

# NATIVITY

SCHOOL OF WORCESTER



Educating  
the Body,  
Mind and  
Spirit of  
Worcester's  
Under-Served Boys



*A Soul  
Generated by  
Love*

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



*“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve....  
You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”*

–Martin Luther King, Jr.

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2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

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2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

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Kelsa Zereski, CFRE

Dear Friends of Nativity,

Nowadays, nearly all schools – public or private – are focusing on that mission-centered question of how should a graduate of the school think and act at the time of graduation. Put another way, what makes the schooling that the graduate received unique and purposeful?

You have likely heard us use the expression “Nativity Man” time and again at our school and in our literature. It is a term of aspiration, encapsulating Nativity’s pedagogical approach to education. Set high expectations – for academic achievement, for strength of character and for successful social behaviors – and then help our burgeoning Nativity Men meet these expectations. The Nativity Man emerges at graduation, prepared for high school, and more importantly, ready for the world that he will inhabit.

This year, a new expression – part and parcel of what it means to be a “Nativity Man” – entered into our student’s lexicon: servant leader. The above quote – taken from Dr. Martin Luther King’s *Drum Major Instinct* and serving as the theme of Summer Session 2008 – emphasized what it means to be a servant leader. Each morning, students engaged in traditional academics – literacy and mathematics – but ended each morning with a class on social justice, learning about the systemic reasons behind homelessness, environmental decay and ageism.

In the afternoons, our Nativity Men cleared brush for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, created murals for abandoned three-deckers for Worcester Common Ground, took down oral histories from elderly residents of Notre Dame Du Lac Assisted Living Facility and tilled the soil for a community garden at Abby’s House. They ended the summer proud of their accomplishments and eager to encourage others to serve with them. An unqualified success!

This next year, Nativity School will be taking significant steps to advance our institution. That news can wait another day.

What we did – you and the faculty – was transform our boys into servant leaders. We have you to thank for making this year – a year of remarkable high school placements (p. 7), a year of impressive giving (pp. 8-11) and a year of achievements galore – possible.

Best,

Matthew Brunell  
President

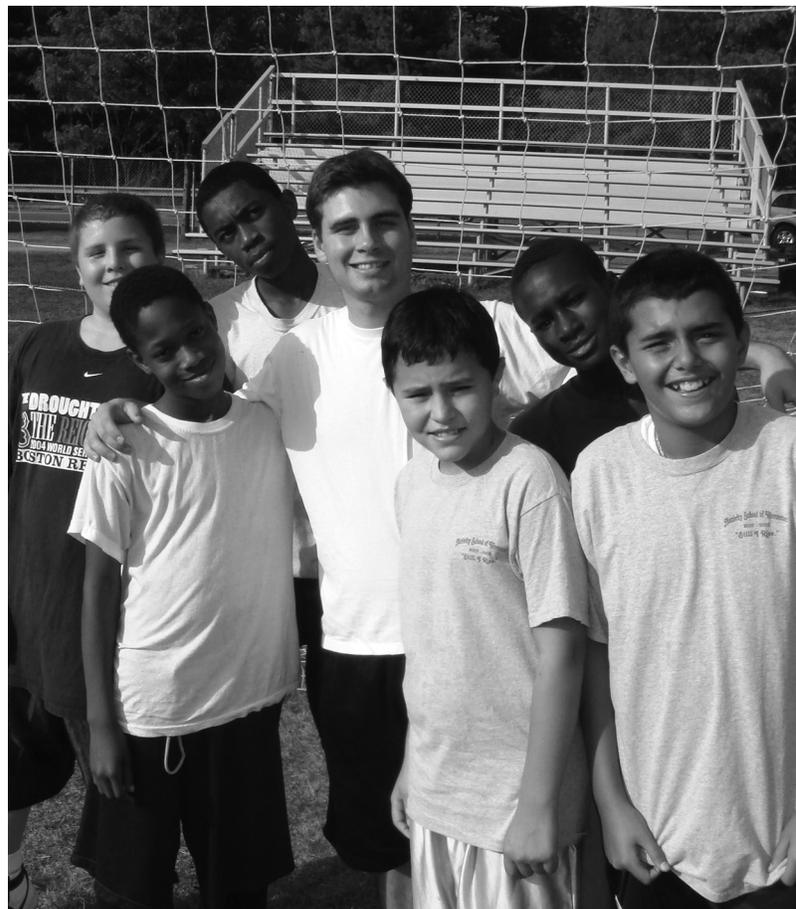
A YEAR OF...  
*Giving*



Nativity School of Worcester would like to thank Congressman Jim McGovern for all of his enthusiasm and support this past year. Not only did the Congressman visit Nativity and spend a significant amount of time speaking to the students, but he graciously welcomed the eighth graders to his office during their graduation trip to Washington, D.C.

