



# *Resonance*

Celebrating 100 Years of Educating Young Women

Fall 2022







## Dear Resurrection Community,



Over the last several months I've had the pleasure of introducing our student body to our alumnae during our monthly Centennial events. Our young women are beginning their journey's into adulthood like you once did, and your presence on campus shows them the importance of this year. I know our students will forever cherish your stories and the memories they made with you at these events.

Since this past April, we have welcomed over 1,000 alumnae on campus and many other RES community members. Our inaugural RES Fall Fest in October combined with our Open House for prospective students introduced future Bandit to our community and history. With over 600 community members on campus, I believe this is the largest number of RES community members we have ever had on campus in our 100 years school history.

I am excited to announce we will end our Centennial with the 'Celebration of the Century' on April 29, 2023, at Resurrection College Prep. We will transform the Resurrection campus into a walk down memory lane remembering all 100 years of our history. All alumnae, parents, past parents and RES supporters are welcome! Proceeds from the event will benefit the Resurrection annual fund. Please watch for a save the date and your email inbox for more information. We need volunteers for the event and donations; if you are interested in donating your time, talents, or treasures, email our Director of Development, Tracie Ortman at [tortman@reshs.org](mailto:tortman@reshs.org).

On October 5, 2022, we launched our strategic planning process in partnership with the consulting firm, Partners in Mission. As we continue to look to the next 100 years of educating young women, it is critical we develop a one, three and five year vision for Resurrection. We recently completed the first two phases of the planning process and are on track to deliver a new plan in Spring 2023. On the corresponding page, I've outlined the process and areas of the school we will evaluate to create our goals.

As the Advent season approaches, the Christian Brothers of the Midwest call us to reflect on Openness. I hope you will join our school community and reflect on Openness - to the Unexpected, Awe, Innocence, and Love of others.

In De La Salle,

Rick Piwowarski, Ph.D.  
President

## Resurrection College Prep begins planning for the next 100 years of educating young women

As we look to the future of Resurrection College Prep High School, we know that a long-term plan will proactively address challenges and leverage opportunities that support our commitment to provide an exceptional, faith-based education that maximizes every young woman's potential. For these reasons, Resurrection is embarking on creating a new Strategic Plan to guide our work through the next one, three and five years.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee includes representation from Board members, current parents, alumnae parents, alumni, faculty and staff, coaches, and advisers. The Committee will be meeting over the course of six months to gather data with the assistance of Partners in Mission. Partners in Mission is a consulting and professional education firm focused exclusively on developing excellence in Catholic school advancement and leadership.

### The committees will evaluate the following areas:

Academic  
Advancement  
Catholic Identity  
Enrollment  
Facilities  
Finance  
Governance  
Student Life

We've completed the first two phases of the planning process including the survey and roundtable focus groups. These efforts engaged thousands of stakeholders for their thoughts and ideas on Resurrection. The perceived strengths and weaknesses of each individual area will result in a strategic plan that will inform, guide, and structure our future activities to ensure Resurrection continues to thrive and evolve!

As we look to the Spring, we will request more feedback from the entire community through a survey, and in April we will release Resurrection's five year strategic plan.



**A special thank you to the following stakeholders who volunteered to chair various aspects of the planning process:**

**Carol Hetman '73**  
Chair

**Diane Bryniarski '73**  
Academic Domain

**Jan Sisler**  
Advancement Domain

**Fr. Robert Carlton**  
Catholic Identity

**Cathie Scotkovsky '81**  
Enrollment

**Dave Coleman**  
Facilities

**Trish Moll '86**  
Finance

**Haydee Olinger**  
Governance

**Sarah Bolger Farris '00**  
Student Life



# ‘It changes their lives’: Sister Kathleen discusses the importance of Kairos retreats and her time at RES



Sister Kathleen Ann Skrocki, C.R. came to assist Resurrection College Prep after working as a kindergarten teacher and daycare worker in New York. When the daycare closed, she was asked to assist the Sisters of the Resurrection at the high school.

“When the daycare closed, I was looking for something to do, and they said ‘well, why don’t you come and work at the high school’ and I’m like, ‘I don’t think so,

those are big girls, and I am only used to little people who come to my knees,’ but you know, I just fell in love with it,” said Sister Kathleen Ann Skrocki, C.R.

When she started at RES, Sr. Kathleen worked as a permanent substitute teacher, and then later joined the Campus Ministry team, which included setting up for masses and chaperoning Kairos.

“Jerry Chenski was the Campus Minister then, and he got me involved. I had no idea what a Kairos was. Jerry said, ‘would you come as a chaperone?’ and I said, ‘yeah, okay, whatever,’ not realizing how late I was going to have to stay up at night...” Sr. Kathleen laughed.



Sr. Kathleen pictured on a Kairos retreat.

Campus Ministry retreats are a part of the graduation requirements at Resurrection, and they are geared toward the spiritual development of each student. In addition to regular religious instruction in the classroom, each student has the opportunity each year to dive deeper into her faith through her class retreat.

Senior year, students have the privilege of attending the Kairos retreat. Kairos (pronounced Ki-rohz) is a Greek word for “time.” Unlike chronos which refers to chronological time, hours, days, etc. Kairos refers to a defining or opportune moment. Students depart on Tuesday after school and return on Friday afternoon. Led by a trained student leadership team and chaperoned by Mission & Ministry and staff members, this retreat is unique to any other.

Sr. Kathleen said when Sister Mary Ann took over leading Kairos, she was asked to give a talk at Kairos.

