

Growing Girls...



**SISTERS
ACADEMY**

of **BALTIMORE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

Letter from the President & Board Chair

Dear Friends,

When our sixth graders came back after spring break, we did a double-take. By the time they returned for seventh grade after summer vacation, we hardly recognized them. They were taller, their bodies had changed, and they looked more like adults. But that's just the beginning.

Over the year, our students made steady progress in the core subjects of mathematics, language arts, and reading. In science, they delighted in learning about the environment, the human body, and the planets. They published a yearbook. They initiated new clubs and activities. They grew in graciousness, confidence, responsibility, leadership, and creativity.

Because of your support, the Academy's roots grew deeper and our branches grew stronger. We increased our resources for students and teachers in technology. We expanded our graduate support program to meet the needs of three classes of graduates. We sent more students to off-campus learning experiences during the school year and in the summer.

As an organization, sometimes our growth was almost imperceptible. At other times, the growth spurts were obvious. We met our financial goals for the year. Annual giving increased and we increased the number of individuals and groups who sponsor student scholarships. We exceeded our goal in grants, primarily from private foundations. Unexpected major gifts allowed us to increase our modest endowment by 22%. And, we determined that we would continue to build the endowment to provide for scholarship support into the future.

Our first major fundraiser "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" was a milestone for our students as well as for the mission of the school. The fun-filled event exceeded all expectations in attendance, fundraising, and publicity.

Thank you sponsors, donors, volunteers, and friends for joining us in the exciting mission of growing girls to become agents of transformation. We are grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND
President

Christine A. Lay

Christine A. Lay
Chair of the Board of Directors

Growing Girls....

Girls come to Sisters Academy of Baltimore like seeds packed with potential. Curious and eager, they settle into a learning environment that nourishes their minds, hearts, bodies, and spirits. On any school day they could be identifying geometric shapes in buildings, acting out characters from a classic play, graphing data from a physical science experiment, painting window screens, playing volley ball, writing in their journals, or creating a nutritious restaurant menu. Our curriculum stimulates and challenges students in ways they have never been challenged before.

Like gardeners, teachers at Sisters Academy nurture their students. They recognize each girl as an individual. They identify her talents and offer opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom for her to explore new interests – anything from writing poetry to basic engineering. Volunteer tutors work one-on-one with students to strengthen their math, reading, or study skills.

Sisters Academy students grow straight because they are supported by a structure of clear behavioral expectations. They know they are responsible for paying attention in class, for cooperating with their peers, for doing their homework, for spending enough time studying, and for performing cleaning chores around the school building each week.

Over four years, our students the values of respect, pursuit of excellence. grade, the green shoots

put down deep roots in a community held together by non-violence, honesty, compassion, service, and the By the time these young women complete 8th are visible and we know they are ready to bloom.



The Year 2010-2011 in Review

Student Growth

- ★ Sisters Academy of Baltimore enrolled a total of 65 girls in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of their families qualified for the federal free or reduced-price meals program.
- ★ One hundred percent (100%) of the students enrolled completed the school year. Ninety-four percent (94%) returned for 2011-2012.
- ★ From the 6th to the 8th grade, students in the Class of 2011 increased their scores on the Stanford Achievement Test by 18 percentile points in mathematics, 12 percentile points in language arts, and 7 percentile points in reading.
- ★ All 15 of our 8th graders (100%) were accepted at competitive, private high schools and received adequate financial aid to attend the following: Archbishop Spalding High School, The Catholic High School of Baltimore, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Institute of Notre Dame, Mercy High School, and The Seton Keough High School.

