

A CAMPAIGN PUBLICATION FROM THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GROWING IN FAITH

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*Grants from the **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** campaign are working to grow parish communities throughout the Diocese, including St. Matthew Parish in Akron, where kindergartner Bridget Patton attends school.*




Rooted in Faith Forward in Hope
Strengthening the Catholic Church in Northeast Ohio



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Over \$82 Million Distributed!

Case Component Grants Benefit Entire Parish

ST. MATTHEW COMMUNITY SHARES IN REWARDS



Symbiotic is not a word one would normally use to describe a parish community. Yet, a glance at a thesaurus would confirm that *symbiotic* could be interchanged with *interdependent*, *reciprocal*, or *cooperative*. Nowhere is this more evident than at St. Matthew Parish in Akron. The parish, day school and faith formation programs are sharing in the blessings of the **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** campaign.

Parish funds returned were used to repair the school roof. The PSR program uses the school for weekly instruction and benefits from the Catholic Education Innovation grants that funded the updated fire and security systems as well as the renovated restroom. A wish list



Drawing of St. Matthew created by graduate Olivia Janolo, now a freshman at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

for future education grant awards includes updating the school's gym floor, making it a showpiece for events that would benefit the entire parish community.

"I'm so thankful to our parishioners and everyone who made these funds possible," states Erin Faetanini, St. Matthew's principal. "We could not have done what was necessary for the safety of our students without the Education Innovation grants we received."

"Any improvements that happen in the school make it more comfortable and safe for our PSR students, too," says Jessica Plaspohl, Director of Faith Formation at the parish, "and the catechetical grants we've received have enabled us to purchase materials for our sacramental preparation programs, allowing us to try new things. We added lectionaries for our PSR classes and have expanded our Sunday morning instruction to incorporate the Liturgy of the Word. The students are taking what they are learning in their regular catechetical sessions and bringing it into

liturgy and it's igniting that spark."

Principal Erin Faetanini adds that sacramental preparation for both day school and PSR students is also a community affair, taking place outside both classrooms. "It's really a parish activity," she states, "and Jessica (Plaspohl) also teaches "Theology of the Body" to our seventh grade day school students, so there really is a tremendous integration between the two school entities."



"I am very grateful for the funds and for the support. From the perspective of growing our parish community, it's been a real blessing," adds Fr. Michael Williamson, pastor of St. Matthew. "We're able to improve our facilities, making the campus attractive and safe, and provide faith formation programs that are fulfilling. **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** is helping our parish grow and meet the needs of our people."

Campaign Update

OVER \$82 MILLION DISTRIBUTED!



STRENGTHENING OUR PARISHES

\$26.6 million, enabling capital improvements, social outreach, education endowments and debt reduction

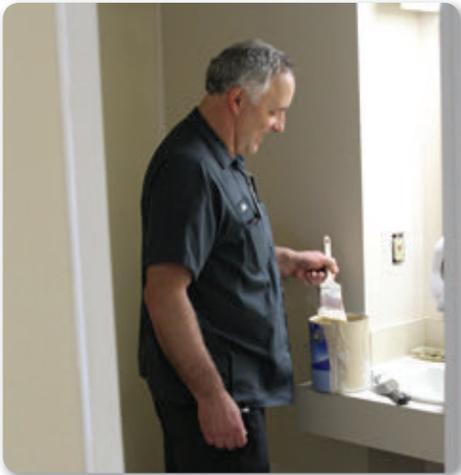


STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH

\$9.3 million to fund faith formation for children and adults

Charitable Works

NEW LIFE FOR ST. AUGUSTINE MANOR



The floor to ceiling renovation and modernization project underway at St. Augustine Manor is truly remarkable – just ask the 200 residents who call St. Augustine their home, and staff members who care for them as if they were family. Thanks in large part to the generosity of donors to the **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** campaign, this long awaited dream is coming to fruition.

“Total project costs are \$3.5 million, with the **Rooted in Faith** portion representing \$2.1 million,” states Rick Messerini, St. Augustine Health Ministries President & CEO. “The project will go a long way to

fulfill a mission of continuing the healing ministry of Christ by promoting quality of life and independence for residents.”

