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# The Many Faces of Courage: The Heart of DePaul Cristo Rey





# T R U S T

The Board of Directors and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati appointed Siobhan Taylor, M.S.W., as DPCR's second president in September 2020. She began her tenure facing immediate, difficult decisions about how to safely keep campus open with healthy students and staff, while weighing the challenges of maintaining the Corporate Work Study Program. Her trust in God and full commitment to the mission carried her through and positioned her well for the pandemic-related challenges still with us this school year.



Dear Friends of DePaul Cristo Rey High School,

I have always found the examination of another's face to be a beautiful endeavor. The curves and contours of the skin. The depth of spirit seen in one's eyes. The breadth of one's nose. The endearment of a smile. All so telling. Indeed, our faces tell a story. They share with others clues about our lives, thoughts, feelings, and fears. They are a window into so much – our hopes, our dreams and our goals. Every face – both yours and mine – is capable of displaying courage and tremendous heart.

It is no secret that the global pandemic has caused each of us to live life differently; to express courage in new ways as we face unprecedented challenges in every area of life. DePaul Cristo Rey High School is no different. The pandemic stretched us, as it invited our community into new ways of being. With a new building and new endeavors, the face of who we are changed in these times, yet our mission did not. In 2020-2021, God, the one who has held our faces so tenderly and who has called us each by name, continued to keep His promises, allowing us to grow and exemplify courage as we faced life daily. He continued to steady His community around such glorious work, and He continued to move your heart in support.

The pages of this annual report uncover the many faces of DePaul Cristo Rey showcasing courage in action. Here you'll see a few of the faces that bravely conquered challenge after challenge, uncertainty upon uncertainty, and change upon change. And while every face of this community is not unmasked in these pages, I hope you sense the spirit of our community's courage in the words you read and the faces you are able to examine. Let these faces help you see what your support has done for our mission and our students. Study the faces in these pages and sense the tremendous heart that supported them as overcomers. Friends, you made it possible. And while you may not know each of these faces personally, trust that your contributions truly did embolden their faith, passion and courage.

With tremendous appreciation,

Siobhan A. Taylor, M.S.W.  
President & CEO

*"Our daughter was bullied at two other schools for being Mexican-American. She wanted a fresh start and to finish high school in peace. When we heard about DePaul Cristo Rey, we weren't sure what to expect. She took a leap of faith and learned it was better than expected! Even doing online learning for the first five months of the school year, she came to love the DPCR school community. I know she will come out stronger for what she has gone through to get here."*

– Angelica Perez and Jorge Garay, parents of Eva '22





# BELIEF

The new three-story Sisters of Charity Academic Building opened in August 2020, a culmination of extraordinary vision, leadership and the community's profound belief in DPCR's mission. This was the second phase of the campus transformation funded by the generous supporters of the **Building. Futures. Together. For a Greater Cincinnati Capital Campaign**. The campaign raised \$20.8 million to build the Academic Building as well as a new cafeteria, performing arts space, gymnasium, locker rooms, fitness center, and athletic offices.

*The Elsa Sule Foundation provides opportunities in education, community and the arts, and is proud to invest in the valiant work of DePaul Cristo Rey because of our shared values. Elsa loved to support students who are courageous and confident in themselves to take the tools and resources provided to them in their academic life on to their professional pursuits and community involvement. The students of DePaul Cristo Rey are courageous in their choice to accept and conquer many rigorous academic and life challenges, which, in the end, will open doors to many wonderful opportunities and transform their lives and those of their families and community.*

