boys require new school shoes and I am so glad that your generosity has enabled me to get the shoes just before school resumes in January. May the Lord bless you.”*

*(Parent)*

## CLEF's Own Santa

One of CLEF's Board members played a big part in making Christmas special for the children in Chicago's Lutheran schools this year.

Mr. Clarence Schawk did not want any child to go without at Christmas, so he arranged for a \$50 Sears gift card to every student in need. CLEF Staff Sandy Wackenhuth and Diana Knight had the joy of delivering 653 gift cards to families across Chicago just before Christmas break.

The New Year mail brought bundles of thank you cards to the CLEF Office from thankful families throughout the city. Some families used the gift card for necessities like shoes and clothing, while others were able to provide extras like toys and electronics. One parent even left it up to her older daughter to decide how to spend the \$50. “She displayed the values that she is learning in school. Instead of buying a special Christmas treat for herself, she bought Christmas presents for her little brother.” The spirit of Christmas isn't realized any more truly than that.



Ms. Viola Collins-Brown treated the Praise Dancers from Holy Family School to a performance of *Nutcracker* presented by the Joffrey Ballet at the Auditorium Theatre in December.

From left to right: *Essence Reed, Essence Baymon, Ashley Lofton, Jaliah Darling, Chatterria Harris, Jada Martinez, Miracle Taylor, and Viola Collins-Brown.*

*Not pictured: Jana Stiffend and Alasha Campbell.*



## Thrivent Chapters and CLEF Thank Area Principals

For the past seven years, CLEF has been able to send gift cards to CLEF Principals at Christmastime through a partnership with the local chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. To thank our principals for their hard work and dedication in Lutheran Schools, the Northwest Cook and North Cook County Chapters of Thrivent provided gift cards for the 29 principals in CLEF

schools as well as 9 principals in Lutheran schools in suburban Northwest and North Cook County. Many Lutheran schools operate on barebones budgets, and this is just one way CLEF can support the people who tirelessly dedicate themselves to providing leadership in our schools. Thanks to our friends at Thrivent who make this possible.

## Thrivent Choice 2010: An Easy Way to Help Support What Matters to You

The following individuals in 2010 designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to CLEF. Through these people, CLEF received \$532 to benefit our schools! We give them our sincere thanks!

Dorothy Belau	Robin Doeden
Terry Klotz	Howard Kraegel
Richard Kroepel	Joyce Polk
John Schroeder	Margaret Sichau

The first calendar year of the Thrivent Choice program has come to a close. Through December 15, 2010, eligible Thrivent members helped direct more than \$9.1 million of Thrivent Financial charitable funds to more than 15,000 Lutheran organizations and congregations. CLEF was one of those organizations! If you haven't directed your Choice Dollars yet, it's not too late! You have until March 31, 2011 to indicate where your 2010 Choice Dollars should go. Please consider giving them to CLEF!

Are you a member of Thrivent and wonder what this Choice Dollar thing is all about? Benefit members age 16 or older are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars if they: hold a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position; have \$800 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products; or have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products. Member eligibility under current requirements is determined monthly, and these eligibility requirements are re-evaluated on an annual basis.

Participation is simple and easy, without any complicated forms to complete. You'll be able to vote or direct Choice Dollars in a way that's convenient for you.

Visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" for more information.

***If you haven't directed your Choice Dollars yet, it's not too late!  
You have until March 31, 2011 to indicate where your 2010 Choice Dollars should go. Please consider giving them to CLEF!***

# Thank You!

During the 2010 calendar year, 244 congregations, schools, organizations, corporations, foundations, and individuals came together to provide support to our Chicago Lutheran Schools through CLEF. On behalf of the children and teachers whose lives you are blessing with your gift, we thank you for all that you have done, and for all that you continue to make possible.

## Congregations, Schools, and Organizations

Bethesda Lutheran School  
Christ Lutheran Church, Orland Park  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
**Concordia University Chicago**  
Grace English Lutheran School  
Grace Lutheran Church, Libertyville  
**Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest**  
**Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs**  
Luther South Class of 1980  
Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois  
Lutheran Church Extension Fund  
Lutheran Day Nursery  
**Northern Illinois District of the LCMS**  
**Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elmhurst**  
Redeemer Women's Guild, Elmhurst  
St. Andrew Lutheran School, Chicago  
St. Andrew Lutheran School, Park Ridge  
St. John's Lutheran Church, La Grange  
St. John's Lutheran School, Country Club Hills  
St. Luke Academy  
St. Philip Lutheran School  
Valparaiso University  
Walcamp Outdoor Ministries  
Zion Lutheran Church, Marengo

## Corporations

Argo Group  
Lipkis Family Ltd Partnership  
**North Continental Enterprises, Inc.**  
**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**  
North Cook County Chapter  
**Northwest Cook County Chapter**  
**Regional**  
**Unitrin, Inc.**

