

# Adopt A Student News

*Change a Life!*

## Update from the Development Committee Chair, Bob Kenney

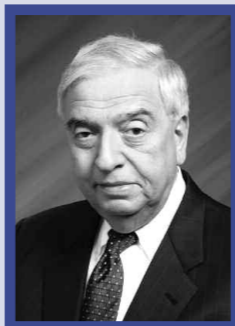


The mission of the Development Committee is to raise the funds to fulfill the financial obligations of the AAS scholarship awards. We have set a target of \$400,000 for 2009. Our committee organizes events such as the Annual Recognition Dinner, the annual Golf Tournament, solicitation lunches/tours at St. Peter's Elementary School, an annual raffle, and a couple of shows at the Hanover Theatre. In our efforts to expand and broaden support for the Adopt-A-Student program, a new subcommittee has been formed, the Alumni and Friends of the Central Catholic Schools. This Committee will organize many small fundraisers starting with a basketball jamboree for the three high schools, boys and girls, to take place **Saturday, December 6**. This Committee is co-chaired by Mike Germain (SPM '84) and Kevin Gniadek (HN'95) who will be adding new faces to the committee as the recruitment progresses.

A brand new fundraising event is in the planning process for the spring. It is a run/walk of 10K and 5K where participants will raise \$500 from sponsors. All Central Catholic students (more than 2000) will be invited, and all alumni, and parents, relatives and friends will be asked to participate. This run/walk event has the potential of raising in excess of \$250,000.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer to work on our Alumni and Friends Committee, please contact us. The Adopt-A-Student program will gladly accept all who would be interested in helping to promote our worthy cause.

## A Message From Bob Pape, Steering Committee Chair



A new school year and fiscal year has begun. We ended last year with a successful Golf tournament that honored Bishop Reilly for his commitment to Catholic education over his long career. The tournament raised over \$62,000. In addition we ran our first raffle that raised \$11,000. While this may seem like a lot of money, it only provides enough for 12 scholarship awards. For this school year we have awarded 40 scholarships. So that means we have to continue our efforts to raise funds for this year. We have recruited two new volunteers to our Steering Committee. We have been busy organizing some new and exciting events to expand our fund raising capability which are covered in the report from the Development Committee.

Check out our new web site [www.adopt-a-student.net](http://www.adopt-a-student.net) This school year we saw students withdrawing from our Catholic schools due to the combined pressures of rising costs and the economic downturn. Adopt-A-Student was able to provide \$150,000 in extra financial aid directly to the schools so that the administrators could assist families who made a sincere effort to keep their child in our schools through partial payments and communications with the schools. These families needed just a little financial assistance. This little bit of financial aid made a big difference in the lives of eighty-eight (88) students who were able to stay in a Catholic school.

The Adopt-A-Student Steering Committee appreciates all that our generous supporters have done and ask for your continuing support to help Change A Life. To those who have not yet joined us in this effort, we ask that you consider supporting the program at whatever level you are able to afford.

The need continues to be great and the students you help, turn out to be very productive members of society after having been educated in the tradition and environment of Catholic schools.

If you would like to learn more about the program and see it in action, contact us to participate in a tour and lunch at St. Peter's Central Catholic Elementary School.

## Adopt-A-Student and area Catholic colleges partner to change lives

Adopt-A-Student is pleased to announce that the College of the Holy Cross Assumption College and Anna Maria College have each agreed to provide a four-year scholarship for local Catholic high school students who receive an Adopt-a-Student grant and who meet the colleges' entrance requirements.

Adopt-A-Student Chairman Bob Pape noted, "We are thrilled that the local Catholic colleges have embraced this endeavor. These scholarships are a great demonstration of these colleges' commitment to reach out to members of the community and provide new opportunities."

In addition to the scholarships, the colleges have agreed to be sponsors of the Program's Annual Recognition Dinner and Annual Golf Tournament.