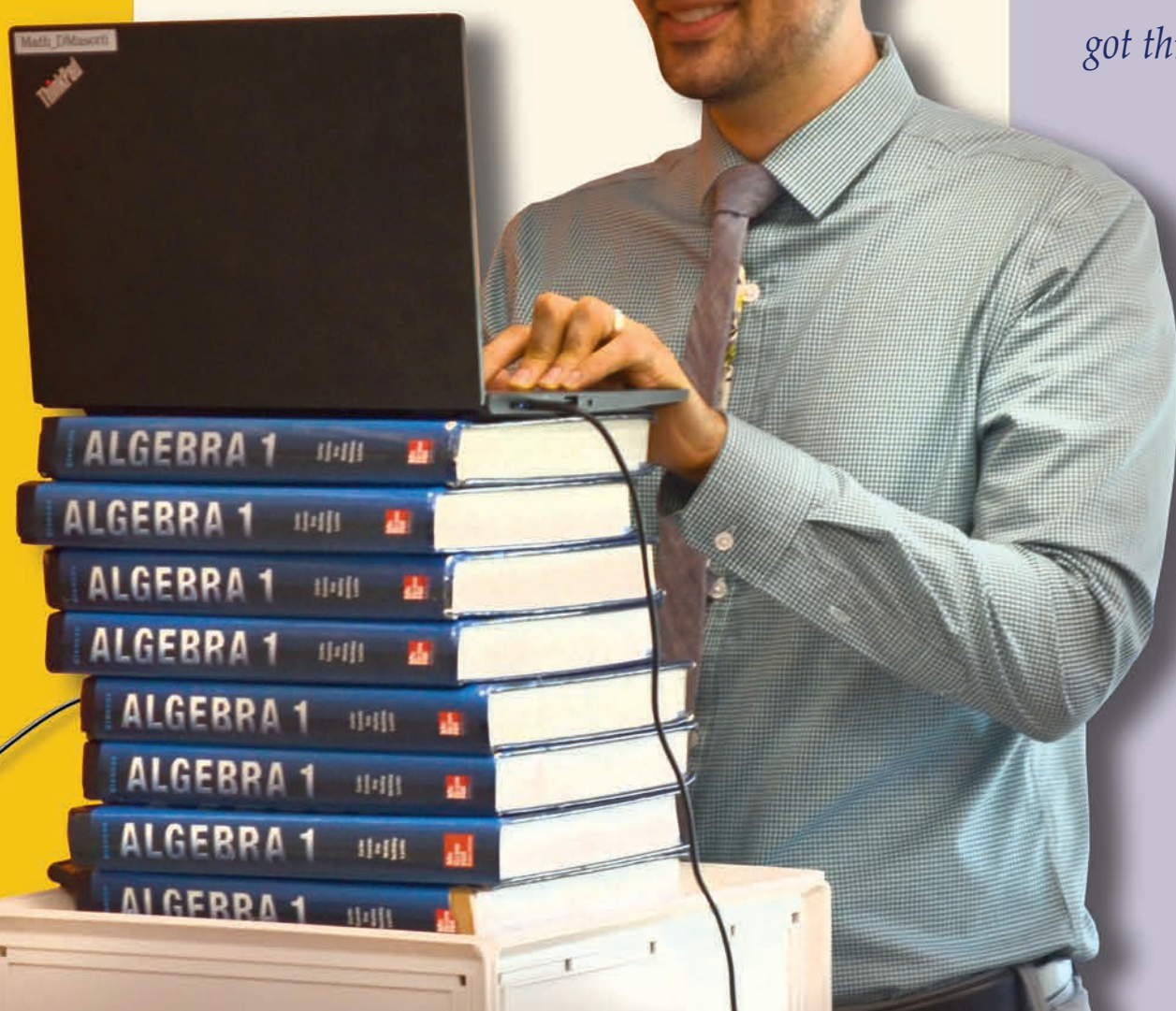
– V. Ruth Klette, Trustee & CEO,  
Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation





# P E R S E V E R A N C E

Continued high numbers of COVID cases in the community and the wait for a vaccine led school leaders to make the difficult decision to start the 2020-21 school year virtually with no students in the building or deployed to Corporate Work Study positions. While this kept DPCR safe, the case numbers continued rising in Greater Cincinnati, stretching virtual learning into the new year. Teachers drew on their creativity and a range of technical resources to reach students across cyberspace.



*"It was really hard having virtual classes, dealing with technology glitches and distractions at home. Our teachers would check in on us to see how we were doing, and once I got the hang of it, it was cool. While we all have our own groups of friends, as a class we celebrated and encouraged each other and got through the year together."*

– Naryah '22





# CONNECTION

Fall turned to winter and still COVID kept our students away from campus. Teachers, in their DPCR classrooms, met their students virtually over Zoom each day for class. From a virtual all-school Mass for Founders Day in September to daily morning prayers over Zoom, teachers and staff

strove to maintain a sense of community. Big and small achievements were celebrated virtually especially as the seniors began to receive college acceptance letters. The tradition continued of recognizing each accepted senior with a special tee-shirt and shout-out on social media.