## Foundations

**The Christopher Family Foundation**  
**Dorothea Eissfeldt Chaveriat Charitable Fund**  
**James and Susan Hooker Family Foundation**  
**Luther Village Spiritual Enrichment Foundation**  
**McGraw Foundation**  
**Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation**  
**George & Arlene Rusch Memorial Foundation**  
**Clarence W. and Marilyn G. Schawk Family Foundation**  
**The Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust**  
**The Webb Foundation**  
**Geary Rimmer Vincent Wolf Foundation**

## Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Acker  
Mr. George Acosta  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Arey  
The Rev. and Mrs. Reuben C. Baerwald  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Baginski, Jr.  
Ms. Eunice Bajus  
**Mrs. Xandria Balcer**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnett  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Batterman

Mr. and Mrs. Brian C. Becker  
The Rev. William C. Beckmann  
Ms. Dorothy A. Belau  
Mrs. Robert E. Bergmann  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Berning  
**Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Beutel**  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard W. Bimler  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Black  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey L. Blackman  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Blatt  
Mr. and Mrs. John Bohnert  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Bouman  
The Rev. and Mrs. James E. Brammeier  
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Brandon  
Mr. Merlin R. Bretzman  
Mr. and Mrs. James Brown  
The Rev. and Mrs. Christopher C. Browne  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Bruegger  
Dr. Jane R. Buerger  
**Mr. and Mrs. Dean L. Buntrock**  
Mr. and Mrs. George K. Busse  
Mr. and Mrs. George R. Busse  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Busse  
Mr. Edward Bussert  
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Carlson  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Caron  
Mr. and Mrs. Krishnan Chandrasekhar  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Christopher  
**Mr. and Mrs. Jay W. Christopher**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Claussen**  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Claussen  
**Mr. and Mrs. Kurt A. Claussner**  
Ms. Sandra L. Corniels  
Dr. Marva J. Dawn  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Dick  
**Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Diekmann**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Doeden**  
**Ms. Robin R. Doeden**  
Dr. Maryann Dudzinski  
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Dundek  
**Mr. and Mrs. William E. Everson**  
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Feehan  
The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Fitzpatrick  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Frantzis  
Mr. Warren E. Gast, Jr.  
Mr. William Geheb  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Geweke  
Mrs. Thomas Gieschen  
**The Rev. and Mrs. Dan P. Gilbert**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gail E. Goodwin  
The Rev. and Mrs. Donald B. Gourlay  
Mrs. Gail Grebasch  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Groskopf  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gross  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Grotelueschen  
The Rev. Theodore Groth  
Ms. Louise R. Grund  
Ms. Barbara Haak  
Ms. Marlene J. Hagedorn

Ms. Sharman D. Hampton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Matt Hansen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Hartwig  
 Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Heinitz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Heintzen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Helmling  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Herman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hilchen  
**Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Hill**  
 Dr. John H. Hinck  
**Mr. and Mrs. Reynard H. Hoffmann**  
 Ms. Rosemarie Horcher  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Irsch  
 Dr. Dorothea Jacobson-Wenzel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher J. Johnson  
 Mr. Keith Johnson  
 Ms. Shirley Johnson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kelley Johnston  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Kaji  
 Mrs. Ruth Kemnitz  
 Ms. Elaine E. Kietzer  
 Ms. Lois A. Klatt  
**Mr. and Mrs. David L. Kleine**  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Ken Knight  
 Ms. Diana Knight  
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Knuettel  
 Mr. Gerald L. Koenig  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lasse Koerm  
 Ms. Arlene A. Koprivnik  
 Ms. Alice L. Kosche  
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Kraegel  
**Mr. and Mrs. Karl A. Kreft**  
 Dr. and Mrs. Paul T. Kreiss  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Kroepel, Jr.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Laabs  
 Mr. and Mrs. James W. Lange  
 Dr. and Mrs. Henry R. Latzke  
 Ms. Judith E. Lessentine  
 Mr. and Mrs. Willis E. Lindeman  
 Mr. and Mrs. James A. Liput, Sr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Long  
 Dr. Wayne Lucht  
 Ms. Ruth B. Lucht  
 Ms. Christine R. Lutze  
**Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Lysen**  
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**Ms. Laura D. Madsen**  
 Ms. Linda Madsen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Mai  
**Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Manka**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Markworth  
**Mr. Allen A. Mattes**  
**Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mattes**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. McDonald  
 Ms. Vicki McGriff  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Moeller  
 Dr. and Mrs. Delbert Mueller  
 Mr. Thomas R. Mueller  
 Mr. Jake Muellner  
 Mr. Kenneth E. Nelson  
 Ms. Eunice E. Nichols  
 Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Oesterreich  
 Ms. Sallyann Okuno Bacchiere  
 Mrs. Hilde G. Osenberg  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Otto  
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 Dr. and Mrs. Barry E. Rabin  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Terry C. Rueffer  
 The Rev. and Mrs. Walter E. Ruehrdanz  
**Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Rundio, Jr.**  
 Ms. JoAnne Rzadzki  
 Mr. and Mrs. Reed S. Sander  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary K. Schabacker  
**Mr. and Mrs. Clarence W. Schawk**  
**Mr. and Mrs. David Schawk**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schmidt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Randy Schnack  
 Mr. Bryan A. Schneider  
 Dr. and Mrs. Leonard H. Schoepf  
 Mr. and Mrs. John H. Schroeder  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Schubkegel  
**Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Schueler**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Schuetz  
**Mrs. Robert F. Schwake**  
**Mr. and Mrs. George H. Shone**  
 Ms. Margaret Sichau  
 Mrs. Margaret Smith  
**Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Soderholm**  
 Ms. Anne Spinks  
**Mr. and Mrs. Al Steinhaus**  
 Dr. and Mrs. John R. Stodden  
**Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stoneman**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee H. Straumann  
 Ms. Rosalie Streng  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee H. Struebing  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kent A. Swanson  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Swartz  
 Ms. Elsa Swartz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Otto Teske  
 Mr. and Mrs. Chad A. Tischer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ueltzen  
 Ms. Elizabeth Quaintance and Mr. David C. Ullman  
**Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Vie**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald N. Voight  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Vura Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Wackenhuth  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Wallgren  
 Mr. John W. Wartinbee  
 The Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Weidler  
 Mr. Robert C. Weisheit, Jr.  
**Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Welch**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wichman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ervin L. Wiemann  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Woodley  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Work  
 Ms. Inna Yermolayeva  
 The Rev. Peter A. Zadeik, Jr.  
 Mrs. Carol J. Zemke  
 Ms. Anna Elizabeth Ziegler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Ziemer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard W. Zimdahl  
 Dr. and Mrs. R. Allan Zimmer

