

Annual Report

September 1, 2007- August 31, 2008

Since 2005, ACCESS Academies has invested in permanently reversing the cycle of poverty by educating middle school students in existing parish and faith-based schools located within some of St. Louis' poorest communities. ACCESS gives students a school and teachers they can count on and hope for a better future.



St. Cecilia Academy • Holy Trinity Academy

Central Catholic Academy • The Academy at King of Glory Lutheran Schoo

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

As ACCESS Academies reached its third anniversary, its 172nd eighth grade graduate prepared to attend secondary school - with 90% accepted into college preparatory high schools. In 2009, the first high school graduates educated by ACCESS Academies will begin college.

Pause a moment and count them.

promising young men and women have had their hopes spurred and their minds and hearts expanded in ways that now make college a viable goal.

You helped make this happen because of your giving to **ACCESS Academies.**

We dedicate this Annual Report to you who dare to give dawn to a new era when students achieve their best ... imbued with an ethic of service that ensures your giving will continue through them.

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Private & Corporate Foundations

General Fund

The Deaconess Foundation **Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation** Feuerbacher/Wilkins Group At Merrill Lynch The Rubin Family Foundation The Hauck Charitable Foundation Lutheran Foundation Moneta Group Charitable Foundation Rough Riders Foundation, Inc. Saigh Foundation

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Succeeding With Reading Program

David Aronson Rob Aronson Ted Aronson Annie Belford Grace Brod

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Pamela Lester Diane Gershman Levine The Missouri Arts Council Papa John's Pizza

The Philpott Family Foundation Pumpernickel's Deli

Melvin Rashkis Jay Riven

St. Louis Young Alumni Gary Wasserman Richard Weinstock

HOW DO WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

By all measures, ACCESS Academies delivers an exceptional return on investment to its donors. Teamwork and accountability between the four-person ACCESS staff and each of the ACCESS Academies principals, teachers and graduate support team help achieve key measures of success. Those include a 90% acceptance rate to college prep high schools, increases in ACCESS Academies enrollment, and compliance with NativityMiguel's Nine Standards, among others.

But success is truly told in the lives of the students who grow and flourish because of what ACCESS donors make possible. Please enjoy these stories of two of our graduates.



Nerinx Hall Sophomore Jenny Carrillo

Graduate Profile: Jenny Carrillo

St. Cecilia Grad Brings Spirit to Nerinx Hall

Nerinx Hall sophomore Jenny Carrillo has school spirit. As a proud member of the Nerinx Pep Club, Jenny creates and performs dances and cheers to fire up the student body at pep rallies and sporting events.

Long before she entered high school, Jenny cultivated her passion for school unity and spirit at St. Cecilia Academy.

"Attending St. Cecilia Academy gave me a sense of community and a desire to be involved," Jenny describes. Jenny had not considered an all-female college prep high school until St. Cecilia Principal Jim Ford suggested Nerinx to her.

"My parents are both from Mexico and didn't know about the different choices," Jenny recalls. "One of my teachers and Mr. Ford encouraged me to explore schools to find the best place for me to thrive. Something clicked when I visited Nerinx."

The transition from middle school to high school was difficult. As the only student attending Nerinx from St. Cecilia, she drew on her experiences in ACCESS' after school program to feel more comfortable.

"It's been good for me to push my limits beyond my comfort zone," Jenny says. "I hope more ACCESS students will expand their school searches and find a place that's right for them."

Driven by a passion to serve and succeed, Jenny has started planning her future around giving back to St. Cecilia's largely Latino community. She hopes to become a lawyer, specializing in immigration law.



St. John Vianney Junior Alex Carrillo

Graduate Profile: Alex Carrillo

Persistence Leads to Mastery and Ambition

Transitioning through four schools in six years would discourage many students from pursuing higher education, but not Alex Carrillo. The St. John Vianney High School junior has kept his focus on the future, thanks to support from friends, family and ACCESS Academies.

During his sixth grade year at St.

