



*Fighting a Fire*



**SISTERS  
ACADEMY**

*of* BALTIMORE

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

# *Letter from the President & Board Chair*

Dear Friends,

Every morning, we begin the day at Sisters Academy of Baltimore by lighting a fire. The lighted candle is at the center of our Circle of Peace and Respect as we gather for greetings, announcements, and prayer. The fire reminds students and teachers of God's presence with us, of our responsibility to fuel the fire within ourselves, and of our call to be light to others.

Because of your generosity during the past year, our teachers kindled the desire for learning, leadership, service, and growth in our students. They helped the girls discover what areas of study "light them up." Our program offered opportunities for students to explore their talents and interests and to discover how their experiences in middle school could shape the direction of their lives.

Our students caught fire as they made steady progress in learning and in life skills. Students took initiative in building the distinctive culture and climate of Sisters Academy. Our 2012 graduates gained acceptance into the best high schools in Baltimore. We took special joy in the accomplishments of our first graduating class, the Class of 2008, as they all graduated from high school and prepared for college.

Our Board of Directors took leadership in developing a strategic plan to assure a strong future for Sisters Academy. We are particularly grateful for the service of Christine A. Lay as Chair of the Board, and David Gordon and George Blair, founding members of the Board of Directors, who completed their terms of office.

From a financial perspective, we spent most of our time igniting the desire of donors to share in our exciting mission. And you, our donors, responded generously. The amount contributed in class and student scholarship sponsors increased by 15% from the prior year and moved closer to our goal of raising half of our income through sponsorships. We exceeded our projections for grant revenue and for money raised through our "Taste and See" dinner. A challenge grant, generous gifts from foundations and individuals, and an unexpected major bequest helped us to increase our endowment by 60%. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of a million-dollar endowment.

Thank you for helping to kindle the spirits, hearts, and minds of our students at Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Your gifts inspire students to reach for excellence, to make enlightened life choices, and to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society. May you be blessed!

Sincerely,

*Sister Delia Dowling, SSND*

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND  
President



Thomas P. Rice  
Chair of the Board of Directors

# *The Year 2011-2012 in Review*

## **Student Accomplishments**

- ★ Every student who graduated from Sisters Academy was in high school and completed the year. Eighty-four percent (84%) attended private or Catholic high schools including: Archbishop Spalding High School, Catholic High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Friends School of Baltimore, Institute of Notre Dame, Maryvale Preparatory School, Mercy High School, Notre Dame Preparatory School, Roland Park Country School, St. Paul School for Girls, and Seton Keough High School.
- ★ In June 2012, one hundred percent (100%) of the students in our first graduating class (2008) received a high school diploma. Each one of these young women entered a 2 or 4-year college.
- ★ Students in the Class of 2012 made significant progress over four years in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. Results in science and social studies on the Stanford Achievement Test were particularly noteworthy. From 5th to 8th grade, on average the Class of 2012 increased their percentile score in science from 43 to 61 and in social studies from 51 to 64.

## **Program Growth**

- ★ Sisters Academy was granted provisional membership in the Association of Independent Maryland Schools (A.I.M.S.). This is the first step in the process of seeking accreditation.
- ★ With a \$42,000 grant from the University of Maryland Health Sciences Research Park Corporation (RPC), we replaced all of the donated equipment in our student lab with new, state-of-the-art desktop computers. We also installed ceiling projectors and screens in two large rooms for group viewing.
- ★ Our new music teacher formed a school choir and started an "Urban Beats" Club. In April 2012, she collaborated with one of the Academy's art teachers to present for the first time a "Fine Arts Evening" showcasing the talents of our students.
- ★ We established two Sisters Academy Girl Scout Troops – a Juniors troop with 5th graders and a Cadettes troop with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Both troops began meeting once a week during the afternoon at school.

# Student Scholarship Sponsors 2011-2012

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

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~ Matthew 5:16

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~Leo Buscaglia

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~Brad Henry

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but by building a fire within."*

~ Bob Nelson

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## *A Graduate's View*

"Identify your demons and overcome them," said Caira Ayahna Lee (Sisters Academy Class of 2008) when she addressed a large crowd at State Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio on June 7, 2012. The occasion was her high school graduation ceremony. Caira was one of two students chosen to speak for the 370 graduates of Shaker Heights High School – Class of 2012.

In her commencement address, Caira spoke about suffering, resilience, and rejoicing. She is a young woman who believes in her own power and in the power of others to accomplish great things.

While at Shaker Heights High School, Caira participated in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. As a sophomore, she created a documentary film about bebop jazz for a National History Day competition and won a spot representing Ohio at the national competition. As a junior, she won Ohio's sixth annual Poetry Out Loud contest with her recitation of *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, by William Wordsworth. Caira prevailed over 38 other students and received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals. She also writes her own poetry.

