



*Inspiring
Hope*



SISTERS
ACADEMY

of BALTIMORE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

Letter from the President & Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Inspiring HOPE! That's what happens every day at Sisters Academy of Baltimore.

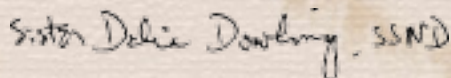
Thanks to your generosity, we had a successful year at Sisters Academy. During the past year, our middle school girls made significant progress in mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies. They grew in new ways through workshops such as those offered by the Coalition of 100 Black Women and the mentoring program by students from Notre Dame of Maryland University. Field trips and service opportunities extended their learning. Throughout their years in high school and now in college, our graduates keep in touch and receive our continued support. They are succeeding while facing challenges that most of us could not imagine.

All of our full-time teachers returned for the 2012-2013 academic year, providing consistency in approach and a good spirit in the staff. The administration and faculty completed work in preparation for the self-study through the Association of Independent Maryland Schools. Because of your strong support, we are on the path to accreditation.

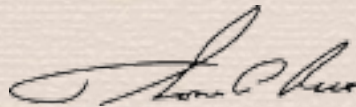
Our dedicated Board of Directors worked steadily on our strategic plan providing objectives and directions for the next phase of the Academy's development. We held our second major fundraiser "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" Our fifth annual "Taste and See" dinner and raffles fostered our community spirit and helped us meet our financial goals. Through a challenge grant and generous gifts from individuals and foundations, our scholarship endowment reached the million-dollar mark.

Your gifts of resources, talent, ideas, and time enabled Sisters Academy to have a successful year of inspiring hope in our students, a hope that is reflected in the faces in this report. Thank you for joining us in giving the gift of a future full of hope. We are grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,



Sister Delia Dowling, SSND
President



Thomas P. Rice
Chair of the Board of Directors

Inspiring Hope

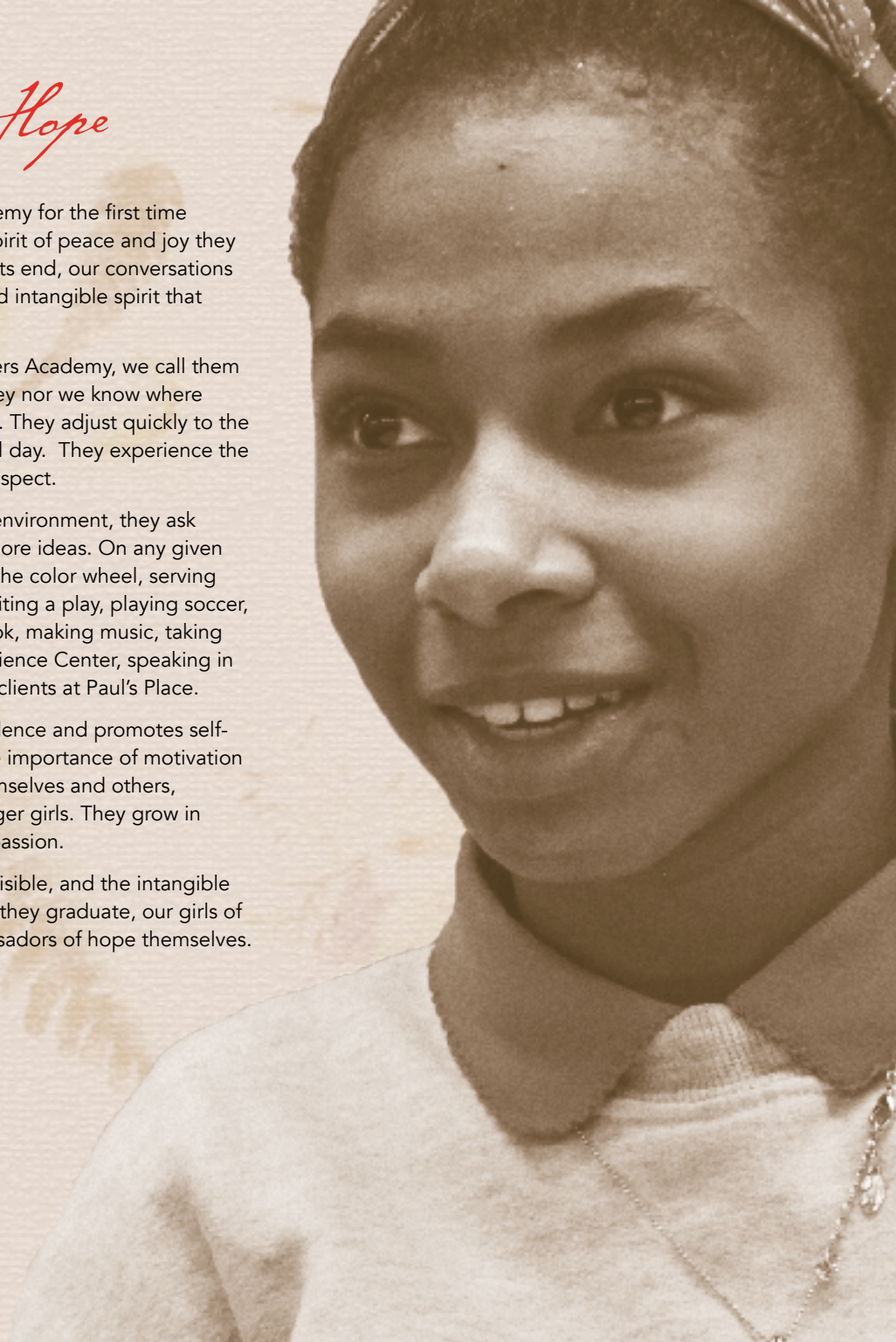
Guests who visit Sisters Academy for the first time frequently comment on the spirit of peace and joy they feel in the school. As their visits end, our conversations turn to hope, that invisible and intangible spirit that pervades Sisters Academy.