## Did you know?

Thanks to a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation's Youth for Community Improvement, Nativity School of Worcester will offer a free SAT prep class to all Ignatius and Xavier Class graduates.



A SUMMER OF...

# Educating the Body,



## Summer Session 2008

To start off Summer Session, the rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders had an unprecedented Summer Session opportunity in Maine at Adventure Bound. There, students took part in team-building and leadership activities – including low- and high-ropes courses – and went white-water rafting.

With “Summer of Service” as a guiding theme, Nativity men had the chance to truly be “men for others” when they returned to Worcester. Students and faculty worked closely with different organizations in the community to integrate service and academic work. Focusing on three areas of study – intergenerational, environmental, and neighborhood improvement – Nativity worked with Notre Dame du Lac Assisted Living Residence, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Worcester Common Ground and Abby’s House. Each week, Nativity students were recognized by teachers for *random acts of kindness* to reinforce the idea of everyday generosity.

To celebrate a summer of servant leaders and community-building, Nativity hosted an end-of-summer celebration to thank students and community partners for an incredible summer experience.

## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS \*

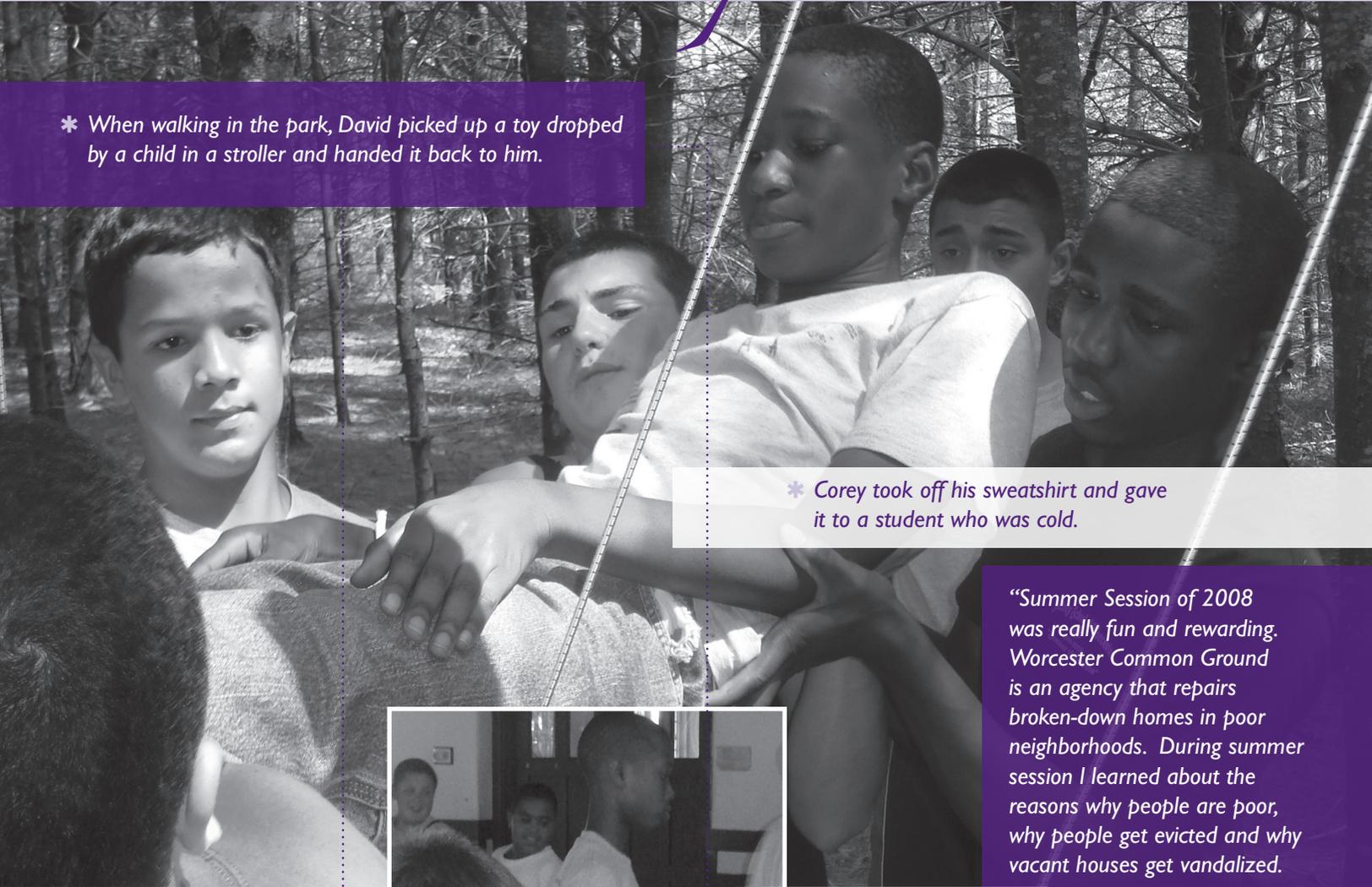


\* *Born stopped to help replace books on a shelf that had fallen to the floor.*



# Mind & Spirit

\* When walking in the park, David picked up a toy dropped by a child in a stroller and handed it back to him.



\* Corey took off his sweatshirt and gave it to a student who was cold.

“Summer Session of 2008 was really fun and rewarding. Worcester Common Ground is an agency that repairs broken-down homes in poor neighborhoods. During summer session I learned about the reasons why people are poor, why people get evicted and why vacant houses get vandalized.

\* After noticing a barefoot classmate struggle to walk on the hot pavement near the beach, Kenny shared one of his sandals so that they both could hop along.



One project we did was to make colorful boards to put on vacant houses. The board will make a difference in the neighborhood. People won't vandalize the houses because these boards are on them. The boards enlighten people that we care, and people stop vandalizing them when they see that we care.”

