

Spring 2019 | Issue 7

# CONTINUUM

TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL



On a Mission to Serve

SPRING 2019

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## ON THE COVER

Retired TG religion teacher Mike Shimek continues to lead the weekly Lasallian Youth after school service outing to Sharing and Caring Hands. Mike is pictured with Sharing and Caring Hands founder Mary Jo Copeland and TG Campus Minister Andrew Million '09.

## ADDRESS CHANGES AND ALUMNI NEWS SUBMISSIONS

Submit address changes and submissions for alumni notes at [totinograce.org/alumni](http://totinograce.org/alumni) or contact the Alumni Relations Office at 763-571-9116 or [tgalumni@totinograce.org](mailto:tgalumni@totinograce.org). The school reserves the right to publish and/or edit material to reflect the values of our mission.

*The Continuum is published by Totino-Grace High School's Marketing and Communications Office for alumni, families and friends of the school. No part of this publication may be reprinted without permission.*

## CONNECT WITH TOTINO-GRACE



[www.totinograce.org](http://www.totinograce.org) and 763-571-9116



**Totino-Grace**  
High School

## MISSION STATEMENT

Totino-Grace is an Archdiocesan co-educational Catholic high school in the Lasallian tradition. Welcoming a student body that is academically, economically, and culturally diverse, we strive for equity and excellence in all programs. Recognizing the key elements of our mission as learning, faith, community, and service, we seek to provide a safe environment that places priority on mutual respect, self-discipline, and acknowledgment of our responsibility in the world community.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Craig W. Junker**  
President

**Cheri Broadhead**  
Principal

**Dan Vandermyde**  
Assistant Principal

**Andrew Blake '99**  
Dean of Students and Director of Campus Ministry

**Matt Ksepka**  
CFO

## ADVANCEMENT STAFF

**Richard Olson**  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

**David Olson '07**  
Annual Fund Director

**Jeffrey Ferguson '74**  
Associate Director for Advancement, Special Projects

**Kelly O'Neil Refsnider '98**  
Director of Marketing and Communications





## From the **President's Desk**

When I was a young teacher, I lived in community with the Christian Brothers as a Lasallian Volunteer. I taught English and religion at St. Joseph's High School in Greenville, Mississippi. I learned more about the Civil Rights Movement, the Blues, the Delta, humidity, cotton, catfish, Elvis, and the Big-Muddy. The Brothers taught me that all people hunger for joy, affirmation, and meaning in their lives, regardless of whether they came from rare places where people are insulated from the chilly winds of life, or from places like Greenville, where poverty and institutional racism make life emotionally raw for people.


During my stay, Greenville had the second highest murder rate per capita in the country. Sadly, some people had either grown immune to crime or they simply expected it. For some unknown reason, people sometimes feed on destroying that which is most dear to us, whether it is our own bodies and psyches or our own children. And yet, in many places including Greenville, there is a spirit that says, "We shall overcome."

On my first day in the classroom, Brother Tom, our principal, took me aside before class and said, "Craig, as a junior high teacher down here, you will be Jesus to these students. They will look to you for kindness and hope. Many of them haven't been treated fairly in life, so be careful with them." No one had ever told me that I would be looked upon as Jesus. Brother Tom's words moved me; they inspired me to want to do more to serve our students. I used to think that if there was one person in the world you didn't want to cheat, it was yourself. From the moment I heard Brother Tom's words, my thinking changed. I suddenly understood how precious it felt to invest in someone else's well-being, especially a child's.

In our culture today, we seem to prize the importance of being independent and self-sufficient, encouraged to "make it on our own" and "march to the beat of our own drum." While such sentiments may be fine in certain circumstances, at Totino-Grace we teach our students to stop competing against one another and start contributing to one another. Our former religion teacher, Mike Shimek, once told me that people don't really enjoy life fully until they feel a part of something larger than individual success. I agree. Most people desire to feel part of a family, team, or community. As human beings, we have an innate need to connect with others and contribute to something bigger than ourselves. I can't think of anything more noble than trying to be Jesus to someone else.

In this edition of *The Continuum*, you will find stories from several Totino-Grace community members who answered the call to serve others. The Christian Brothers and School Sisters of Notre Dame expected their students to do God's work and that's exactly what these people have done.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

  
Dr. Craig W. Junker  
President

# School News

## 2018-2019 Highlights

### Athletics



Herbert Endeley '19 is this year's Class A Mr. Soccer. He was also named one of the best soccer players in the nation, earning recognition on the 2018 Fall High School Boys All-America Team by the United Soccer Coaches, the world's largest soccer coaches' organization. Head coach Bill Vance was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame this fall and is a 2018 recipient of the United Soccer Coaches' High School Coach of Significance Award.



Diver Ellie Gunderson '19 placed first in the 2018 Class A Girls State Swim and Dive Tournament. Ellie earned a diving scholarship at Northern Michigan University.



Totino-Grace High School's boys hockey program will opt up to compete in Class AA starting in the 2019-2020 school year.



Totino-Grace has formed a new partnership with Coon Rapids High School's boys swimming and diving program. The athletic offering will begin with the 2019-2020 school year.





The wrestling team earned a seventh consecutive section championship title and placed sixth in the 2019 Class AA Team State Wrestling Tournament. Nine team members competed in the Individual State Wrestling Tournament with Joey Thompson '20 and Jake Svihel '19 taking home championship titles. Eagle wrestling coach Doug Svihel achieved win number 450 on January 17. Coach Svihel is in his 30th year leading our wrestling program and is currently our longest serving coach.

## Service



The E'gals dance team captured the first place title in the 2019 Class AA Jazz State Dance Team Tournament and completed their exciting season with a second place finish in the High Kick State Dance Team Tournament. Their first place win secured the 52nd state athletic title in Totino-Grace's 52 year history.