*The pandemic thrust our students into a level of adulthood that most weren't prepared for. They were trying to complete their assignments at home and take care of younger siblings who were also doing virtual school while parents were at work. Our students helped their siblings with school work while keeping them fed and supervised. During this I had to make sure I was still approachable, even virtually, and ensure there were times in class we could just talk and not work. We acknowledged everything going on and learned to be honest with ourselves about what we could realistically accomplish under the circumstances.*

– Kevin Walker, Math Teacher





# S E R V I C E

It was hard to show love to students when separated by computer screens and a closed campus. So lots of love, along with turkeys, potatoes and canned goods, was packed into boxes for a Thanksgiving food distribution. Teachers and staff stayed late to greet more than 50 families and load their cars with food boxes following safe, socially distant practices. A few weeks later, Santa and his elves (staff) spread Christmas cheer at a drive-through event with carols and small gifts for students.



*I find great joy in knowing our students and their families. Being a witness as young people develop the values and character that will be the foundation for the rest of their lives is remarkable growth to see. Standing beside their families as we together support them in their choices and achievements is what I love about working with teenagers. Having to do all this via Zoom, FaceTime, a quick drop-off or pickup at school, phone calls, texts, and emails during COVID was challenging as it just wasn't enough time to let students know that what they are doing matters, to show them how much I love them. If a student needed school supplies dropped off or had to change out a computer, I jumped at the chance to visit them at their home. In serving our students in this way, they served me with a smile and my heart was full.*

– Katie Hoekzema, Academic Dean





# LOYALTY

As winter began, communication with Corporate Partners revealed that most continued to be unable to accommodate DPCR student-workers since most of their employees were working remotely from home. The difficult decision was made in January to pause the Corporate Work Study Program for the remainder of the year though many loyal partners continued to financially

support the program. February brought the very welcome sights and sounds of students on campus as in-person classes resumed on a hybrid schedule with half of the students in the building daily. All students returned to campus on the same schedule in March, nearly a full year since the pandemic's start.



*"CTI has seen success over the past 22 years in part because we foster a culture of loyalty - internally, with our clients, and with our local communities. We've had phenomenal experiences with our DePaul Cristo Rey students in the past, and we see a value in the program, both immediate and long-term. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we're committed to doing our small part to support the community and ensure the talented young people at DPCR continue to receive the support and opportunities offered through the school and the work study program."*

*– Timothy J. Schroeder,  
Chairman and CEO, CTI*





# ENGAGEMENT

School leaders found reassurance in the continued commitment of friends and supporters. With almost all in-person activities canceled, critical fundraising events shifted to virtual platforms where engaged supporters showed their continued generosity. **Champions of Change** raised almost \$173,000 for the Graduate Success Fund during a February virtual program. **Rey of Light**, DPCR's largest annual fundraiser, also moved to a virtual platform in April. Co-chairs **Cathy Ramstetter** and **Julie Ross**, along with many volunteers, worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Hundreds of friends watched a virtual broadcast from homes and small parties bidding on auction items. The event raised over \$640,000 in tuition assistance for students.



*I believe in the school deeply and it's also a very easy place to volunteer – the staff is lovely; they are people you want to come back and see. The students are there because they want to be there. I got engaged as a volunteer because I love the mission; I stayed because people in the building are so special. I was volunteering in admissions the day before everything shut down in March 2020. I said goodbye to staff and left thinking I'd see them in a few weeks. I was able to do some remote volunteering for admissions in the fall of 2020 and I started coming back to campus in March 2021. It was so great to be back in the building and see the students excited about graduation and having a traditional commencement.*

– MC Brennan, Volunteer





# P E R S I S T E N C E



The persistence of the Class of 2021 shone through the unprecedented challenges of their senior year. Working with their counselors and teachers, they met college and financial aid application deadlines to keep their college preparation on track. Much of that application work happened remotely since they didn't return to campus until February. The entire school community celebrated outside in April when all seniors were accepted to college. Seniors and their families celebrated even more in May as they shared an in-person commencement ceremony at **Mount St. Joseph University**.