Names in bold indicate \$1,000+ partners.

*“I am a grateful parent who is writing to you to say a great big thank you to CLEF. I am a single parent who is working and going to school. It is very important to me that my son Andrew receives the kind of academic education and spiritual guidance that he receives from Christ the King. It would not be possible for me to keep my son at the school without your help, so once again, I say thank you.”*

*Sincerely,  
Tanyanika Duggar*

## Buy and Sell on eBay for CLEF

**C**hicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation has become part of the eBay Giving Works program. Now you can support our mission when you buy and sell on eBay. Here’s how:

### **Buying**

You can find whatever you’re looking for on eBay – from baseball cards to new cars and more. When you shop, look for items that benefit CLEF. You may be able to find that one of a kind item and support Chicago Lutheran Schools at the same time!

### **Selling**

You can also support CLEF when you sell on eBay. Just designate that “Chicagoland

Lutheran Educational Foundation” should receive 10-100% of your final sale price when you list an item to sell. According to eBay, charity listings often get more bids and higher prices than regular eBay listings, so you can boost your sales and support our critical work at the same time! And eBay will give back to you too, with a credit on your basic selling fees. Now that makes us all winners!

Spread the word to anyone you know who sells on eBay! If you have any questions about this eBay program or would like information about locating a Trading Assistant who could help you sell items on eBay, call Diana at the CLEF Office at 630.595.9310.

## **CLEF Calendar of Events**

**May 4, 2011**

**Annual Good News Fund Awards  
Teacher Recognition Dinner**

Rosewood Restaurant, Rosemont  
Tickets are required.

For more information, please call our office at 630-595-9310.

**June 19-25, 2011**

**UKANDU Missions Trip**

Various Chicagoland locations

**August 15, 2011**

**Annual Networking Conference**

Walther Lutheran High School, Melrose Park



## CLEF Provides Nearly \$500,000 in Scholarships To Children Across Chicago

It's a great headline – and something each of us should take pride in. But the unspoken headline is equally important: **More Than \$100,000 in Scholarship Requests Unfulfilled!**

Yes, you read that correctly. In this trying economic time, CLEF has been able to help hundreds of children, but there are still children who we simply could not reach. How painful to look into the eyes of a parent and have to say, "We just don't have the money to help your child."

Won't you help ensure that no parent has to hear that message this year?

*Make your gift today . . . keep CLEF's mission alive . . .  
keep our children in school . . . share God's love!*

### Here is my commitment to Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

\$125 per month (\$1,500 annually)

\$100 per month (\$1,200 annually)

\$25 per month (\$300 annually)

\$10 per month (\$120 annually)

Enclosed check

Charge my credit card

Visa       MasterCard       Discover

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



Helping kids achieve

Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, 861 S. Church Rd., Bensenville, IL 60106

Fifth and sixth grade students from Jehovah Lutheran School enjoy Outdoor Ed at Walcamp, thanks to a grant from the Christopher Family Foundation.

