



NATIVITY ACADEMY  
AT SAINT BONIFACE

# Nativity Academy News

Fall/Winter 2020

An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and whose families demonstrate financial need.

## *Nativity Leaders, Faculty and Staff - Focused On Our Mission*



Will Wells

Dear Nativity Academy at St. Boniface Community of friends, family, and supporters,

Enclosed in this newsletter are exciting and important updates on our Nativity Academy and the work being done by our leaders, faculty, staff, volunteers, and others. Since becoming Chair of the Board of Directors on July 1, there has been a lot of activity at Nativity Academy. I have had the opportunity to observe and gain a new respect for so many people who give so much of their time, talent, and treasures to support our students and to equip Nativity's personnel with the resources needed to meet the needs of our students and families. During a normal year, our people do extraordinary work to serve our students and meet their needs academically as well as personally and emotionally. During these extraordinary times, our leaders, faculty, and staff have been challenged to be creative, innovative and remain positive and focused on our mission at levels that exceed anything we have seen before. All have embraced this challenge and, in doing so, have provided top-tier educational opportunities and support at a time when our students need it most.

In addition to those in the classroom (whether the classroom is in-person or virtual), those who support our students behind the scenes are critical to the success of our students and our organization. None of this would be possible without you. Nativity continues to be uniquely blessed to be supported by so many who care for our community and understand the life changing impact of a quality education. We are fortunate to operate within a community that recognizes the power and potential of education to positively impact our students' growth and development. With your help, our students have a

unique opportunity to attend a middle school that provides an educational experience unlike any they can receive elsewhere in our community—extended school day, extended school year, Catholic education and graduate support—some of the things that make Nativity different and transformative for our students and their families. On behalf of the members of our Board of Directors, I want to say a simple and sincere “thank you” for your support. We hope you find this report to be encouraging and that it prompts you to renew your commitment to our Nativity Academy at St. Boniface.

Over the years, many of you have worked closely with Nativity leadership in support of its mission. For nearly a decade, Carol Nord has been a familiar face among that leadership in her role as Executive Director of Nativity Academy. It is with gratitude for her years of service that Nativity announces Carol's decision to step away from this role. I know that you will join with me in giving thanks for Carol's health and in wishing her the best as she continues to gain strength and work for positive change in our community.

For the rest of this academic year, Ebony O'Rea will continue to serve as Interim Executive Director. Ebony has been a positive source of strength and leadership since she stepped into this role in June. We are very grateful to Ebony for accepting our invitation to continue in this role as the Board begins its search for Nativity's next Executive Director.

Nativity has much to be thankful for during this season. Despite the unique challenges facing our community at this time, I am encouraged by your continued stewardship and commitment to our mission. On behalf of the Board, thank you for all that you do to support our students.

- Will Wells  
Board Chair

## **Here's To The Year Ahead And To A Triumphant 2021**



Ebony O'Rea

Our sixth-grade boys had just won the #1A CSAA Basketball Championship and we were making plans to celebrate. The school was full of excitement and energy, looking forward to the change in weather and a much-needed spring break. We were getting closer to seeing our talented eighth-grade students begin to actualize their academic goals, soon moving on, soaring to greater heights. These moments of triumph halted abruptly, on March 13th, as we all headed home to fight the novel Coronavirus with the rest of the world.

Shortly thereafter, on the morning of April 9th, Lisa Brents, our beloved counselor of 8 years, gained her wings after a courageous battle with cancer. Ms. Brents cared deeply for the students, graduates and families of Nativity. She always brought out the best in every person and encouraged everyone with her positive, inspiring spirit. Very faithfully, she served and supported the mission of our school, and we will continue to honor her memory.

Despite the pandemic, we still celebrated our twenty-five graduates as best we could with a masterfully orchestrated parade through the city. Stopping at each graduate's home, we acknowledged their accomplishments and those of

*continued page 2*

## Here's to the year...cont.

the twenty Nativity students who were the class of 2020 graduating seniors.

A few months later, we lifted prayers, as our fierce leader of nearly 10 years, Carol Nord was diagnosed with COVID19. Believing in the power of prayer and knowing the strength of Ms. Nord, we were relieved as she began to make progress and started heading toward recovery.

Uncertain of what the future held, our dedicated faculty and staff, board and volunteers, donors and supporters have continued to hold Nativity close as we remain committed to meeting the educational needs of our students. We believe so passionately in the mission of the school and understand the importance of supporting one another during times of transition.

Looking ahead, we feel hopeful. Through it all, you have demonstrated that even in the most challenging of times, you will be there. We appreciate your dedication to our school and mission. On behalf of our entire community, but particularly the students and their families, please accept my deepest gratitude for ALL you do and will do for Nativity Academy this year.

We will get through this TOGETHER. Here's to the year ahead and to a triumphant 2021.

Ebony O'Rea  
Interim Executive Director

## Principal's Letter



Dear Nativity family,

It brings me great pleasure to welcome each of you to our annual report and newsletter! I am proud to serve as the

Principal of Nativity Academy and ensure our students receive the best education possible despite COVID-19.

