

CATHEDRAL

MAGAZINE

A publication of Cathedral School

SUMMER 2023





Photo: Senior class of 2023 outside of St. Mary's Cathedral following Baccalaureate Mass.

Our Mission

Cathedral School is a Catholic learning and faith community that challenges students to strive for academic excellence, to live virtuous lives, and to become responsible leaders in society.

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The Cathedral Magazine is published by the Catholic Community Schools Advancement office and is distributed to alumni, parents, and friends.

To update your contact information or request to be removed from our mailing list, email info@cathedralcrusaders.org

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Message from the Leadership Team

Service is an integral part of our mission

At Cathedral, our educational model uses the teachings of the Gospels to guide our students to live responsible, service-led, compassionate lives. We are reminded that we are all called to follow in Jesus' footsteps; to serve one another and live according to God's will. This year we have seen much evidence that our mission is being lived out in real and impactful ways. What we do at Cathedral really does ripple out into the world. The pages in this magazine illustrate some examples of how we see this every day in large and small ways.

Our mission in action

Service in the Classroom -

Students learn about the importance of giving and sharing their talents within the school and in the larger community. Our service leadership programs reveal that each of us is deserving of God's love, and each of us has something to give.

Inspiring Service from our Teachers -

Teachers are called to teach by example the Christ-like principles our mission is built on. They show this clearly in their dedication to their students and to their field, in their ongoing commitment to professional development, and in their participation in service outreach. One example this year was the Faith in Action day, where 150 of our Catholic Community Schools educators and staff spent a day volunteering at 18 different nonprofits in the St. Cloud area.

Exceptional Service from our Alumni -

The Cathedral community is pleased to hear and share stories about our alumni who have led exceptional lives in service to each other, our country, and the world. The way our graduates live their adult lives reflects the foundational beliefs and attitudes that we strive to instill. What we do here really does make a difference.



Kathy Crispo, James Lalley, and Erin Hatlestad

Unwavering Support from our Community -

Our students had an amazing year, and it's largely due to the fact that we have such an awesome, supportive community of alumni, parishioners, parents, teachers, board members, volunteers, and faith leaders involved at every step. What makes Cathedral truly unique is the dedication of our community's involvement in our students' academic, social, and spiritual lives.

Through your willingness to show up in support of our students by volunteering, participating in silent auctions and fundraisers, and giving generously of your gifts, you are modeling to our students that education is a group effort. We really couldn't do this without you.

We teach our students that no act of service is too small. They may sometimes feel like they are too young to have an impact on the world, but at Cathedral we believe the opposite. We have seen with our own eyes how even the smallest acts of kindness cause rippling effects that create far-reaching impact. A word of encouragement from a teacher can change how a child feels about their ability to learn. A smile from a peer can be the thing that changes the course of someone's day. We see how when we serve others, we in turn are nourished, creating a community of mutual support that strengthens each of us and broadens our impact to create good in the world.

In service to our community,

Kathy Crispo, High School Principal

Erin Hatlestad, Middle School Principal

James Lalley, Assistant Principal

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

Rachel Eickhoff Gross '15



Graduation week was full of anticipation, reflection, laughter, a few tears, and lots of love.

Baccalaureate Mass

Bishop Patrick Neary's homily beautifully connected with our graduates as they embark on a new journey. He shared a quote from St. Catherine of Siena, "Be who God wants you to be, and you will set the world on fire." We believe our graduates are capable of setting the world ablaze with their passion, faith, and many talents.

Bob Karn was the Baccalaureate speaker. Unsurprisingly, he made a baseball reference as a metaphor for our graduates' next steps, comparing their practice of their faith as a "home run" for their future. It was very touching to have Mr. Karn speak to the graduates as he himself "graduates" from teaching at Cathedral.



Kind. Have Fun." Sara provided examples of how her classmates demonstrated this simple phrase, illustrating their acts of kindness, displays of intelligence, and the many connections and friendships they've made over the years.