On October 13, 2012, Caira took the role of "Special Guest Speaker" at the





Academy's second "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" event. From the stage in Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College, she stated "My primary purpose here is to talk to the students." Turning to the audience she added, "But there are many types of students in life, so you be listening too."

Caira's message was inspiring. "Before you can realize your goals and dreams, you must love yourself with a fierce passion – constantly. You must respect yourself above all."

Caira then quoted Morrie Schwartz's words from the bestselling book *Tuesdays with Morrie*. "The culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. And you have to be strong enough to say if the culture doesn't work, don't buy it."

Caira continued, "That means from your hair to your clothes to your words to your friends. Your decisions are yours alone. You are a thousand splendid suns greater than the situation, always. Be careful and be happy." She is currently very happy as a freshman at The College of Wooster in Ohio.

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~ Danielle Hipkins, Class of 2008

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~George Washington Carver

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*"If you take that spark of learning that children have, and you ignite it,  
you can take a child from any background to a lifetime of creativity  
and accomplishment."*

~ Paul Wellstone

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*"The day that you know without a doubt that you are an incredible human being, a child of God, the knowledge of your goodness will become a fire inside you, a fire that will fuel your desire to make someone else's life better."*

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~Christine Nesbitt, Graduation Speaker 2012

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Margaret W. Davis  
Patricia E. Davis  
Kathy Donnelly  
Earthwalk Center for Wholeness,  
Towson, MD  
Kathleen Feeley, SSND  
Thomas & Colleen Galloway  
Darija Grgic  
Maria Grove and Girl Scout Troop #196,  
Ellicott City, MD  
Mary Gronholm  
H & S Bakery, Inc., Baltimore, MD  
Patricia & Edward Harris  
Immaculate Conception Parish,  
Towson, MD  
Mary L. Kilbourne  
M. Kristine Kirk  
Christine Lay  
Loyola University Maryland  
Athletic Marketing Office  
Loyola University Maryland  
Education Department and the  
International Reading Association  
Lynn's Day Spa, Columbia, MD  
Kathy Lyon  
Maryland Institute College of Art,  
Baltimore, MD  
Menasha Display Group,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Courtenay O'Connor  
Mercy Medical Center

Joan Minella, SSND  
Moira & John Monk  
National Aquarium, *Baltimore, MD*  
Barry Nestor  
Notre Dame of Maryland University,  
*Baltimore, MD*  
Notre Dame Preparatory School,  
*Towson, MD*  
Olive Grove Restaurant, *Linthicum, MD*  
Vanessa G. Piper  
Pizza Hut of Maryland  
Retreat and Conference Center  
at Bon Secours, *Marriottsville, MD*  
Louis J. Rheb Candy Co., *Baltimore, MD*  
Angie Rodriguez  
Jackie Serfling  
Gwen D. Skillern  
Sorrento of Arbutus, *Arbutus, MD*  
Southwest Airlines  
St. Louis Vacation Bible School  
The Henry A. Strohmingher Family  
Foundation  
Barbara A. Tipton  
Toby's Dinner Theatre, *Columbia, MD*  
University of Maryland Medical Services  
Mimi Roeder Vaughan & Roeder Travel,  
*Cockeysville, MD*  
Brendan Walsh & Willa Bickham  
Susan Zator & Harry Merritt

### **Volunteers/Gifts of Service**

Constance Baker, SSND  
Baltimore Color Plate, *Towson, MD*  
Career Day 2012 Volunteers  
Theresa Adkins  
Jessica Brick  
Loretta Gaffney  
Cheryl Gramling  
Kathy Ha  
Sethane Howard  
Eugenia Powell  
Karen Renaldo  
Inga Swanner  
Lorraine Tropf  
Emily Wasil  
Eileen Clements  
Lillian Curran

Michael Curran  
Murdock & Kathy Donnelly  
Anne Maura English  
Barbara Gailunas  
Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP –  
Kathy Hoskins  
Go Consulting, Inc. - Jerry O'Keefe  
Pat Groeninger  
Claire T. Hartman  
Gabrielle Hurley  
Barbara Ipsaro  
Deborah S. Jones  
Joeann Karibo  
Felicia Lawrence  
Maryvale Preparatory School Students,  
*Brooklandville, MD*  
Latrice Mason  
Colleen McDowell  
Julie B. McQuilkin  
Medifast, Inc.  
Moira & John Monk  
Mount de Sales Academy Students,  
*Catonsville, MD*  
Peggy Moseley  
John C. Murphy, Esq.  
Barry Nestor  
Notre Dame of Maryland University  
Students, *Baltimore, MD*  
Notre Dame Preparatory School  
Students, *Towson, MD*  
Mary Peroutka  
PNC Bank - Elizabeth Brown  
Amy Pozza  
Profiles, Inc., *Baltimore, MD*  
Erin Culloty  
Amy Elias  
Peggy Rice  
Angie Rodriguez  
Cathy & Lee Rutland  
Larry D. Sells  
Gwen Skillern and  
Coalition of 100 Black Women  
Crissa Holder-Smith  
Kathy Smith  
Wendy Smith  
Susan Solberg

