

Belonging for Life

Four years in, Fulcrum’s Becraft Scholars Program is making a profound difference in the lives of the families served through this groundbreaking, relationship-centered tuition assistance program, supporting Black and Brown families in Catholic schools.

At the Celebration of Light, guests heard stories from families who are building lifelong, transformational relationships through this program— young people like AughtyMarie, a first grader at Tacoma’s Pope St. John XXIII STEM Academy. AughtyMarie loves PE and math.

AughtyMarie has A LOT of things she’d like to be when she grows up, including a doctor, a veterinarian, and a teacher, but her “biggest” first grade dream: to be a person who speaks to other people...about God!

The difference maker in the Becraft Scholars program is that we lead with the unifying power of relationship. The relationship-centered focus of the program recognizes that all families have so much to offer one another in their schools.

All Becraft families volunteer in their children’s Catholic schools and



Thank you! Celebration of Light 2024 Sponsors

Premier Sponsors (\$100,000+)			
DICK ABRAMS <small>IN SUPPORT OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT</small>	JOE AND LUCY EDMONDS		THE KRUSTEAZ COMPANY
Presenting Sponsor (\$50,000)			
FERRY FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION			
Champion Sponsors (\$25,000)			
ÀMAURICE CELLARS	DAVID & SHELLEY HOVIND		MICHAEL & MARY LEE
OLYMPIC EAGLE DISTRIBUTING/ANNE & STEVE KNIGHT			
Leader Sponsors (\$20,000)			
ASSUMPTION - ST. BRIDGET SCHOOL	STEVE & JO MARIE HANSEN	ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL	
Partner Sponsors (\$10,000)			
ANONYMOUS TONY & MICHELLE AUDINO BELLARMINE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL BISHOP BLANCHET HIGH SCHOOL JULIE & DAN COLEMAN EASTSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL	GARCO CONSTRUCTION CLARE HENRY & DAVID PULTORAK THE HOBAN FAMILY HOLY NAMES ACADEMY KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL THE LUGER FAMILY	MARK & KRIS MITCHKE PATRIOT FIRE PUGET SOUND BUSINESS JOURNAL SACRED HEART PARISH & SCHOOL SEATTLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL	MATT & ANN SHANAHAN JOE & JENN SPRAGUE ST. LUKE SCHOOL STUDIO 45 THE TUCCI FAMILY
Investor Sponsors (\$7,500)			
EDITH & RAY ASPIRI	FOREST RIDGE SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART	BECKY & PAT MULLIN	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY TOMMY BAHAMA
Friend Sponsors (\$5,000)			
ARCHBISHOP MURPHY HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATED CATHOLIC CEMETERIES RICH & KATHLEEN BARTH BRUCE COMPANY BURIEN TOYOTA & BURIEN CHEVROLET KEVIN & JULIE CIPOLETTI CRISTO REY JESUIT SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGET COOLEY	FACTS GONZAGA UNIVERSITY RICHARD & SHERYL GUDAITIS HOLY FAMILY PARISH & SCHOOL, KIRKLAND HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL, WEST SEATTLE DAN & DIANE KOCER BETSY MILLER	MIKE & MINDY MORGAN NAPOLEON CO./MAGNANO FAMILY NORTHWEST CATHOLIC MAGAZINE O'DEA HIGH SCHOOL SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY SETON CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL SHEA HOMES	SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE ST. ANNE SCHOOL ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL & PARISH ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, SEATTLE ST. MONICA CATHOLIC SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND WASHINGTON TRUST BANK

Fulcrum’s Partnership Makes Our Schools Strong

Superintendent for Catholic Schools Nicholas Ford shared the following inspiring words with the guests on January 19.



“You are impacting the children and families whose dreams of an academically excellent, faith-inspired, Catholic education are realized...because of Fulcrum’s tuition assistance program.

The young people in our schools also benefit from safe, healthy, and innovative learning environments, and they blossom under school

leaders and educators who are well-formed through our Building Leadership Capacity program. These programs are possible because of you, who believe in the power of faith-filled leadership, that guides more than 21,000 students who fill our classrooms every school day.

Fulcrum is known nationally as the standard bearer in its work because it is both innovative and solution focused.

Take the issue of affordable housing. This issue affects most working people in Western Washington including our teachers who desire to live in the communities where they teach and serve. It was time for a creative solution. Fulcrum, in partnership with our team at the Office for Catholic Schools, supported St. Alphonsus Parish and School as they converted a vacant convent in Seattle’s Ballard neighborhood to provide affordable workforce housing for a cohort of teachers and staff in their first five years of service. We call it “The Innovative Housing Project”. Through the support of the Southhall Innovation Fund, we now have this creative benefit that helps these young professionals live in intentional community allowing them to be nourished through a shared mission.