Graduation Ceremony

Anne (Schleper) Span '08 gave the commencement speech. Anne inspired the graduates as she spoke about the power of a positive mindset. She encouraged the class to avoid the comparison game because God made every one of us in His image. What a great reminder to all of us.

Awards & Salutatorian Speech

On Friday of graduation week, the class of 2023 gathered with their parents to listen to the salutatorian speech and receive various awards and scholarships. This year's salutatorian, Sara Reuter, gave a heartfelt speech that included a phrase her mom always says to her: "Be Smart. Be Safe. Be



*Congratulations to
the Class of 2023!*

May your future be filled with boundless
success, joy, and fulfillment.
You have the power to make a difference.
Go set the world on fire
with the power of your hearts!



CATHEDRAL TOP TEN

Class of 2023

We are proud to announce the
2023 Cathedral Top Ten:

- Alyse Bailey
- Robert Dorn
- Elizabeth Felix
- Kylie Katterhagen
- Cooper Kosiba
- Taylor Kroll
- Samantha Plafcan
- Sara Reuter (Salutatorian)
- Alex Schroeder
- Abigail Schultz (Valedictorian)

**Please note: Students are listed in alphabetical order.*



Alyse Bailey



Robert Dorn



Elizabeth Felix



Kylie Katterhagen



Cooper Kosiba



Taylor Kroll



Samantha Plafcan



Sara Reuter



Alex Schroeder



Abigail Schultz

GRADUATION STATS:

- 101 students graduated in the class of 2023
- 100% graduation rate!
- 68% of students achieved a GPA of 3.75 and higher
- 28% of students achieved a GPA of 3.9 and higher
- 97% of students are attending post-secondary education



Gratitude for Your

Stephanie Stracke

Mrs. Stephanie Stracke is retiring from teaching math at Cathedral after 17 years, and she will be missed! She skillfully lived out our mission of providing academic excellence, and blended her expertise with one of our most important core values: kindness. She made geometry easy and understandable for everyone, and helped kids overcome barriers to learning with her patience and confidence in her students. We are grateful for the impact she has made on the lives of many.



Mary Quick

Mary Quick enters retirement after serving as Cathedral's high school counselor for 17 years. She has mentored thousands of students over the years, assisting them with important decisions for their future. As any parent or educator knows, the years a child spends in high school are highly formative for them, both socially and emotionally. Mary Quick made it her mission to always be there for students, helping countless students navigate life's challenges. We appreciate everything she has done in service to our students!



Eli Stark-Haws '15

We have been blessed to have Mr. Eli Stark-Haws as the middle school science teacher for the past two years. While we are sad to see him go, we are grateful for the impact he made on students during his short time teaching, and we wish him well in his future endeavors. It's not a complete goodbye, either, as he is still remaining as a dedicated gymnastics and track coach at Cathedral!

Service to Cathedral

Bob Karn '59

After 54 years, Mr. Bob Karn is retiring from teaching at Cathedral. A Cathedral graduate of 1959, he started teaching English at Cathedral in 1969 and coaching baseball in 1970, moving quickly to head coach in 1971. He was also the head basketball coach for two stints. The positive impact Mr. Karn has had in the school, on the court, and on the field over the years cannot be overstated. He has been the unwavering backbone of the English department and a mentor for young athletes for over five decades. Students of Mr. Karn will remember his posters of baseball and Einstein, his lecture on transcendentalism, memorizing The Raven, reading books like The Great Gatsby and The Grapes of Wrath, and of course, always relating literature and life to baseball.

