

# F FOCUS

Futures In Education | *Changing lives through the gift of a Catholic education* | Winter 2014



## Futures In Education Raises \$2 Million for Children in Need at Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner

Thanks to our nearly 900 guests who packed the Waldorf Astoria Grand Ballroom on October 9, our 2013 Scholarship Fund Dinner raised \$2 million in scholarships for the neediest of children in Brooklyn and Queens. The dinner's record-breaking Angel auction raised over \$112,000 for the Be An Angel to a Student program, pushing our year-to-date Angel total to over \$1 million - the first time the Angel program raised over \$1 million in a year! Our many thanks to our Angel mom, Carol Villani, who truly brought the house down with her speech (please turn to page three to read).

Warm thanks also go to our honorees, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly and PRI/Administrators for the Professions, Inc., CEO Anthony Bonomo, and our emcee, Good Day New York's Rosanna Scotto. Finally, we send special accolades to our auctioneers, Futures In Education Trustees Lester Owens and Bill Hogan, who brought incredible energy and an inspiring presence to our stage.

By supporting the education of our most vital asset, our children, we are, indeed, creating a bright future for all.

See you next year! 📖

## What's New with Futures



### **NEW ASSOCIATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

**Erica L. Oleske**, Associate Development Officer for the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens and Futures In Education, is thrilled to join the team, bringing a fresh fundraising perspective owing to her background in consumer public relations and marketing. An avid reader, student mentor with iMentor and former college writing tutor at the Rutgers Writing Center, Erica believes that a good education is the foundation of a happy, fulfilling life. Erica comes to Futures In Education from Parasol Marketing Group, where she worked with travel and hospitality clients as a travel PR and marketing specialist, and Susan Magrino Agency, where she served as a fashion, beauty and consumer goods publicist. Erica holds her B.A. in English from Rutgers University and completed her study abroad at Pembroke College, Cambridge University.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

• **Thursday, May 8, 2014**

**8:00pm**

**Angels on the Fairway  
Golf Outing**

The Creek, Locust Valley, New York

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## **LETTER FROM REV. MSGR. JAMIE J. GIGANTIELLO**

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Dear Friends in Christ:

As the new year arrives, I wish to extend my greetings and prayers to you and your family and hope you had a joyous Christmas.

The gathering for Thanksgiving, miracle which is Christmas and celebration of a New Year often call us together with families and friends, sharing fond memories and creating new ones. We, too, at Futures In Education have recently been working hard to remember and create. At this year's Annual Scholarship Dinner, we looked back on the many success stories that have come from our schools. In particular, we recognized the successes of this year's two honorees and Diocese of Brooklyn Catholic school alumni,

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and PRI/Administrators for the Professions CEO Anthony Bonomo. With their help and the assistance of our Dinner committee and staff, we were able to build a better future for our students as we raised \$2 million that evening. Furthermore, during the Annual Scholarship Dinner, Dinner co-chair Lester Owens led the Angel auction to an amazing \$112,000 which for the first time in the history of Futures In Education brings our total Angel commitments for one year over \$1 million.

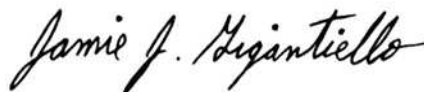
While we are grateful to all those who made the evening and all of our programs so successful, we must remember that we need to do more. Last year, \$11 million in scholarship assistance was requested by deserving applicants, but we were only able to give out a little over \$7 million. I encourage each of you to participate in the upcoming Christmas Concert at Carnegie Hall on December 4th to benefit Futures In Education as well as the Be an Angel to a Student program.

As you reflect on your gatherings with family and friends, I pray that you will remember those who need your assistance and are deserving of all those things which we were afforded by our parents and the Church in generations past. We have an obligation to do for the next generation what has been done for us. This means we must continue to surpass the goals set last year and find new ways to develop even more support for the future.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you who have generously offered your time, talents and treasures to support the work of Futures In Education. If you have recently supported Futures In Education, I thank you for your generosity. If you have yet to do so, I hope you may reflect on the gifts God has given you and find a way to give back with the gift of a Catholic education by going to [www.FuturesinEducation.org](http://www.FuturesinEducation.org) or by calling 718-965-7308. I commend all of you for being committed to our cause and the students we serve.

I once again thank you and please know that you will be remembered in my prayers – please remember me in yours!