Speaking of innovative, Fulcrum could not be more grateful to Shea Homes for the transformational impact they are having on many of our schools through their investment in capital construction improvements. Thank you, for the strategic and visionary way, Shea Homes is enriching local Catholic school communities.

The Cristo Rey Jesuit Seattle High School is opening in the fall. Cristo Rey’s mission advances our mission, enlarging the size of our tent, serving more young people in Western Washington who otherwise would not have access to a Catholic education.

Fulcrum was one of the first to invest in Cristo Rey in Seattle...paving the way and honoring our mission and values, as the steady and stable partner of Catholic schools.

Fulcrum is the difference maker in inspiring generosity to keep all Catholic schools vibrant and strong and always welcoming more into our supportive community.

Friends, this is our work: people focused and fueled for mission. Fueled by a combination of faith, service and love that can only be found in Catholic schools.”

The Fulcrum News is published by the Fulcrum Foundation. For more information or to be added to our mailing list, contact the Fulcrum office at 206.219.5826 or info@fulcrumfoundation.org. We welcome your questions and comments.

A Memorable Celebration!

Celebration of Light 2024 was a remarkable evening showcasing the wonderful things happening in Catholic schools throughout Western Washington. Over 1,100 generous guests and sponsors raised \$3.4 million for tuition assistance, leadership development, and school partnerships.

The evening’s program featured moving words from Archbishop Etienne, Superintendent for Catholic Schools Nicholas Ford, Fulcrum Board Chair Tony Audino, and others. The talented youth choirs from St. James Cathedral entertained the guests, and videos featuring the Becraft Scholars Program and Fulcrum’s Tuition Assistance Grant Program (TAP) inspired all.

Richard and Maude¹ Ferry received the prestigious Archbishop’s Award

for 2024. The Ferrys were recognized for their life-long dedication to Catholic education and for Richard’s leadership in the creation of Fulcrum’s Becraft Scholars Program—an equity-driven scholarship program. Richard believes all he has been given is from God and he and his late wife Maude were instrumental in launching the Fulcrum Foundation when it was just a spark of an idea.

The Ferrys have remained ever faithful to the mission of Fulcrum as it has grown over two decades. Their impactful combination of exceptional business minds, humble hearts for God, and deep love of family led them to be agents for change. They took action when brave leaders were needed, in places where young lives blossom and grow into all that God imagines in local Catholic schools.





2024 Archbishop's Award Recipient
Richard Ferry



Believing in Hope

"You have been there for us in the hardest of times and what it means to me is immeasurable. You have fulfilled my goal of giving my children a Catholic education. Needing help is painful, it is humiliating, and it has been hard, but the reward of seeing my kids happy, healthy, and achieving makes me know that staying true to my purpose as their parent has been worth it. A thousand thank you's for standing by us and pushing us forward."

-Parent of Fulcrum TAP recipients

A reflection from Fulcrum's Programs Director Susan Ocoma

For more than 12 years, I have managed Fulcrum's programs, the largest of which is the Tuition Assistance Grant Program, commonly called TAP. Each year, thousands of parents apply for TAP, seeking financial assistance to help make their dream of a Catholic education for their children a reality. In these applications, I hear from parents facing job loss, underemployment, and illness, families torn apart by addiction and absent parents, and those struggling to make ends meet even though they are working full time, sometimes working two or three jobs.

Fulcrum desperately wants to help them all, to ease their burden, and be an answer to their prayers. We look forward to serving more and more families through TAP with the support of our generous donors.

One of the hardest things we do as human beings is to ask for help. It takes courage, vulnerability and hope to make it worthwhile. No matter what parents are facing, no matter how hard things are, I am always struck by the hope they have for their children, their family, and their future. At its core, hope is the belief in possibility. It's what helps these parents keep pushing forward in the face of adversity and what keeps me coming back to this work and to the mission of Fulcrum day after day.

Fulcrum's Mission

Fulcrum strengthens the vitality, excellence, and sustainability of Catholic schools through funding and thought partnership.



Believing In Hope



Belonging for Life



Archbishop's Award



Scan the codes above to hear the voices of those who benefit from our programs and to learn more about the contributions of the Archbishop's Award recipients Richard and Maude[†] Ferry.



Executive Director Vivian Shannon
and Chair of the Board Tony Audino



Emcees
Alana Bell and Monica Wingard



Invitation to Support
Michelle and Scott Ventoza



Photos by Ben VanHouten at Ben VanHouten Photography or by Fulcrum staff