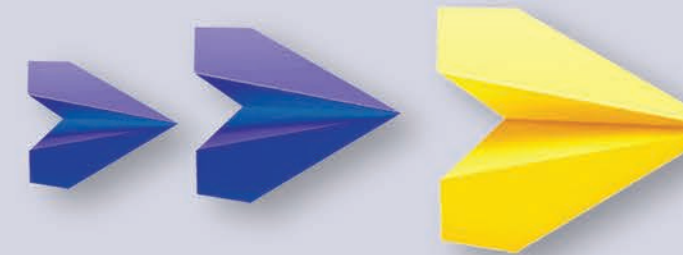
*What strikes me about the past year is the resilience, creativity and support in our Cristo Rey schools. Teachers and staff really strived to meet students where they were with social-emotional support and understanding of the challenges they lived through with their families. Teachers did whatever it took to reach out to students to ensure they stayed engaged and didn't fall behind. I am so impressed with the high degree of professionalism of DePaul Cristo Rey's teachers despite the incredible disruption of the pandemic. At DPCR and the Cristo Rey Network®, college-readiness remains our goal for every school and student.*

– Mary Kearney, Ed.D,  
Chief Academic Officer,  
Cristo Rey Network®

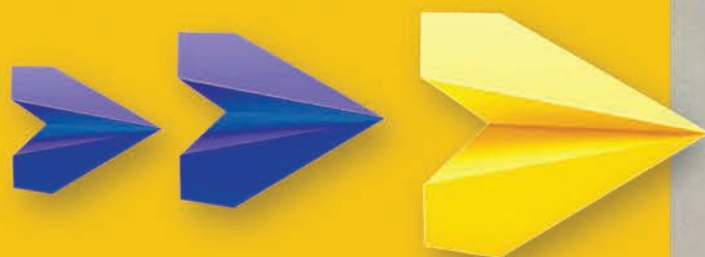




# LEADERSHIP



Our students learned and grew through the pandemic's challenges, and so did the Board of Directors. The racial unrest sparked by the murder of George Floyd in 2020 caused reflection and calls for change across the country and close to home. Board leaders agreed they needed to honestly and thoughtfully address diversity, equity and inclusion. In sessions led by facilitator **Diane Jordan** of Thembi Speaks, board members began an exploration of and dialogue about racial equity. Their work continues into this school year.



*Most Board members were previously aware of racial inequities but not to the extent we knew we needed to be. Our diversity, equity and inclusion sessions helped us talk about this and recognize that as Board leaders, we need to know more about the students we serve. What we've learned and are still learning is essential to understanding our students. I'm excited that we are continuing our education this year and are working together with understanding and empathy to drive change.*