The 14th annual Dodge for a Difference dodgeball tournament took place on February 3 with 144 students competing on 20 teams. This year's event raised \$1,020 for Totino-Grace's sister school, St. Joseph, in Keren, Eritrea.



This year, Totino-Grace will send a total of 140 students on service immersion mission trips to Winona, Minnesota; Kansas City, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Port Au Prince Haiti, El Paso, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; New York City, New York; Anniston, Alabama; and the Twin Cities. A group will travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in June for the final trip of the year. Our service immersion program encompasses the core values of the Lasallian mission while providing students with unique opportunities to learn about different cultures and poverty issues locally and internationally.



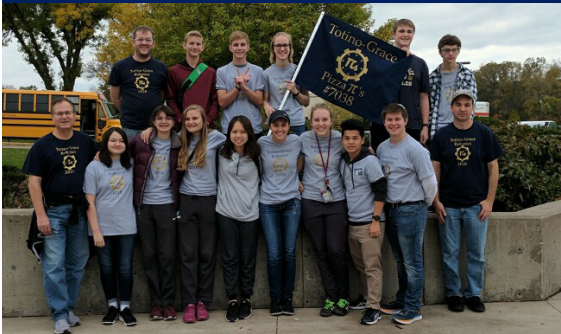
# Activities



Students in the Totino-Grace SOURCE group (Students Of Underrepresented Race, Culture, and Ethnicity) attended and presented on microaggression at the Missing Voices: Equity in Education Summit at St. Mary's University on February 28.



Delaney Palme '20 earned Conference Top Female Average in the 2018 Fall Trap Shooting League.



The TG robotics team, The Pizza Pis, competed in the Medtronic Foundation Regional event at Williams Arena at the University of Minnesota, March 28-30. This year's game theme was Destination: Deep Space.



Totino-Grace's Knowledge Bowl Team will participate in the state competition April 10-11 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. It is the first time that TG has qualified to compete in the event.



The DECA State Career Development Conference took place at the Hyatt Regency, March 3-5. Totino-Grace had 24 students competing -- the most in the history of TG DECA. Jack Cibuzar '20 and Aidan Thomas '21 achieved top scores for the entire state in the marketing exam. Maria Dehn '20, Emily Lafeber '20, and Meredith Jaeger '20 competed in the Start Up Business Plan event and advanced to finals. Their group took fifth, just missing the qualifying placement for the International Competition in Florida.



Members of Totino-Grace's Respect Life group joined others from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in a pilgrimage to attend the 2019 National Rally and March for Life on January 18 in Washington, D.C. In addition to their participation in March for Life events, they attended the Students For Life of America Conference, Mass at the National Basilica, and had an opportunity to visit museums in the city.



# Arts



Company of Singers vocalists, band, and crew traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, from March 14 - 17, to participate in the Heart of America National Competition. They served as the featured host and performance group at the competition, held at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center.



A total of 53 students participated in Hello, Dolly! as cast, crew, pit, front of house, publicity, and more. This year's fall musical welcomed a significant number of new students to the TG Theater Program. The production had five very solid performances with responsive audiences, including four standing ovations! It was thrilling to play host to a number of alumni who were a part of our school's 1978 production of Hello, Dolly!, including Denise Rybak Bradley '79 who played the title character.



Totino-Grace's instrumental department partnered with St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis to host a Holiday Open House event and concert on December 10. Students served meals and offered activities for the downtown Minneapolis population. They performed their Christmas concert in the church that evening.



Totino-Grace's winter play, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, was the premier production of our Theatrical Mentorship Program and a collaboration with the TG Theater Academy, a fine arts middle school program. Performances took place in early February with 10 middle school students in the cast and crew, working alongside their TG student mentors.



# On a Mission to Serve



## **Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger Foundress, School Sisters of Notre Dame**

*Oh, Holy Spirit,  
Enlighten me,  
Strengthen me,  
So that I may understand  
And know my divine call,  
Who I am,  
What I should be,  
And what I must do.  
As well as the means  
By which these ends  
May be accomplished.*



## **Saint John Baptist de La Salle Founder, Christian Brothers**

*Since the work that you do brings you  
into contact with many people, learn to  
live in the spirit of Jesus Christ. They will  
then be able to see Him in you.*

As a Catholic Lasallian high school we are committed to create and sustain respectful human relationships in community. Within such a setting, Totino-Grace seeks to challenge its students to serve others, especially the poor, and to deepen a sense of responsibility in the world community. This initiative begins in the classroom and is implemented within our co-curricular programs. Each student at our school is exposed to opportunities to help them discover their God-given gifts and talents and consider how to best share them with others. In this issue's feature, you will read about community members who have discovered meaningful ways to contribute to the greater good and their commitment to significant volunteer service.



# Paul Crowe '75

Dr. Paul Crowe always knew he wanted to pursue a significant service commitment; it was just a matter of timing. Now with grown children – creating more availability and flexibility to travel for extended periods of time – his desire became a reality.

Dr. Crowe is an orthopedic surgeon with Twin Cities Orthopedics, working primarily out of Maple Grove Hospital, with a focus on the spine.

“The process to look into volunteer options started about a year and a half ago. There are two types of medical mission opportunities: short term intensive service project-based, where a team of professionals and equipment are brought into an area of need, or an educational mission experience where individuals go into a community to work with the people, facilities, and equipment already in place. It took me about six months to find an organization that was a good fit. It was frustrating and I nearly gave up on the process, but found a fit with Health Volunteers Overseas through a recommendation from a friend and colleague. In April, I completed the intake and vetting process and was put on the duty roster for the following January, but everything was expedited when they asked me to accompany an attending doctor in four weeks. It couldn't have been a more inconvenient time since I had my schedule set weeks out, but it was the right thing to do. I returned just this past January and was excited to see progress from my first trip.”