## THE KAIROS RETREAT PLACES SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON STUDENT, AND HOW THAT LOVE CAN BE PUT INTO ON BUILDING DEEP AND LASTING RELATIONSHIPS,

“My mother was loving, but when she remarried, she had a real hard time and my grandmother didn’t understand her. It was tough on my mom, so I used to share that with the girls, because they used to think nuns have everything perfect. I said, ‘no, we have normal lives like you do, and sometimes we deal with the tough part too,’ and I would always share that as part of my talk.”

Sr. Kathleen said she “just loved being with the girls, because their lives were so different than mine and when I grew up as a teenager, too.” She said she would share her story with students, and when she would see them crying and being moved by her story, she was really surprised.

“I would always emphasize with them, that even though I was a Sister, I had a normal, teenage life. And the first time I said, ‘when I went to the prom with my boyfriend...’ they were shocked. Of course, they then wanted to know what happened to him, and I shared that he was studying to be a priest at one point, but then he left and got married and now he’s a grandfather,” Sr. Kathleen said. “But I would say to them, see Sisters



Currently, Resurrection Kairos retreats are held at La Salle Manor in Plano, Illinois. The school recently hosted its 120th Kairos retreat in September 2022.

## THE LOVE THAT HAS BEEN POURED OUT ON EACH ACTION AS SERVICE TO OTHERS. KAIROS IS FOCUSED BOTH WITH THEIR CLASSMATES, AS WELL AS WITH GOD.

lives are just like yours. Yes, we probably do more praying and other kinds of stuff, but we weren’t born this way. And that was something I wanted to impress with them – our lives are just like yours. We are normal people.”

She added that students would even ask if she’d take her veil off, because they thought nuns don’t have hair under there. And at night at Kairos, “I would walk around [without my veil] making sure the girls were in bed, and they would be like ‘woah.’ So I guess in that way it was letting them know that our lives are different, but the same in a sense.”

At Kairos, students are able to share their own stories – both good and bad, and then are able to receive support and understanding, not only from their friends and classmates, but also from the faculty and staff chaperoning.

“I think it is something that stays with them for the rest of their lives. They got the leaders, and then the rest of the girls later on, who are able to probably voice things that were very hurtful to them or very good to them, and there was a group of people there – adults who were going to understand that sometimes their lives were hard. And I think sometimes they don’t see teachers that way, unless a teacher shares it; and that was an opportunity for them to hear that. I think no matter how popular that teacher was, just to hear that we do

understand what you are going through, because we went through it at some point in our lives. I think they need to see that,” Sr. Kathleen said.

During her time at RES, Sr. Kathleen said she was sure to emphasize that she was there for the girls. She said sometimes in the world, women are put down so much, but RES pushes the message that ‘women are important.’ She said she thinks that is something that Kairos also tries to impress on students, and that when they are able to share what is inside of them, it empowers them to make a difference in the world.

“I think when they go on a Kairos, it changes their lives. I really believe it does, because they get to hear other girls’ stories and I think, I have always seen it as a way to encourage them to not let it get you down,” Sr. Kathleen said.

In looking back at her time at RES, Sr. Kathleen said she thoroughly enjoyed being with “big people.”

“I used to say, ‘working with little people and big people are two different things.’ And I realized how great they were and what an asset they were going to be to our world. I used to try to impress on them that someday you are going to have to go out there and make a difference... because sometimes the adults are getting it wrong. I said, ‘don’t tell your mothers and fathers that,’ but sometimes we don’t get it...And sometimes now when I hear some of the things that some of the girls that I knew, who are now probably married and have children, they have made a difference in their families lives, their work lives, whatever...Go out there and be the young woman that RES tries to make you to be.”



# Resurrection unveils new Mission & Ministry Community Center, along with new programming

This school year, the Mission & Ministry team unveiled an all-new Mission & Ministry Community Center, a space for students and faculty/staff to reflect, pray, and take part in religious programming.

The launch of this space also came with the exciting news of new and returning programming and offerings, a four-year retreat program, access to immersion and service trip opportunities, and the exploration of dynamic and communal faith experiences.

Among the new weekly and monthly offerings is Walking with Purpose Bible Study. The **Opening Your Heart Young Adult Series** is a best-selling young women bible study and was made specifically for young women, effectively meeting young women where they are and points them to a life of freedom in Christ.

The **Agape Latte** program returns this year in the new space. The program was designed to be a fun, thought-provoking look into faith in our daily lives. Students are invited into a comfortable, casual,

and relaxed environment to then enter into honest conversations with a faculty/staff member about topics such as friendship, hope, forgiveness, prayer, dating, discernment, and other questions about faith, life, and purpose.

Another new favorite, **Chillin' in the Chapel**, is offered to all grade levels twice a month during lunch. Students are invited to join the Mission & Ministry team during lunch for worship, prayer, and fellowship.

**Young Lasallians**, which is a once a month meeting, serves as a core tent offering for other Resurrection formational activities. Meetings can include a short, practical teaching on living out the faith, small group discussion time, Q & A, testimonies, praise and worship, prayer, fellowship, food, and a monthly themed activity.



New events this year also include:

- **Beloved: Daughters of God Event** on February 3rd. This mother and daughter event will showcase Resurrection ministry by inviting mothers to join their daughter's for a special evening focused on teenage female spirituality, fellowship, food, praise/worship and testimonies.
- **Polar Plunge** on March 6th. This popular event is hosted yearly along Lake Michigan. It raises money for the Special Olympics Special Children's Charity. Resurrection will partner with Saint Patrick's High School to fundraise and participate.
- **Doug and Dave** on March 13th. Each spring, we will culminate our Ministry year with a celebration event that showcases Resurrection's formational framework and provides an event of community interest. This year, we will feature Catholic (and Lasallian) comedians and musicians, Doug and Dave.