"I had the great pleasure of teaching next to Mr. Karn for 12 years (2001-2013). What a great mentor! He was always even-keeled and had great advice for teaching and parenting. I still use his parent-teacher conference advice to this day!" – Michelle DeVries

"I still look up to him to this day. A great coach and an even better man. Thanks Coach Karn for your dedicated years of service, and teaching us so much more than just English!" – Mathew Zimmerman '98

"As a school librarian, I am still encouraging kids to read Flannery O'Connor because of you. Thank you for letting me read everything on your shelves and giving me a Norton Anthology and a dictionary for keeps!" - Danielle (Johnson) Brannan '02



Photo by Dan Nelson

"I came to Cathedral one year after Mr. Karn, and of all the teachers who had a say in who I am today, he was the last remaining - teacher extraordinaire, coach extraordinaire, man extraordinaire - LEGEND!" – Dave Lind '74



Learning to Serve / Serving to Learn

Rachel Eickhoff Gross '15

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

— 1 Peter 4:10, NIV

Service learning is more than just a buzzword or graduation requirement at Cathedral. It's a way of life. The Cathedral school community embraces every opportunity to serve others, for it is in sharing our gifts and serving our community that we feed our hearts and souls and get closer to God. Here are just a few examples of Cathedral students acting as servant leaders this school year.

Serving Catholic Community Schools Elementary Students

Ava Jacobson '23, Priya Nacey '23, and Taylor Schaefer '23 volunteered as teaching assistants at St. Mary Help of Christians School.

"I love volunteering and working at SMHOC because I love getting to know the kids, and they never fail to make me laugh!"

~ Ava Jacobson '23

"I love volunteering at St. Mary's because of all the kids. They always bring joy to my day and make it a thousand times better. If I have a rough day at school, I know that the kids will make my day so much better when I go to work!" ~Priya Nacey '23

"My favorite part about helping at St. Mary's is getting to know all of the students and their different personalities. It's enjoyable to connect with kids much younger than me in the community." ~Taylor Schaefer '23

National Honors Society Blood Drives

The Cathedral chapter of the National Honors Society hosts two blood drives a school year.

"I love hosting the blood drive because it gives students a chance, in a comfortable environment, to establish the practice of donating blood," said NHS advisor Mrs. Frank-Henrichs. *"I love watching students interact with each other and encourage each other when donors are anxious. As a school, we have hosted more than 40 drives and*



collected more than 2100 units of blood. The NHS students who participate in the blood drives have also received thousands of dollars in scholarships, over the years, from the American Red Cross."

Sports and Service

Many of our athletic teams incorporate a service element into their season. Here are a few examples of our athletes serving our community this past year:

Winter Sports

The boys' basketball team collected donations and presented them to the INDY Foundation in memory of Laura Kutzero Gaarder, mother of Cathedral student Emanuel Kutzero '23, who passed away from cancer in 2021. Emanuel shared, *"It was a very fulfilling moment to see the people who recognized my mom's story and be able to give something back to them."*

The dance team hosted its annual Catholic Jamboree, with donations supporting the Patrick McMullen Smile In My Heart Foundation.

Spring Sports

The softball team participated in the Kids Fighting Hunger event sponsored by the United Way of Central Minnesota. One of the junior captains, Avery Polipnick '24, shared, *"It was a great experience to get together as a team for an even greater cause. It felt good knowing that we were helping those in need, especially the kids."*

The track and field athletes volunteered at the annual elementary track and field day, teaching students various techniques and cheering them on throughout the day.

Fall Sports

Both the girls' and boys' soccer teams collected gently used soccer equipment for Right Hand Ministries (RHM), a nonprofit that delivers donations to youth in Uganda. Rochelle Racette of RHM said, *"It truly amazes me how the students of Cathedral come together and give to those they have never met in Uganda! Due to the large amount of donated soccer items, we now have the equipment to expand our Soccer Ministry Program at RHM!"*

The football team had their Tackle Cancer game where they collected over 100 toys for the Patrick R. McMullen Smile In My Heart Foundation. Seniors on the team went to the St. Cloud Hospital to donate and deliver the toys to the pediatric unit. Trevor Fleege '23, one of the team's captains, said, *"It was cool to learn about how our donations are used and how meaningful they are to children just down the road from our school."*

At Cathedral, serving the community and sharing God's love with others is at the heart of all we do. We are proud of our students for making a positive impact on the world around them through service.



