



NATIVITY SCHOOL *of* WORCESTER

An accredited, independent, Jesuit middle school providing a quality, all-scholarship education to underserved boys of all faiths



Access to Opportunity

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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2010-2011 | SCHOOL YEAR**

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“Nativity-Worcester has made a 12-year commitment to you and your student – through middle school, high school, and college – and will be with you every step of the way. This will be your student’s second home for the next 12 years.”

Dear Friends of Nativity School of Worcester,

As I concluded my Family Night remarks at Nativity School of Worcester this September, I turned to the 5th grade families and said, “Nativity-Worcester has made a 12-year commitment to you and your student – through middle school, high school, and college – and will be with you every step of the way. This will be your student’s second home for the next 12 years.”

I had been thinking a great deal about this commitment since the second week of August. At a time when schools are normally quiet, Helene Horan, our Director of Graduate Support, came to me with a concern. She told me that Nicolas, a member of our first graduating class, the Ignatius Class (NSW '06), might not be able to return for his sophomore year of college. Like more than 80% of our graduates, Nicolas is the first in his family to attend college. The family was devastated that Nicolas would not be able to fulfill his dream of a college diploma because the gap between his financial aid and what the family could actually pay left him \$3,000 short. Ms. Horan facilitated a deal with his college for an interest-free loan, but this still left his grandmother, who has raised him since elementary school, with a \$1,000 balance. Nativity School of Worcester stepped in to pay the difference.

Two weeks later, I was speaking with a long-time supporter of the School. I shared with him the story, and within a few days an unsolicited check appeared. Another Nativity miracle happened that day – one of many miracles that are transforming the lives of our students and graduates.

Personally, I feel like I am home again, and I thank you all for the e-mails, phone calls, and pledges of supports that I have received over the last few months as I began my work as president of Nativity-Worcester. Our students are gaining access to opportunities they would not have had were it not for Nativity and you in their lives. I hope you will join me in our ongoing, 12-year commitment to each Nativity-Worcester student and his family. Together, we are transforming lives and opening doors to a positive and productive future.

Thank you for sharing in this commitment,

Alex Zequeira, *President*
Nativity School of Worcester



MEASURABLE *Impact*



Nativity School of Worcester's efforts have yielded eight years of significant impact in Worcester:

- 74 out of Nativity Worcester's 76 graduates are currently enrolled in high school or college.
- One-hundred percent (100%) of Nativity's 76 current graduates were accepted into and received sufficient financial aid to attend private high schools.
- Ninety-four percent (94%) of Nativity graduates are on track to graduate high school in four years' time (*compared to the national average of 68% for students from low-income homes*).
- Nearly 90% of graduates have been accepted into a 4-year college.
- 100% of Nativity School of Worcester graduates who are attending a four-year undergraduate college or university are on track to finish their degree in four years.
- 100% of Nativity's Ignatius Class of 2006 who were college freshmen during the 2010-2011 school year have returned for their second year (*compared to the national average of 15% for first-generation college students*).

MEMBERS OF OUR FIRST TWO CLASSES OF GRADUATES ARE ATTENDING:

- College of the Holy Cross
- DePaul University
- Eastern Nazarene College
- Emmanuel College
- Framingham State University
- Johnson & Wales University
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Providence College
- Quinsigamond Community College
- St. Anselm College
- University of California – Berkeley
- Yale University



BRIAN JOHNSON, JR. - Xavier Class of 2007 - is one of those students that a teacher will never forget. With his magnetic smile, freshly pressed uniform, and friendly demeanor, he looked every bit a Nativity Man. What you could not see behind that smile was a lifetime of struggles.

Brian watched an addicted mother and an absentee father come in and out of his life. Brian's beloved, leukemia-stricken grandmother raised him, along with his younger brother, cousins, and multiple foster children. After school, this young man would cook, clean, help the younger kids with homework, and tend

to his grandmother's needs – all before sitting down to his own homework. Despite often being up to the wee hours of the morning, having to take two busses and walk several blocks to school, Brian was at Nativity every morning on time with a neat uniform and positive attitude.