Additionally, **Campus Ministry** repurposed the school's retreat program. It is now designed to be a four-year, young women's spirituality focused retreat curriculum. Each year, students will participate in a class retreat that is facilitated with student leaders and the Mission & Ministry team to facilitate spiritual and personal growth in a communal environment.

Plus, **L.I.V.E. (Lasallian Immersion & Volunteer Experiences)** returns in-person this year. The mission of L.I.V.E. is to give students the opportunity to gain knowledge and first-hand experience of social justice issues, both at home and abroad, through meaningful immersion and service done in partnership with local communities to better live our Resurrection heritage and common Lasallian values. This year students will visit Browning, Montana and the US-Mexico border in Arizona.

# Resurrection's Twinning School, La Salle Primary celebrates third anniversary, sees growth in enrollment

On September 23, 2022, La Salle Primary, our Twinning school, celebrated its third anniversary. Since opening in 2019, both enrollment and school's footprint has grown. Brother Peter Obi, the director of the school, reported that La Salle Primary has 22 new students in primary one and 15 students in kindergarten, which is a new addition to the school this year. To put those numbers into perspective, last year the school had only six students in primary one.

Administration and the Christian Brothers who aid the school in Naka, Nigeria have expressed deep gratitude towards the Resurrection community for the financial and communal support they have received over the past year.

Last year, our community raised over \$7,000 to cover the cost of books and materials for all students attending the school. This donation also allowed for more families to be able to afford the cost of the Lasallian education.

Brother Moses Abunya also reported, with the aid of other donors, La Salle Primary was able to add to their existing buildings, including "a block of three classrooms with attached four toilet units, a roofed but not finished block of three classrooms, a staff room, dining, kitchen, and eight toilets. With more donations we plan to complete this block as well. In the overall plan, we still have three blocks of three classrooms each with attached toilets and a chapel/hall to build."

This school year, Resurrection will continue to explore ways to connect with the students and staff at La Salle Primary to create more personal connections and will continue to hold them in our prayers.





# ‘You cannot defend something you do not love’: Brother Gus Sinco stresses the importance of teaching students about environmental justice



At the end of 2018, Brother Gus Sinco started to develop plans for an environmental education project for local high schools, and presented them to his [Christian] Brothers. He said it did not take too much convincing and was encouraged to do even more. From there, the Environmental Sustainability Education Initiative (ESEI) was created, which is focused on leading the education efforts for sustainable development by connecting programs around the Lasallian schools in the Région Lasallien de l'Amérique du Nord (RELAN), otherwise known as the North American region.

This initiative recognizes the power of teaching in driving increased awareness, public understanding, and knowledge sharing. The Christian Brothers are committed to developing programs that focus on sustainability, renewable energy, water conservation, and climate change.

Additionally, ESEI aims to engage students, faculty, and staff in reducing and eventually eliminating schools' contribution to climate change. The Christian Brothers' environmental education aims to redesign curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology that fosters ecological awareness by touching hearts and minds.

"We need first to instill in the hearts and in the minds of our students love for nature. You cannot defend something that you do not love," Br. Gus said. "This is why moms give their lives for their kids, because they love them so much. And in the gospel, we have tons of examples, even God sent his own son to redeem us...And if you want to be close to God, which is of course our main goal, what better place to experience God's presence than in nature? When you see a beautiful sunset or sunrise, your jaw just drops and you say, 'wow, God this is beautiful.' This is what I want for our students, to experience the same thing, to feel the same connection between their souls and God's creation."

ESEI is also in line with the seven goals of Laudato Si, the second encyclical of Pope Francis.

"Laudato Si is an invitation, not just to Christians or Catholics, it is an invitation of every single man and woman, who believes that they need to protect the environment, because if not - you cannot support an economy without the environment. Sooner or later we are going to be out of resources," Br. Gus said.

"Laudato Si has in mind that you have to protect those who suffer the most, those who have no voice, and in doing so, is not just a wishful thought, but we need to put that thinking into action. But without being naive in the sense that, of course, we need to consider the economy, but it is an economy that needs to be sustainable. And also, we need to include those who suffer, so they can offer their voice and they can offer their knowledge."

Br. Gus continued by saying, "it is a task that is so huge, that we cannot say the government is going to do that, or the Church is going to do that, or the Vatican is going to provide us with all of the solutions...no, this is a task that is so complex and so difficult that it needs every single human being involved; because every single thing that we do every day is impacting the environment one way or the other. It's not like our existence is neutral to the environment. That is what Laudato Si' is asking us. You have to choose to live a life that is going to support the environment or are you going to live a life that is going to destroy the environment? It is up to you."

When creating this initiative, Br. Gus said the first two major goals of the Laudato Si' to focus on were 'how to respond to the cry to the Earth?' and 'how to respond to the cry of the poor?'

"So we are not, of course, going to talk about science, because the IPPC and the EPA and all those institutions have given us tons of science information, but what is lacking in

our faith society is what moves us as a Christian. And, of course, faith we believe certainly that whatever God has created is something that we need to protect, and of course, God created human beings and other series of life that there are so many that we don't even know...Generation Z is the one that is going to be suffering the consequences down the road. Many people say that 2030 is going to be the tipping point when things are going to start to really get bad, if we don't start to act now, and that is what this initiative is trying to do," Br. Gus said.

He said schools should be a place where students "can develop future solutions or at least they get the knowledge and the skills to produce future solutions to the problems that they are going to confront. Like Pope Francis said, it is our moral duty, we have a moral obligation, so this is why RELAN is supporting this initiative with our Generation Z students."