– **Barbara Bennie**, Board of Directors





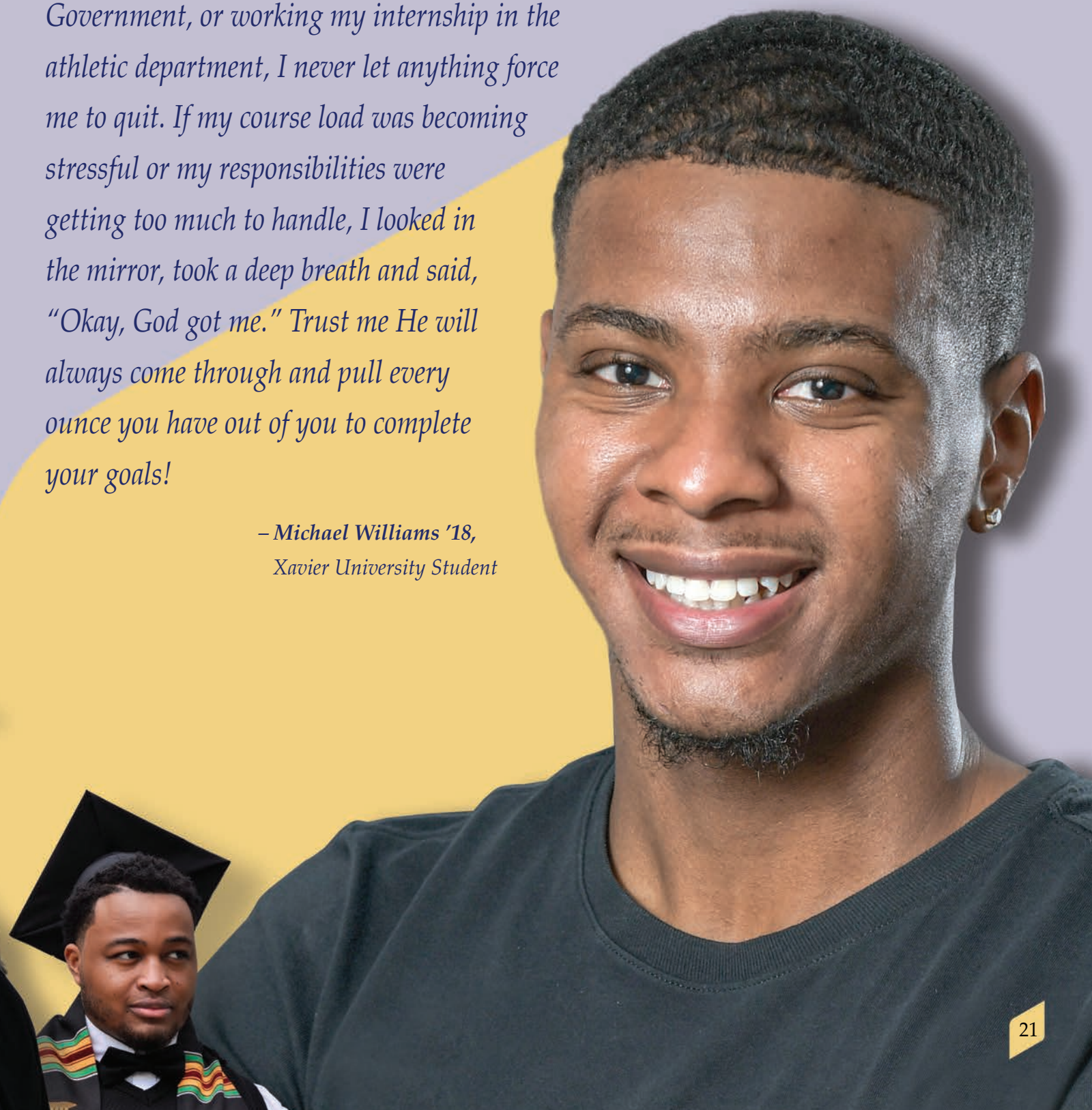
# S U P P O R T

As we celebrated the triumph of the Class of 2021, we also celebrated the achievements of our graduates who finished college in the spring. Alumni from the classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017 graduated from colleges and universities stretching from Mississippi to Illinois. Several began careers in accounting, education and social work. Another group moved forward pursuing graduate degrees in fields including community planning, pharmacy and visual arts.



*Going through college amid the pandemic was one of the most challenging tasks I've ever faced. It required me to have persistence and to always bet on myself. Every day I told myself it's okay to take a break but don't give up. Whether that was managing and completing my school work, going through the intake process of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., serving as a senator on Xavier Student Government, or working my internship in the athletic department, I never let anything force me to quit. If my course load was becoming stressful or my responsibilities were getting too much to handle, I looked in the mirror, took a deep breath and said, "Okay, God got me." Trust me He will always come through and pull every ounce you have out of you to complete your goals!*

*— Michael Williams '18,  
Xavier University Student*





# Honor Roll of Donors

Among the many faces of courage we celebrate in this annual report are those of our faithful supporters. Without you, our past year of courageously overcoming uncertainties and change while fulfilling our mission, would not be possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

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S. Joyce Richter, SC  
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† Denotes deceased





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SC Johnson Fund  
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

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Wayne Bessette  
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**Deceased of the Dehmer Family**  
Thomas Dehmer  
**Bill Dejonckheere**  
Sparkle and Tom Worley