Health Volunteers Overseas is a private non-profit based in Washington, D.C. that emphasizes teaching, training, and mentoring to local health care providers in developing countries. Dr. Crowe and his wife, Suzanne, have spent two service trips working with staff at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania. Paul focuses on orthopedics with the doctors at the center. “The goal is to help the doctors get to a point of sustainability – teaching them and integrating their resources. Our experience is like being a guest professor, a living resource or “encyclopedia” for the medical team. On an average day, I start with radiology, reviewing terminology, then the medical students present cases and an update of the last 24 hours. We make rounds in the 500 bed hospital and have dedicated time in the clinic and operating room. The afternoons are spent in lecturing series. Although they desperately want me to do things, the more they can do – with my guidance, not intervention – the better equipped they will be to serve their communities with their enhanced knowledge, skills, and experience.”

“TG does a good job of presenting students with the idea that they are a part of something bigger. The environment at the school fosters being thoughtful of what you have to contribute; looking outside the ring of what you do for yourself to how your skills and abilities can benefit others. It's important for young people to know that we all have plenty to offer. Everybody has something they can do and a way to give support to those in need.”

“I'm looking forward to returning to Tanzania; the work is so gratifying and rewarding. We have met and worked with incredibly kind, high-quality people and already have a number of social events planned with our new friends and colleagues for when we return. My wife and I are invested in the community there and we look forward to building on what we started.”





## Emily Gams '13

During high school, Emily Gams determined that she wanted to be a Peace Corps Volunteer after she graduated from college. “I wanted to travel and help people in long-term committed service. It was through my studies at the University of Dallas that I became particularly interested in the history and culture of Eastern Europe and decided that I wanted to serve in Ukraine specifically. I realized that I could study as much as I wanted but I wouldn’t have a well-informed understanding of the area and the people until I not only visited but lived, worked, and established relationships with people there.”

Emily began training in Ukraine in September 2017 and took her official oath to become a Peace Corps Volunteer in November of 2017. She currently serves as a Teacher of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and is one of more than 300 Peace Corps Volunteers in Ukraine and one of about 7,000 volunteers worldwide. “Peace Corps’ mission hasn’t changed since its formation in 1961: to promote world peace and friendship. We do this by helping our host countries meet their need for trained men and women, by promoting a better understanding of Americans in our host countries, and by promoting a better understanding of our host country among Americans. As a TEFL volunteer, I specifically help teachers of English in my community through team-teaching and teacher trainings. I teach 5th-8th grade, plan events like English Week, and coordinate projects like pen pals with classes in the U.S. I also work with the district methodologist of foreign languages to plan workshops and seminars on topics like inclusive education, integrating technology, and many others as Ukraine works to enact their New Ukrainian School education reform. Of course, I also demystify some preconceptions of Americans when interacting with students, friends, and colleagues in my community and I share my experiences in Ukraine with friends and family back in America.”



“Just this year, I was able to connect with Mr. TJ Paal’s U.S. Government class. Through Skype, his students discussed civil liberties in the U.S. and Ukraine with my students here. One of the things I remember most about my classes at TG is that we not only received instruction and information, but that knowledge was also grounded in a conversation of ‘how will you use what you’ve learned?’ I guess that’s the school pillars dovetailing; learning must also be grounded in faith and service.”

For Emily, making time for service has always been a priority. “Finding time to help others in some way through church or other organizations has always been a part of my life due to my faith. My faith has been a source of strength and confidence in all varieties of service, from inspiration for a difficult topic when teaching faith formation while in high school, to solace when I’m homesick here in Ukraine. Without it I couldn’t commit to a task like Peace Corps Service; I couldn’t do this without God’s grace. It’s important to remember that for as many successes you have there are also setbacks and stresses. Dedicated service requires resilience to carry on through those challenges and to try again, and that resilience needs a source such as faith or passion. Finding a dedicated service opportunity that matches that source will carry you through the difficult days and make the successes all the sweeter.”



## Mike Shimek, Retiree

Retired Totino-Grace religion teacher, Mike Shimek, has led Lasallian Youth service outings to Sharing and Caring Hands since 1998. Every Tuesday, a group of about 15 student volunteers join him at the Minneapolis site. The after school service opportunity is so popular that there is always a waiting list for the weekly outing.

Hundreds of TG students have served with Mr. Shimek during his 20 year commitment. Frequently, young alumni will join the TG group for an afternoon of service during a college break. Dean of Students and Director of Campus Ministry, Andrew Blake '99, explains why this is the case, "Students rarely say yes the first time to a Lasallian Youth opportunity; they do, however, say yes to Mike Shimek. It starts with an invitation. What he has done is build relationships with students so that they will say yes to the invitation and then yes to acknowledging and honoring the dignity of the people served there. Service to others really begins with him."

Mike, reluctant to commit to leading a weekly service project, found that his leadership not only provided a great personal benefit but has afforded a unique blessing to student participants. "Mission trips can be expensive but service opportunities like this are accessible to everyone. Students draw their friends in; it's a community experience. They find that they can create shared experiences with those who are not in their class or on their team. This experience honors their peer group; it provides opportunity for connectedness. Totino-Grace truly has one of the strongest mission and service programs in the Archdiocese. Volunteer hours are not required yet we have a full crew every week."

Over the course of his commitment, Mike has seen how Totino-Grace's dedication to Sharing and Caring Hands has also impacted founder and parent of eight TG grads, Mary Jo Copeland. "The impact of our young people on Mary Jo validates her work and supports her in a deeper way than I thought. Mary Jo prays with and for Totino-Grace students and goes out of her way to connect with our dedicated volunteers, serving as a model of faith."