Brian Johnson exemplifies what it means to be a Nativity Man. In times when others would have long given up, Brian stepped up and worked harder. He was willing to make the sacrifice because he knew his education was important. He trusted in his teachers to guide him and push him to excellence. Many of the other students never knew of Brian's tremendous responsibilities. He didn't let it show, and he never let it hold him back. He made up his mind that he wanted to make something of himself.

I will never forget when Brian called me in the spring of 2011 with great news: "Ms. Taylor, you always said I could go to college, and I just called to let you know I am going to college. I received my first acceptance letter." So as I sit here writing this, with tears in my eyes, Brian Johnson is no longer thirteen or in my classroom. He is now a freshman at Providence College trying to decide between Accounting and Business Management. He continues to take his academics seriously and is taking on many new endeavors.

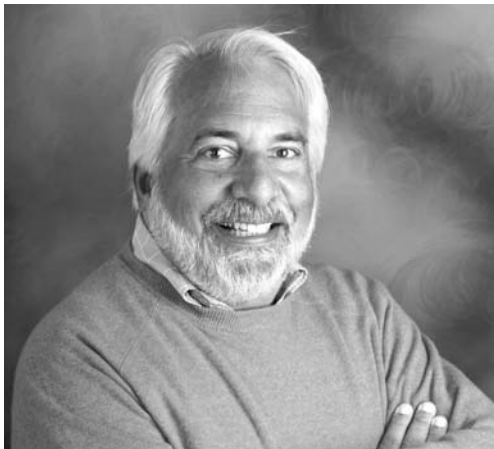
If I were never to teach again I would be okay because I had the Nativity Experience. For a short time I was part of something of magical and life-altering.

Vantrice Taylor, *Nativity Fellow, 2004-2007*



THANK YOU TO CHARLES S. "CHICK" WEISS

Nativity Worcester Board Chair



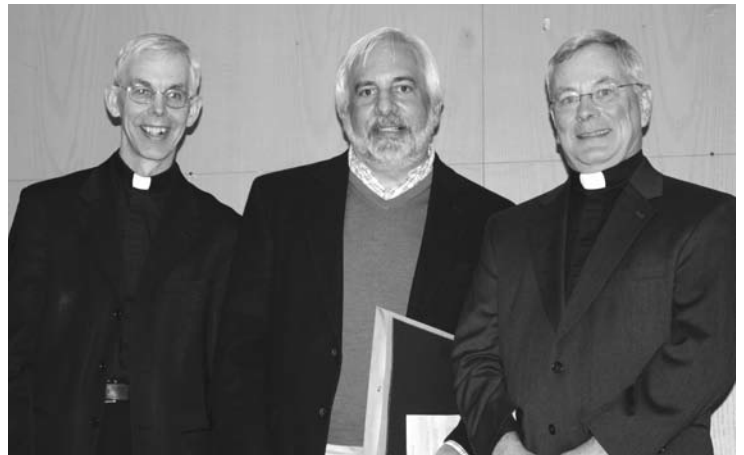
On December 31 of this year, Dr. Charles S. "Chick" Weiss will conclude his term as Chairman of Nativity School of Worcester's Board of Trustees after five years of distinguished service to our community. At Nativity Worcester, we speak of our Four Pillars – Strength, Scholarship, Service, and Character. Chick has been our "fifth pillar" for over 11 years. We are thankful that he will stay on our board and will continue to co-chair our first-ever capital campaign, "It's OK to be Good Here." Thank you, Chick, for all you have done for all of us, and we look forward to many more years of your work providing our past and present Nativity Men access to opportunity.

Alex Zequeira
President, Nativity School of Worcester

Chick Weiss was instrumental in the founding of Nativity School of Worcester. The original idea for the school came out of conversations he and I had when I first came to Holy Cross. Chick oversaw the feasibility study and engaged the Highland Street Foundation, whose support at a very early state was and continues to be critical to the success of the endeavor. He was deeply involved in every step of establishing the organization, hiring an executive director, choosing a board of trustees, finding a site, and recruiting teachers and students. Then as board chair, he brought the school through its most important years of growth, broadening its donor base, finding a permanent facility, gaining accreditation, and seeing its first classes through high school and into college. It is a remarkable record of accomplishment.