Program Growth

- ★ In Life Skills class, students were assigned one "core" value to be used as the theme for activities each month. The values were: honesty, respect, compassion, commitment, wisdom, humor, responsibility, love, and health. Each month, the girls produced a colorful "Value of the Month" sheet with a definition of the word. They posted copies around the school building. The sheets served as a daily reminder not only for the students but for our faculty, staff, and volunteers.
- ★ Eight times during the year, our 5th grade class made sandwiches for Viva House – a soup kitchen and food pantry in southwest Baltimore. Viva House offers a midday meal every Wednesday and Thursday for the homeless and hungry. Between September 2010 and May 2011, students made approximately 1,600 sandwiches for the needy.
- ★ The Student Advisory Board is made up of two students from each class (chosen by their peers), one teacher, one staff representative, and our Principal. The board is responsible for creating school spirit activities, suggesting policies and procedures regarding student life, and generating new ideas for service projects. In 2011, the board initiated a new Valentine's Day activity called "Penny War" that put the students in lively competition to see which class could collect the most pennies for Paul's Place, a community service organization. The winning 5th graders were declared "Penny Queens."
- ★ We began to expand our school's technological capacity by increasing the number of computers in our classrooms. A grant from The Abell Foundation enabled us to purchase 10 laptop computers – one for each of our full-time teachers. The Verizon Maryland Pioneers donated 10 netbook computers for groups of students to use during instructional time.

A Volunteer's View

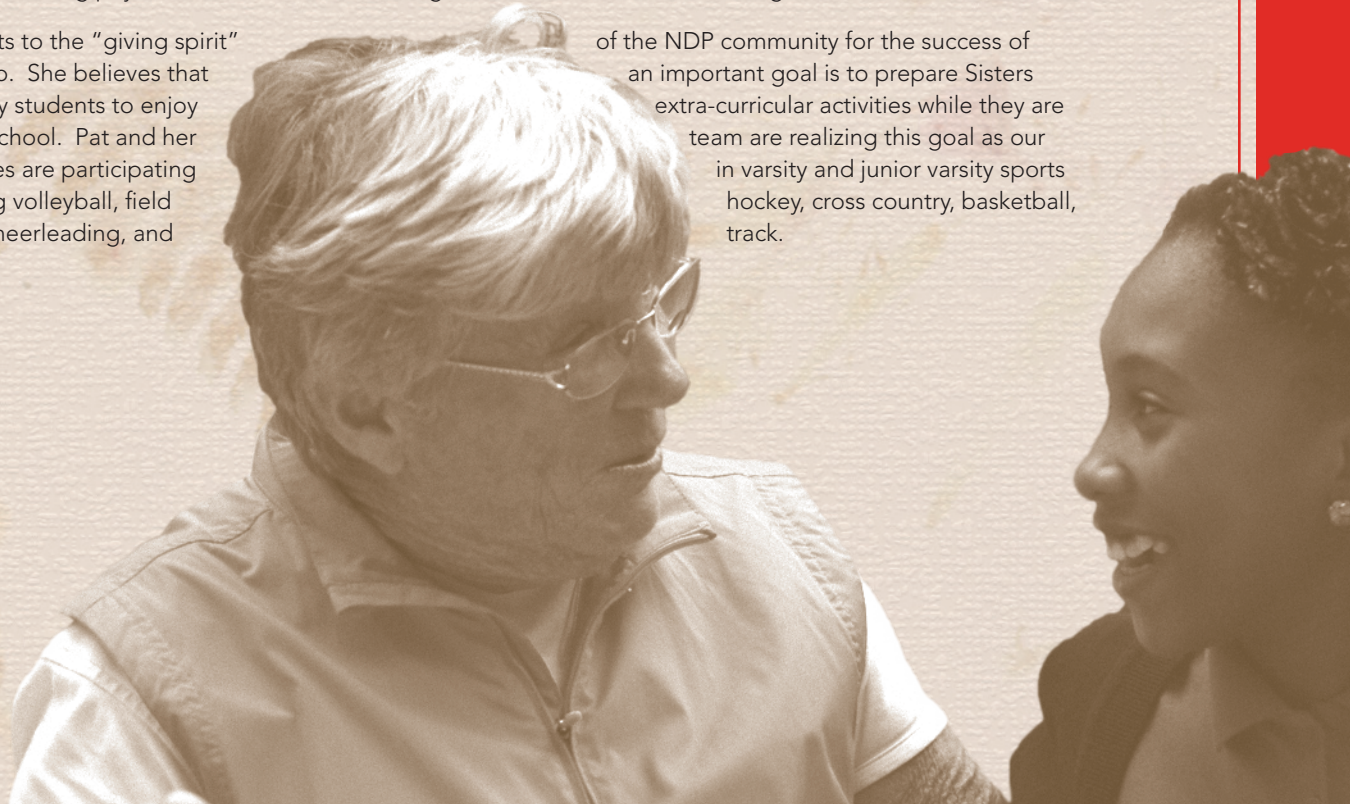
Patricia Groeninger's enthusiasm for Sisters Academy is contagious. For the last seven years, she has coordinated our week-long Summer Sports Camp held on the campus of Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP) in Towson. Pat has inspired NDP faculty members, students, and alumnae to join her in giving their time and talent to this enrichment program. The camp offers sports opportunities (volleyball, basketball, field hockey, and tennis) along with fitness, dance/drama, and art activities for Sisters Academy's rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Each July, approximately 50 campers and 50 counselors participate.