In looking for where to start these programs, Br. Gus was encouraged by his superintendent to speak to administration at Resurrection College Prep, and he said he is "so glad I did that."

On October 3, 2022, Resurrection launched iRES, the Initiative for Resurrection's Environmental Sustainability. Resurrection is the first Lasallian school in the Midwest to launch an environmental justice program.

Grounded in ESEI's vision, Resurrection will seek to "foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship by integrating social justice, economic, and ecological values into our institutional policies, programs and practices." Resurrection will work to create "a sustainable campus holistic program that serves as a living model of sustainability, providing learning experiences that students, faculty, and staff may develop, apply, and practice."

The Laudato Si encyclical has helped the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to better understand that "everything is connected" and has placed centuries of Catholic teaching in the context of today's ecological crisis and climate emergency. The Initiative for Resurrection's Environmental Sustainability (iRES) demonstrates our Lasallian commitment to creation: awareness and/or education programs on ecology, projects for environmental sustainability, green areas and activities for both our students and community.

This will be implemented through the following strategies:

- Awareness and capacity building of students, staff, LGUs (Local Government Units) and our community
- Possible collaboration with universities, in addition to both the private and public sector
- Development of a school club (the National Green Schools Society) made up of students, to assess, plan and develop school and community environmental sustainability initiatives.
- Engagement of Resurrection community, staff and students.
- Fundraising and donating to Catholic-based environmental organizations

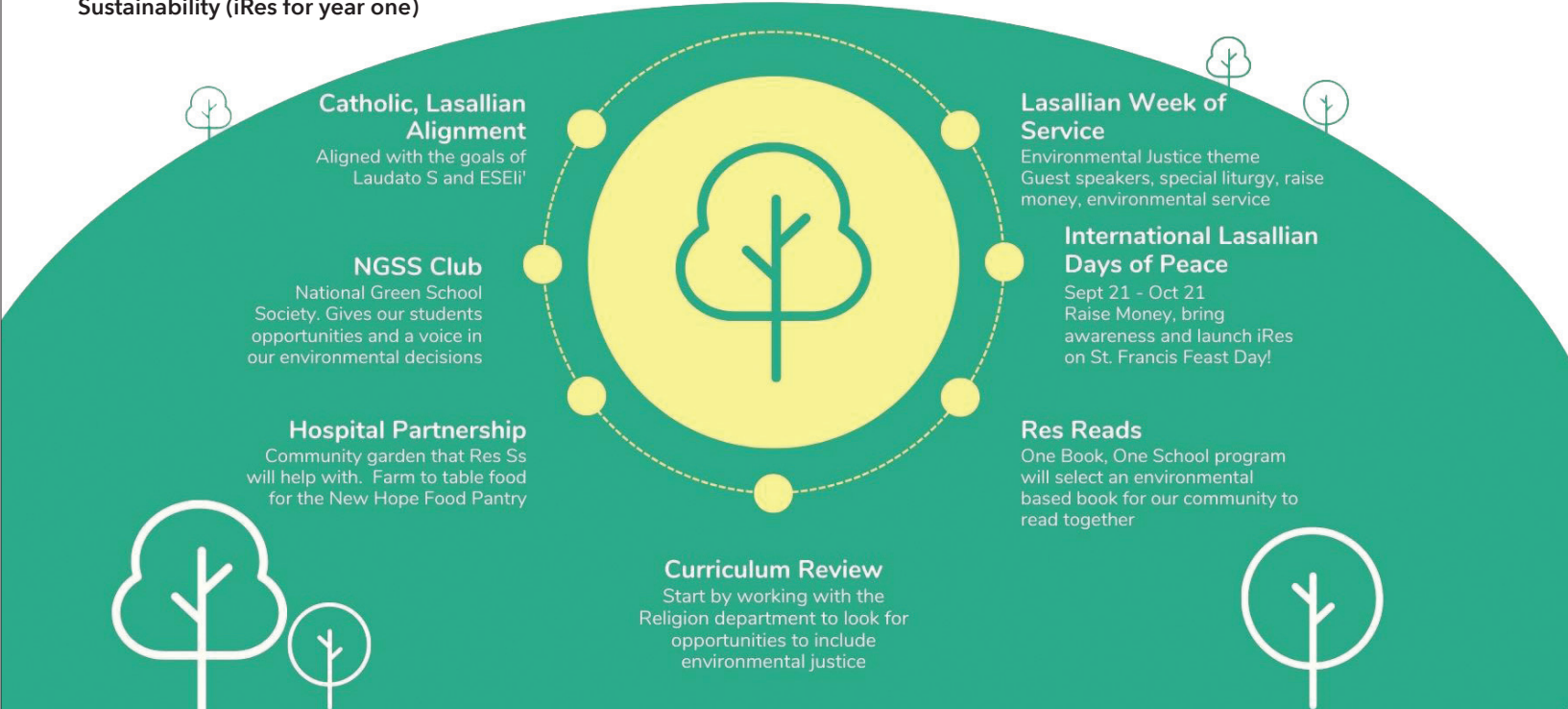
The ESEI started with three pilot schools (one per district) of the RELAN, including Resurrection College Prep, Calvert Hall High School, and Yakima High School. Since the launch, there are currently seven Christian Brothers' schools nationwide participating in an environmental justice program. In 2023, Br. Gus hopes the Christian Brothers start to add 15-20 more schools. And in 2024, he hopes that every single school within RELAN will join the movement.



I don't want to protect the environment.  
I want to create a world where the environment doesn't need protection.