In Christ's Peace,



Monsignor Jamie J. Gigantiello  
Vicar for Development  
R.C. Diocese of Brooklyn

# Our Angel Mom Speaks Out



Our 2013 Scholarship Fund Dinner Angel Mom, Carol Villani, brought the house down on Wednesday, October 9 at the Waldorf Astoria when she told the 800+ Scholarship Fund Dinner guests the story of how she and her family found Futures In Education. A mother of two students at St. Margaret School in Middle Village, Carol is forever grateful to her daughters' Angels.

As Carol so eloquently said it....

"Hello everyone, my name is Carol and I would like to extend my deepest thank you to Monsignor Jamie and the staff at Futures In Education for giving me this opportunity to speak to everyone here tonight.

I will be giving you a quick summary about how my daughters came to be recipients of this wonderful program.

I arrived in the United States with my mom and dad in the early 1980's. I was twelve years old then. I did not know a word of English. Learning the English language was a bit difficult because all my grade school years were taken in Guatemala City.

I grew up in Brooklyn during my teenage years and went to Washington Irving High School in NYC. During my High Schools years I worked in retail stores. After I graduated from Washington Irving High School, I attended Stony Brook University in Long Island. I then transferred to Pace University where I graduated

with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Systems.

I held several excellent jobs. However, in the year 2009 my boss called me into his office and told me with great sympathy that I was laid off. I found out later it was because of a reduction of funding in grants to that organization.

I was full of anxious emotions. I remembered praying and crying to God and saying to him "God, I am a single mom with two small children what am I going to do?" How can I pay all these bills by myself? I thought, "how am I going to pay for my daughters tuition?" The thought did cross my mind of sending my daughters to public school but I knew this change would have been so difficult for them because of all the personal changes they already had gone through within the past few years.

The new school year was about to start again and I did not have all the funds to pay for my daughter's tuition. I spoke with the Principal and he told me about The Futures In Education program. I reached out to them and spoke with



a beautiful person name Tanairi who helped me throughout the application process. I was able to send my daughters back to Catholic School because of Futures In Education.

Currently, my daughters are attending St Margaret School in Queens, NY, which they love. Under the leadership

of Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia and the wonderful Principal Dr. Franco, my daughters can participate in after school activities, such as the science club, the drama club and the children's choir. I can proudly say my daughters work hard and have made the Principal's list every semester. They never like to miss a day of school.

I cannot stress enough how this program has not only helped my daughters attend Catholic school, but it has also been a life changing experience for them. They have learned that there are beautiful people who care about them and they are so grateful to everyone that each morning they pray for all the Angels who help children and for giving them the opportunity to stay in Catholic School. They tell me that one day they each want to be an Angel for a child and give back to the Futures In Education Program.

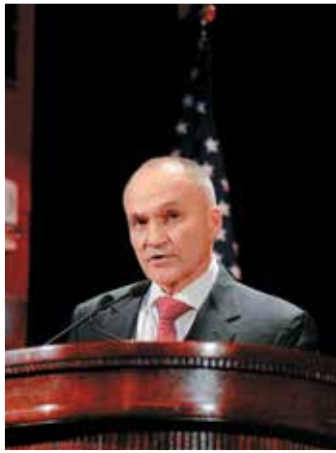
The world we live in today has major problems. One wonders why this world does not fly apart in a million pieces. Does anyone here know how to eat an elephant? The answer is one bite at a time.

Well the glue that holds this fragile world together is good people with good hearts. You are the good people who quietly, behind the scenes, eat the elephant one bite at a time. Your contributions create real and lasting change - one life at a time making this world a better place for all.

It definitely takes a village to raise well-educated and religious children in NYC. I encourage and plead with everyone here tonight to please continue your generous support and donations to this wonderful program. To all the Angels and the staff and administrators at Futures In Education, please see that you do make a difference, a big difference in the everyday lives of families and children. And from the bottom of my heart I want to say Thank You for everything that you do. May God Bless You." 🙏



# Look who was spotted at the Waldorf



*Clockwise from top left: NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly; Bishop Raymond Chappetto and Monsignor Jamie Gigantiello with dinner guests and honorees; children from St. Bernard's School; the Waldorf Astoria ballroom; Dick and Lori Grasso.*

## Futures In Education hits North Hills thanks to Board Member

The Futures team was joined by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Monsignor Jamie Gigantiello at a reception on Wednesday, September 18, at North Hills Country Club. The reception, hosted by Futures In Education Board of Trustees member Louis C. Grassi, served as Futures In Education's first formal introduction to many of Mr. Grassi's friends, colleagues and clients.