Since the program began in 2005, Notre Dame Prep girls have volunteered to be counselors – offering support, encouragement, and friendship to the girls from Sisters Academy. Each counselor works one-on-one with an individual camper. Some of the counselors continue the relationship beyond the summer by communicating directly with their camper during the following school year. "The counselors are meant to be the girls' cheerleaders," Pat explains.

Ms. Gren, as Pat is affectionately known, works with campers on their swimming skills. "These girls want to learn and they are willing to take risks and challenge themselves. They get such a sense of accomplishment in the pool." Pat has been a swimming instructor since her own high school days. Recently, she retired after 32 years of teaching physical education and coaching both the middle school and high school students at NDP.

Pat points to the "giving spirit" of the camp. She believes that Sisters Academy students to enjoy extra-curricular activities while they are in high school. Pat and her graduates are participating in varsity and junior varsity sports including volleyball, field hockey, cross country, basketball, track, crews, cheerleading, and

of the NDP community for the success of an important goal is to prepare Sisters team are realizing this goal as our



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Sisters Academy is grateful to the following individuals, religious communities, businesses, and foundations that have chosen to make a multi-year commitment to sponsor a student for four years.

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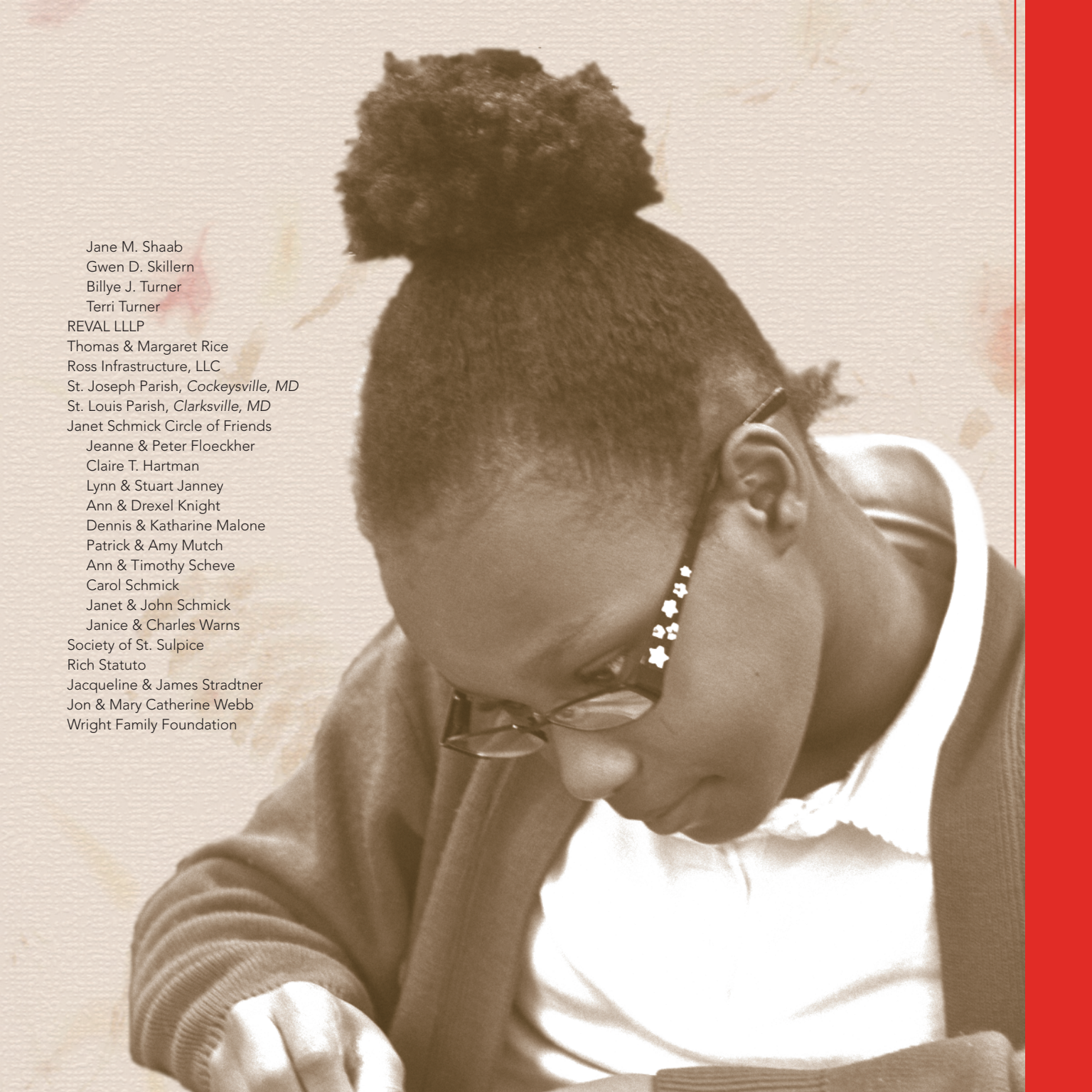
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A young girl with her hair in a bun, wearing glasses and a dark sweater over a white collared shirt, is looking down intently at a task. The background is a textured, light-colored wall with some faint stains. A solid red vertical bar is on the right side of the page.

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~Nelson Mandela

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-Ethel Barrymore

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"Happiness is neither virtue nor pleasure... We are happy when we are growing."

~ William Butler Yeats

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Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?

