



Left: Peggi Lewis Fu, Executive Director, NAIOP; Right: Eve Ruiz, Principal, St. Bernadette Parish School

A Gift of Service

On Saturday, October 6th, over 350 volunteers from NAIOP (the Commercial Real Estate Development Association) arrived early in the morning at St. Bernadette Parish School in Burien to drastically improve the school and surrounding property. Each year for the past 25 years, NAIOP selects one physical community to transform through their Community Enhancement Grant with the help of hundreds of volunteers from the real estate industry. The St. Bernadette community benefited from the service of many hands—work that totaled over \$400,000 in value.

This year, NAIOP opened the grant application to religious organizations. John Pietromonaco, chair of the project for 2018, called the Fulcrum

Foundation to inquire about schools who might be interested in applying for the day of service. St. Bernadette Parish School was selected as the grant recipient last March.

“Each year, we seem to get more volunteers from the real estate community that want to give back,” says Pietromonaco. “This year, we received over \$70,000 in cash donations and \$70,000 in pro bono donations, on top of the labor the day of the event.” Key project areas included the playground and play area, fencing, school entries, and some classrooms, all of which were significantly improved throughout the day of service.

Team members from Fulcrum Foundation joined the efforts and

were personally moved by the incredible showing from the entire real estate industry. The work completed by NAIOP volunteers on behalf of St. Bernadette will impact the physical structures and spaces that the entire community will rely on for many years to come.

“We are ever so grateful for all of the outstanding work that NAIOP and all of the parish and school volunteers did on behalf of our community,” says Eve Ruiz, Principal at St. Bernadette Parish School. “The kindness and respect that NAIOP and its volunteers showed throughout the entirety of the project did not go unnoticed. The compassion shown through their many actions to help our most important asset, our students, was an inspiration.”

How TAP Works

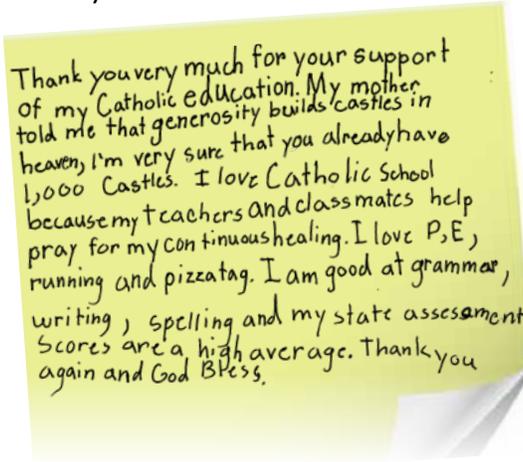
In the 2017-2018 school year, 1,485 students were awarded grants through Fulcrum's Tuition Assistance Grant Program (TAP). We know that our investment in these students is yielding a high return, with 99% of them moving on to higher education, and creating a brighter future for themselves and their communities. We also know that we are not able to help every family that applies for TAP, with 58% of requests going unmet. So, how exactly does Fulcrum determine who receives a grant each year?

TAP is a deadline and needs-based program meant to serve families with students currently attending a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Seattle. There is a separate program to serve families entering the Catholic school system for the first time—the New Student Tuition Assistance Program. To apply for TAP, families submit an application online via FACTS Grant and Aid, and upload any required documents, such as tax forms and pay stubs. There is a \$29 non-refundable

fee to apply. Susan Ocoma, Fulcrum's Programs Director, reviews and adjusts financial information in each application as needed for changes in income or extraordinary circumstances and then FACTS calculates each family's financial need.

Families are then ranked in order of their calculated financial need and grants are awarded in that order, starting with the greatest financial need, until funds are exhausted. Grant funds are disbursed directly to the school in the fall.

Susan Ocoma works closely in partnership with families and school staff to administer this important program each year. "The stories I hear from families and the sacrifices they make are incredibly moving. They inspire me to continue to do this work on behalf of Fulcrum so that even more families will be able to realize the hope of a Catholic education for their children."