UNKNOWN

## Initiative for Resurrection Environmental Sustainability (iRes for year one)





# Alumna AnnEllen Sass Barr shares her family's close association with the Sisters of the Resurrection and how her RES education still impacts her life today

"Our relationship with Resurrection nuns really goes back to before I was born," said AnnEllen Sass Barr, "which is saying something, because I just passed 90."

In 1912, Sister Anne Strzelcka, C.R. purchased the first 42 acres of land in Norwood Park, followed by the purchase of an onion farm and adjacent farmland. Three years after they took up residence there, the Sisters opened Resurrection Academy as an elementary school for boys and girls and a boarding school for girls.

Then, in 1922, Sister Anne opened the doors to Resurrection High School. At this time, the Sisters decided that both the high school and elementary school would become single-gendered schools.

That same year, AnnEllen Sass' father, Gene Sass, graduated from Schurz High School at 16 and went to work at the Jefferson State Bank, on the corner of Northwest Highway and Raven Avenue. Also that year, AnnEllen's aunt, Kath Fetter, built the five-story Fetter Storage Warehouse just a half a block north of the bank.

"My aunt, who was 15-years older than my mother and kind of a pseudo grandmother to me, came down to Chicago from Milwaukee as a 29-year-old young woman, married, and decided that people really needed a better way to move from one home to another...and she decided to start a moving company. She was just 29-years old when she built Fetter Warehouse in Norwood Park," Sass Barr said.



'50



She said Kath Fetter always had a "soft spot in her heart" for nuns, because two of her aunts – one a Franciscan in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, the other a Dominican in San Rafael, California; "and so when the nuns needed any kind of help, she was kind of front and center, because her family had nuns and realized how things worked, so that is where that started."

In 1931, Jefferson State Bank closed due to the Depression, and AnnEllen's father, Gene, went to work on Fetter's moving trucks. Within a few years Gene became Office Manager, allowing Kath's husband, Tom Fetter, to retire.

It was no secret, AnnEllen said, that the nuns, who may have sought assistance in interpreting paperwork from the governmental entities, would have gravitated to Kath Fetter and her then Office Manager brother-in-law, Gene Sass, who was from a family with a strong Polish background. While Gene didn't speak Polish, he certainly could understand it, AnnEllen said, and his command of English certainly enabled him to help the Resurrection Sisters easily.

Additionally, AnnEllen said the fact that Fetter had trucks at their command probably assisted the nuns in getting shipments, ingoing or outgoing, handled easily, as well.

In 1932, AnnEllen was born. She attended Immaculate Conception parish grammar school, on Talcott from RES, and graduated from there in 1946.

"I was in grammar school in 1946. There were two of us that qualified for a scholarship and for some reason, I was the one lucky enough to get it to RES, and a lot of the girls went to St. Pat's [St. Patrick Academy] up in Des Plaines, but I liked the idea of going to RES, and at the time I could run through the cornfields. I lived on Clarence Avenue which was two blocks beyond the cornfields, and so especially in the winter months, when the ground was frozen, if I was at school late

or late in getting to school in the morning, I could run across the frozen field, so it worked very well," Sass Barr said.

AnnEllen graduated from Resurrection in 1950. Her sister, Judy, also attended RES three years after her, graduating in 1953.

Around 1952, when it came time to solicit pledges for Resurrection Hospital, AnnEllen would join her mother going house-to-house after supper, explaining the new concept and asking homeowners to pledge their support for having a hospital in the area. At that time, AnnEllen said, the closest hospital was Swedish Covenant, at least 15 miles to the east.

"If I had a nickel for everyone who said, 'Oh, we are not Catholic, so probably would not go there' and yet later were very glad the new hospital was convenient when needed, I might be rich," joked Sass Barr.

"I laugh, because I have been there enough, five of our six children were born there, and I realize how many people were born at Resurrection and how many people who have gone there due to an accident or a surgery. It is really a Godsend to the area to have that medical facility handy.

"The nuns had such great foresight. First they had just a school with a farm around it...And then with the retirement home, the same thing happened. At that point in time when they were going to start the retirement home, they wanted to get a feel of how many people would take advantage of having a retirement home there, and so my aunt, who I believe at that point had just sold her business to her successor – they asked her if she would call people, and it reminded me of the fire-horse when he hears the bell, because she knew everybody in town having been the census taker back in the 1920 Census and had her business there all along. So she called people and said 'this is what they are going to do and it is going to be so wonderful, they are really doing a marvelous thing and wouldn't you be interested'...It was really great to see when they opened up. There were a good many people ready to move in, including herself," Sass Barr said.

After graduating from RES in 1950, AnnEllen attended Loyola University on scholarship, but did not stay there very long.

"The week that they had orientation at Loyola, I came down with the mumps...I had a week in bed and missed orientation, and as a result had very little idea of what was happening down at Loyola," Sass Barr said. "When I got there, I said I wanted to take business classes, and they said 'oh no, women don't do that, you can be a teacher, a nurse...they went down the line and they put me in the education group, which is very nice, except it wasn't for me. That was not my style. So I went there for a semester and decided, to me, was wasting time. My dad had died a year and a half before that when I was a junior in high school, and for that reason, I realized my mother could use some money coming in and I had been trained very well by Sister Dortha in the typing and shorthand and comptometer operation..." Sass Barr said.

Following her time at Loyola, Sass Barr worked at a machine tool shop on Northwest Highway, doing secretarial work. From there, she found a job downtown at a clothing shop.