Chick Weiss has been with Nativity School of Worcester every step of the way, planning, organizing, encouraging, celebrating and telling its story. No one is more deserving of credit for its impressive success. He is truly the Wizard of Worcester.

Fr. Michael McFarland, S.J.
President of the College of the Holy Cross
Founding Board Chair, Nativity School of Worcester, 2002-2006



Chick Weiss has been dedicated to the Nativity School of Worcester since the early 1990s when he first dreamed of a Jesuit middle school in the city. His contributions of time, treasure and talent in the early years were invaluable to the leadership team. His support over the past five years has guided the institution to become the thriving school it is today.

One of my favorite Nativity memories occurred when Chick and I were speaking with a student during the first year of the school. Joseph told us that he liked Nativity "because it is okay to be good here." Chick's reaction – one that he speaks of often – showed how deeply he felt the strength of those words. Chick has made an incredible impact on Nativity School of Worcester, but it is evident that the students also have made an incredible impact on him.

Joanne McClatchy
1st President of Nativity School of Worcester, 2002-2006





Chick Weiss has no peer when it comes to the most formative person in Nativity's young history.

He met the most fundamental desire for a child facing poverty with what that child actually needs: a way out of poverty. He knew from his own life that education could be just that ticket. Chick had the entrepreneurial wherewithal to see vision become a reality – no insignificant task – by turning a fledgling idea rooted in social justice into a school with profound results. Nativity is where it is today – accredited, with a permanent facility, and strong academic results – because of Chick's board leadership.

I marvel at how Chick's voice always quivers slightly when he tells a story about the boys of Nativity School of Worcester – filled with empathy for the challenges that our

boys experience and filled with awe at their capacity to overcome those challenges. His love for the boys is endless, his vision for the school transformative, and his support of school leadership without fail. Nativity School exists and will thrive because of his tireless work.

Matthew Brunell, Esq.
2nd President of Nativity School of Worcester, 2006-2011

Before each graduating boy walks across the stage at Nativity School of Worcester's annual eighth-grade graduation, a short biography is read tracing his time at Nativity from his first day to the moment of graduation. While only a glimpse of the Nativity experience, it is a celebration of how a purposeful education can transform a boy, his family and, in the end, a community. At each graduation, Chick Weiss has sat quietly, reveling in the success of the graduating boys. The simple truth is that were it not for Chick Weiss, no boy from Worcester would have ever journeyed across that stage as a recipient of this transformative education.

As I prepare to assume Chick's role as Chairman of the Board, I have had the good fortune to learn from his stewardship. In all the graduations yet to come, one thing will always remain true: As each boy crosses the stage there will always be thanks and gratitude to the enduring presence and the hard and selfless work of our good friend Chick Weiss. As one man he has changed the lives of countless others. Thank You, Chick, from the entire Nativity community past, present and yet to come.

J. Christopher Collins
Vice Chair and Chair-Elect, Nativity School of Worcester



A Summer of Service



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela

The fifth, sixth and seventh graders performed community service at three different sites in mixed-grade groups; each site focused on a specific service area. The first group learned about fighting childhood obesity. These students did their community service at Wachusett Greenways, helping to clear trails. The second group focused on stewardship in the community. These students did their community service at St. John's Parish in Worcester, assisting at the food pantry and painting a mural. The third group studied environmental sustainability. They performed their service at Fruitlands Museum.

The eighth graders were part of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative. Students working on this project visited various community service sites in Worcester

and disbursed \$5,000 of Highland Street Youth Philanthropy grant money among these sites. The students visited six sites: The Oxford House, YouthGROW, The New Citizens School, The Worcester Historical Museum, Camp Blanchard and The Veterans Association. We are proud of our students and faculty for completing over 1500 hours of community service this summer.