When our students enter Sisters Academy, we call them "girls of promise." Neither they nor we know where their education will take them. They adjust quickly to the nine-and-one-half-hour school day. They experience the shared values of peace and respect.

In a caring and safe learning environment, they ask questions, take risks, and explore ideas. On any given day, they could be exploring the color wheel, serving lunch, solving proportions, writing a play, playing soccer, drawing a map, reading a book, making music, taking a field trip to the Maryland Science Center, speaking in front of their class, or serving clients at Paul's Place.

Each experience builds confidence and promotes self-assurance. Students learn the importance of motivation to meet goals, accepting themselves and others, and reaching out to the younger girls. They grow in leadership, service, and compassion.

The invisible becomes more visible, and the intangible begins to be felt. By the time they graduate, our girls of promise have become ambassadors of hope themselves. And so the cycle continues.



The Year 2012-2013 in Review

Student Accomplishments

- ★ By June 2013, 95% of our first two graduating classes (2008 and 2009) had received their high school diplomas. This fall, 85% of these graduates were in a two or four-year college or university.
- ★ Every student who graduated from Sisters Academy in the past four years was in high school last year. Of these graduates, 88% attended private, Catholic, or competitive public high schools.
- ★ From the 5th to the 8th grade, students in the Class of 2013 increased their average percentile rank in mathematics by 23 points, from the 44th to the 67th percentile. The Class of 2013 increased their average percentile in language arts by 22 percentile points, from the 40th to the 62nd percentile.
- ★ Uneeke Ferguson '09 was named an Archdiocesan Distinctive Scholar in the spring. Three students from each Catholic high school in the Archdiocese are selected for this honor. Uneeke was also selected as the top scholar-athlete at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. She is now in her first semester at Wheeling Jesuit University.

Program Highlights

- ★ Our theme was "Choose Well! Live Well!" We engaged Revolution Foods as our food service vendor because they support the goals of healthy eating, particularly in urban areas. The company serves fruits and vegetables, whole grain wheat products, and healthy snack alternatives. Our Revolution Foods representative joined us for our own Iron Chef Competition.
- ★ Students extended their learning in science through field trips to the Simulation Lab at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, the National Aquarium, and the Irvine Nature Center. Teachers enhanced our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum through a partnership with the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.
- ★ The Student Advisory Board plans special activities related to school spirit and service. They inaugurated a Student Talent Show for the whole school. Students and families enjoyed seeing the hidden talents of some of the students. One of the service activities was a one-mile "Walk for Boston" to raise funds for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.
- ★ The Coalition of 100 Black Women continued their partnership with Sisters Academy by presenting a series of special workshops for each grade. The eighth grade enjoyed "Girl Talk." The sixth and seventh grades explored "Entrepreneurship." The fifth grade discovered their talents and gifts through "Loving Me."

The Jeanne Bur Fischer Scholarship Fund

Jeanne Fischer loved children. First as a teacher and later as a psychologist in Baltimore City schools, she devoted her life to helping young children. In 2003, she heard about plans to create an independent middle school for girls from low income neighborhoods and asked how she could help with this new and exciting venture. Jeanne contributed faithfully to the annual fund. In her retirement, Jeanne planned to volunteer as a counselor. Jeanne and her friend Martha Oare visited in 2011 as Jeanne's retirement approached. Sister Delia was thrilled at the prospect of Jeanne's presence at the school and the influence she would have on the girls. Sadly, this was not to be. A few months later, Jeanne died of cancer.