\* Kyle shared his lunch with a younger student who had no lunch of his own.



—Kyle St. Martin  
Arrupe Class '09



# Graduation

FABER CLASS ■ JUNE 13, 2008

An overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment accompanies every graduation ceremony; the Faber Class graduation was no exception. Michael Perry Moen, nominated by his classmates to speak at the ceremony, recounted the special experience of attending Nativity. Michael spoke about how Nativity had truly affected him and his classmates, how a middle school shaped his future (see quotes).

The four-year slideshow, a graduation tradition, recounted this journey from fifth to eighth grade. Pictures of graduates dressed up on Halloween in fifth grade were certainly endearing; however, the laughter from the crowd soon gave way to admiration. The pictures were visual reminders of how their students had changed over the course of four years into determined, passionate, and hard-working men for others. Nativity faculty, parents, and friends could not be more proud of the graduating class and their accomplishments. Thank you, Faber Class, for all you have shared with Nativity and good luck in the years to come.



*“Sometimes it can be hard to see your full potential at first, but Nativity helps you to find it.”*

Where the  
FABER CLASS  
is Going



Timothy Barrett  
St. John's  
High School

Devan Beckman  
St. John's  
High School

Marc Betancourt  
Holy Name  
High School

Guillermo  
Creamer  
Bancroft School

Andrew Gonzalez  
ABC Masconomet  
High School

Melvin Kaska  
Bancroft School

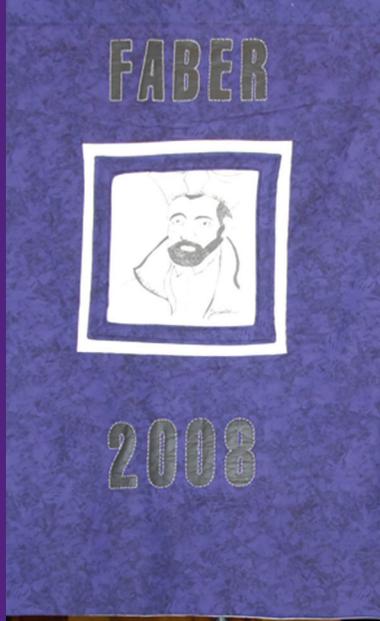
Jordy Melendez  
St. John's  
High School

Efrain Montalvo  
St. John's  
High School

Jonathan Pena  
St. John's  
High School

Michael Perry  
Bancroft School

Edwin Suarez  
Holy Name  
High School



*"Through our journey at Nativity we have created a bond and we have become more than peers; we have become lifelong friends who have formed a brotherhood that will never be forgotten."*



*"We are able to discover who we really are because Nativity focuses on building the whole person. The four pillars, which are taught everyday in school, mold us into men for others and help us to become more than great students: they help us to become great people."*

# ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

# 2008

We gratefully recognize the following individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations for contributions to Nativity School of Worcester between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.