Tuition Assistance Program Grant Application Timeline

Oct	Nov/Dec	Jan	Feb
Application window opens for the following school year	Families apply online via FACTS Grant and Aid	Deadline for applications to be submitted	Determination letters mailed to all applicants



Investing for the Future

529 Plans can now fund Catholic K-12 tuition. The 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act expanded 529 savings plans to allow families to invest funds for K-12 tuition in addition to college education expenses. Named after section 529 of the tax code, the 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment vehicle operated by each individual state designed to encourage saving for college. Earnings on funds contributed to 529 accounts are not federally taxed when withdrawals are used for educational purposes. As of January 1, 2018, 529 plans may be used for K-12 education tuition as well.

The primary benefit of a 529 plan is that investment earnings grow over time tax-free if they are used to pay for tuition. Qualifying K-12 expenses are limited to tuition only (unlike qualified higher education expenses which cover tuition, room & board, computers, etc.). Secondly,

contributions to a plan may be eligible for a state income deduction depending on where you live. While this is not a benefit in Washington state, it may be one for funders in other states.

"A great feature of these plans," says Bob Breshock, Fulcrum Trustee and Chair of the Finance Committee, "is that they can be funded by anyone who wants to help. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, and other family and friends can give the gift of a Catholic education by opening a 529 plan, or contributing to an already existing fund."

Those interested in obtaining a 529 plan should consult with their financial advisor or accountant to determine specific state requirements and tax implications, so that they can select the best option for their families.



Innovation in Education

Catholic schools across the Archdiocese are benefiting from a new tech innovation supported by the Southall Innovation Fund. To date, principals and teachers at 50 elementary schools and three high schools are currently using eWalk, an electronic teacher observation tool that supports the development of teachers in key categories.

eWalk material is housed online, which allows principals and teachers to quickly communicate and share observations and feedback in real time. "The eWalk app has allowed us to develop a common language in our classrooms," says Kaitlyn O'Leary, an Assistant Superintendent in the Office for Catholic Schools. "It also increases collaboration across our schools. Now we have a shared way of talking about improvement and growth."

"It was time to move away from an antiquated evaluation model that was based on one or two snapshots in time, and for our teachers to receive meaningful, ongoing feedback they could immediately put into practice within their classrooms," says Anna Horton,

principal at Holy Rosary School in West Seattle.

Funds from the Southall Innovation Fund have made it possible for 17 additional schools to adopt this innovative program. "Rose Southall is a woman who has always been ahead of her time," says O'Leary. "She received a Master's degree in Computer Science when computers filled large rooms. We're really grateful for her deep appreciation of the power of technology to enhance teaching practices."

The Southall Innovation Fund was created by Rose Southall to support systemic, sustainable solutions for Catholic schools. This fund was established through annual gifts for the short term, and in the future will be endowed through a generous planned estate gift from Rose and her late husband, Jack. Beyond the eWalk platform, the Southall Innovation Fund will continue to fund innovative projects to support Catholic schools. "Education is the passport from poverty," says Rose, "and innovation will continue to be important to schools in years to come."

Photo Gallery Preview

See the rest of the NAIOP at St. Bernadette Parish School photos in our album at [Facebook.com/FulcrumFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/FulcrumFoundation)



Invest today.



You Can Help

Annual Drive

Catholic schools make a positive and important impact in our communities. It is through donations to the Annual Drive, and at the Celebration of Light, that we can continue to grow our programs and support the schools in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Join us in meeting the needs of schools and families by making an investment today.

FulcrumFoundation.org/donate

Celebration of Light February 8, 2019

Questions? Call 206.748.7983 or email
nicole.gummow@fulcrumfoundation.org

Donor Appreciated Stock

You can make a bigger charitable impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, such as stock, bonds, and mutual funds,

directly to Fulcrum. By transferring appreciated stock directly to a charity, you may avoid capital gains and automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction.

When you donate stock to charity, you'll generally take a tax deduction for the full fair market value—your contribution and tax deduction may instantly increase as you avoid realizing capital gains. This works for bonds and mutual funds too. Please consult with your financial advisor.