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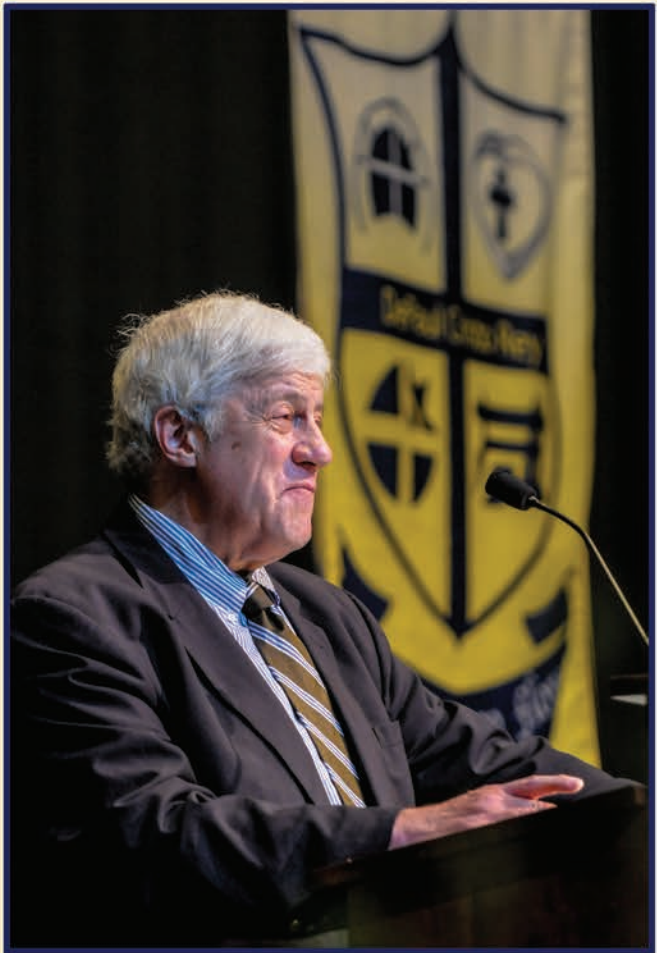
Jake Geglein  
Julie and Bill Goslee  
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Will Mancini  
Kim and Mark McLaughlin  
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Brady Mechley  
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Remembering Paul Sittenfeld



Paul is pictured at DPCR's first commencement ceremony in May 2015.

“Watching the DePaul Cristo Rey community grow and expand in its commitment to serve those who merit our transformational opportunity is nothing short of thrilling.” **Paul Sittenfeld** shared that reflection at the conclusion of his four-year term as chair of the Board of Directors. Paul was an early supporter of the school, before it even opened, and a member of the inaugural Board of Directors. He served as Board Chair from 2011 to 2015. He strove to connect those he knew in the local business and philanthropic communities with the school during the early years as DPCR grew in students, Corporate Partners and reputation in Cincinnati. Paul passed away in March 2021. The DPCR community extends its sympathy to his family as well as our appreciation for sharing him with us as we recall his leadership, generosity and sense of humor.



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Gifts of Hope Circle  
the DPCR Community

† Denotes deceased

Gifts that sustain DePaul Cristo Rey for future generations are critical to the long-term stability of the school. The Circle of Hope Society recognizes those who have included DPCR in their estate plans. These types of planned gifts can include bequests, life income gifts (charitable trusts), trust provisions, real estate, life insurance policies, retirement plans, and stocks. We express our deep appreciation to the following members of the Circle of Hope Society:

Carolyn Davis

Robert Maxwell †

Diane and David Moccia

Helen Smith †

Richard A. Weiland

Legacy Endowment

Edward Wells †

Michael Wilger †

Virginia Willoughby †

Please contact Vice President of Advancement **Sparkle Worley** if you'd like more information about planned giving or have designated a gift to DePaul Cristo Rey. She can be reached at 513.861.0600 or via email to sparkle.worley@dpcr.net.



We are so grateful to all of the generous supporters of our **Building. Futures. Together. For A Greater Cincinnati Campaign and the Graduate Success Campaign**. This Honor Roll does not reflect gifts made to those campaigns during 2020-2021.

Every effort has been made to provide a complete and error-free list. If your name was overlooked or listed improperly, please accept our apologies and contact us to correct the error. The Advancement Office can be reached at 513.861.0600.



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## 2020-2021

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*BOLDChange*

**S. Cj Willie, SC**  
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# Operations

## 2021 REVENUES

Advancement.....	\$2,076,877
EdChoice Scholarship.....	\$1,697,880
Government Programs.....	\$403,048
CWSP.....	\$332,590
Tuition & Fees.....	\$91,156
Other.....	\$72,680
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$4,674,231</b>

DePaul Cristo Rey received two grants from the Paycheck Protection Program that offset the loss in revenues due to the pandemic's impact on the Corporate Work Study Program.

## 2021 EXPENSES

Personnel.....	\$3,866,183
Facilities.....	\$944,678
Student Support.....	\$406,592
Professional Services.....	\$283,217
Transportation.....	\$250,438
Communications.....	\$152,108
Other.....	\$56,739

**TOTAL ..... \$5,959,955**