In addition to preparing and serving meals and assisting with a variety of behind the scenes needs at the site, Totino-Grace students have provided vocal and instrumental entertainment to Sharing and Caring Hands visitors. "Service opportunities are important to high school kids. I have seen our students' desire to connect with the guests. The experience there allows them to see something in themselves that hasn't been awakened, in a sense. Their vision of fellow people – those less fortunate – is deepened. They recognize the world is bigger and not as forgiving as we may think. Being with the guests at Sharing and Caring Hands, giving their time, truly seeing the people served, broadens their vision."

When asked why he continues to lead the Tuesday Sharing and Caring Hands service outing, Mike paused, then shared, "I feel like there is real purpose; it's good for me. It's a way I can contribute, give back, and help." When told he has quite a legacy, he reluctantly accepted, stating, "It's a legacy I'm happy to be known for."







## Claire Baker '15

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In January 2010, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake shook Haiti and an entire community was devastated. Claire Baker recalls, "As a 13 year old girl in seventh grade I had no money to send, and I didn't know what I could do to help. I learned that family friends of ours were in the process of adopting two kids from Haiti before the earthquake hit. During their initial visits to see their children in Haiti, they noticed children wearing crushed down pop bottles for shoes, and they decided to start an organization to collect shoes for children without proper school attire. They named the organization Flip Flop Feet. Once I learned about this organization, I knew this was my chance to step in and help those devastated in Haiti. I was only expecting 250 pairs of shoes but after the initial collection, racked up nearly 4,000 pairs of shoes."

With shoes piled up in her family's garage, Claire had to figure out how to get the donations to the kids who needed them most. She recalls, "We received a random mass email from Soles4Souls asking for shoes in the back of our closets that we don't wear anymore. We called them up and asked what we could do if we had an entire garage full of shoes?" That email message launched Claire's nine year relationship with Soles4Souls and the collection of over 425,000 pairs of shoes from across the upper Midwest. Claire's shoe collection initiatives support the organization's shoe distribution efforts in 127 countries.

Claire had the amazing opportunity to travel to Haiti to distribute shoes to those in need. She recalls, "I went to Haiti with Soles4Souls for the first time in September of 2012 (sophomore year at TG), June of 2014 (summer before senior year), March 2015 (during spring break of senior year), and then again in June of 2017 (summer before my junior year of college). Placing a pair of shoes on an individual who did not have any is an experience I will never forget. I am always incredibly humbled by the smiles and joy the individuals bring. This makes loading up a 53 foot semi-trailer in the middle of the freezing cold winter so much more worth it! Receiving a pair or pairs of shoes from individuals who do not wear them anymore and seeing people put those same shoes on and have so much joy is life giving – for them and myself! I have been fortunate enough to see the impact that giving a pair of shoes can have!"

"I was involved with service before attending Totino-Grace, but with the open, honest, loving, and kind environment at TG, the shoe collection project flourished even more," Claire shares. "My faith has propelled and encouraged me to care for others with whatever resources I have available. It has given me the confidence and appreciation for the life I have been given and has made me more compassionate toward those who are in different situations than me. Attending a Catholic Lasallian high school impacted my future choices, successes, and achievements – personally and professionally – because it showed me where my strengths and weaknesses were. I was able to grow from those weaknesses and take charge with my strengths."

Claire is studying at the College of Saint Benedict and looks forward to a career in healthcare. "Traveling to Haiti has made me more hungry and willing to continue to give and serve others," she shares. "I see the immediate need and suffering occurring in the world and I notice the importance of sharing my time, talents and treasures with others. This shoe collection has given me so much experience in public speaking, being a leader, taking charge, and knowing when to step back and allow others to take the reins. I will use this shoe collection and service experience to care for my patients more compassionately, lovingly, and from an understanding that everyone has a different story and background. You cannot treat the issue or problem without fully knowing or understanding the person it is affecting! Working with patient care I will stand up for my patients and be their advocate for what is best for them."





## Alex Dybsky '04, Steve Dybsky '97, and Scott Thole '97

In 2006, Scott Thole and brothers Alex and Steve Dybsky were inspired to launch a non-profit, Chicago HOPE (Higher Obligation in the Pursuit of Education). Steve acknowledged that the influences and experiences during their high school years sparked an interest in service. “You realize that the world is much bigger than the bubble in which you live and it’s your responsibility to go beyond that and actively participate wherever you can add value.” Participation on TG mission trips and in Lasallian Youth impacted their future volunteer pursuits, “exposing us to opportunities to make a difference.”

Regarding the origin of Chicago HOPE, Alex explains, “Scott was the driver; he attended a Dollars for Scholars fundraiser and was the motivator to start a chapter of the national organization in Chicago where we lived. We eventually reincorporated with a new vision, offering a mentoring and service component in addition to awarding scholarships to local high school students pursuing a college education.”

Steve recalls the initial motivation to take action. “Starting our own non-profit was something we had been discussing for a while. We saw a tremendous need in Chicago in terms of a gap in education. There were so many amazing kids we met who were dealt a difficult hand and didn’t have the opportunities that we had when we were younger, and there was an obligation for us to help.”

The mission of Chicago HOPE is to provide four-year college scholarships and mentoring to Chicago Public High School seniors with limited financial resources. The organization’s goal is for every scholarship recipient to graduate from college, find career placement in the year they graduate, and emerge as a leader who gives back to their community.

Alex explains why Chicago HOPE’s model provides a great success rate for the students: “Mentors impact their future success by serving as resources for internships and job exploration. They offer guidance and advice to help prepare the students to navigate coursework, the job search experience, and personal and professional growth and development. The connections and engagement from the mentors helps direct their course in a way that scholarships alone can’t.”