Cecilia, the school community made the bold decision to establish the first embedded NativityMiguel model middle school program in the country there. Although his seventh grade classes were held in the same building as the prior year, Alex says the Academy was akin to starting at a brand new school.

"When St. Cecilia started the Academy, I noticed changes immediately," he says. "Parents started getting involved and families came together. Everyone became more connected because we had a real chance to relate to one another and find someone else to depend upon."

Alex graduated and started his high school career two years ago at St. John the Baptist College Preparatory high school. When St. John's closed in spring 2008, Alex says he felt like he and his family didn't have anywhere to turn for guidance. Enter Steve Kelly, the graduate support representative for St. Cecilia Academy.

"My two brothers and I had no idea how to go about transferring to another college prep high school," Alex says. "Mr. Kelly helped put us in contact with Vianney and has helped keep us focused and confident during the transition."

PROFILES IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

School principals set the tone for high achievement in their schools, just as CEOs do within business organizations. Even when resources are slim, outstanding school principals who are effective leaders are known for mobilizing their staff and school community around a clear educational mission, setting high expectations for students, and applying their vast experience to effective problem-solving.

New ground, new possibilities.

Principal Jim Ford Forges Path as Education Pioneer

Some might describe St. Cecilia Academy Principal Jim Ford as a pioneer. In 2003, he and the St. Cecilia community made the bold decision to partner with the fledgling organization, ACCESS Academies, to establish the country's first NativityMiguel middle school program embedded in a traditional K-8 grade school. Five years later, it's apparent that their choice helped save St. Cecilia's Parish and has since spawned an educational movement in St. Louis.

"The graduates of our first ACCESS class are preparing to head to college next fall," Ford says. "That kind of success is the product of spirit, passion and commitment as a family."

We have a little United Nations, right here in the building.

Beth Landon Moves Family to Be New Leader for New Era

For Principal Beth Landon, working at King of Glory represents a return to her roots, teaching in an environment with an international flavor in which more than a dozen nationalities are represented. The school's newly-established ACCESS Academy has offered Landon fresh tools for bridging the divide between the diverse cultural heritage of her students and the American education system.

"The longer class days, enrichment courses and graduate support programs really do give the students an opportunity to succeed," Landon says. "I tell our students, 'You're here for your job. Don't go home until you learn something today. You are being given a test, one of living and perseverance."

Sr. Gail Trippett, CSJ Advocates For Single-Gender Education

In 25 years as an educator, Sr. Gail Trippett has developed a firm belief in the value of single-gender education for middle school and high school students. So when Central Catholic established its ACCESS Academy in 2006, Sr. Gail lobbied for single-gender classrooms to help students get the most from their education.

The majority of the middle school students and their parents at Central Catholic now see college as a tangible goal, she reports. Nearly 60 percent of graduating eighth grade students choose single-gender, college prep high.

"Our students are very gifted and are willing to be of service," says Sr. Gail. "They want to make a difference in the world. They need a step up, and ACCESS Academies helps us deliver that vital lift."

Our students are committed to values greater than themselves.

Dr. John Kosash Builds Confidence in Learning

Dr. John Kosash knows the rigorous preparation it takes for a student to succeed in a college preparatory high school. As the most recent principal of St. John the Baptist College Prep, he was pivotal in raising the academic bar for college-bound high school students. Now as the new leader of Holy Trinity, Dr. Kosash uses his specialized knowledge to prepare students in the school's ACCESS Academy for success.

"The students at Holy Trinity have a unique passion for learning," says Dr. Kosash. "With the right academic preparation we can help turn the dream of a college education into an achievable goal."

"You can see the impact of building a stronger school community."



