

## Fund Raising for new Cristo Rey Columbus High School gets big boost

Cristo Rey Columbus High School has received its largest donation. An anonymous donor has pledged \$600,000 to match new contributions and pledges to the diocesan-sponsored school, which is raising the funds necessary to open its doors to its first freshman class in August 2013.

This challenge grant will match all future gifts or pledges of \$10,000 or larger until June 1, 2012, or until the fund is depleted, whichever occurs first. Gifts or pledges between \$10,000 and \$50,000 will be matched at the rate of 50 cents per dollar. Gifts or pledges of \$50,000 or more will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Pledges may be made over a five-year period or less.

Tom McAuliffe, board chair of Cristo Rey Columbus, said the effort to provide the appropriate resources to seed Cristo Rey Columbus in its initial years has been building momentum over the past few months.

"The Columbus community has been very receptive in supporting the opening of a Cristo Rey high school for our inner-city youth, and this generous matching gift will provide much of the startup capital needed to fund the school until it reaches a sustainable size," he said.

"This extraordinarily generous gift is a game-changer in our fund raising efforts," said Jim Foley, president of Cristo Rey Columbus. "Combined with earlier gifts, this and the matched contributions we hope to receive will take us to the \$2.5 million we need to obtain our final

approval by the national Cristo Rey network. This match program will allow people to double the impact of their contributions and to know that they are helping to make this dream a reality."

Cristo Rey Columbus High School will be the 26th high school in the Cristo Rey network. It will provide Catholic, college preparatory education for children from low-income families. The school will be coeducational and will be open to students of all faiths. It will be supported by an innovative professional work-study program which will provide its students with the opportunity to work five days a month during the school year in a professional job setting.

The program, combined with contributions from individuals and companies in the community, will make a high-quality Catholic education available to students otherwise unable to afford it.

Cristo Rey Network schools have a 15-year proven track record of successfully preparing at-risk students for high school and college graduation. Last year, 98 percent of the seniors in Cristo Rey schools nationwide graduated from high school, and all of those graduates were accepted into at least one college or university. This is an enormous improvement over the rate at which their peers attending urban public schools graduate and attend college.

*For more information on Cristo Rey Columbus, visit [www.cristoreycolumbus.org](http://www.cristoreycolumbus.org).*

### Kevin Mullin Memorial Run

The 11th annual Kevin Mullin five-kilometer run/walk will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, with all proceeds benefiting brain tumor research and awareness. The event is in memory of Kevin Mullin, a Hartley student and cross county team member, who died of a brain tumor in 2001 at age 17.

The ten previous run/walks have raised \$220,000 for brain tumor research. This year's event also will feature a raffle. Registration may be made in advance or on the day of the run/walk. The first 350 registrants are guaranteed a T-shirt. For more details, call (740) 756-7987, e-mail [cmullin@columbus.rr.com](mailto:cmullin@columbus.rr.com), or visit [www.lemonhead.org](http://www.lemonhead.org).

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### ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

By Loren Brown



## The Seeds of Our Catholic Faith

We will soon be closing the window on an exciting opportunity to complete a survey on awareness for The Catholic Foundation. I want to express my appreciation to our pastors for their assistance in making this survey a success in more than 100 parishes throughout our diocese, and my appreciation to more than 1,000 people who took a few minutes of their time to complete the survey. You still have about a week to take this survey at [www.TCFsurvey.org](http://www.TCFsurvey.org). The rich feedback you provide will help the Foundation know where to focus its awareness efforts to better support our parishes and serve the faithful's charitable wishes and personal planning.

Did you know that your Catholic Foundation has provided more than \$60 million for our parishes and for other needs within our 23-county diocese? This is a very impressive amount, made possible through the generosity of the faithful who have established charitable endowments and other funds over the years. Our current annual support of \$5 million given back to our Catholic communities has the potential to grow to more than five times beyond this yearly amount. This potential can and will be realized only if everyone in our diocese is aware of the services of their Catholic Foundation and are assured that their Foundation's stewardship is in alignment with our Catholic teachings. The latter is such an important element of your Catholic Foundation, especially today, as our Catholic beliefs and freedoms are under attack in the political and social environments.

Our financial stewardship within our faith begins with our responsibility as parishioners to support the operating and programmatic costs of our respective parishes through the weekly offertory. The faithful's stewardship to the offertory supports the "here and now" needs of our parishes. Although the impact

from your Catholic Foundation can supplement the offertory, the intent is to provide long-term support through endowing parish and other diocesan needs for the future -- essentially, sustaining and growing the Catholic faith for tomorrow.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending Mass at St. Joseph in Sugar Grove, celebrated by the pastor, Father James Walter. Before Mass ended, Father Walter asked the parish to complete The Catholic Foundation's survey and provided a moving analogy on the Foundation's impact and how it has the potential to grow through awareness.

Father Walter said to imagine farmland that has been in a family for many years, providing it with current food and economic resources. However, he continued, the generations of the family will pass and the land will continue to exist as an endowment from God, replenishing resources for the needs of the family's future generations and the community. Seeds will grow crops which will provide, and the crops will produce more seeds for the land to continue to give, long after the current members of the family are gone. But the land will remain. Father Walter eloquently described the purpose of your Catholic Foundation. Again, I thank our pastors for their support, and everyone who participated in their Catholic Foundation's awareness survey.

We are reminded during Lent that our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:24-26)

As we look forward to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may you and your family have peace and be blessed in the Easter season.

*Brown is the president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation and a parishioner at St. Joseph Cathedral.*