What began as a small group of motivated young professionals has grown into a self-sustained organization with an executive team, board of directors and associates, and nearly three dozen mentors. Chicago HOPE’s annual gala celebrates the success of the non-profit and provides a means to support the scholarship dollars awarded to students through patrons and corporate grants. In addition, Chicago HOPE leaders and scholarship recipients connect on several occasions throughout the year for social events and local service projects.

“The look of pride on our students’ and their parents’ faces and those who come full circle,” Steve shares, is their greatest reward. “They enter as students and end up coming back years later as mentors themselves.”



# TG Giv

## THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019



Totino-Grace  
High School

Each year, Totino-Grace alumni, parents, and friends have generously supported TG Giving Day and we hope this year is no different. Our students are so thankful!

Each person's reasons for loving TG are unique, but your gift on TG Giving Day will support every aspect of the TG experience. The benefits of small class sizes, financial aid scholarships, mission trip programs, and incredible academic and co-curricular opportunities are not possible without gifts like yours.

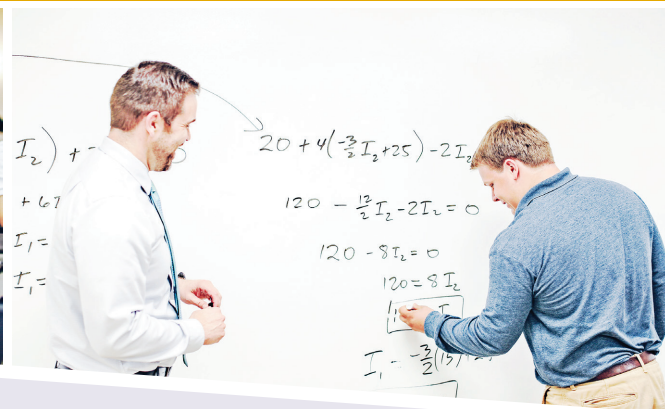
This year's TG Giving Day will include exciting matching gifts and giving challenges. We can't wait to see the TG community in action on **May 9!**

Make a gift on TG Giving Day, Thursday May 9, to make a BIG impact!

Rigorous Curriculum



Faculty Development



Service





# giving Day

## Ways to GIVE



Online at  
[www.totinograce.org/givingday](http://www.totinograce.org/givingday)



Call TG Advancement Staff  
at **763-586-6327**



Mail your gift using the envelope  
provided in this issue of the Continuum



Transfer of stock  
or securities



Match your gift through your  
employer's matching gift program

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Opportunities



Facility Improvements



Tuition Assistance



# Foundation Builder

## Craig Johnson '81

My time at TG was filled with innumerable fond memories, but, for a number of reasons, the football team going undefeated and winning the first two of its many state championships during my freshman and sophomore years stands out among all the others. Though school spirit and pride have always been high at TG, during that period those sentiments were off the charts, almost immeasurable. Walking into school every day—especially during the fall football seasons—was to be met with a boundless wave of positive energy. And every single time I walk through the front doors of TG, I get the same feeling: I am home. It felt that way when I first opened them to attend an Eagle basketball game as a 6th or 7th grader. It felt that way when I was a student and it feels that way now.

In addition to the football team's state championship runs, I remember hundreds of specific interactions with teachers and coaches. Their concern for our lives beyond grading tests and papers was genuine. They clearly cared about us as people, and about our futures. They got to know us and our families. They held us accountable, but were incredibly kind, caring, and understanding along the way.

I have always maintained my affinity for TG. I don't have children of my own, but once my neighbors and friends began having children and eventually considering high schools, my connection to TG was reestablished. I recommended TG to anyone who asked, and to many who didn't. Almost every single one of them who visited the school ended up sending their kids there. Several even thank me for the recommendation every chance they get.

The thing that most excites me about TG over the years is

its ever increasing commitment to after-school activities. More than 95% of students are involved in something after school. I shudder to think where I would be today were it not for my experience playing TG sports. It got me involved and connected me to some great human beings. After school activities are worth almost any price. I am proud, as well as thankful, that TG is committed to them.

I am forever thankful to have attended TG and interacted with its wonderful faculty. I also know many families who are equally thankful to have had the chance to send their kids to TG. They will benefit immeasurably and forever. It is infinitely rewarding to think I've had a hand in both recommending and helping to lower the cost of TG for those families, and that my small amount of giving will live on, generation after generation.

In some way, large or small, all TG alumni have benefited from attending the little school on the hill. At a minimum, at least a tiny part of our success as humans, whether in family or profession, is owed to TG and its generational influence. For all walks of life, in every line of work, and especially within our circle of family and friends, TG is indeed a factory for better humans. My experience at TG is the very foundation upon which the rest of my life was built. The same is true of each student and every graduate. At TG we learned all levels of math, to write complete sentences, and to think critically. More important though, through TG and its Lasallian tradition, we learned how to be good citizens and better humans for our lives after TG. What a gift. It's why I give back.

I am TG.



Visit [www.totinograce.org/alumni](http://www.totinograce.org/alumni) to read a special story Craig shared about a legendary TG teacher, Sister Mary Felix.



# Legacy Awards

On December 16, Totino-Grace President Craig Junker welcomed members of our community for an annual Christmas Dinner and Legacy Awards ceremony. Members of our community were honored for sharing their generosity, time, and talents with Totino-Grace.