BETH LANDON
The Academy at King of
Glory Lutheran School

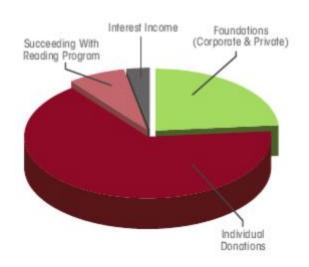
Sr. Gail. Trippett, csj Central Catholic Academy

Jim Ford St. Cecilia Academy

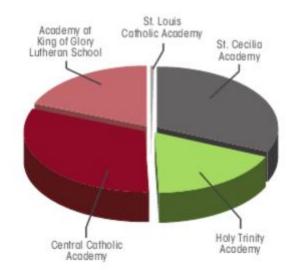
Dr. John Kosash Holy Trinity Academy

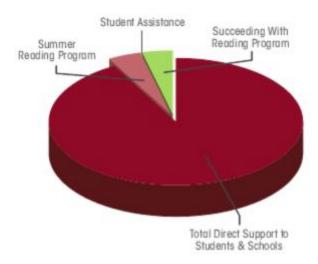
FINANCIAL DATA FY 2007 - 2008

Income	
Contributions – Foundations (Corporate & Private)	\$408,500
Contributions – Individual Donations	\$1,141,338
Contributions – Succeeding With Reading Program	\$127,684
Interest Income	\$54,983
Total	\$1,732,505



Expenses Direct Support to Students and Saharle	
Direct Support to Students and Schools	
St. Cecilia Academy	\$450,894
Holy Trinity Academy	\$250,009
Central Catholic Academy	\$450,650
Academy at King of Glory Lutheran School	\$267,735
St. Louis Catholic Academy	\$2,800
Total Direct Support to Students and Schools	\$1,422,088
Succeeding With Reading Program	\$65,492
Summer Reading Program	\$58,135
Student Assistance	\$4,543
Total Expenses	\$1,550,258
General & Administrative (G&A)	\$401,673
(G&A expenses are covered under a separate grant. This allows every	13





Alvin Goldfarb Foundation Awards Multi-Year Grants

additional dollar donated to go directly to funding the academies.)

ACCESS Academies is very grateful to have been selected by the Alvin Goldfarb Foundation for multi-year grants beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year. The Foundation has committed to provide three years of support to fund two primary efforts:

 Scholarship Assistance for ACCESS Academies' graduates attending tuition-based college preparatory high schools. The Alvin Goldfarb Foundation funds, augmented by tuition support from ACCESS Academies and tuition paid by student families, demonstrate commitment to the students and the high schools that serve our students.

 Program Funding to help fund the program costs of ACCESS Academies.

We appreciate these significant gifts to benefit the students we serve.

TRENDS IN STUDENT GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT



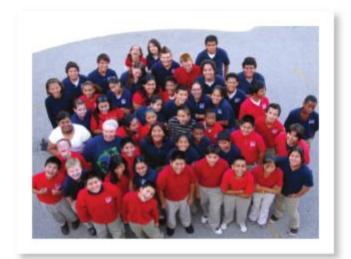
Central Catholic Academy



Holy Trinity Academy



Academy at King of Glory Lutheran



Eighth graders attending St. Louis'
ACCESS Academies set a new high school
acceptance record in 2007-08. Fifty-seven
of the 61 eighth graders graduating from
Central Catholic Academy, Holy Trinity
Academy, Academy at King of Glory
Lutheran School and St. Cecilia Academy
were accepted to attend college preparatory
high schools in Fall 2008.

"We are pleased to see our ACCESS student acceptances into the college prep high schools rise 10 percent from last year," notes Carolyn Dubuque, director of mission effectiveness for ACCESS.

ACCESS Academies' staff meets monthly with school leadership teams to track key indicators of school excellence, progress. Action plans are set and tracked for strengthening all aspects of student and school performance. The focus is placed on action most critical to preparing middle school students for rigorous college prep high schools, knowing those schools will continue to cultivate student aspirations and prepare them for success in college.

In addition, ACCESS Academies'
Graduate Support Program, in place at each academy, provides year-round educational and practical support to graduates during grades 9-12 so they can excel in high school and confidently pursue higher education.