You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

— Galatians 5:13, NIV



Volleyball:

Season Record:

21-9

Kayla Sexton '23 set the Cathedral single-match kills record with 28



Fall Activity Highlights



Boys' Cross Country Team:

9th Place at State Griffen Ward '24, Will Kopka '23, and Owen Scanlon '23 - All-State Academics

Girls' Tennis: Season Record: 9-3



Girls' Swim & Dive Team:

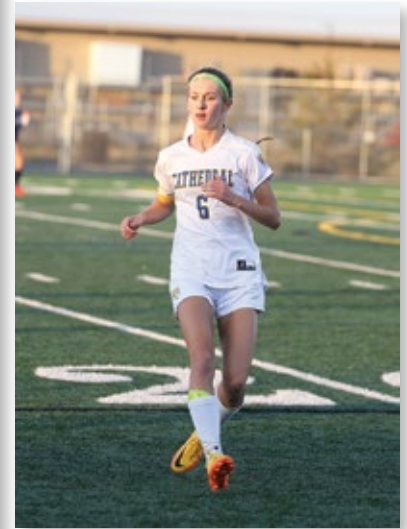
16th Place at State in the 400 free relay
The 200 medley relay set a new school record with a time of 1:51.81 (relay team included: Claire Westling, Izzy Westling, Madelyn Doschadis '23, and Olivia Scheeler '23)



Girls' Cross Country



Girls' Soccer



Boys' Soccer

Girls' Soccer: Season Record 12-4-3, State Participants

Hope Schueller '23 - All-State Athlete; Emily Schaupp '26 - All-State Tournament Team

Boys' Soccer: Season Record: 17-2, State Participants

Jacob Plante '24 - All-State Athlete, All-State Tournament Team

Joseph Torborg '23 - All-State Second Team

Coach Alex Hess '07 earned his 100th career win as Cathedral's head coach during the season.



Girls' Cross Country Team:

2nd Place at State

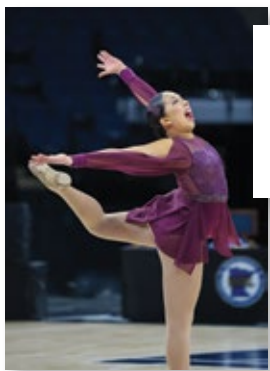
Ella Voit '24 - 11th Place at State,
All-State

Clara Schad '24 - 12th Place at State,
All-State

Football:

Season Record: 1-8



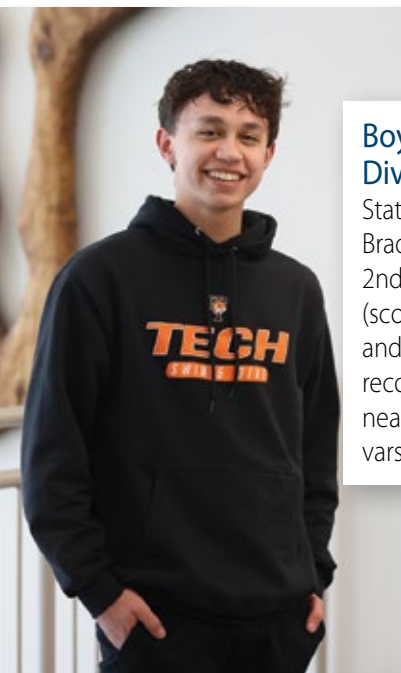


Dance Team: Class A State Championships in Jazz and High Kick (second consecutive year)
Kylie Katterhagen '23 & Rebekah Dobbs - All-Tournament Jazz
Lizzy Eynck '23 & Alyson Schneider '23 - All-Tournament Kick