Sean Dillon, *Principal*



"Thank you for teaching us the meaning of community service."
Shadrach, 7th Grade



Nativity School of Worcester students completed over 1500 hours of community service during the 2011 Summer of Service

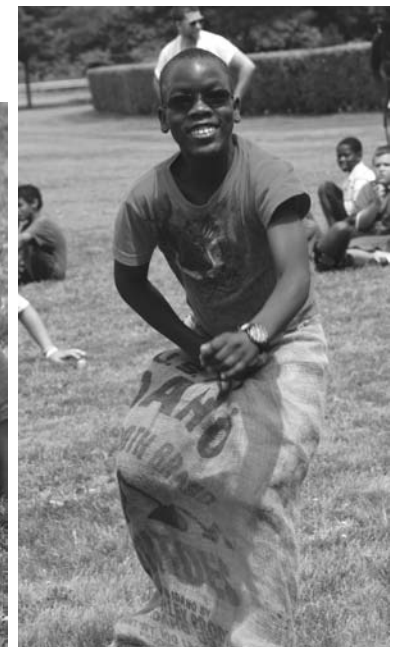


*"Moving trees and firewood was hard work but I knew that I was helping people out. Thanks for this awesome summer!"
Jeremy, 7th Grade*



*"I loved seeing the gorillas because the baby would do flips in the air. Once the baby gorilla flew so high that he almost got hurt, but the father caught him in the air. It was awesome!"
Jairo, 6th Grade*

"In math we're starting to get a taste of how much harder it's going to be. All I know that I've been acing all of the quizzes, so I'll be prepared for the fall!" - Bryan, 6th Grade



"At Fruitlands I learned about the background and foreground in pictures. I also learned about precipitation, evaporation, and ground water." - Vincent, 5th Grade



Graduation

PRO CLASS ■ JUNE 10, 2011



We all have our stories about how we came to be Nativity Men. I would like to share mine.

One day five years ago, Father Andy and a man we didn't know came knocking on our door. Fr. Andy started to talk to my mom and introduced the man. His name was Mr. Brunell and he was the director of Nativity School of Worcester, a school that Fr. Andy thought would be good for me. It was the first time I had heard of Nativity. I liked what I heard so I applied. I have not had one minute of regret.

Coming to Nativity School was a big transition. You might not know it by looking at me now, but I wasn't always a perfect Nativity Man. When I first came here, I did not always pay attention and I earned 6 detentions.

With the help of Nativity teachers, I matured a lot. I realized that life always has roadblocks but we still have to move on. I learned that attending high school and college are important and without my education, I would not fulfill my potential. As the Pro Class, we have accomplished so much over our four years. We have learned from each other and learned from our own mistakes. In the future we will be getting help from Ms. Horan with homework, essays, and if we have any problems, we will always have Nativity School right with us to help us throughout high school and college life. Yes, we will have to leave these good times behind us now, but we will have more throughout the next four years together because we will always be Nativity brothers.

I'm glad that Fr. Andy brought Mr. Brunell to my home that day 5 years ago.

Jacob Vazquez

Excerpts from his Graduation Speech

Nativity School of Worcester Pro Class of 2011

Saint John's High School Class of 2015





Where the PRO CLASS is going

PETER BUI
Saint John's High School

SEAMUS BUSHE
Leicester High

ALEXANDER DIAZ
Saint John's High School

JARED GONZALEZ
Holy Name High School

JUAN GUEVARA
Saint John's High School

DAVON JONES
Saint John's High School

COREY LEE
Holy Name High School

DAVIN NELSON
Saint John's High School

MICHAEL PAPETTI
Worcester Academy

VICTOR PEÑA ORTIZ
Holy Name High School

ALAN PHUNG
Worcester Academy

FRANCISCO ROSARIO
Holy Name High School

DEMETRIUS SAFFORD
Saint John's High School

JACOB VAZQUEZ
Saint John's High School



A Lifelong Dedication to Education:

THE FAR-REACHING IMPACT OF THE NATIVITY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Nativity Fellows are distinguished, recent college graduates who are excited about the challenges and rewards of providing a quality education for Worcester's underserved boys. Nativity Fellows teach or co-teach three to four class periods per day in addition to serving as advisors, tutors, proctors, coaches, nurses, janitors, drivers, monitors, and managers of all other responsibilities that promote our students' well-being, all for very little material rewards.

The impact of our Nativity Fellows reaches far beyond the walls of Nativity Worcester. A remarkable 86% of Nativity Fellows Program alumni have remained in education. An impressive 72% of these alumni have remained in urban education.

