



# HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY DONOR NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

## HTA GRADUATION! - CLASS OF 2022

“In July 2004, a baby girl named Sofia Sinda was born in New York City. Also in July 2004, across the country in Trinidad, Colorado, Holy Trinity Academy opened its doors for the first time. Only God could relate these two events. If you know Sofia, you would think the Holy Spirit had her in mind when these events simultaneously occurred!” Thus began the Commencement speaker's address for the 2022 HTA graduation ceremony. Sofia Sinda, the daughter of Juha and Maria Sinda, was the only member of the Class of '22. Sofia is the first graduate of Holy Trinity Academy to have completed her entire K-12th grade education at HTA. She exemplifies what HTA embodies. Her hard work, her trust in her teachers and her attentiveness to schoolwork helped her become one of HTA's all-time best students!

Sofia not only honored her family, but the school as well. She was a favorite peer to the elementary students who miss seeing her every day. She is loved and respected by everyone she meets. She achieved outstanding college entrance exam scores (in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in English and 92<sup>nd</sup> in Math in the USA). She completed high school while earning her Associates Degree in Science with a perfect 4.0 grade point average; she is HTA's first Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholar, which means she is currently attending Baylor University **FOR FREE!**



Sofia's Commencement Speaker, Mrs. Andrea Jimenez, completed her address with, “Usually, commencement speakers give high school graduates some meaningful advice to help them succeed in life. I find this hard to do because Sofia seems to already know the keys to success: trust in her teachers, hard work in her studies, always do her best, appreciate her family, help others and having an active faith in God!” We are so blessed to have Sofia Sinda, Class of 2022, as a part of the HTA Family!

## **MR. ROGER SMITH HONORS HIS FAMILY WITH DONATION**

Mr. Roger Smith, Holy Trinity Academy's newest benefactor, has spent his life supporting worthy individuals, organizations and causes. Smith, retired CEO and founder of Silicon Valley Bank and Smith Venture Group in Palo Alto, CA, has strong ties to Trinidad through his mother, Anna (Maglia) Smith-Bacus. As a tribute to the community where his mother spent many happy years, Roger has supported many organizations that positively impact the city she loved: PEO, AADA, Noah's Ark, Trinidad Lake State Park, ArtoCade, Holy Trinity Academy, and more. Mrs. Anna Smith Bacus was a well-known educator in Trinidad. She earned a reputation as a patient, fair, and kind, yet demanding instructor who took great joy in her work. Her legacy as a teacher continues through her students, who are now teachers themselves, such as HTA's Mrs. Phyllis Massarotti.

To continue his habit of generosity, Mr. Smith recently contributed a \$10,000 donation in honor of his cousins, Mrs. Carol Cimino Patrick and Mrs. Leanna Cimino McCully. Mrs. Patrick and Mrs. McCully are alumni of Trinidad Catholic, representing the classes 1964 and 1969 respectively. Like her aunt, Mrs. Patrick has enjoyed a long career as an educator and administrator. She even taught at HTA! She is a respected and loved member of the Trinidad community. Mrs. McCully also worked with youth and schools in her career. She is now a retired School Psychologist and lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

It is the hope of the HTA Finance Committee that other donors will match Mr. Smith's generosity. The school is currently running its Century Club Drive. The goal for donations is \$82,000 for the general fund plus an additional \$25,000 to help pay off one of our smaller building loans. We are grateful to donors, like Mr. Smith, for remembering their hometown, especially when it comes to supporting children's education. Thank you, Mr. Smith, for encouraging us to continue the mission of HTA: to develop future active members of the Christian faith and Trinidad civic communities!