Sisters Academy hosted a bold new fundraising event in 2010 called "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" – a live competition that took place on stage at Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College on October 16, 2010. Local celebrities David Simon, Rod Daniels, Debbie Phelps, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Carla Hayden, and Marc Steiner teamed up with 6th graders to try to outdo each other in answering tough questions about grade school subjects. The result was a very entertaining show for an audience of 800 guests.

We are very grateful to the Event Committee, our wonderful contestants, sponsors, program advertisers, ticket buyers, and folks who pledged for a team. Their contributions enabled us to raise \$50,000 to help educate our students in 2010-2011.





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"The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

~ Carl Jung

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John & Florence Morello
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Shannon Namboodri
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Jodi Quinn & Allan Worley

Mollie L. Tussing

Clare Mosmiller

Nina Elliott

Steven P. Murphy

Maureen & Robert Keck

Diane & Matthew Kendrick

Janelle & Scott Mummy

Dennis & Barbara Murphy

Patricia Murphy, SSND

Sarah A. Murphy

Thomas J. Murphy

Ted & Virginia Rugemer

Joanne Savage &

Mikel-Meredith Weidman

Kathleen Savage

Maria Murray

Marianne & Louis Prebil

Dolora Newman, SSND

Most Rev. William C. Newman

Pierre Newman, SSND

Most Rev. William C. Newman

Mary Louise O'Connor, SNDdeN

Sandra & Hugh Kendall

Patricia Olert

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M. Elizabeth Orr, SSND

Elizabeth A. Berger

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Rev. Brian M. Rafferty

Amy Roberson

Patricia & Edward Harris

Alice V. Ross

Brian D. Cooney

Joseph & Janice Cooney

Robert S. Fitzgerald &

Machiko Shirahata

Melody Healy

Loyola University Maryland

Loyola University Maryland,

Quilting Guild

Loyola University Maryland,

Teacher Education Department

Elana Rock

St. Ignatius Church, Baltimore, MD

Kathleen A. Sears

Wendy M. Smith

Olga Roszkopf

Edda Roszkopf

Charles Rouse

Bernadette F. Rouse

Herb Ruth

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Thomas Scanlan

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Sylvia & Roderick O'Connor

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Virginia Anne Day

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Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN

Mary R. Tanney & Carl R. Yusavitz

Rose Walsh

John & Kate Walsh

Rose & Richard Walsh

Thomas & Angela Kinlin

Pamela Williams

Sheila C. Parker

Mary Ann Winterling

Leah Winterling Bark

Gifts In Kind

American Visionary Art Museum,
Baltimore, MD
Modupe Asekun
Constance Baker, SSND
Patricia Baker
Bakery Express - Ms. Desserts,
Halethorpe, MD
Baltimore Coffee & Tea, Inc.
Timonium, MD
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra,
Baltimore, MD
Mari Blackburn, M.D.,
Bon Secours Baltimore Health System, Inc.
Bon Secours Health System, Inc.
Felicia Lawrence
Amy Pozza
Angie Rodriguez
Robert & Anne Bradshaw
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA
Sisters of Bon Secours USA

Joeann Karibo
Mary L. Kilbourne
M. Kristine Kirk
Lansdowne Inn, Lansdowne, MD
Lynn's Day Spa, Columbia, MD
Mars Super Markets, Inc.
Maryland Institute College of Art,
Baltimore, MD
Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
Menasha Display Group, Philadelphia, PA –
Courtenay O'Connor
Joan Minella, SSND
Maira Monk
Barry & Cathy Nestor
Notre Dame of Maryland University,
Baltimore, MD
Notre Dame Preparatory School,
Towson, MD
Olive Grove Restaurant,
Linthicum, MD
Pizza Hut of Maryland

Eileen Clements
Rita Costello
Ellen Curran
Lilian Curran
Michael Curran
Laura A. DellaVecchia
Murdock & Kathy Donnelly
Anne Maura English
Emily English
Loretta Gaffney
Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP
Go Consulting, Inc. - Jerry O'Keefe
Pat Groeninger
Claire T. Hartman
Kathy Hoskins
Sethanne Howard
Gabrielle Hurley
Deborah S. Jones
Trent Kittleman
Maryvale Preparatory School Students,
Brooklandville, MD

"If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."

~ Mahatma Ghandi

Chick-fil-A at Lansdowne Station
Lansdowne, MD
Costco
Margaret W. Davis
Patricia E. Davis
Murdock & Kathy Donnelly
Mary Donohue, SNDdeN
Suzannah & Michael Duvall
Father O'Neill Council Knights of Columbus
Marianne M. Faulstich
Kathleen Fullerton, SSND
Barbara R. Gailunas
William L. Gaudreau
Mary Gronholm
Maria Grove and Girl Scout Troop #196
H & S Bakery, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Claire T. Hartman
Carlisle V. Hashim
Anne Hefley
Joseph Hickey
Immaculate Conception Parish, Towson, MD
Pamela Jablon, SSND

Louis J. Rheb Candy Company,
Baltimore, MD
Sorrento of Arbutus, Arbutus, MD
St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD
St. Louis Vacation Bible School
Barbara A. Tipton
Toby's Dinner Theatre of Columbia, MD
Trinity School, Ilchester, MD
Iris & Larry Turner
William D. Van Wie, District Creative
Printing, Inc., Upper Marlboro, MD
Mimi Roeder Vaughan & Roeder Travel,
Cockeysville, MD
Verizon Maryland Pioneers - Paul Redline
Jane M. Warth
Susan Zator & Harry Merritt
Jennifer L. Zichelli

Volunteers/Gifts of Service

Constance Baker, SSND
Baltimore Color Plate, Towson, MD
Bon Secours Volunteers

Latrice Mason
Laura McCrystal
Colleen McDowell
Julie B. McQuilkin
Medifast, Inc.
Pat Miedusiewski
Moir & John Monk
Mount de Sales Academy Students,
Catonsville, MD
Barry Nestor
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Students, Baltimore, MD
Notre Dame Preparatory School Students,
Towson, MD
Kim Nowalk
Mary Peroutka
PNC Bank
Amy Pozza
Profiles, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Jessie Benson
Amy Elias
Karen Renaldo