The vision, mission, and work at Sisters Academy reminded Jeanne's husband Frank of his own efforts while he was a Jesuit teaching at Loyola Blakefield during the 1960's. The Jesuits offered a Saturday tutoring program for inner city boys and prepared many of them to receive scholarships to Loyola. Their education at a critical time of life helped them grow into successful, productive citizens who continue to be friends with one another and with Mr. Fischer. Frank decided to find a way to enable Jeanne's spirit to accomplish similar goals for girls.

Frank Fischer made the lead gift to create the Jeanne Bur Fischer Endowed Scholarship Fund so that Jeanne's powerful and beautiful spirit would have a tangible effect on the lives of students at Sisters Academy. Frank and Martha invited Jeanne's many friends and family members to contribute to the fund. During 2012-2013, 101 persons made contributions to the Endowed Fund in memory of Jeanne Bur Fischer. Each year, the returns on the invested funds will help educate a student. Year after year, a girl at Sisters Academy will feel intimately and directly the depth of Jeanne's love.



Martha Oare and Frank Fischer with Devian Downing during a recent visit

Student Scholarship Sponsors 2012-2013

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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in honor of Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.

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We would like to thank everyone who has shared in the ministry of Sisters Academy of Baltimore by donating generously to the Annual Appeal, in volunteer hours, and with other gifts and services in support of our students' education. Donors who contributed to the Jeanne Bur Fischer Scholarship Fund have been designated by an asterisk (*) after their name. The complete list of donors can be found on our website.

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~ Christopher Reeve

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~Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?

On October 13, 2012, Sisters Academy hosted a second major fundraising event, "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" at Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College. Local celebrities Dr. James Conneely, Denise Koch, Marc Steiner, and Bernard C. "Jack" Young teamed with 6th graders to answer tough questions about grade school subjects. Caira Lee, Class of 2008, gave an inspirational speech during intermission. Marc Steiner's team, Grand Central Cortex, won the competition.

We are grateful to the Event Committee, our wonderful contestants, our sponsors, program advertisers, and audience. Their contributions helped to raise \$38,000 to educate our students in 2012-2013.

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The next road is always ahead."* ~ Oprah

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~ Joseph Addison

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~ Romans 5:3-5

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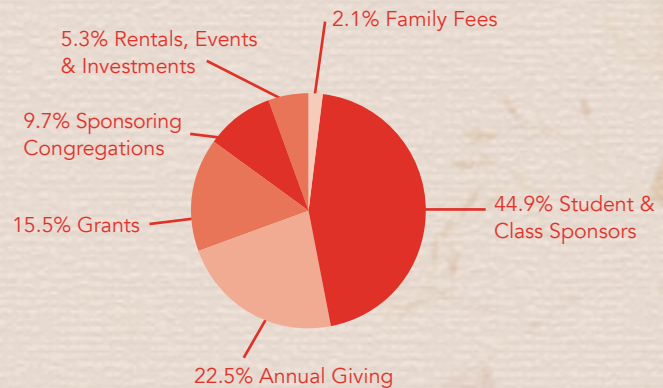
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Sisters Academy of Baltimore is committed to responsible stewardship of all donations received. During 2012-2013, our financial requirements continued to increase as we expanded our instructional program. Our benefactors responded generously through the student scholarship program, the class sponsor program, annual giving, our second "Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?" event, and our "Taste & See" dinner.

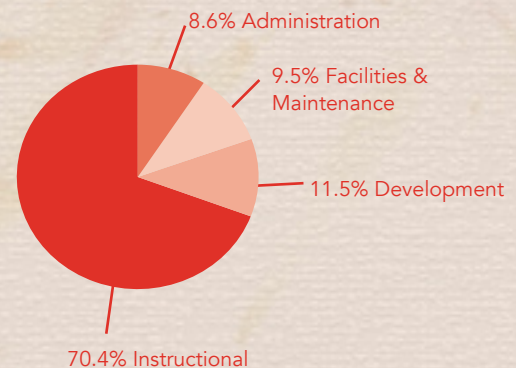
Operating Income 2012-2013

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Student & Class Sponsors | \$438,307 |
| Annual Giving | \$219,660 |
| Grants | \$151,141 |
| Sponsoring Congregations | \$94,820 |
| Rentals, Events & Investments | \$52,174 |
| Family Fees | \$20,055 |
| Total Income | \$976,157 |



Operating Expenses 2012-2013

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Instructional | \$674,873 |
| Development | \$110,106 |
| Facilities & Maintenance | \$91,407 |
| Administration | \$82,722 |
| Total Expenses | \$959,108 |



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, under Publications.

Members, Directors, Staff 2012-2013

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Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

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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

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