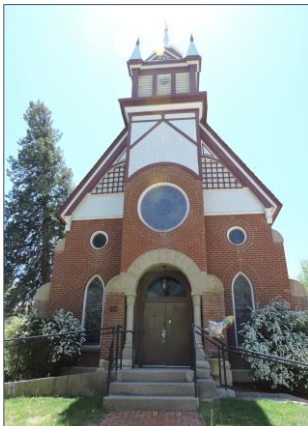
## **ACE SCHOLARSHIPS OF COLORADO: MAKING SCHOOL CHOICE POSSIBLE**



ACE Scholarships of Colorado has been contributing scholarships to families in Colorado since 2000. Their mission is to provide low-income families with school choice through partial scholarships to K-12 private schools. Families must qualify financially as based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

ACE Scholarships has helped many HTA students in the past. This year they were able to help 15 students attend HTA with partial scholarships that amount to \$29,000! This is a record for their contributions to the Trinidad families. We appreciate ACE Scholarships of Colorado and look forward to our continuing partnership in the future!

## **PRAYERS FOR REV. DR. ANDREA DOEDEN**



Our prayers are with Rev. Dr. Andrea Doeden, who is battling a difficult medical illness. She is the former Pastor of the Christian community at Zions Lutheran Church. Under her leadership, Zions Lutheran Church became an integral part of HTA. Rev. Dr. Doeden baptized many of HTA'S students and parents. She will always remain in our hearts and prays and we ask that you keep her in yours. To Rev. Dr. Doeden, thank you for sharing the Love of God with all of us!

Others that we regularly pray for include: Florie Massarotti, Mr. Dan Valentine and his family, all former HTA graduates, and the sick and infirm. If you would like to add someone to our prayer list, please let us know!

## HTA PLANS FOR FUTURE GROWTH & FACILITIES

The HTA Board and Finance Committee have been planning for the future growth of the school. To meet our usual goal of enrolling more students, we would like to add facilities that would allow us to accommodate more students and to teach new courses and elective classes. Board members, teachers and Principal Angela Holshouser have been in contact with several community members who want to make this a reality.

In 2019, HTA purchased the former home of the Chronicle News Newspaper. Currently, the school is located on the main floor, and there are apartments on the second floor. The HTA Administration and Staff are in discussions to use one of the apartments as a future classroom. This apartment classroom will be used for innovative and pertinent classes for HTA students to lead full and productive lives after high school. In this space, we hope to offer classes like culinary arts, gardening, home economics, and more music and art.

One example of a new offering comes from HTA teacher and alumnus, Ms. Virginia Jimenez. She has been working on bringing Dancing Classrooms from New York City, where she previously worked, as a pilot project for the course being offered outside of NYC. The Dancing Classrooms curriculum teaches ballroom dancing while intentionally building social and emotional skills related to respect, empathy, and teamwork. From her personal experience as a teacher and as a student, Ms. Virginia knows how integral music and dance education is for a well-developed mind and heart. To learn more about Dancing Classrooms, check out the documentary “Mad Hot Ballroom.”

In order to make the dreams of offering these new classes a reality, the current Century Club Drive must bring in \$25,000 in addition to its goal of \$80,000. Why? Because currently our mortgage payments are paid for by the rental income from the second-floor apartments – which is to say, that income pays for two loans that purchased the building. If we are able to completely pay off those loans with extra funds from the Century Club Drive, then we can utilize at least one of the apartments for our vision.



### MEET MS. H!

by Briella Phelan, HTA Freshman

Ms. Angela Holshouser became the principal of Holy Trinity Academy, on the 22nd of August, kicking off the 2022-23 school year. Ms. H, as she is affectionately known, is not new to the education system. She has been a teacher for 10 years, four of which were at HTA. She is, though, a first-time principal. As she expressed, “It is stressful but I love it!” Ms. H has mainly taught third, fourth, and fifth grade. Her favorite class to teach is life skills, because it teaches kids how to function in the real world. She started teaching because she loves working with and helping kids. When asked, “What we can improve this school year?” Ms. H replied, “I would like to have more extra-curricular activities for our students.”

In her free time, she enjoys listening to audio-books and going on long car rides. She is a single mom and loves it. Her birthday is on May 26th and her favorite color is aqua blue or turquoise. She likes all kinds of music but, her favorite is classical music. Her favorite song is “Let It Be” by The Beatles, and her favorite local restaurant to eat at is the Trinidad Smoke House.