“Brighter spaces preserve dignity and increase the independence for residents who self-ambulate. We created common spaces for residents and families for fellowship with the intention of decreasing depression and creating a greater sense of community.”

Dana Carns, Director of Development, Marketing, Public Relations at St. Augustine Health Campus, has been involved with the project since its inception. “The first thing we did was ask the patients for their suggestions. After all, this is their home,” says Carns.

The 18-month project began in September 2014, with its beauty and benefits starting to be realized. For long-term residents, a homelike ambiance will help to improve sleep, reduce anxiety and depression, and increase social interaction as well as overall satisfaction and well being. Short-term residents will also benefit from single patient rooms that afford a greater measure of privacy, facilitate better communication between

residents and health care professionals, offer space better suited for family members to participate in the healing process, and reduce the risk of cross infection.

Thanks to the generous gifts to **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** and fundraising efforts by St. Augustine, the project is currently funded to \$2.5 million. St. Augustine hopes to raise the additional \$1 million in order to complete all phases of this important project.

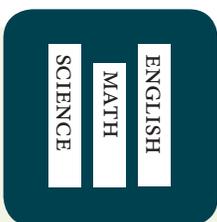
Messerini feels blessed and grateful to be part of this transformation. “On behalf of the residents and staff of St. Augustine Manor, we say thank you for your pledge to the **Rooted in Faith** campaign that has made a significant impact on the lives of our residents.”



IMPROVEMENTS KEEP ROBERTA ON THE MOVE

For Roberta Kinkopf, being in a wheelchair is just one complication of Multiple Sclerosis that she deals with every day – and carpeted hallways can sometimes make mobility a challenge.

Roberta has lived at St. Augustine since 2008. She credits the staff with helping her out and “lifting” her spirits. “From what I’ve seen, everything [in the renovation] is going to make us feel better. The different [laminated] flooring will make it easier to get around, especially for people in manual wheelchairs,” says Roberta.



CATHOLIC
EDUCATION

\$25.1 million for tuition assistance and funding for improvements, technology and curriculum



THOSE
WHO SERVE

\$15.7 million, including \$9.4 million to the Priest Retirement Fund



CHARITABLE
WORKS

\$4.6 million to improve Catholic Charities sites and programs



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THANK YOU

to the 17,449
parishioners across
our diocese who
have completed their
pledges and gifts to
the Campaign!

Help us be Good Stewards of Your Gifts! Would you prefer to receive this quarterly newsletter via email? You can choose to do so by sending an email to mgagen@catholiccommunity.org.

Catholic Education

SUPPORTING THE LEGACY OF THE CHURCH

When Adam and Valerie Carr, parishioners at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Cuyahoga Falls, met with Father Jim Singler to discuss a gift for the **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** campaign, they were very supportive, particularly of two case components: *Strengthening Our Parishes* and *Catholic Education*. States Valerie, “I believe in Catholic education. I had 12 years of Catholic education myself. It’s one of the reasons I believe in **Rooted in Faith**. I don’t want to lose that. I want it for my sons, Seth and Gavin, and I want them to have that choice for their children. I want them to be able to pray in school and have God integrated into their daily life, and I want other families to have that opportunity, too.”

“God is the rightful owner of everything,” adds Adam. “I’ve been blessed in many ways with my wife and children, my career, and material things. We were asked to make a generous gift and we thought and prayed about it. This was what God wanted us to do. God had a request and laid out a path to make it happen.”

“Through the **Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope** campaign, we were able to support multiple ministries of the Church,” says Valerie. “I don’t think the average person realizes the influence of the Diocese of Cleveland and the Catholic faith in almost every walk of life. There’s Catholicism behind many of the institutions.” Adam agrees. “We

are Christians, and as Christians, we are the hands and feet of Christ. We should love to do His will, to support what He thinks is important and to do His works. To follow Him, not just in our heads and our hearts, but in our deeds. That’s what the Church has told us for 2,000 years.”



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