



INVEST IN KIDS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

2022-2023 REPORT

Now in its fifth year, the Illinois Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program allowed individuals like you to contribute to student scholarships at Cristo Rey, through our partner organizations – Big Shoulders Fund and Empower Illinois – and receive a 75% credit towards Illinois state taxes. The over \$500,000 Cristo Rey Jesuit received in donations is supporting 43 students this school year. Together with your support plus the Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP), our families pay just \$1,100 on average towards their children's \$16,000 cost of education. With the CWSP still climbing back from the impact of the pandemic, your support is critical. Thank you for helping us to provide a Jesuit, dual-language education to our students – the next generation of Men and Women for Others!

This year's 43 recipients:

- **represent all four grade levels** – 10 freshmen, 14 sophomores, 12 juniors, and 7 seniors;
- **demonstrate need** – 79% qualified as highest priority level, based on income;
- **lack college-educated parents** – 96% will be first-generation college students; and
- **come from private and public schools** – 35% attended public elementary schools.

Reflections from Tax Credit Scholarship recipients:

Arleth: “I attended a Catholic elementary school because I had the opportunity to receive tax credit scholarships. Thanks to you, I have been able to proceed with my religious faith through high school as well. Next year, I will be entering college and will attain a higher education than both of my parents. Thank you for all the help, Big Shoulders Tax Credit Scholarship Donors.”

Maximo: “Thank you so much Empower Illinois for the scholarship you have provided for me. I am grateful for your generosity that was not only given to me and other Cristo Rey students, but also for all the other kids you supported across the state. Your scholarships are helping people that are in desperate need of better education options. Thank you again for this scholarship, it really helped me and my parents focus on my education and my future. You provided an invaluable gift and provided much needed assistance that took a financial burden off my parents. Gracias!”

Eileen: “I would like to express my gratitude for the Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship you have presented me with, along with the other years I was fortunate to have it. I would not have had the opportunity to

receive a private, Catholic education and be a part of all these things if it weren't for the scholarship that truly helped my mom send me to school. It means the world to me and more for my mom to be able to send me to a good school. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

Leonardo: “Thank you, Big Shoulders Tax Credit Scholarship Donors, for what you have done for me and my family. I am grateful for the aid you have given my family and because of your generosity this has pushed me academically and mentally. I am grateful that someone believes in me and my education at Cristo Rey. This full scholarship means so much to my family, not having to worry about having money to pay for school and not having to choose between using the money for essential needs.”

Diana: “Thank you for this amazing opportunity that has been granted by you, Empower Illinois. Thanks to this full scholarship I am able to attend such an amazing school. This has helped me become part of a family and build long lasting relationships. Thank you for your generosity that you have bestowed upon me.”

Thank you for generously supporting our students and their families. If you would like to renew your support through the Tax Credit Scholarship program, or for more information, please visit the “Giving” section of our website at www.cristorey.net/giving or contact Dawn Zamora at dzamora@cristorey.net or (773) 890-6834.