During the evening, guests mingled with the Bishop, Monsignor Jamie, Mr. Grassi and Futures staff members and learned about the work of Futures In Education and how they can help further the organization's mission in Brooklyn and Queens.

"We're so grateful to Lou for providing us with the unique opportunity to speak to a small, engaged group of new friends in an intimate, comfortable setting," said Nick Vendikos, Director of Development for Futures In Education. "This event was the perfect opportunity for us to share the mission of Futures with a new audience and enjoy a great evening together. 📖"



## Futures In Education Reaches Prospective Donors and Committee Members with Young Executives Event



Futures In Education was pleased to host a successful networking fundraiser at Manhattan's Hudson Terrace hosted by the new Young Executives Committee. The event, titled "Kick Back to the Futures," drew a large crowd of many new individuals interested in Futures. Guests had the opportunity to meet the Futures In Education team, learn about the

organization and take in views of the Hudson River from the venue's rooftop.

"We're thrilled to introduce Futures In Education to a group of engaged, passionate future donors," said Nick Vendikos, Director of Development for Futures In Education. "We're looking forward to continue hosting similar events every few months."

## Are You a Secret Admirer?

*Why not tell us your secret ...*

Are You a Secret Admirer of Futures In Education and haven't told us? The Fons Vitae Society recognizes friends of Futures In Education who have indicated that they have included Futures in their estate plans. While the Fons Vitae Society is not a secret club, many are unaware of its **purpose to continue supporting education in Brooklyn and Queens**. To help Futures In Education plan for the future, please take a moment to complete this brief survey and return it to us in the enclosed donation envelope.

1. Have you included Futures In Education in your will or estate plans?

Yes  No

2. If you have not yet made a provision for Futures In Education in your will or estate plans, would you consider doing so in the future?

Yes  No

(If no, please comment)

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If you have already included Futures In Education in your will or estate plan, thank you! If you haven't already informed us, or if

your plans have changed, please describe your gift with as much detail as you are comfortable sharing. We recognize that any estate gift is revocable, is subject to unknown future personal and financial consideration, and can be modified at any time.

3. All donors of legacy gifts to Futures In Education are recognized as members of the Fons Vitae Society. We hope you will allow us to recognize your generosity in this way and to list your name(s) as an inspiration to others.

Please indicate how your name(s) should appear on any recognition material and in our annual donor report:

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4.  Please do not list my/our name(s) in any donor rosters or publications

5.  Please send me current information on Fons Vitae Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*We extend a lifetime of appreciation to all members of the Fons Vitae Society.*

# Be an Angel to a Student this Year

Our Angel program is growing faster than ever. For the first time, we have raised over \$1,000,000 in a single year to directly fund scholarships for children in need, and have been fortunate enough to match nearly half of our students with an Angel.

Angels provide partial tuition assistance to our applicants, many of whom come from the neediest families in Brooklyn and Queens. Due to the tremendous success of the Angel program last year, we have over 200 new students hoping to find their Angel this year.

“My kids are doing great. They’re thriving in school. They’re really nice kids, and it has a lot to with the school and the fact that they were able to go

there,” says Betsey, mother of five, when speaking of her children’s education at St. Camillus School in Rockaway Park.

With five children at home, two of whom have hearing impairments which necessitate expensive hearing aids and treatment, Betsey’s family expenses seem overwhelming at times. She and her husband’s deep faith in the Catholic school system, coupled with the help of their Futures In Education Angels, has kept her children in St. Camillus School. Her passion for the school is evident when she discusses what she would have done if not for Futures: “I would have scrubbed bathroom floors or done anything to keep them [at St. Camillus]. I would try to do my best to keep them there.”

It’s not just a great education Betsey hopes her children will gain from their experiences at St. Camillus – it’s also the unforgettable bond with their Angels Betsey hopes her children will take with them for the rest of their lives. “I feel that hopefully, one day, my kids will be able to do the same for someone else. They’re very generous kids, and it’s a pay-forward kind of thing [to do].”

Please help families like Betsey’s, and help us fulfill our dream of helping all of our student applicants find their wings by becoming an Angel to a student this year!

If you have already pledged to be an Angel this year, thank you. Please spread the word by sending this message to friends and family.





