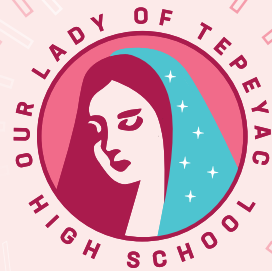


Empowering young women since 1927

TEPEYAC TIMES

OPPORTUNITY. UNITY. SERVICE. EXCELLENCE.



25 YEARS

OF RAISING THE BAR



John Raitt & Nancy Garcia, c/o 2013



Our Lady of Tepeyac's benefit, ¡Creemos! We Believe, is celebrating 25 years of raising the bar for minority, first generation young Latina and African American women by raising much needed scholarship funds.

OLT opens doors and gives girls the power to walk into new worlds that encompass strong faith, academic success, and college acceptance by creating opportunity and equity for first generation high school graduates. For more than a decade, 100% of our seniors have gone to college. Tepeyac fosters an environment where each girl's voice can be heard; self-esteem is accomplished through hard work, courage to take risks and determination to keep growing.

Tepeyac's mission continues and ¡Creemos! has reached this 25 year milestone due to the amazing support of hundreds of donors who know the utmost importance of giving the gift of education to deserving young women. OLT students often face obstacles none of us could imagine; trauma, poverty, violence, cultural and gender bias, yet they push through with a deep determination to get an education, go to college and return to help their family and community.

¡Creemos! started 25 years ago in a local restaurant in Little Village, where less than 50 guests enjoyed a taco dinner; today, more than 300 guests from all over the Chicagoland area provide classroom supplies through the Carol Brown Memorial Giving Tree, Fund a Student by pledging direct scholarship support, hear our choir perform, while enjoying an elegant dinner and meeting many of our amazing girls. We honor John Raitt this year, for his deep belief in the talents and tenacity of Tepeyac students, for his generous funding of scholarships, assisting with college costs and professional training; John's belief in the power of a Tepeyac education has absolutely changed lives for the better.

Join us on April 24th, at the Harold Washington Library Winter Garden; your attendance is a gift to every young woman who desires a Catholic, all girls, empowering education that improves the lives of future generations and makes our city stronger.

Parents Make the Morning Sweeter

On December 11, the Eve of the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Parent Organization hosted a Breakfast Sale. They did all of the planning and shopping and baking. It was their first food sale and a total SUCCESS! They were SOLD OUT in no time. That morning our students and teachers enjoyed a variety of good food in the comfort of our own home—the student lounge. Parents sold the students' favorite, tamales and more!



It was wonderful to see the parents come together and plan this successful event. We are so grateful for their involvement and their support. The Parent organization is a strong group that has grown over the last year.

Annual Appeal Results (So Far)

Goals reached to date:

85%
of appeal goal reached to date

78%
of donors supported the appeal to date

20%
of donors gifts \$1,000 or more

33%
of donors gifts \$100 or less

Every Gift Makes a Difference

45 student scholarships awarded as a result of Annual Appeal Gifts. We cannot continue our mission of serving young Latina and African American women without your help.

It's not too late to make your gift to secure a better future for the next generation of women.

Donate online: ourladyoftepeyac.org,

Mail Check to Our Lady of Tepeyac: 2228 S. Whipple, Chicago, IL 60623

THANK YOU.

Not One But TWO POSSE SCHOLARS

Tepeyac is pleased to share that two of our seniors, Emma and Marissa, have received the prestigious Posse Scholarship, a four-year, full tuition scholarship.

The Posse Foundation identifies, recruits and trains incredible young leaders and sends them in Posses to top colleges and universities across the country. Emma and Marissa went through a rigorous, three-round application process that includes interviews and activities to make it to the final round. The final round was an interview with the Posse college partner they expressed interest in. Both young women received calls the same evening of their interviews with the best news, they were awarded a scholarship! Emma will attend St. Olaf College in Minnesota while Marissa will attend Agnes Scott College in Georgia.

We are thrilled to have TWO Posse Scholars and so are their families. Marissa's mom shared, **"We were so excited to get the news. Marissa has been such an amazing daughter and she deserves this opportunity. We are so grateful that Tepeyac nominated her for this scholarship program."** The Posse Foundation is doing great work and opening doors to higher education for hard-working students across the country. Raquel, Emma's mom, shared, **"As a proud alum, I brought my daughter to Tepeyac. I have been so amazed by the growth of the school and opportunities like Posse that are offered to students. The Posse Scholarship is a blessing for our family as we try to give Emma the best."** We look forward to nominating excellent candidates for the Posse Scholarship in the future and congratulate Marissa and Emma on a job well done.



Emma



Marissa

The Posse Foundation is doing great work and opening doors to higher education for hard-working students across the country.

Women Law Group pays it Forward

Senior, Jasmin Luna, was nominated and awarded a scholarship by the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law. Jasmin is a driven student with an interest in pursuing a Law degree and these women attorneys want to support her education. She was invited to speak at a reception where she shared more of her goals for the future and took the time to thank the women who believe in her.