ACCESS Academies Students Graduating May 2008					
Cardinal Ritter College Prep	12	Incamate Word Academy	2		
Bishop DuBourg High School	9	Soldan International Studies High School	2		
St. Elizabeth Academy	8	Lutheran High School North	1		
Lutheran High School South	7	Nennx Hall High School	1		
Christian Brothers College High School	3	St. John Vianney High School	1		
DeSmet Jesuit High School	3	St. Louis University High School	1		
Notre Dame High School	3	St. Mary's High School	1		
Clyde C. Miller Career Academy	2	Trinity Catholic High School	1		

ACCESS Academies Enrollment History					
Academic Year	Central Catholic	St. Cecilia	Holy Trinity	King of Glory	Total
2006 - 2007	109	64	27	n/a	200
2007 - 2008	87	39	27	52	205
2008 - 2009	68	50	28	60	206

College-Prep High School Acceptance Rates Among ACCESS Academies Graduates for Three Academic Years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08)

	Central Catholic (2 years)	St. Cecilia (3 years)	Holy Trinity (2 years)	King of Glory (1 year)	Total
Eighth Grade Graduates	79	69	14	10	172
Graduates accepted to college prep high schools	72	65	10	9	156
% of graduates accepted	91.1%	94.2%	71.4%	90%	90%

ACCESS ACADEMIES IN THE NEWS

The results of ACCESS Academies' efforts have attracted media attention this year. Samples of media coverage are shown.

E I E WISH LIGHT



WELL-READ Josh Goldman started ACCESS Academies' 'Succeeding with Reading' program, in

Helping inner city students 'ACCESS' success

him to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in philosophy and theology from St. Louis University, his Master's of Education from the Peabody School of Education at Vanderbitt University and his Master's of Social Work from the George Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

His passion for inner city development led him to turn the theories he developed in school into practical real-

community service stems from Goldman's chilchood. His family pro-vided on intellectually stimulating environment and his synagogue introduced service work. As early as age 12, service work. As early as age 12, Goldman volunteared in impowershed neighborhoods through Central Reform Synagogue. "Those images have stayed with me," he reflects. He kept these experiences close to his heart while at the George Brown. School of Social Work, where he hound his vision for a progressive educational noveram.

while pursuing his MSW, he studied the achievement gap between African American children and grade level suchois, Goldman still concentrates on fourth and fifth graders to work with the describes as the fourth grade slump, he reading that at this grade level white students accelerate, whereas African American the concentration. Throughout he school, such as the fourth grade slump, he reading that at this grade level white students accelerate, whereas African American decelerate. "I wanted to intensive reading curriculums. The leading on intervention," he declares. program.
While pursuing his MSW, he studied

interning with Urban Strategies, an organization aimed at revitalizing urban communities. He started his urban communities. He started his reading-focused pilot program at Adams Elementary School in the sum-mer of 2004. Given access to one class-roots, he had authority over the cur-riculam. "I created a new administra-tive structure," he describes. Each child participant had the attention of a lead teacher and a reading specialist. Says Goldman, "we expected great academ-ic results from the social relationships created between the teachers and the students."

The experiment continued for the

The experiment continued for the As program director for ACCESS

Academics Reading Program, he strives to ensure that children in the city's urban core have educational opportunities.

The experiment continued for the next two years, and by 2006 Goldman he created what he deemed a 'quality program.' Over 1,000 books were given to the children and test scores continued rising. Goldman also instituted a paracel more replaint of the parents to celebrate brate the positives about their kids. Hopefully the pride will lead to more good stuff at home."

By the time he graduated from social work school in 2006, Goldman felt he work school in 2006, Goldman felt he was onto something with his program, and wanted to continue his efforts. Joining ACCESS Academies allowed him to continue pursuing his dream. Founded in 2005, ACCESS Academies applies the NativityMiguel model to the education of middle school students from low income peighborhoods. from low income neighborhoods.

approach works. Stellar students in the program have transformed their grades from Ds to Bs, and have climbed two grade levels in reading