Michele Tadeo  
Susan Tatterson  
University of Notre Dame  
Summer Service Learning Program  
2011 Cassidy Bartolomei  
2012 Kelsie Corriston  
Ann Wagner

### **Matching Gifts**

American Trading & Production Corporation  
Lincoln Financial Foundation  
McCormick and Company, Inc. Fund Trust  
Northrop Grumman 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, 2011 and June 30, 2012. We apologize for any errors. Please contact the school at 410-242-1212 with any corrections. Thank you for your continued support.*

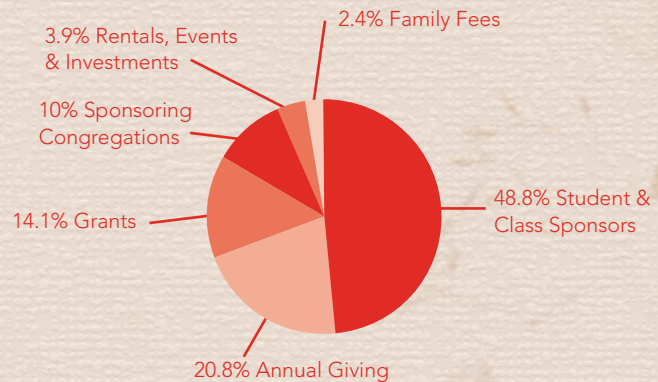


# Financial Summary 2011-2012

Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2011-2012, 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, annual giving and our "Taste & See" dinner.

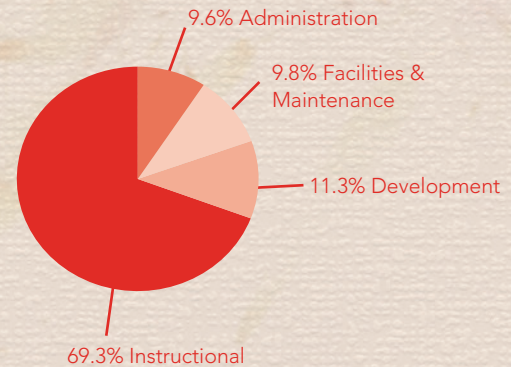
## Operating Income 2011-2012

Student & Class Sponsors	\$470,585
Annual Giving	\$200,065
Grants	\$136,010
Sponsoring Congregations	\$96,126
Rentals, Events & Investments	\$37,795
Family Fees	\$23,226
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$963,847</b>



## Operating Expenses 2011-2012

Instructional	\$667,549
Development	\$108,070
Facilities & Maintenance	\$99,245
Administration	\$88,597
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$963,461</b>



These figures do not include capital income/expenses, donated goods/services, depreciation, or endowment revenue, which are included in our audited financial report. For a copy of our most recent audit, please refer to our website, [www.sistersacademy.org](http://www.sistersacademy.org), under Publications.

# *Members, Directors, Staff 2011-2012*

## **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  
Patricia Smith, RSM  
Alice Talone, CBS

## **Board of Directors**

George A. Blair, Jr.  
Delia Dowling, SSND  
James Dugan  
L. Michael Fenzel, Jr.  
William L. Gaudreau  
David M. Gordon  
Frank A. Hamilton, M.D.  
Pam Himmelrich  
Joeann Karibo  
Martha W. Kendall  
Faye Royale Larkins  
Christine A. Lay  
Patricia Miedusiewski  
Regina Pellegrini, SNDdeN  
Natasha Ramberg  
Augusta Reilly, RSM  
Thomas P. Rice  
Angela Rodriguez  
Carole Shinnick, SSND  
Paul Weber

## **Faculty and Staff**

Delia Dowling, SSND, President  
Debra Liesen, SSND, Principal  
Virginia Marie Brune, SSND  
Joanne Campbell-Avendt  
Dorothy Daiger, SSND  
Kathleen Donnelly  
Rita Dorn, SSND  
Regina Fabbroni  
Jessica Gregg  
Mary Gronholm  
Diana Keagle  
Kathleen Lyon  
Mary Louise Monaghan, SNDdeN  
Shakia Paylor  
Vanessa Piper  
Mary Jo Puglisi  
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.*

"We thank you, not only for your support of the young women entrusted to our care. We thank you especially because you enable us, the sponsors of Sisters Academy, to fulfill our respective missions to raise up women who will heal, transform and influence our world to make it a better place – women whose lives will truly reflect the goodness of God. And for this gift, we are very grateful."

~ Patricia Smith, RSM  
Chair, Board of Members of Sisters Academy  
Donor Appreciation Reception, April 19, 2012

**Sisters Academy of Baltimore**  
139 First Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21227-3002  
v: 410.242.1212  
f: 410.242.5104  
[www.sistersacademy.org](http://www.sistersacademy.org)