## **HTA WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS: DEBBIE GUMLICH AND CLAUDINE GONZALES**

The Trinidad Catholic Alumni play an important of the education at HTA. This year, we welcome back Debbie (Martorano) Gumlich (Class of '76) to share her skills as a photographer and journalist. She is teaching the yearbook class. Debbie learned from the best at Trinidad Catholic, Mr. Joe Tarabino! It is so good to see the legacy of past excellent teachers continue through their former students. "It has been a fun experience so far," Ms. Debbie says. "They're the best students because they really want to learn something new." Some of the articles in this newsletter were written by Mrs. Gumlich's high school journalism class. We are excited to share them with you!

Another new addition to the staff here is Ms. Claudine Gonzales. Ms. Gonzales is a licensed teacher who works for the Las Animas-Huerfano Counties District Health Department through a grant from Tony Grampas Youth Services (TGYS). She started teaching the Botvin Life Skills Training (LST) program to our students at the beginning of the school year. The LST program has been proven to cut drug use by 75%, alcohol by 60%, violence by 50%, and tobacco use by 87%. Ms. Gonzales stated, "This is my third year teaching this program and it has had impressive results. I am excited to have the opportunity to bring this great program to HTA."

The Botvin Life Skills Training program promotes healthy alternatives to risky behavior through activities designed to teach students the necessary skills to resist social (peer) pressure as well as the media's influence to smoke, drink, and use drugs. Students are learning to recognize and challenge the many misconceptions about alcohol, tobacco, and drug use. This program helps increase students' knowledge of the immediate and long-term consequences of substance abuse. LST also works on personal self-management skills; this teaches students to determine how their self-image reflects their behavior. Students are learning how to stop and think about the benefits and consequences their decisions will have on their future. Ms. Gonzales will be teaching the students how to effectively cope with both stress and anxiety and to view the new challenges they are facing in a positive way.

## **2022 HTA ANGEL AWARDS**

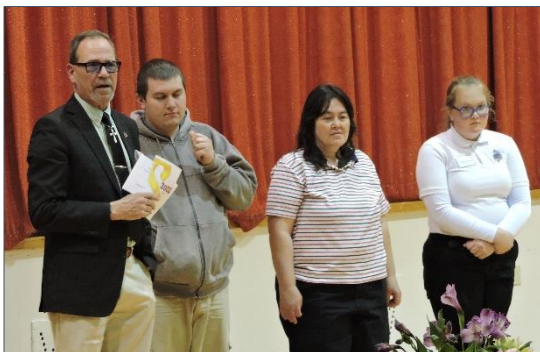
Every year, HTA recognizes a few members of our family that do outstanding work to support the mission of our school. At the 2022 Century Club Dinner our recipients were Bill and Phyllis Massarotti and the Port Family.

Bill and Phyllis Massarotti spend countless of their non-working hours making our school a beautiful place. It's difficult to enumerate all that they do, but here is a sample: Mrs. Massarotti cares for all plants that decorate the school, and she leads holiday decorating. Mr. Massarotti is our handyman. He changes lightbulbs, fixes our sinks, makes bookshelves – anything we need, he can do it.

The Port Family functions as our custodian. They come into the school every day and clean all of the classrooms, the bathrooms and the common areas. These recipients are still giving us all of their hard work and love. We appreciate them so much!



**Right Above: Phyllis Massarotti**



**Left: Former Principal - Rob McFeeters, James Port, Charlene Port, and Vanessa Port**

## HTA IN THE COMMUNITY

The HTA middle school has been participating in Project P.O.W.E.R., a teambuilding and leadership project run by Patrick Walsh of the Trinidad Youth Club. The project focuses on building strong communication and problem-solving skills.



*Middle school health class with TSC nursing students.*

### PERFORMING ARTS

By Heather Hill, HTA Junior

Students Vanessa Port and Spring Wood experienced the magic of performing on stage this summer in the Main Street LIVE's Youth Theater production of *Once Upon A Mattress: Youth Edition*. Vanessa said, "Performing helped me learn to speak up. But, the most challenging thing was memorizing lines. It was also tough to work with people I have never met before, and I had to get out of my comfort zone to communicate with them." Spring remarked, "Because my character was mute, I had to find a way to express myself through motions and gestures. I liked building the set, making costumes, and meeting new people I hadn't met before."