This summer Goldman instituted a new aspect of "Succeeding with Reading," a summer enrichment pro-gram. Aimed at disadvantaged children in St Louis' urban core, more than 30 atudents participated in the six-week, day-long course. In addition to reading, students received instruction in math, chysical education and cultural arts. physical education and culturnl arts. The camp concluded with a musical based on one of the students' favorite based of one of the students stavette books. The music and lyrics were cre-sted by the atudents. To add to the excitement of the event, Mike Bash and KSDK Channel 5 recently heatured "Succeeding with Reading" and the

age three after-school sites, as well as seven Saturday sites, serving 90 chil-dren. He's looking forward to encouraging kids to learn in a joyful way. Beyond the immediate future, he con-Beyond the immediate future, he con-templates starting his own independ-ent school. His vision includes a neigh-borhood school that, in addition to teaching children, will offer adult edu-cation classes for parents and will house a doctor, dentist and social work-er on site. "I think this type of school could serve as a comercione for neighcould serve as a cornerstone for neigh-

Sept. 3, 2008 St. Louis Jewish Light coverage of ACCESS Academies' Reading Program, including "Succeeding with Reading" summer enrichment program.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Director gives ACCESS to low-income children



Education has been the focus of much of Tom Nolan's life. He served for six years on the St. Louis School Board, although his three children did not always attend public schools. Sometimes they were in parochial city schools.

Nolan has had plenty of experience working with children of all backgrounds, as when he helped to set up the Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School and Loyola Academy, a middle school for boys, both of which primarily serve black students in the city.

The tall, graying Nolan could be described as an experienced

realist who believes deeply in the value to the business community of educating as many children as possible for the competitive world of the future.

Nolan's brainchild is St. Cecilia Academy, Holy Trinity Academy, Central Catholic Academy and the Academy at King of Glory Lutheran School. We spoke at ACCESS Academies' temporary office in a former state office building near the St. Louis University campus.

July 11, 2008 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Business Section coverage of ACCESS Academies in interview with Executive Director Tom Nolan.



July 24, 2008 KSDK-TV coverage of ACCESS Academies' summer program for students.



John C. Vatterott (chair) Retired, Vatterott College

Marian V. Mehan (vice chair) Partner, Lewis, Rice, Fingersb

John Krings (treasurer)

President & CEO, International Packaging Innovations

Thomas M. Nolan (secretary) Executive Director, ACCESS Academies

Joseph M. Church

Certified Financial Planner, Merrill Lynch

Rev. Richard H. Creason Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish

Edith C. Cunnane Community Volunteer

James Cunnane

Retired, CFO, General Dynamics

David O. Danis

Retired, Attorney

Mark Harrington

Vice President, Wachovia Securities

Marie Kenyon

Managing Attorney, Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry

Joseph Jedlicka

Vice President-Legal & State Affairs, Anbeuser-Busch Companies

Rev. Gary Meier

Pastor, Sts. Teresa & Bridget Parish

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William Tunney, Jr.

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James Webb

President, St. Louis Minority Business Council

Mark A. Wilhelm

President, Safety National Casualty Corp.

Alan G. Winkelmann

Associate Superintendent, Archdiocese of St. Louis

THANKS TO OUR VILLAGE OF VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank all those who have volunteered their time and talent to help our students thrive and succeed during the 2007-2008 year.

Brenda Allgood Susie Barron Willa Bea Blackmon Cheryl Brandon James Carter Melvin Crawford Jackie Danis Vickie Deason DeSmet Men's Club Mary Dierberg Roger and Gwendolyn Downs Laura Drake Dave Dugan Karrie Flowers Dan Fusz Debra Gambrell Sy Hager Joseph Jedlicka Kathy Judd Joan Kiburz

Patricia Leatherberry

Donna Lindsay The Little Flower Convent Luz Llanos LaVerne Lorenzini Al Manaels Pricilla Maring Lorna Marsh Susan McGraw Elizabeth Mesker Shimmy Gray Miller Nan Moore Betty Nally Shakira Nasirrudin Ben Phillips Karen Revere Jane Tayon Nora Shanahan Sarah Trulaske Jane Walbrandt Jim Wilson Gary Zucker



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