While this school year has been unlike any other, we have been able to use this situation as a unique opportunity to innovate and reinvent what education looks like. I'm happy to report that despite starting our school year 100% virtual, our scholars are receiving an engaging and rigorous education. We are utilizing tools like Zoom and Peardeck to increase student engagement and collect meaningful data.

During the last week of May, Nativity Academy staff, faculty and supporters participated in a graduation recognition event for the twenty-five 8th grade graduates, by traveling throughout our community to individually deliver scholastic achievement awards and a graduate gift bag, along with the most prized item, an 8th grade diploma!

It was a special two days to personally experience the joy and pride of family members for their graduating students who now prepare for the next step in their lives. These students will be entering high-performing area high schools including St. Xavier, DeSales, Holy Cross, Trinity and Fairdale in the Louisville community.

Nativity Academy is extremely proud of its graduates who now join a group of more than 250 alumni enrolled in area high schools, vocational schools and post-secondary education. Congratulations and best wishes to each Nativity Academy graduate and their families.



## The Places We Will Go



To the Nativity Academy at St. Boniface family,



As many of you know, I contracted a serious case of coronavirus over the summer and required a lengthy hospitalization. My recovery has been challenging

and continues even today. During my recovery, I've decided it's time to pursue a new challenge in my professional life. With much sadness, I am stepping down from the role of Executive Director at Nativity Academy.

I truly loved my time at Nativity Academy and was blessed to work with wonderful people including our students, graduates, families, staff, donors and community supporters. Over the last decade, I've given 100% of my energy to fulfilling the life-changing mission of Nativity. I am so pleased with what we have accomplished together.

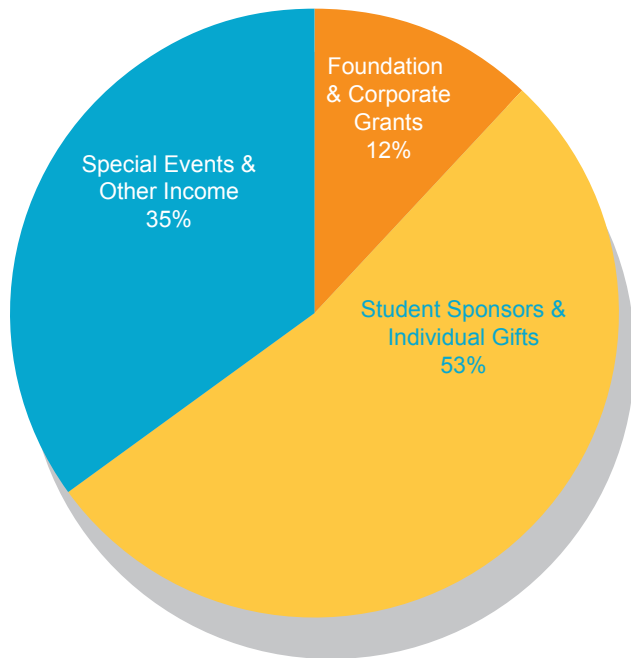
Although I'm leaving employment with Nativity Academy, I look forward to watching you SOAR to new heights.

With best wishes for your future,

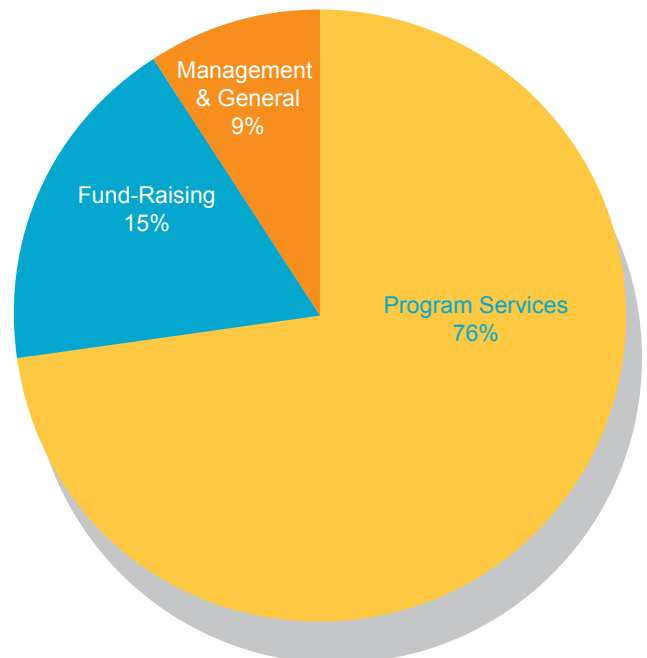
*Carol Nord*  
Carol Nord

# Annual Report 2020

## 2020 INCOME



## 2020 EXPENSES



Income & Support	year ending June 30, 2020
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$189,730
Student Sponsors & Individual Gifts	\$832,086
Special Events & Other Income	\$545,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,567,686</b>

Expenses	year ending June 30, 2020
Program Services	\$1,085,356
Management & General	\$133,668
Fund Raising	\$265,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,484,726</b>

An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and whose families demonstrate financial need.

Additional detailed financial information is available upon request.