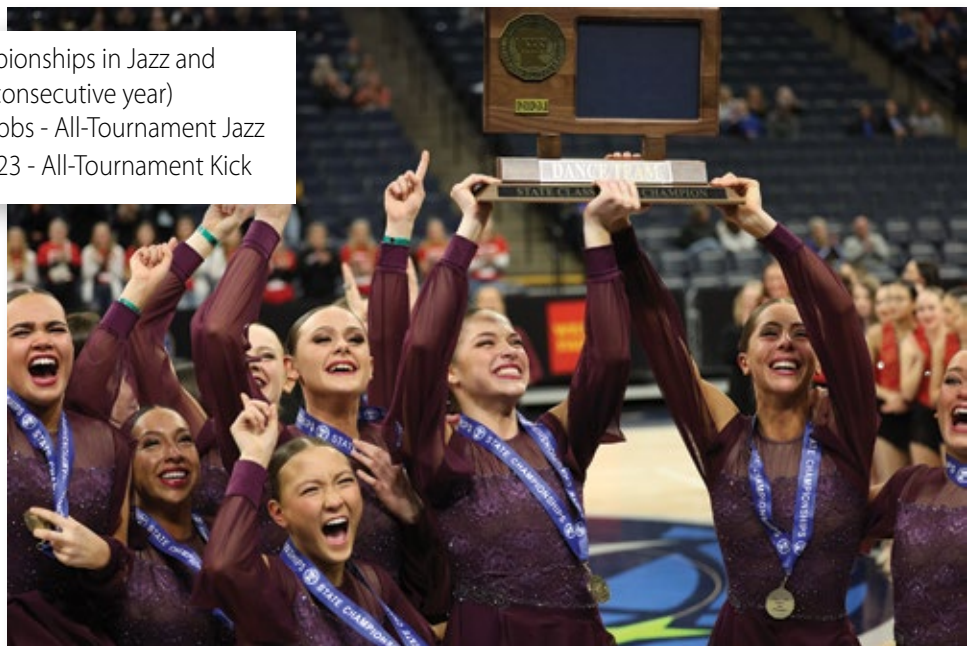
Spring Musical "Once Upon a Mattress"

Musical directed by Jeremy Wollersheim, choral numbers directed by Jonathan Rydberg, and live pit band directed by Donnell Lastine-Chopp.
Senior Leads: Olivia Scheeler '23 and Ryan Heydman '23



Boys' Swim & Dive Team:

State Participants
Braden Lemke '23 - 2nd Place at State (scored 471.95) and broke multiple records including a nearly 50 year old varsity team record



Girls' Hockey: Season Record: 8-18



Winter

Boys' Alpine Skiing:

15th Place at Sections, Jack Wieber '26 - 71st Place

Boys' Nordic Skiing:

6th Place at Sections

Girls' Nordic Skiing:

15th Place at State

Speech Team:

State Participants
Sam O'Brien '23 - 2nd Place at State (*humorous category*)



Boys' Hockey: Season Record: 18-13,
Claimed the Consolation Championship at State



Best of luck to the graduates who are continuing their athletic careers in college, including:

- Jacob Eickhoff '23 - Track & Field - UW-Eau Claire
- Lizzy Eiyneck '23 - Dance - Mankato (*not pictured*)
- Trevor Fleege '23 - Baseball - UW-Eau Claire
- Kellen Kinzer '23 - Football - UND
- Emanuel Kutzera '23 - Football and Track & Field - UW-La Crosse
- Braden Lemke '23 - Diving - University of Minnesota
- Jackson Phillipp '23 - Baseball - Crown College
- Taylor Schaefer '23 - Gymnastics - UW-Stout
- Olivia Scheeler '23 - Swimming and Diving - Gustavus
- Ava Schmidt '23 - Hockey - Endicott College
- Hope Schueller '23 - Track & Field - UW-Eau Claire
- Kayla Sexton '23 - Volleyball - UW-La Crosse
- Joseph Torborg '23 - Lacrosse - Baldwin Wallace University