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# Don't Forget About Futures In Education

By Nick Vendikos, KHS, Director of Development, Futures In Education

I write in prayer and hope that you will again answer the call for the amazing students of Futures In Education.

In the wake of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we so often forget what is truly important. In today's society, we are overwhelmed with social media, Black Friday commercials and shopping specials; we often shuffle from one holiday party to another, and, of course, we have to get the Christmas lights and tree up before our neighbors.

Recently, a friend and I were commiserating about the stress we are facing when he simply asked, "When did everything become so frenzied?"

At Futures In Education, the end of the year marked a new challenge: bracing for what we hope will be our best year ever.

However, our own frenzied efforts are dedicated to supporting the families and children who turn to Futures for hope, support and, most importantly, opportunity. It is the opportunity that we all strive for, for all of our children. An opportunity to receive a cutting-edge Catholic education, based in our faith and buttressed by our morality.

At Futures, we are led by Monsignor Jamie Gigantiello, whose energy and compassion know no peers. I am blessed to work with colleagues whose effort and professionalism always answers the call. It is amazing the time and effort they put forth on a daily basis for those who have nowhere else to turn but Futures.

*We need you  
to be a Futures  
In Education  
champion,  
and like my  
colleagues, I am  
certain you will  
answer the call.*

As I write this on a rainy and windy day, Futures has recently hosted an incredible

Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria honoring New York City Commissioner Ray Kelly and longtime supporter Anthony Bonomo. We also celebrated the season with our sold out Spirit of Christmas Concert at Carnegie Hall, which raised \$1 million.

This is where you come in. While it is important to give gifts to our family and loved ones, I know you also appreciate all the gifts with which God has blessed you.

I hope you will consider a gift to Futures In Education at this time. If you have already made a gift this season, I thank you for your generosity and hope you will consider another one by visiting [futuresineducation.org](http://futuresineducation.org) and clicking 'Donate Now'. If you have yet to make a gift, I hope this serves as a simple reminder. As always, please feel free to spread the word and tell your family, friends and colleagues.

We need you to be a Futures In Education champion, and like my colleagues, I am certain you will answer the call.

May God Bless you and your families with a happy and healthy New Year! 🎉

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## Catholic Alumni Partnership Update

The Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP) program is now in its fifth year in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

The program, which currently exists in eight dioceses and archdioceses around the nation, aims to help Catholic elementary schools reconnect with their alumni. There are now 45 schools in Brooklyn and Queens participating in the program, which has helped them raise close to \$1 million.

The goal of the program is simple - for each school to have a fully functioning, comprehensive development program, with alumni support as its foundation.

This approach has been adopted by the diocesan Preserving the Vision strategy, in which ultimately each school will target 30% revenue support from non-tuition sources. Besides the fundraising aspect of CAP,

there is a unique opportunity for alumni to go back to their roots with many visiting their alma maters as part of the reconnecting experience.

Futures In Education views alumni involvement as critical to the long-term support of the Catholic elementary schools in Brooklyn and Queens. For this reason, Futures has adopted the CAP program as part of its core mission in the overall effort to ensure future generations have the same opportunity.

The goal is to have all schools participating in the program by 2017.

To re-engage with your elementary school today, please visit [www.futuresineducation.org/catholic-alumni-partnership](http://www.futuresineducation.org/catholic-alumni-partnership).

## A Word from Our Families

A year after Superstorm Sandy, it's still hard to quantify the physical, emotional

and financial impact of one of the largest storms to ever hit our city. Thanks to our generous donors and friends, Futures In Education is proud to have provided over 800 scholarships to children in need in the wake of Sandy. The flood of thanks from these families reminds us of the importance of our collective mission.

"On behalf of my two sons, Nicholas and Michael, and myself...we are so grateful. We lost all our belongings during Sandy and we were at a loss. Thank God that He sent this wonderful program to assist us in our need. Please know that we will never forget you for all your generosity to us. God bless you."

"Hurricane Sandy caused such a great amount of devastation and destruction to our home and community. We greatly appreciate the fact that your generosity enabled us to focus on rebuilding our home and replacing our belongings." 🎉

FUTURES IN EDUCATION:  
CORRECTIONS AND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We extend our apologies to four of our  
supporters who were not included in our  
2012 Annual Report.*

*Thank you for your generosity  
and contributions!*

MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY RAZIANO

MS. LYNNE C. TUOHY

MS. PATRICIA M. TUOHY

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