To learn more about our Nativity Fellows Program, please visit www.nativityworcester.org.



Profile of a Fellow

YACHIRA TORRES, 2nd Year Fellow

Growing up in a Spanish-speaking household provided limited opportunities for me to practice English. So, I did what every four-year-old girl would have done, and decided to play teacher. I would line up the stuffed animals on my bed and pace back and forth in front of them, holding a portable chalkboard, and asking them to recite the alphabet as carefully as they could. I did not realize it at the time, but teaching was my vocation.

My journey from ambitious four-year-old to Teaching Fellow at Nativity School of Worcester was the result of three seemingly unassociated things: Holy Cross, Spain, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At Holy Cross, I became a woman for others and adopted the philosophy that education helps students care about other people. If Holy Cross' Jesuit tradition did this for me, wouldn't it work for others?

I spent my junior year abroad in Spain. I perfected my native language and adopted a new culture. The single most significant experience of my time in Spain was tutoring elementary school students. I realized they were learning and growing because of me and my work. Something in me changed; I knew I wanted to do this forever.

Back in Worcester, I met Fr. Jack Fagan at a luncheon celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fr. Fagan introduced himself as the chaplain at Nativity School of Worcester. I visited the school and I knew right away that this was where I was meant to be. I was inspired by the commitment of the faculty and staff, and I fell in love with the students immediately. Nativity proved to be a place where I could answer my calling towards education and live out the mission to serve my community.





The impact of our Nativity Fellows reaches far beyond the walls of Nativity Worcester. A remarkable 86% of Nativity Fellows Program alumni have remained in education. An impressive 72% of these alums have remained in urban education.



BEYOND THE FELLOWSHIP:
Examples of Alumni Impact

English Department Chair and Teacher
Sullivan Middle School, Worcester, MA

Lead Teacher

East Brooklyn Community High School, Brooklyn, NY

Special Education Coordinator

Success Preparatory Academy, New Orleans, LA

Principal

Nativity School of Worcester, Worcester, MA

High School Placement & Alumni Affairs Director

The Children's Storefront, Harlem, NY

School Psychologist

Plymouth Public Schools, Plymouth, MA

Therapeutic Mentor

Y.O.U., Inc., Worcester, MA

Social Studies and English Teacher,

Esperanza Academy, Lawrence, MA

Director of Operations

Building Excellent Schools, Boston, MA



Campus Minister/Social Justice in Education
Emmanuel College, Boston, MA

Graduate Support Director
Nativity School of Worcester, Worcester, MA

Thank you to our sponsors of the Nativity Fellowship Program:

Amelia Peabody Foundation

Saint Francis Community Health Care Foundation

Stephanie H. and David A. Spina Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

To learn how to support the Nativity Fellowship Program, please see www.nativityworchester.org.



2011 Annual Report of Giving

We gratefully recognize the following individuals, organizations, corporations, & foundations for contributions to Nativity School of Worcester from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

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

\$100,000+

Polly & William Haylon
Highland Street Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,000

Jesuit Community of Holy Cross

\$25,000-\$49,999

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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continued on next page



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FISCAL YEAR 2011

- During Fiscal Year 2011, total revenues and non-operating assets used in operations totaled \$1,115,180.
- Total expenses during fiscal year 2011 were \$1,083,305.
- Nativity contributed over \$90,000 in graduate support services, including financial aid, tutoring, and community service opportunities to our graduates.





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Mission Statement

Nativity School of Worcester is an accredited, independent, Jesuit middle school that provides a quality, all-scholarship education to underserved boys of all faiths. Drawing upon four pillars - strength, scholarship, character, and service - a Nativity education inspires self-discovery, responsibility, spiritual growth, and a lifelong dedication to learning.



The Year Ahead

Nov. 21st 2011 ▪ 5pm
Family Potluck

Dec. 20th 2011 ▪ 5:30pm
Winter Arts Night

Apr. 11th 2012 ▪ 6pm
Jesuit GALA

Apr. 27th 2012 ▪ 6pm
Spring Auction Night

May 22nd 2012
Spring Arts Night

Jun. 8th 2012 ▪ 5pm
Campion Class Graduation