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**\$50,000+**

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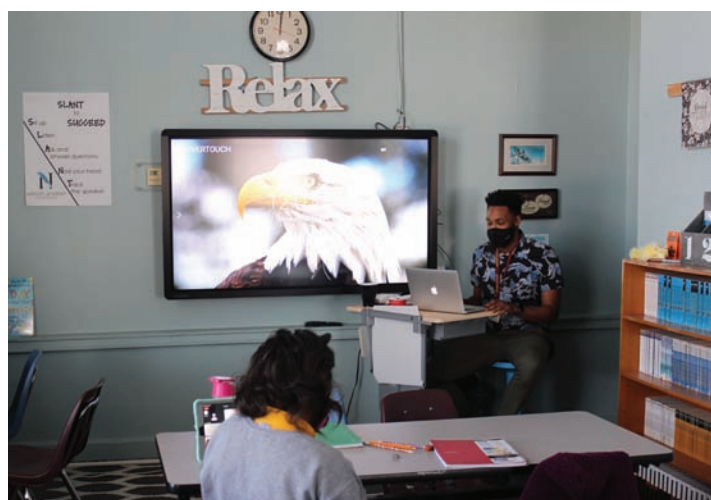


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*Nativity Academy provided two primary pathways for families including a Hybrid Model (50/50 virtual & in person) and an Online Learning Academy (100% virtual).*

*In the Hybrid Model teachers present to both students in the classroom and online. Nativity Academy is very proud of the students, families and faculty engaged in dealing with possibly one of the most challenging educational environments in recent history.*

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## Wish List



As we continue to transform the lives of our students and provide a quality education, these items will enhance the learning experiences of our students.

● Adobe Creative Cloud Yearly Subscription	\$635
● Z Space Virtual Reality Desktop	\$3000
● iMac Computer for graphic and video production	\$4200
● Send a student to Summer Camp	\$325
● Send a student to Mock UN Assembly	\$250
● 1st Generation Apple Pencil Can be used for note taking, digital drawing or painting.	\$99 each
● Ringlight Kit with Tripod Stand and accessories	\$200
● Podcasting Recording Kit w/Mics+ Headphones+Tripods	\$500

If you are interested in donating any of these items, please contact Jeri Johnson, Advancement Coordinator - 502.855.3315



## Messer Construction Company Foundation \$25,000 Grant Ensures Students' Safety



Nativity has increased the safety of students, teachers and faculty by adding a glass partition from the front stairwell to the wall. This ensures that guests proceed directly to the school's office. Previously, visitors could easily access the stairway leading directly to the classrooms – and the entire school – upon entering the building. This generous grant also covered the renovation of the school's conference room and school office, now situated in the school foyer. Messer did not do the renovation, but guided school leaders in finding the right people to do the job.

Erin Rasinen, a business development executive at Messer, endorsed Nativity's application. Nativity Academy not only met all the criteria for the grant, but stood out because of the graduate support program that currently serves 250 alumni who are in high school and college. Messer Construction Company Foundation awards four grants annually.

## Family Resource Center Named in Memory and Honor of Lisa Brents



The family resource center renovated with the Messer Grant has been named in memory of Lisa Brents. As the Director of Student Services and Community Engagement, Lisa Brents is remembered with love and admiration by Nativity students, faculty and staff. Her dedication to the school and to the success of the students serve as a continuing inspiration to the Nativity community.

## Nativity Student elected Lt. Governor at KYA



Nativity 7th and 8th graders attended KYA this past school year as part of our Extended Enrichment. One of this group, Camden, was elected as Lt. Governor. We are so proud of him and this historic victory for our school, since this is the first time a student from Nativity has won an elected seat at KYA. This is just one of many examples of the benefits of extended enrichment.



Nativity offers a variety of unique opportunities to provide our students with new and exciting experiences that have lasting and life-changing impact.



## Nativity Graduate - Gustavo Alcantara, M.A. LPCA

Gustavo Alcantara, a 2009 Nativity graduate, recently shared that although this year came with many challenges and changes, many blessings also came his way. In August, he graduated with a masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and recently became a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate. He has accepted a therapist position with Nurture Nest Counseling and is excited to embark on this new journey.

Gustavo writes: *"I am so thankful for all the unconditional support that I received throughout my academic and professional career. When I look back and reflect on all the obstacles that I have overcome, I realize that 'it is not my achievements that define me but rather my resiliency.' I am a proud first generation college graduate and a Latino mental health therapist."*





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FOR NATIVITY ACADEMY

**Fat Tuesday:**  
**February 16, 2021**

Plan to dine in or carry out at one of  
our participating restaurants.

# NATIVITY ACADEMY AUCTION

*Celebrating Our Family*

**Friday, March 19, 2021**

*An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the  
lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and  
whose families demonstrate financial need.*

## NATIVITY ACADEMY AT ST. BONIFACE

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Phone: 855-3333

Principal: Jamie Oleka  
Phone: 855-3300

Advancement Coordinator:  
Jeri Johnson  
Phone: 855-3313

Dean Of Students:  
Roni Witherspoon  
Phone: 855-3302

Graduate Support:  
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