"But it necessitated going downtown on the train every day – that meant walking from my home about six blocks to the Norwood Park train station and then downtown maybe four blocks over to where their building was on Monroe Street. I worked there for a couple of years and thought 'this is crazy, I am wasting 40 hours every month on the train. I get paid down there, but you know what difference does it make.' So I looked around and decided I knew a firm in Norwood Park, Magnaflux on Northwest Highway, so I wrote a letter and sent my resume and just indicated my typing speed, my shorthand abilities, and that I was working downtown, but would prefer not to waste all this time on the train every day. Within a week, I was hired at Magnaflux and worked for their Sales Manager," Sass Barr said.

AnnEllen worked there for five years until her first child was born in 1956.

"It was funny, they wanted to give me a letter of accommodation and I said 'I don't think I'll ever need that, I'll never work again. I am a housewife now.' That was the attitude in 1955, but later when my husband was in the financial planning business and he could never find somebody who really wanted to take charge in his office, our kids were mainly junior high/high school age so I said, 'why don't I consider working for you and we will see how it goes.' And 45 years later, it worked out quite well," she said.

**In looking back at her time at RES, AnnEllen said it really "served me well."**

"As long as business kept going, we were fine. Where we worked did not matter. So that worked out until a few years ago when we realized we should close up our business – my husband began having severe memory problems, and so as a result, we passed things over to who had been our supervisor before."

"All the teachers were really great. I had Sister Beatrice as my homeroom teacher, and she was a very, very kind person. And Sister Marie Claire, who taught geometry, was a wonderful teacher. She kind of sparkled...we really got an excellent education and a good attitude on the fact that you didn't skimp on studying; you paid attention and anything less than really good was not acceptable. You didn't scan over things, you paid attention, you learned in-depth. And that was always very good.



AnnEllen Sass Barr *continued*



“But one of the things that was really the best, when I was a senior, they had like a six-week course in home nursing, and I will tell you raising six children, and currently my husband, who needs medications and all, it was the best thing I ever took. It taught me how to make a chart on what was to be administered and

when and keep a checklist as you gave the medications. It really didn’t relate to what most people get in high school, but it certainly served me extremely well,” Sass Barr continued.

She went on to share all the good times she remembers, as well. “At one point, someone donated a jukebox with a violin in it. Could you imagine? This was probably in the 40s, but someone was clearing out their basement and our music was a violin and we just laughed so much about it, because the nuns thought it was great and we all thought...[not so great],” Sass Barr said.

“I made a lot of really good friends there. Some from down in the city at St. Mary of Nazareth, others from Norwood Park or that vicinity – luckily we all wore uniforms, so I don’t think we were all as aware, in retrospect, of the broad range of girls who went there. Some girls were from very much working class backgrounds, others, like one girl in my class, her father was a judge. With the uniforms, it just kind of nulled it that you didn’t look at who had what. The one girl who was in our class, LaDonna Rupinski, her father was the architect who designed Resurrection Hospital. So as you can see, there was quite a range of girls there, and yet we were all close friends.”

She then shared advice for girls currently attending RES: “Make the most of what’s there and don’t hesitate to expand what you are doing. I’ve always been an avid reader, maybe more so than I should be, but I never limit myself to a certain genre. I’m always willing to look at something outside what I have read before...Explore, be open to things, you never know what you are going to find that broadens your horizons.”

# ‘You can have two loves’: Alumna Mary O’Connor shares how owning a catering business led to her second career in city government

Mary O’Connor ’77 has owned Unforgettable Edibles, a certified, women-owned catering company for the last 32 years, but what people may not know is that Mary also served as the first and only female alderman in the 41st Ward and now oversees the Small Business Advocacy division for the City of Chicago.

After attending Eastern Illinois University, Mary ended up in the hospitality industry, working for many different restaurants. She was always encouraged to start her own restaurant, but that was not quite what she wanted to do.

“I love working. It’s where I shine and where I am most comfortable. My whole life, I grew up with a very strong work ethic...” O’Connor said. “One time, I was working in a corporate building, and I started catering in that building, and then it clicked - this is what I want to do. It’s more controlled. It’s not like in a restaurant where you are waiting for someone to walk in. You can kind of control your outcome, and I said this is it. This is what I should be doing.”

She added that her catering business really started when a friend of hers asked her to cater for his child’s christening.

“From that moment on it never stopped. Somebody at that party hired us, and then it just grew,” O’Connor said. “I would say maybe Irish typically don’t have a name of being great caterers, and we had an Irish background, so we really tapped in at the beginning in the Irish community and did well, and then, obviously, continued to branch off, but it was something where I decided to do catering, and then a friend hired me, and then it just evolved from there.”

She added: “I love people. I love service, and catering filled that for me.”



’77

Unforgettable Edibles has now been in business for 32 years, and Mary said that it is a statement to other young female entrepreneurs.

“Growing up, I didn’t know a lot of women-owned businesses. I don’t think I was very familiar with it, so I think it’s a statement for younger people of risk-taking, willing to be passionate and go for what you believe in, and you stick with it,” O’Connor said. “It has been one of the most fulfilling jobs I’ve ever had and it’s a lot of hard work...”

Mary also shared that the company has always been in the Edison Park/Norwood Park community since it began - even before it had its own storefront.

“My business partner Mary Ellen Stanton, is also from the neighborhood. We worked for a restaurant and decided to start our own catering businesses and started out of the basements of our mothers’ homes for years; and then we were able to move into a storefront on Northwest Highway, and then moved to Devon Avenue, where we are today. We have been there for over 22 years,” O’Connor said.

“It is the community where I grew up, but it’s a community that has always been very good to me and to our business. It’s a give and take. There’s times when the community needs your help and you’re very supportive with benefits... but, I will tell you that it came to light during COVID... so many people came forward during COVID and made a point in supporting us in any way they could - helping us, promoting us. It’s a community that I love, but it’s a community that has also given back to us.”