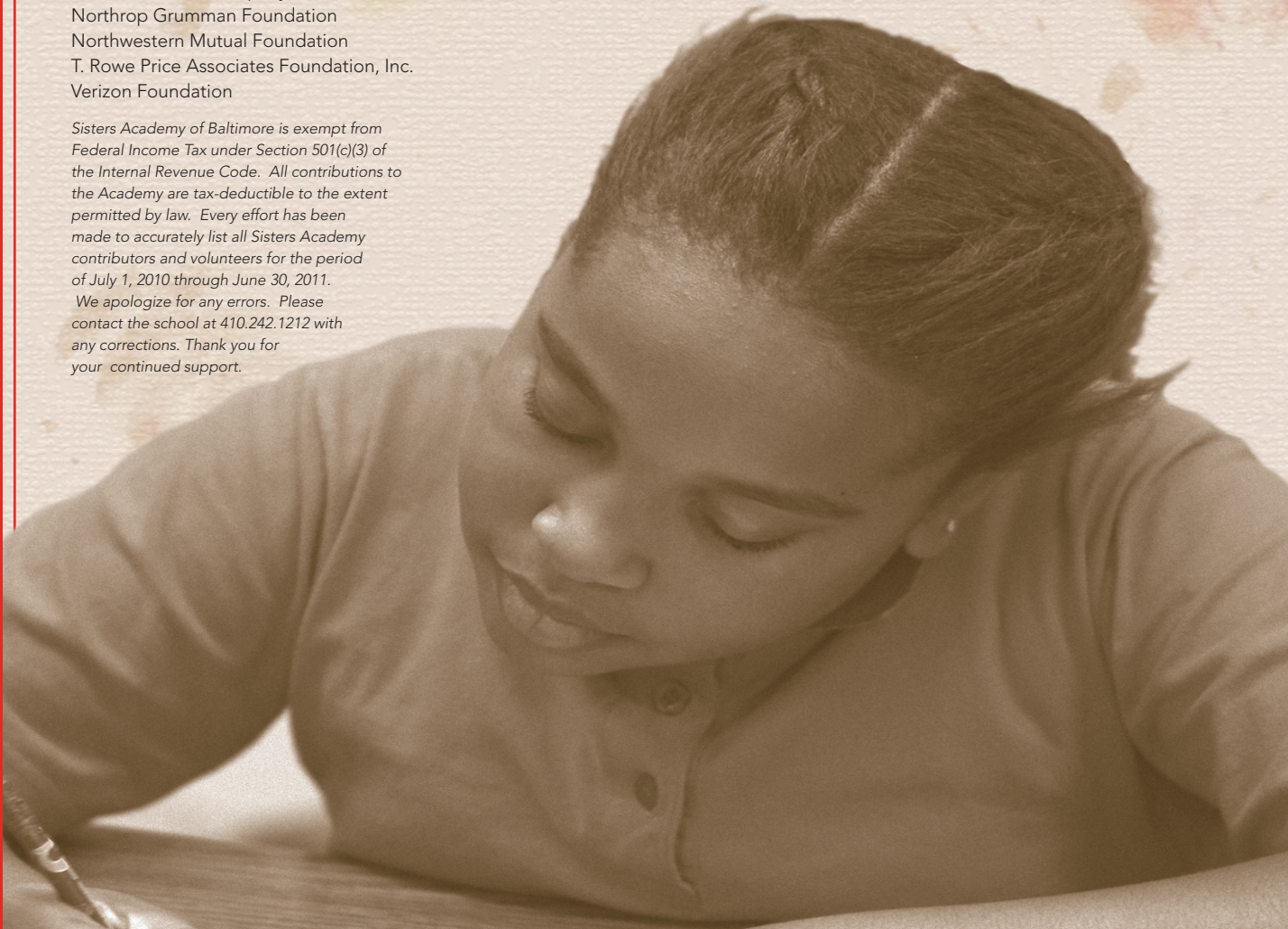
Angie Rodriguez
Cathy & Lee Rutland
Larry D. Sells
Gwen Skillern
Crissa Holder-Smith
Wendy Smith
Michele Tadeo
Susan Tatterson
Julie Thienel
Peggy Vickers
Ann Wagner
Donna Wecker