We have made every effort to include all of those who have contributed to Nativity School of Worcester during this time period and sincerely regret and would like to know about any inadvertent omissions or errors.

## *The Nativity Leadership Circle*

\$100,000 +

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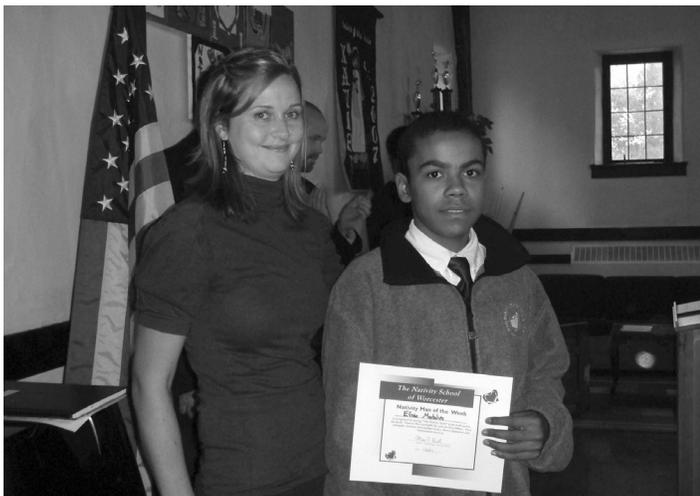
*"The day I stepped into Nativity was the day I knew that this was the place for me. Coming to Nativity has been a huge turning point in my life from being just a regular kid who did not care much about school to a student who always tries his best in all that he does whether it is school work or even sports. But I think that all students that come to Nativity have this turning point in their lives too. Nativity really changes students and bring out the better man in them. I thank all of you who have contributed to the school because you have really changed all of our lives."*

-Guillermo Creamer  
 Faber Class '08 Graduate and student at Bancroft School



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*Nativity is grateful that Boston College has joined Assumption College and Clark University in offering Nativity faculty access to tuition remission programs in several fields of study.*

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*"Nativity is a great place, because it helps graduates like me. Nativity encourages students and graduates to get ready for high school, be comfortable meeting new people, and how to act appropriately. They also help me with my schoolwork. I thank everyone who supports Nativity."*

-Edwin Suarez, Nativity Faber Class '08

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### A Donor's Story

*"I was making hospital rounds and overheard a patient upset because she had tried to go a whole day without swearing and had not been able to do so. I told her if she did not swear all day on December 15th that I would donate to Nativity School. She did it!"*

-Dr. David Barrasso

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## FISCAL YEAR 2008 AT A GLANCE

- Total Budget: \$753,016.00
- Donations increased 52% from Fiscal Year 2007.
- Nativity contributed over \$50,000 in graduate support services, including financial aid, tutoring, and community service opportunities to our graduates.

*"I like Nativity because it challenges me. Even though the days are long I enjoy going to Nativity. It pushes me and it's going to help me get into a good school. On behalf of Nativity, I'd like to thank all donors for all that you've done for students like me."*

-Kyle St. Martin,  
 Arrupe Class '09





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Worcester, MA 01609

Phone 508.799.0100  
Fax 508.799.3951

Visit us online at  
[www.nativityworcester.org](http://www.nativityworcester.org)

## THE YEAR AHEAD

Nov. 14th ■ 12:00pm  
*1st Quarter Awards Luncheon*

Dec. 18th ■ 6:00pm  
*Winter Arts Night*

February 6th ■ 12:00pm  
*2nd Quarter Awards Luncheon*

April 3rd ■ 6:00pm  
*Spring Auction Night*

April 17th ■ 12:00pm  
*3rd Quarter Awards Luncheon*

May 28th ■ 6:00pm  
*Spring Arts Night*

June 12th ■ 5:00pm  
*Graduation*



## *Mission Statement*

Nativity School of Worcester is a tuition-free, independent Jesuit middle school (grades 5-8) for materially-disadvantaged boys living in the vulnerable, low-income neighborhoods of Worcester, MA. In a structured learning environment - including an 11-hour school day, an extended school year, and less than 15 pupils per class - Nativity encourages its boys to attain great academic achievement while nourishing their individuality, emotional growth and overall well being

Nativity's comprehensive graduate support program offers critical academic tutoring to all graduates and tuition assistance to those graduates attending private high schools.