She shared. **"All those experiences of injustice in my community and throughout the world opened my eyes to want to pursue a career in law. I want to become a lawyer to advise and be the voice that represents disenfranchised people. They have been overlooked far too long and I am not willing to stay still and observe how their rights are neglected."** The audience of 100+ guests loved hearing more of Jasmin's aspirations. Congratulations to Jasmin - we are extremely proud!



**CLASS
OF 2020**

Ready for Take Off

23%

*First in Family to
Graduate High School*

77%

*First in Family to
Attend College*

SR. PAULANNE'S WISDOM



Patty Krielaart, grade school principal and Sr. Paulanne

Sr. Paulanne Held, from Tepeyac's Sharing Parish Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview, is known far and wide for helping thousands of needy families. So when an anonymous donor approached her right after Thanksgiving to make a gift in her honor, Sister kindly pointed that support to the needy families of Tepeyac. The donor gave a gift of \$25K, providing scholarships for OLT High School and Grade School.

Sister knows that many of our families work low paying jobs and do not receive a fair wage, nor at times the respect they deserve. Yet, when they return home after a long day at work, they dream for a better life for

their first generation children; Tepeyac parents know first hand that a strong education in an excellent Catholic school is exactly the place to start those dreams.

The students at both schools wanted to express their gratitude for Sister's support; they chose photos that represent the best of their schools; every single student signed his or her name (preschoolers signed with a colorful thumbprint) The collages were framed and presented to Sr. Paulanne at OLPH School right before Christmas. What a gift Sr. Paulanne is to so many, even 20 miles south of Glenview in the heart of Little Village.



Tepeyac Seniors Serve Needs in Little Village

This year the Senior Service Project class was determined to do service in a more meaningful way. Part of the project was to respond to an assets and needs assessment of a local organization in Tepeyac's neighborhood. They identified needs and then worked to create a project that addressed that need. Seniors Selma, Maria and Iris volunteered at Latinos Progresando. The girls noticed clients would just be on their phones in the waiting room; they wanted to improve the waiting experience. They hosted a toy and book drive at school and painted a bookshelf to donate for the waiting room.

"I enjoyed volunteering at LP because the organization does a lot for my community and culture," Maria shared.

Seniors Jasmin, Jasmine, Monse and Azucena volunteered at Taller de Jose, a non-profit that accompanies local residents who face challenges and do not know English. The girls helped by taping mini printed Google Maps to fliers because people didn't know how to find the Taller office. They decided to fundraise and purchase a large, outdoor banner. **"We wanted to contribute to Taller and help raise awareness, starting off with letting people know where they are located,"** shared Jasmine.

The group at Tepeyac Grade School, Ebany, Yuliza, Stephanie, Emma and Bianca hosted a fundraiser to provide much needed supplies to the 40+ children who stay after school. Yuliza shared, **"I enjoyed helping kids with homework and it felt good to provide supplies for them."**

TOP 5 MAJORS

1. Health
2. Law & Public Policy
3. Psychology & Social Work
4. Education
5. Business

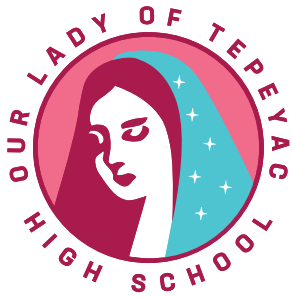
\$2.3M
in Financial Aid & Scholarships Awarded to Date

\$1.4M
Merit Based Aid Awarded to Date

393
College Applications Submitted to 104 Colleges

164
College Acceptances to Date

90
Scholarship Applications Submitted



EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN
SINCE 1927

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RETURNING HOME TO GIVE Next Gen Leg Up



Betsy, Christina, Selena, Olivia, and Ana, making a difference for our grade school.

Tepeyac High School is extremely proud that five grads are paying it forward by helping families and teaching first generation students at Our Lady of Tepeyac Grade School. These grads are living out their faith and commitment to use their talents, improving the lives of younger kids.

Olivia Lopez-Pelayo, class of '08 has been the Director of Scholarships for the past 7 years. Olivia is well-known for her smile and welcoming ways with all families. She listens, understands their needs and works to provide a scholarship for 96% of the families. Olivia has an accounting degree from Dominican University.

Ana Cortes, class of '14 jumped in last March to be a permanent sub. This year she is the third grade teacher. Ana has created a warm environment for her students. She brings creativity and optimism to daily lessons. Always good on the guitar, she leads the grade school choir. Ana has a degree in Education from DePaul University.

Christina Motley, class of '07 joined the teaching corp this year; she teaches gym from preschool all the way up to junior high. She brings a fitness focus to the curriculum. Christina coaches Volleyball for the jr. high girls. Christina has a degree in Sports Management from Grand Canyon University.

Betsy Reyes, class '15 teaches second grade, right next door to Ana. Betsy is a diligent, focused educator. She always knew she wanted to be a teacher and her students love her! She has a degree in Education from Knox College.

Selena Contreras, class '15 is the new Marketing Coordinator. Selena brings energy and tenacity to help spread the word throughout the community about the opportunities at the grade school. She leads communications, social media and enrollment efforts. She has a degree in Communications from Loyola University.