*Todd and Michelle Mueller  
President's Award*



*Jamie and Yvette Woell  
President's Award and Signum Fidei Planned Giving Society*



*Mike Shimek  
Brother Milton Service Award*



*Rob Leonard  
Brother Milton Service Award*



*Matt Clysdale '83  
Alumni Hall of Fame Award*



*The Jordan Family  
Lasallian Legacy Award*

*Pictured left to right: Peter '87 and Katie Jordan, Renee and Larry Jordan, Amy Bizal '93 and Paul '90 Jordan. Not pictured: Kristina Jordan '91 and Paul Nelson.*



# Advancement Office

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



I always enjoy taking time to reflect on the school year and with the Lenten season upon us, I find myself thinking about the incredible generosity, loyalty, and sacrifices exhibited by members of the Totino-Grace community. Some gifts are easier to “see” than others. The state-of-the-art HVAC system, new classroom lighting, and ceiling tiles are certainly an example of donor support evident to all. These improvements to our facility – as a result of our *Called to Lead* campaign – are a constant, visible reminder of what can be achieved when there is a shared commitment to excellence.

But what of those gifts that may be less obvious? Every year TG is the beneficiary of thousands of generous donations – from annual fund contributions to program and endowment support; gifts-in-kind at the Winter Place Gala to gifts of time and experience; and meaningful gifts in our donors’ estate plans. These gifts allow us to thrive in many ways. Gifts to the annual fund help teachers stay innovative and dynamic in the classroom; financial aid enables us to attract and admit a bright and diverse student body; and capital gifts ensure that our facilities and equipment are top notch. And then, of course, there are the hundreds of hours of time that our volunteers give to us each year – like at this year’s Show Choir Spectacular. Without dedicated Board members, parents, alumni, and faculty, we could never achieve such success in our fundraising efforts.

One of my favorite expressions is, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” I certainly feel this expression rings true at TG, especially in the Advancement Office. We have been educating our students in the Lasallian tradition for the past 52 years, and with the continued support of our community, our efforts will continue for many decades to come.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Totino-Grace High School this year. If you want to make an annual fund gift or a gift to the *Called To Lead* campaign in the coming months, please give me a call at 763-586-6335.

Sincerely,

Richard Olson  
Vice President for Advancement





## Our goal is to help you find relevant, important and expressive ways to easily make a legacy gift

Join members of the Signum Fidei Society in providing opportunities for our students and teachers now and for generations to come through a planned gift.

If you have included Totino-Grace High School in your estate plans or would like to learn more about how to accomplish this, please contact Richard Olson, Vice President for Advancement, at [richard.olson@totinograce.org](mailto:richard.olson@totinograce.org) or 763-586-6335.

The Signum Fidei Society recognizes loyal community members who have informed Totino-Grace that they have made provisions for our school in their estate plans. Including TG in their will, establishing a charitable trust while maintaining life income, or naming TG as a life insurance beneficiary or in their retirement accounts are some of the ways these individuals have helped secure the long-term strength of Totino-Grace.

# Two things to consider to get the most out of Charitable GIVING

## Charitable bunching to meet increased hurdle for itemization

The increase in the standard deduction means that itemizing tax deductions each year won't make sense for many donors. Many taxpayers won't collect the necessary deductions to surpass the new standard deduction threshold. And the elimination or reduction of so many popular deductions will only put itemization further out of reach.

A tax-smart strategy to overcome this issue is called "bunching," where a taxpayer groups together their deductions into a single year in order to surpass the itemization threshold. In off-years (or "skip-years"), they take the standard deduction.

Using this strategy, donors contribute multiple years' worth of their charitable giving in one year to receive a greater deduction.

## Growth in donating appreciated securities amid market gains

The continued strong economic climate of 2019 brings the potential of high capital gains for many investors. Donating appreciated securities to charity will reduce income tax liability and eliminate capital gains tax on the assets.

In addition, while the tax law increases the adjusted gross income (AGI) limit on cash contributions, it maintains the rule that 30% of AGI can be contributed in securities. Maxing out the 30% limit in securities before contributing cash is a very tax-efficient method of charitable giving.

If you have any questions about making a charitable gift to Totino-Grace to benefit our students, please contact Richard Olson at 763-586-6335.

Totino-Grace High School and its employees do not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.

# Save the Date



## 2019 HOMECOMING WEEK AND ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 5

Mark your calendar for our annual Homecoming celebration. Join the TG community and your classmates for various festivities and events throughout the week.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Homecoming football game and community gathering

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

### ATHLETES

Mike Ramlet '74

John Long '86

Maureen Richter Finley '91

Iker Iturbe '94

### COACHES

Paul Gasner

**Margaret Richter Schauer '83**

### TEAM

1995 Dance Team

### EXCEPTIONAL EAGLE ATHLETIC CONTRIBUTOR

Dick and Kathy Drew

If you would like to nominate an athlete, coach, team or special athletic contributor for our Hall of Fame, visit [www.totinograce.org/activities/hall-of-fame](http://www.totinograce.org/activities/hall-of-fame) to submit your nomination.



## WINTER PLACE GALA

Make plans to attend this year's Winter Place Gala on **Saturday, November 23.**



# Stay Connected

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have updates to share with the TG community? Whether you were recently married, welcomed a child, or achieved academic or professional success, we want to know! Please share your updates with us at [www.totinograce.org/alumni](http://www.totinograce.org/alumni) or email [tgalumni@totinograce.org](mailto:tgalumni@totinograce.org).



## TOGETHER WE GATHER

### TOGETHER WE GATHER TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Join us from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. at Indeed Brewery for our second Together We Gather event. Totino-Grace graduates of all decades are needed to help with the coordination and promotion of events for our alumni community. If you are interested in being a **TG Alumni Ambassador** for your class, contact Jeff Ferguson at [jeff.ferguson@totinograce.org](mailto:jeff.ferguson@totinograce.org) or 763-571-9116 ext. 208.