In reflecting on being in business for 30+ years, Mary said they have been very fortunate. She said she’s had the opportunity to meet so many great people and “understand their journeys and be able to participate in some of the most memorable or important times in their lives.”

She said whether it’s catering a very small intimate event or a large wedding, she has always run her business the same: “as a very intimate, mom and pop atmosphere. We are very hands on. People know us. We are at almost every event that requires staff - you are still engaging with the owners.”

Looking ahead to the next 30 years, Mary said that in addition to keeping the catering company, she hopes to remain active in small business and small business development “in encouraging young entrepreneurs and being a support to them so that they continue to be sustainable.”

While building connections over the years within the community, Mary also wanted to do more and be more active in the neighborhood, and as a result, she served as the president of our Chamber of Commerce and is the co-founder of the Edison Park Turkey Trot that’s been around 27 years. Additionally, she became the first and only female alderman in the 41st Ward, serving from 2011-2015.

“It wasn’t something I had planned, and this is an example of where life can take you, and you can have two loves and build that in different ways, but through our catering [business] and being involved in our local Chamber of Commerce, and then for some changes I was making in our business, I realized that I wanted to advocate more, not just for myself, but for the community. I thought we had a great community, but I had a larger vision for it, and I think that’s the entrepreneur in me, you’re always looking for something larger and you’re always building and you always have to improve and keep up. So I took a risk,” O’Connor said.

“I was very active in the community and got to know a lot of people and took a risk in running for alderman. I am the first woman, and only woman alderman in our ward, the 41st Ward, which lacks a lot of women in government. So I served as alderman for four years (2011-2015). It was a great opportunity. I accomplished a lot. I met a lot of great people along the way, but I was recognized in City Council as someone that continued to advocate for small business, which kind of brings me back to your first love. So after my term as alderman, I was asked to come to the city and oversee small business development. I am in a division that is fairly new in our department, and it’s called Small Business Advocacy, and it helps me be the entrepreneur that I am, because I am building something here now with the city in supporting small businesses citywide. It’s been a great experience.”

She said being an alderman was “a great experience and took me to a job that I really love now. It brought me to another place where I am really enjoying the job and the work we are doing as a team here, I am seeing great results from it.”

Mary’s advice to RES students and all young people is “believe in your gut, if you’re passionate, don’t be quick to give up.”

Be willing to live with the outcome, and sometimes if something doesn’t turn out the way you want, you will be surprised how shortly it opens the door and takes you where you belong.”



# Celebrating Our Students

To build community and celebrate and honor our students’ academic and athletic achievements, we are proud to feature a Student and Athlete of the Week throughout this school year.

## Students of the Week

We ask faculty and staff to nominate students based on the following criteria that highlight RES:

**Is she Resilient?** Does she cope and recover from setbacks well?

**Is she Exceptional?** Has she engaged in an activity or behavior where she went above and beyond?

**Is she Scholarly?** Has she demonstrated a deep commitment to academic studies?

Since launching, the following students have received the honor of being Student of the Week.



## Athletes of the Week

We ask coaches to nominated student-athletes based on the following criteria that highlight RES:

**Outstanding Leadership**

**Teamwork**

**Positive Attitude**

**Outstanding Performance**

**Coachability/Improvement**

Since launching, the following students have received the honor of being Athlete of the Week.



# THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO ENJOY RES FEST

On Sunday, October 16, we hosted RES Fest, our inaugural fall festival. RES welcomed over 500 people, including prospective students, current families, alumnae, and members of the community for a day filled with school spirit and family fun.

A visit from the Chicago Mounted Police kicked off the festivities. The fields were packed with a pumpkin patch, storybook village, activities for children, such as face painting and balloon animals created by our very own Resurrection students. An interactive plink-o game was created by our RES STREAM students, along with prizes they designed and made themselves specifically for the fest. Another exciting part of the festival was the line dancing lessons that really got kids, students, and parents off their feet, dancing to country songs. The ND/RES Marching Band, Notre Dame Cheer, and St. Pat’s Dance Team each performed and showcased their talents which got the crowd energized for a great afternoon.

RES Fest food offerings included lunch from our event sponsor, Country House, as well as Allegratti’s Bakery apple cider donuts, delicious gelato and flavored coffee from Undici Gelato, as well as popcorn from the Resurrection Men’s Club.

**RES Fest was a huge success and we look forward to hosting it, again, next school year!**





## A HOLIDAY EVENT FILLED WITH CHEER

The 32nd annual Resurrection College Prep Holiday Arts & Craft Fair was held on November 12.

The craft fair welcomed over 2,000 attendees with hundreds of them lining up to be the first one's in the door when it opened. With a total of 221 crafters and vendors filling the school with homemade jewelry, ornaments, Christmas decorations, sweet treats, and more, it was an event that filled you with holiday spirit.

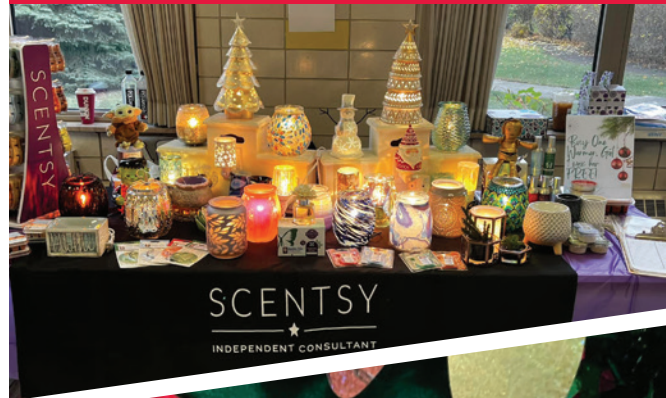
A new feature this year was that the library was dedicated to RES alumnae in celebration of our 100th year anniversary. Alumnae were able to grab complimentary refreshments and mingle with other alumnae.

