



San Miguel Academy | Newburgh, NY

Director of Advancement and Community Engagement

San Miguel Academy seeks a mission-oriented, self-motivated fundraising professional to lead the school's philanthropic efforts. Working in close partnership with the President [Father Mark Connell](#) and the Board of Directors, the successful candidate will play a key role in securing resources and raising awareness of the school's mission and priorities in the Newburgh, Westchester County, and greater New York City region. This dedicated fundraiser will build an efficient, best practices fundraising and stewardship program within a resource constrained and joyful educational environment.

The School

This founder-led Catholic independent school offers low-income and immigrant families an educational community that is breaking the cycle of poverty through education. Since 2006 San Miguel Academy has served high-potential children who are struggling in the local elementary schools. Sixty-four students in grades 5-8 are enrolled, while 120 graduates in high school and beyond receive support as part of the school's twelve-year commitment to families.

The school's academic learning and leadership program, offered six days per week for eleven months a year and modeled after the [Nativity Miguel Coalition's](#) approach to school design, has evolved to include a celebrated athletic and character-building rowing program on the Hudson River and an aviation program with flight simulators on site. Consistent throughout is the faith-based vision to nurture the growth and life success of students.

Teachers know each child's family story, their learning path, and their personality. Students are motivated by the opportunity to earn status and respect, to be valued by people who matter, and to contribute meaningfully to a group. The same ethos guides the informal but highly effective founder-led approach to building relationships with supporters and stakeholders. The school's presence in the lives of its families affirms the potential within each individual and the power of a faith guided community.

To learn more about the school, please see www.newburghsanmiguel.org, this [2024 testimonial video](#), and these articles:

- [Meet the Catholic middle school students rowing toward a brighter future](#) *America, the Jesuit review* by Kevin Clarke. October 9, 2025
- [San Miguel Holds 16th Commencement](#) *Hudson Valley Press* by Jennifer Warren. June 4, 2025
- [Toshiba America Foundation Grant... To Tackle Real-World STEM Challenge](#). June 6, 2025
- [Doing God's Work on the Hudson](#) *Rowing News* by Bob Ford. June 2026
- ['From Poverty to Possibility'](#) Bare Wires Podcast with Brion Hayman. February 2, 2026

The Opportunity

This newly established position is critical for securing the school's financial future and underwriting the founder succession process over the next several years. The Director will develop a comprehensive development program that includes creating major, corporate, and foundation giving programs. Close collaboration with the Board of Directors and other constituents is also required for several key functions. As the school prepares for its 25th anniversary in 2029, this role will be instrumental in sustaining the school's impact.

This person will lead, develop and execute San Miguel Academy's comprehensive annual plans for fundraising, including major gifts, annual giving, events, corporate partnerships and grants. They will also ensure that the longstanding relationships established and nurtured by the President evolve into attachments to the organization through an investable plan that enables a successor to implement a resilient and sustainable financial and strategic business model for the school.

Based on the history of San Miguel graduates continuing in high school through the boarding program at [St. Benedict's Preparatory School](#) in Newark New Jersey, a board-level collaboration was initiated in 2025. This mission-aligned school serves about 1000 students in k-12 and has undertaken the largest fundraising campaign in independent school history, growing its advancement team beyond two dozen staff. The Director's work will be informed and guided by the management expertise, network, fundraising tools, and shared interests reflected in this organizational relationship. Access to and application of the academic, programmatic, advancement, leadership, and organizational resources across both entities is the priority. The Director will report to Father Mark Connell, with day to day oversight and support from the advancement team at St. Benedict's School.

Responsibilities

- Develop and implement a multi-year fundraising strategy designed to increase annual giving, secure major gifts, obtain corporate sponsorships, and generate continued foundation support.
- Meet annually established goals for visits, solicitations, and revenue, while maintaining strong follow-through and clear next steps for each prospect.
- Identify, cultivate, and solicit prospective donors, including individuals, businesses, and foundations.
- Implement strategies to increase donor retention and upgrade mid-level donors into the major gift pipeline.
- Oversee the San Miguel Academy Annual Fund, including direct mail, digital giving, and recurring gift programs.
- Recruit hosts for and organize "salon" events for new and existing prospects several times a year.
- Develop individualized strategies for high net worth donors.
- Research and write grant proposals to secure additional funding opportunities.

- Plan and coordinate fundraising events, which include annual appeals, benefit dinners, and donor recognition events.
- Work with volunteers, staff, and the Board to ensure successful event execution.
- Maintain accurate records of all donor gifts and fundraising activities.
- Provide regular reports to the President, Board, and collaborators on fundraising progress.
- Play a critical role in securing the school's financial future.

Qualifications

- A commitment to the ideals of San Miguel Academy.
- An ability to be a self-starter with a high degree of initiative, persistence, and patience.
- Proven success in securing gifts and grants.
- 8+ years of experience in development, fundraising, or advancement, preferably in an educational or nonprofit setting.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organizational skills and an ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously, working both independently and as a member of a team.
- A Bachelor's degree in Nonprofit Management, Communication, Marketing, or a related field, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

The school is prepared to entertain remote, hybrid, and fractional work arrangements with time spent in Newark, NJ to access the administrative and professional guidance available through the St. Benedict's advancement team, in Newburgh, NY as part of the learning community, and across the NY/NJ/CT tri-state area actively building collaborative partnerships with supporters.

The salary range for this role is \$125,000-\$135,000 base salary with support for transportation. Full time employees are eligible for standard benefits including health insurance and a retirement match. Where compensation is a barrier, the school is interested in learning about the career priorities of professionals who see themselves as highly mission-aligned and able to make a significant impact for this organization.

San Miguel School is committed to creating an environment where all individuals are valued. The school celebrates the inherent dignity in each person as central to the work of creating justice and peace for all through education. Candidates who bring a substantive and varied combination of educational pursuits and lived experiences are encouraged to apply.

To Apply:

Research shows that some professionals apply to jobs only if they meet 100% of the qualifications. San Miguel Academy encourages you to apply. **No one ever meets 100% of the qualifications.** Interested candidates should submit a cover letter expressing their interest in this opportunity and a current résumé. All inquiries are treated as confidential.

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