## STAY CONNECTED



Are you receiving emails, newsletters, event invitations, and the school magazine from Totino-Grace? Update your contact information online at [www.totinograce.org/alumni](http://www.totinograce.org/alumni) or contact the school at 763-571-9116.

Follow Totino-Grace's social media accounts to stay up to date on alumni news, stories, and events.



[totinogracehighschool](https://www.facebook.com/totinogracehighschool)



[totinograce](https://twitter.com/totinograce)



[totinogracehighschool](https://www.instagram.com/totinogracehighschool)



# Reunions

## CLASS REUNIONS

All classes ending in a 4 or 9 are due for reunions in 2019. If you are interested in planning or organizing your reunion, contact the Advancement Office at 763-571-9116.

# Alumni Community

## ATHLETIC TEAM GATHERINGS



Former Eagle boys basketball players were back on campus for the 7th annual alumni game on December 22 and were special guests at the Eagles' home game that night.



Wrestling alumni were the honored guests at the TG home meet on December 21 followed by a social at Moe's in Mounds View. This year's event included the induction of Paul Jordan '90, Mike Dowdell '92, and John Clark (deceased), who started the wrestling program at TG, into the TG Wrestling Hall of Fame.



Alumni hockey players were joined by current Eagles for their annual alumni game on December 26.

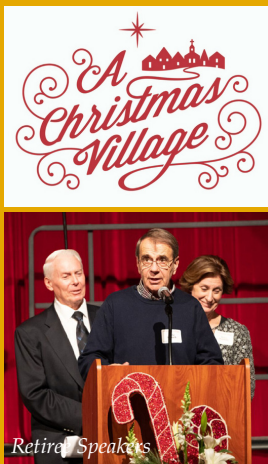


# TG

**TOGETHER WE GATHER**

Totino-Grace's first Together We Gather alumni event was held at Bauhaus Brew Labs on January 11. It was fantastic to see so many faces from each decade of TG's history connect and come together to listen to Mike Shimek say a few words.





### WINTER PLACE GALA

The 33rd annual Winter Place Gala took place on November 17 at Totino-Grace. Alumni, current and past parents, and guests celebrated the TG community while hearing from retired teachers Mary Neuman, Mike Shimek, and Ned Thompson who spoke about the impact Totino-Grace had on them as educators. The Gala was co-chaired by current parents Lisa Arnold and **Tara (Brandt) Melsha '89**, past parents **Mary Richter Daugherty '81** and Robyn Sitarz, and alumnus **Dan Shamp '00**.



### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On December 1, Totino-Grace welcomed community members for our annual Breakfast with Santa event. Families enjoyed breakfast, games, crafts, and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



### ADVENT MASS AND HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Our school community gathered to celebrate Mass before Christmas with current and past parents, grandparents, family members, and alumni guests. Each year brings a large crowd of former Eagles, and 2018 was no exception! Many of our guests joined TG's choir for the final song following Mass, the Hallelujah Chorus. Special remarks were shared after its conclusion to recognize choir director Terry Voss who is retiring at the end of this school year.



# Class Notes



**1988**

Members from the class of 1988 continued an annual tradition of a trip up to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. **Joe Prokott, Mark Glover, Mark Todd, Bryan Behun, Ron Och,** and current TG parent Tim Kuharski celebrated the 15th year of their annual trip this summer.



**1995**

Members of the class of 1995 were on campus this fall visiting with Jeff Ferguson and members of our Advancement Department. They were given a tour of Totino-Grace and had lunch while sharing their experiences at TG.

**1997**

**Sara Gartland Lomeli** will be making her Minnesota Opera debut as Donna Elvira in Mozart's Don Giovanni in the spring of 2020. Performances are May 12-22, 2020, and will take place at the Ordway Theater. Visit [www.mnopera.org](http://www.mnopera.org) for more information.

**Katie Gearty** and **Regina Peluso '98** performed in a production of The Great Gatsby with the COLLIDE Theatrical Dance Company last fall. COLLIDE was founded by Regina in 2013.



**1997**

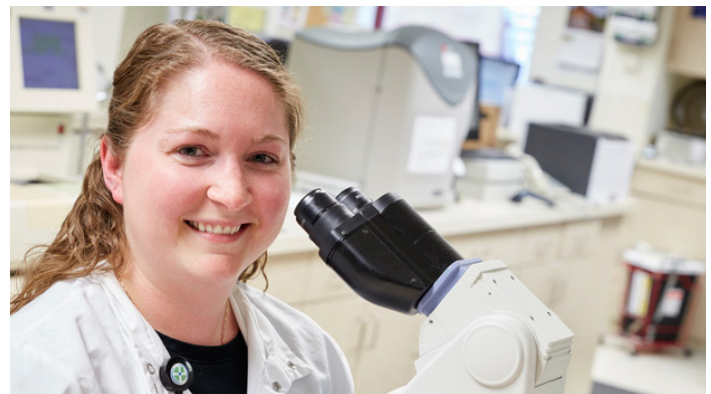
**Ann Klemz Millerbernd** was promoted to Sergeant at the Rolette County Sheriff's Office in June of 2018. During her time with the Sheriff's office, Ann has received many awards and accolades for her service to the community.

**2001**

**Brianna Colton** attained credentialing as a Registered Art Therapist in August of 2017 and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in May of 2018. Brianna is a mental health professional at Fraser.

**2003**

**Kristen Rafferty** was featured in the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence publication for her innovative approach to teaching her fourth grade class with The Walking Classroom, which pairs a 20 minute walk with an auditory lesson using WalkKit. Kristen is a teacher at Carondelet Catholic School in Minneapolis.