Alyssa Czachor, Class of 2017, said, "I miss walking the halls, and being back for events, like the craft fair, so many memories come back and make you text old friends. It's amazing."

Throughout the day, over 250 alumnae stopped into the library to reminisce on some of their favorite memories, look at yearbooks, and enjoy being back while taking a break from holiday shopping.

This year's craft fair raised over \$20,000 for the school's annual fund. The annual fund is critical to our future and the next 100 years. It also supports our means to enhance the curriculum, offer educational advancement options to our faculty and staff, as well as improve our physical and technological infrastructure.

Overall, it was a day filled with holiday cheer and excitement and we are looking forward to the 33rd annual Holiday Arts & Craft Fair next year!



## Alumnae Notes

**1985** Congratulations to **Laura Lambeth Piowarczyk** for reopening her clinical massage therapy practice, Integrative Massage & Wellness, after being closed during the pandemic. She would love to have fellow RESites as clients. There are offices in Saint Charles and Itasca.

**2006** Congratulations to **Tara Byrne Meyer** on the birth of her second baby boy, Declan Rhys Meyer on May 23, 2022. »

Congratulations to **Kelly Winter Fitzpatrick** on the birth of her twin girls, Emma and Paige Fitzpatrick, on August 25, 2022. ♥



**2016** Congratulations to **Kelsey Janesku** who is working on her Masters degree to become a nurse practitioner. She currently works at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital as a RN.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Please share with us what you have been up to since graduation. We want to know about your achievements both professionally and personally.

If you have a class note that you'd like to share on social media or an issue of the *Resonance*, scan the QR code to begin sharing!

## In Memoriam

We remember all of the alumnae and friends of Resurrection who have passed. We pray for their souls to rest.



Heavenly Father,  
Root us in your love  
Like trees  
beside flowing rivers.  
May the years  
leave us tall and strong,  
Unbowed by the weight  
of duty or disappointment.  
May we always  
draw our life from you,  
And be filled with the sap  
of your grace and goodness.  
May we bear  
lasting fruit in our age,  
And may all who need us  
find shelter in our care.  
May we bask  
in the sunshine  
of your healing presence,  
And praise you  
when the nighttime comes.  
Fill our hearts  
with joy and peace  
That we might testify to your mercy  
at work in our lives.  
Amen.

Scan the QR code below for a full list of the deceased.





# Supporting Resurrection College Prep

Resurrection College Prep relies on the generosity of our stakeholders to support our annual programming. As we look to the next 100 years, your commitment will allow Resurrection to offer a progressive educational experience for young women.

There are many ways to support Resurrection including the annual fund, tuition assistance fund and scholarships.

## Annual Fund

Resurrection remains committed to its all-girl Catholic Christian traditions and ideals upon which it was founded. Supporting the Resurrection Annual Fund is critical to the next 100 years of education young women. This fund annually supports school improvement projects, and allows Resurrection to offer a competitive tuition rate. This school year donations will support our three-year classroom furniture replacement project, fitness center renovation and continuation of the tuition assistance program to families who value Catholic education.

## Tuition Assistance

Supporting tuition assistance allows Resurrection to accept students who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford an all-girls, Catholic education. Our past supporters have funded millions of dollars worth of financial aid. Over the last five years, Resurrection has awarded between 20% - 35% of our students tuition assistance totaling more than more \$1.5 million.

## Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarships are designed to be permanent and perpetual; they can be created with a gift in the amount of \$10,000 or more. The principal of the fund is invested and remains untouched and the interest income is awarded annually to students. This way, the endowment can last into perpetuity.

Contact Ms. Liz Brennan at [ebrennan@reshs.org](mailto:ebrennan@reshs.org) or 773.775.6616 x142 to make a donation.



## SAVE THE DATE

PLACE YOUR BETS AND MEET US IN THE WINNERS CIRCLE FOR A KENTUCKY DERBY-STYLE EVENING OF HORSE RACES AND BETTING, ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF RESURRECTION COLLEGE PREP STUDENTS.



**A NIGHT  
AT THE RACES**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

Join in the action as virtual horses run for the RES Cup. Each race is announced live and features on-site betting booths. RES will supply the tables, chairs, plastic tablecloths, disposable plates and cutlery, and the entertainment. You bring the food, beverages, and friends.

Only 90 race horses are up for grabs, so make sure to sponsor your horse early! Race horse owners will be part of drawings throughout the evening and be in the running for the RES Cup and the \$1,000 winner's purse.

A special thank you to Nicole and John McGrath, the current parents and chairs of this event.

Tables and race horses will be available for purchase starting on Thursday, December 1, 2022.  
Tables of eight - \$200 | Race horses - \$50 each





Resurrection College Prep High School  
7500 West Talcott Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60631

[www.reshs.org](http://www.reshs.org)



**Save the Date** | Saturday, April 29, 2023

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTURY!** Return to the hallowed halls of Resurrection College Prep to show your support for 100 years of educating women. Alumnae, current and past parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and supporters of RES are invited to join us on Saturday, April 29, 2023 for a night of reminiscing, a glimpse into the past, entertainment, and unmatched support for the future. Starting with individual class reunions around campus, and ending with dancing and late-night snacks in the gym, this is a night you won't want to miss.

For more details and information on sponsorship opportunities or to see currently planned reunions, visit [www.reshs.org/centennial-celebration](http://www.reshs.org/centennial-celebration).