The agreements were announced after discussions with the college presidents, Jack P. Calareso Ph.D. from Anna Maria College, Francesco Cesareo Ph.D. from Assumption College, Rev. Michael

C. McFarland, S.J., from the College of the Holy Cross, Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, S.T.D, Bishop of Worcester and members of the Adopt-A-Student Development Committee. The college presidents offered the following thoughts:

*"We believe in the importance of Catholic education and are happy to support a program that helps local families. These families have demonstrated a personal commitment to Catholic education at the grammar school and high school levels and we want to help them continue that experience at the college level. It aligns perfectly with the mission of Assumption College."*

Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D.,  
Assumption College

*"Holy Cross is very proud to be working with the Diocese of Worcester in advancing the Adopt-A-Student program. We are*

*committed to continuing to build strong relationships with high schools and families in the City of Worcester, and to communicating the opportunities available at Holy Cross for the talented graduates of our diocesan schools.*

Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J.,  
the College of the Holy Cross

*"The Sisters of Saint Anne founded Anna Maria College in 1946 with the goal of improving access to higher education in central Massachusetts.*

*Participating in the Adopt-a-Student program by providing a needy student with a scholarship is in keeping with our mission and continues the tradition of our foundresses by better serving the educational needs of the communities we serve."*

Jack P. Calareso, Ph.D.,  
Anna Maria College

(508) 791-7171  
WORCESTER, MA 01609  
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DIOCESE OF WORCESTER  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## Responding to Challenging Times

Each day the media carries news about a financial crisis, government bailouts, rescue plans and families losing homes. These are uncertain and challenging economic times both locally and globally. As there are tuition payments associated with a values based education in our Catholic schools, these institutions and the families of students are certainly not immune to the financial issues many of us face today. Early in the school year, the Adopt-A-Student Steering Committee learned that some families were faced with making the very difficult decision of having to remove their children from our schools. The Steering Committee provided emergency funding which is covered in the Chairman's column.

While the number of applications for tuition assistance has increased annually since the Adopt-A-Student Program began in 1989, this year the need for far exceeded available funds. In response, Steering Committee members acted to implement new fundraising activities to encourage support for students.

In this special issue, we wish to make you, our readers and supporters, aware of some of the new activities since last March and plans in the months ahead. We invite you to become involved with us so that all who wish to attend our central Catholic schools may indeed have that opportunity. In our next issue, we will go back to highlighting some of our current scholars and program graduates. Please read about the ways you can help Adopt-A-Student continue to grow and how you may "Change A Life!"

-The Adopt-A-Student Steering Committee

## Activities Since Last March

### First Annual Recognition Dinner

In the last issue we featured a story about the first annual Adopt-A-Student Recognition Dinner held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Worcester. More than 400 people at the event saw plenty of evidence of lives that have been changed by the program. The J.D. Power family provided major funding for the dinner, which raised over \$63,000.

### Annual Adopt-A-Student Raffle

The first raffle to provide scholarship support was conducted over the summer. 1st prize was \$3,000 or one year of tuition to a Central Catholic School. 2nd prize was a Nova Scotia Golf Getaway and 3rd prize (for those optimists whose hopes were dashed by the Tampa Bay Rays) were tickets to a Red Sox World Series game. Tickets were \$20 each or 3 for \$50. The raffle raised an additional \$11,000 for students.

### The 19th Annual Golf Tournament

While obviously not a new event, the Golf Tournament has traditionally been our largest fundraiser each year. This year proceeds netted almost \$63,000. Plans for a special 20th anniversary tournament will begin soon!

### Television Show

Over the past few months, a one half hour television show aired on Charter Communications Channel 3. The purpose was to create a greater awareness among area residents of the Adopt-A-Student Program. Based on calls to the Catholic Schools Office, the effort was successful in educating folks about the program and the urgency in providing more in the way of tuition assistance.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

**First Annual Central Mass Catholic High School Basketball Jamboree**  
Saturday, December 6 at Assumption College *(As the newsletter went to press...)*

This event included both the boys and girls teams from Holy Name, St. Peter-Marian and St. Bernard's. A three point shootout contest was included as part of the competition.

The Jamboree was held at Assumption College's Andrew Laska Gymnasium. Tickets were \$5.00 per person (children under 12 were free). There was a 50/50 raffle at the event and refreshments were available. Tickets were purchased from students at each participating school or by email us at adoptastudents@aol.com.

An exciting day was had by all at this popular annual event!

### A Christmas Carol at the Hanover Theater

Sunday, December 21, 6:00 pm  
Hanover Theater, Worcester



Charles Dickens' Scrooge learned that happiness in life can be found through sharing one's good fortune with others. Please join us for a festive night out at the theater while providing much needed tuition support for families. After all, 'tis the season of giving! We hope this will be the first of several shows in partnership with the Hanover Theater.