*Students experience the stations of the cross in the San Luis Valley.*



*At Friday services, our students read the scriptures.*



*Students participate in the Water Festival at TSC.*

This year, HTA has built a stronger relationship with The Fishers Peak Soup Kitchen. The wonderful staff at the soup kitchen provide school breakfast, lunch and snacks for just \$4.50/day per student! We are grateful to have an affordable lunch program for our families.



*Students help serve at the Veteran's Day Luncheon.*



*A windy trip to the sand dunes!*



## HTA BOARD OF EDUCATION



*Mrs. Molly Smith, Mrs. Mary McKenna, Mrs. Angie Hill- Treasurer  
Mrs. Christian Duran – President, Mrs. Melissa Lucero - Secretary*

## HTA FACTS FOR 2022-2023

**Current Enrollment:** 44 students  
**Students with Tuition Assistance:** 75%  
**Students Eligible for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program:** 62%  
**Teachers with extensive teaching experience:** 71%  
**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 63%  
**Fundraising (as part of the school budget):** 35%  
**Churches offering Friday services for the school:**  
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Fisher's Peak Community Church

## NO-COST WAYS TO SUPPORT HTA

**Box Tops for Schools:** Scan Receipts; Designate HTA, Trinidad, CO, as your school of choice  
**SmileAmazon.com:** Designate HTA, Trinidad, CO, as your charity of choice  
**Facebook:** Follow and like our page, then share our events and posts with your friends!

**HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY**  
**200 CHURCH ST**  
**TRINIDAD, CO 81082**  
**TELEPHONE 719-846-4522**  
**[www.trinidadsbestschool.org](http://www.trinidadsbestschool.org)**  
**[officehta@gmail.com](mailto:officehta@gmail.com)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
FOR THE STUDENTS OF HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY!**

## HTA STAFF

**Ms. Angela Holshouser, Principal**  
**Mrs. Andrea Jimenez**  
**Mrs. Sally Van Lanen**  
**Mrs. Sadie Brown**  
**Ms. Virginia Jimenez**  
**Mrs. Phyllis Massarotti**  
**Mrs. Christianne Knight**  
**Dr. Joseph Jimenez**  
**Mrs. Debbie Gumlich**  
**Ms. Jennifer Damelio**  
**Mr. Dan Valentine**  
**Ms. Dannette Vigil**



*'21-22 HTA Student Body with Father  
Tim and Father Sebastian*

## HTA MILESTONES:

- **25% Increase** in Enrollment from '21-22
- HTA graduates first student who attended from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade!
- 2022 Senior is first Mary John Goree Scholarship recipient from HTA!

## DONATION FORM FOR HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY

Please return this form with your contribution in the enclosed envelope.

Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Academy.

### DONOR INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I AM A TIGER ALUMNUS YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

### I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

\_\_\_ CENTURY CLUB (General Fund) AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Goal \$80,000

\_\_\_ BUILDING FUND AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Goal \$25,000

\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DONATION ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Check here if you wish your gift to remain anonymous.

**\*Please mark the level of your donation. \***

**A donation at any of these levels admits two to the Century Club Gala on  
Saturday, January 21, 2023 at the A.R. Mitchell Museum.**

**Dinner will be provided by Sunset Bar & Grille.**

**Please RSVP by January 13, 2023.**

\_\_\_ Wings of Angels \$15,000 and up  
\_\_\_ Spirit of the Tiger \$10,000 and up  
\_\_\_ Platinum Level \$5,000  
\_\_\_ Diamond Level \$2,500

\_\_\_ Millennium Level \$1,000  
\_\_\_ Silver Level \$500  
\_\_\_ Bronze Level \$250  
\_\_\_ Century Level \$150

Please indicate: \_\_\_ Yes, I will attend. Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ No, I will not be able to attend.