Matching Gifts

The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation
McCormick and Company, Inc. Fund Trust
Northrop Grumman Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation, Inc.
Verizon Foundation

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to the Academy are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Every effort has been made to accurately list all Sisters Academy contributors and volunteers for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

We apologize for any errors. Please contact the school at 410.242.1212 with any corrections. Thank you for your continued support.



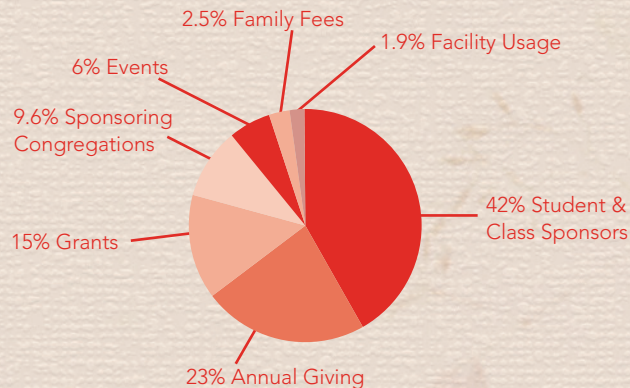
Financial Summary 2010-2011

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2010-2011, our financial requirements continued to increase as we expanded our instructional program. Our benefactors responded generously through the student scholarship program, the class sponsor program, our first "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" event, and annual giving. We were also able to increase our endowment fund by \$73,000 through the generosity of several donors and a bequest.

Operating Income 2010-2011

Student & Class Sponsors	\$408,312
Annual Giving	\$226,002
Grants	\$145,578
Sponsoring Congregations	\$93,750
Events	\$57,482
Family Fees	\$24,380
Facility Usage	\$18,490

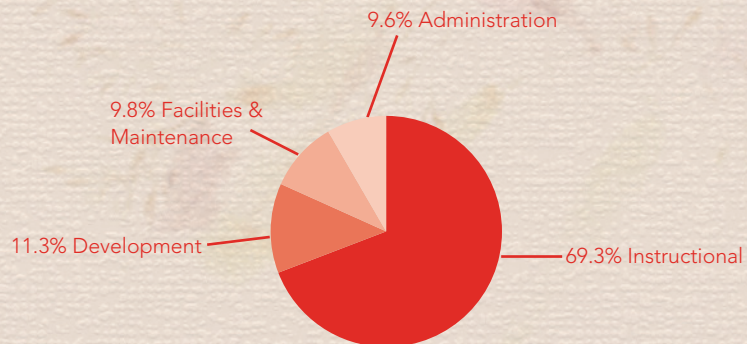
Total Income **\$973,994**



Expenses 2010-2011

Instructional	\$652,368
Development	\$106,305
Facilities & Maintenance	\$92,545
Administration	\$90,019

Total Expenses **\$941,237**



Members, Directors, Staff 2010-2011

Sponsoring Congregations

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of Bon Secours
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Board of Members

Barbara Bowers, SSND
Mary Donohue, SNDdeN
Joan Serda, RSM
Alice Talone, CBS

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Mildred Simmonds-Brown
Barbara Tipton
Martha Vitek
Dinah Whye
Elizabeth Wood



Our Mission

Sisters Academy of Baltimore, a Catholic, community-centered middle school, educates girls of different races, ethnic groups, and religions, from families of limited economic means, particularly those in southwest Baltimore. The Academy empowers its students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society.

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is a member of the highly-successful NativityMiguel Network of Schools, one of 64 schools located in 27 states serving over 5,000 children from underserved urban neighborhoods across America.

Sisters Academy of Baltimore
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f: 410.242.5104
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