**Tickets: \$100 pp** and can be obtained by calling 508-929-4317.

### 10K and 5K Run /Walk

This first annual event is in the planning process now. Participants will be asked to raise \$500 from sponsors. Anyone can register but we encourage all Central Catholic School students, alumni and families to come out for a great day on the road. More details will be forthcoming as details are developed. Bob Kenney, Development Committee Chair, is excited about this activity and, in his column in this newsletter; Bob has challenged us all to set a goal of \$250,000 for the new event.

### New Committee

Also in Bob Kenney's column is news about the formation of the Alumni and Friends of the Central Catholic Schools Committee. Once again, in response to an increase in requests, the Steering Committees members are continuously seeking ways to reach out more people. There are thousands of area residents who benefit each day from their years in Catholic school. Members of this new committee will develop ideas and activities to involve a greater number of alumni. This can be a terrific way to reconnect with classmates while having fun and helping others to attend your alma mater.

As you can see, the Steering Committee members have been busy. No one needs to be reminded of economic challenges today or in the months ahead. The important element is that support of the Adopt-A-Student Program does change lives as our motto declares. Your direct gift through the envelope provided with this newsletter, or by getting involved in one of the upcoming events will mean another student who will receive an excellent academic education rooted in Christian values!!

### PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

To learn more about the Adopt-A-Student Program visit [www.adopt-a-student.net](http://www.adopt-a-student.net). You can find information regarding events, schools, and how you can support the students or volunteer. *"Adopt-A-Student - Change A Life!"*

## Adopt-A-Student Golf Tournament

The 19th annual Adopt-A-Student Golf Tournament was held on Monday, August 25th at Wachusett Country Club in West Boylston.

The event was held in honor of Bishop Daniel P. Reilly as way to acknowledge his years of unwavering, robust support for Catholic education and the Adopt-A-Student Program.

As foursomes passed by the clubhouse during the sold out tournament, Bishop Reilly was there, greeting each individual and thanking all for being involved. After dinner he spoke passionately about Catholic schools and the value of a Catholic education for students, families and our society.

Thank you again, Bishop Reilly for your work and leadership!

Tournament winners were:

1st Place Gross Score: Mike Coonan, Kevin L'Ecuyer,  
Corey Phillips and Glenn Coughlin

1st Place Net Score: Mike Marchand, Bob Sweet,  
Craig Manseau and Ed Brynes

Through the generosity of sponsors, prize donors, auction bidders and players, proceeds from the tournament netted almost \$63,000 that will go directly to student scholarships. The members of the Golf Committee wish to thank all for your generosity and participation. **Plans will begin soon for a special 20th Annual Tournament. Mark your calendars now for Monday, August 31, 2009!**

THANK YOU.....

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## The 19th Annual Adopt-A-Student Golf Tournament

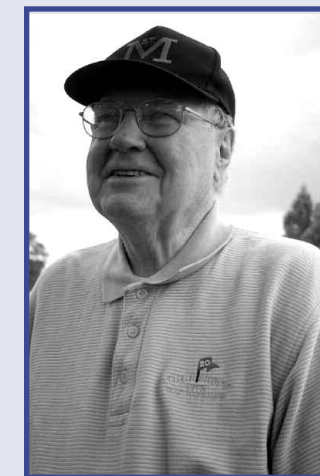
Monday, August 25th  
Wachusett Country Club



Bishop Reilly chats with Steering Committee Chairman, Bob Pape (far right) and his group, Bob Cyronak, Jack McGuirk and Bob Powers.



Director of Student Financial Services, Susan Saucier and her godson, Brandon Moseley sell raffle tickets with Bishop Reilly.



The 19th annual event was held in honor of Bishop Daniel P. Reilly for his years of robust support of Catholic Schools.



Tom Dunn and his foursome, Ed McElaney, Mike McElaney & Matt Dunn stand with Bishop Reilly at the first tee.



The foursome from St. Peter-Marian tees off on the first hole. The foursome includes Bob Betters, Cliff Muldoon, Leo Gravel & John Pace.



A group of geese look for a way to join the sold out event.



Bishop Reilly speaks with Program Steering Committee member Tom Dunn.