**2003**

**Andrea Olson Oldenburg** has been employed at Glencoe Regional Health Services as a Medical Laboratory Technician for 10 years.





2006

Adeline Marie was welcomed by **Angela Rodgers Hickman** and her husband, Cole, on November 28, 2018. She is their second child.

2006

**Tony Pastoors** is the Vice President of Football and Business Administration for the Los Angeles Rams who competed in this year's Super Bowl. Leading up to the big game, Tony was interviewed on WCCO Radio and featured in an article in The Catholic Spirit highlighting his dedication to faith, family, and football.



2006

**Amanda Koshiol** married Andy Bieze on October 13 in Stillwater. **Jennifer Koshiol Gookins '98**, **Melissa Koshiol Fanning '02**, **Kimberly Koshiol Garbisch '03**, and **Katy Dale '06** were all members of the wedding party.

2007

**Abbie Dunham Patiño** and her husband, Alejandro, welcomed Gloria Grace on February 13, 2018.

2008

**Alexandra Paidosh** married Dominik Blösch, on June 30, 2018 in the Bernese Oberland region of Switzerland.



2010

**Heather Daley** and **Brian Gorman** were married on October 20, 2018 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in St. Paul. Alumni in attendance and members of the wedding party included **Hannah Daley '16**, **Danny Adams '13**, **Spencer Ellis '11**, **Lauren Smude '10**, **Ryan Adams '10**, **Adam Ellis '09**, **Makayla Gorman '08**, **Mike Gorman '06**, **Matt Gorman '03**, **Pat Gorman '02**, and **Patty Melsha Gorman '81**.



2010

**Ashley Kidd-Tatge** and **Tucker Moore '11** recently traveled to Rome with a professional choral ensemble called Together in Hope, an ecumenical group dedicated to bringing about unity through the shared experience of choral music. They were part of the Papal Audience on October 31 and invited to greet the Holy Father after singing for several thousand pilgrims from around the world.





**2011**

**Ben** and **Reggie '14 Meyer** spent a day visiting kindergarteners at Ascension Catholic School, where their sister, Jamie, is a teacher. The brothers answered questions, read books, and helped the students make hats to get ready for spring.

**2011**

**Kassandra Surma** married William Murphy on July 14, 2018 in Black Lake, Michigan. **John Holt '11** was a member of the wedding party. Kassandra is an AP Physics Teacher at Edward Marcus High School in Carrollton, Texas.

**Megan Schaffhausen** and **Adam Seifert** are engaged to be married on November 2, 2019.



**2013**

**Darian Winslow** completed the Hilton Head Marathon in South Carolina on February 9, 2019. She finished second overall for females, first in her age division, and qualified for the Boston Marathon.

**2014**

**Gabby Schauer** joined the Admissions Office at Totino-Grace. Gabby was voted most likely to return to TG by her classmates!

**2015**

**Lance Benick** is a member of the Augsburg University wrestling team, winners of the 2019 DIII NCAA National Championship Title. Lance took first in the 197 weight class in the tournament.

**Hope Schiller** was named to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Volleyball All-NSIC Team. Hope is a senior at Concordia University.

**2016**

**Matt Lutz** was named Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Golf Athlete of the Week in October. Matt is a junior on the St. John's University golf team.

**Julia Sullwold**, a member of the Northern State University softball team, was recently named the Qdoba Athlete of the Week for her efforts on the softball field.

**2017**

**Sam Hentges** was named the National Collegiate Hockey Conference Rookie of the Week in October. Sam is a freshman on the St. Cloud State University hockey team.

**Erin Poepping**, a sophomore softball player at East Carolina University, made the American Athletic Conference All Conference Freshman Team in 2018 and was recently named the American Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week during opening weekend.



**2017**

**Kenzie Bertolas**, a sophomore at Midland University, was awarded MVP of the Western Women's Collegiate Hockey League Conference Hockey Tournament. She scored an overtime goal to send her team to the national tournament in Frisco, Texas.



# Admissions Office News

## Start Your Journey Today

Totino-Grace is more than just a high school. It's students' best preparation for life: inspiring and faith filled, rigorous and engaging, creative and collaborative – a school where students will develop confidence in themselves and their futures. Totino-Grace propels students toward achievement in academics and beyond.

**We invite families exploring high school options to discover the exceptional opportunities at Totino-Grace.**

- Middle school students are highly encouraged to schedule a visit day with one of our students to experience a typical school day.
- Families are welcome to attend athletic competitions and performing arts events to see our students in action.
- Prospective students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend an open house in the fall or spring. Attendees will meet our students, connect with teachers and coaches, tour the school, and discover what makes Totino-Grace an incomparable choice for a student's high school years.

### Totino-Grace Summer Camps

Totino-Grace High School can help students explore new activities, expand current interests, discover talents, and develop emerging skills. A wide variety of academic, performing arts, and athletic summer camp experiences are available for students in elementary, middle, and high school.



Mark Your Calendar for the  
**FALL OPEN HOUSE | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019**

Learn more about events and opportunities for prospective families at  
**[www.totinograce.org/admissions](http://www.totinograce.org/admissions)**.



Connect with our **Admissions Team** at [admissions@totinograce.org](mailto:admissions@totinograce.org) or 763-571-6316.



**Totino-Grace**  
High School

*A Catholic High School  
in the Lasallian Tradition*

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*To reduce costs, Totino-Grace mails one copy of the Continuum per household.*

# 2019 EAGLE SHOOT GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019**  
**MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m.  
Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

**SIGN UP FOR SPONSORSHIPS BY MAY 1!**

Contact Richard Olson at 763-586-6335 or [richard.olson@totinograce.org](mailto:richard.olson@totinograce.org)

Learn more and register at  
[www.totinograce.org](http://www.totinograce.org)