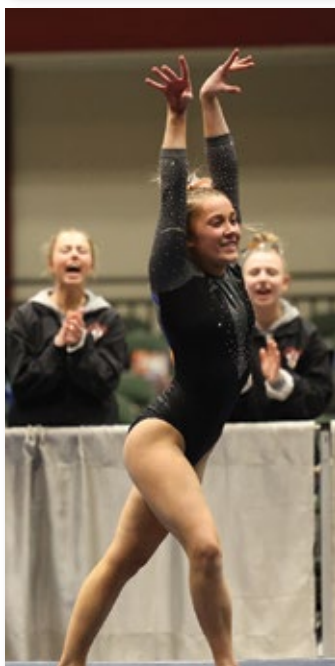
Athletics & Activities



Boys' Basketball:
Season Record: 17-11



Girls' Basketball:
Season Record: 10-17



Gymnastics Team: 2nd Place at State

Taylor Schaefer '23 - All-Around State Champion for 2nd straight year, 1st place in all 4 individual events

Maddie Anderson '24 - 5th Place (beam), 10th Place (floor)

Camryn Balfanz '25 - 32nd Place (floor)



\$194,197
raised at
**Celebration
of Seasons!**

On Saturday, April 29, the Cathedral community came together - to celebrate and support Cathedral with the 15th Annual Celebration of Seasons. We are so excited to report that we raised a record net amount of \$194,197! Thank you to all who contributed to these efforts. This is our most important fundraiser of the year, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Included in this event was the fundraising of nearly \$100,000 of our \$150,000 goal for this year's Fund-A-Need, which will help us replace our theater curtains and give the Center Gym a complete makeover to make the court full length and replace the old bleachers. It's not too late to contribute! Please help us reach our goal so that we may begin these projects.

Check out our Fund-A-Need video, produced by Anderson Hughs Productions and featuring our amazingly talented students and staff, here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4fV4dU_010

To make a Fund-A-Need donation, visit: [https://one.bidpal.net/cos23/browse/donation\(details:item/1\)](https://one.bidpal.net/cos23/browse/donation(details:item/1))

Thank you to our auction donors!

We raised \$30,420 on our silent auction this year - which was by far the highest we've ever raised - and another \$12,400 on the live auction. Thank you so much to all who contributed toward the amazing items this year!

Celebration of Seasons Committee

Special thanks to our Celebration of Seasons committee members, who have already started working on our next event!

Catholic Community Schools Staff: Marit Hartjes Ortega '97, Emily Delano, Mark Dockery, Christina Oliver, Rachel Eickhoff Gross '15

Cathedral Staff: Kathy Crispo, James Lalley, Emmett Keenan, Denise Klein

Volunteers: Libby Auger, Ashley (Fruth) Baldwin '02, Bob Bjornstad, Meghan Dingmann '01, Jeff Hess '86, Dawn (Dingmann) Mathiasen '94, Shannon (DeChambeau) Petroske '88, Tammy Schefers, Nina (Bauer) Steil '88



Celebration of Seasons is getting a name change - and a date change! Join us for our Cathedral Winter Gala, which will be replacing our annual Celebration of Seasons event, on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at The Park Event Center in Waite Park!



Thank you to our 15th annual Celebration of Seasons sponsors!

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Questions about giving? Contact:

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 Catholic Community Schools Office – 207 7th Ave N. St. Cloud, MN 56303

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In Memoriam

Please join the Cathedral community in prayerful memory of deceased alumni, parents and friends.

Eugene '57 Adelman
Donna '48 (Mehwerth) Andes
Charles Arnold
Gregory '69 Bakke
Sr. Joanne '49 Bastien M.M.
Charles Bechtold
Eileen '49 (Falke) Bechtold
Eileen '43 (Opatz) Berger
Janet '63 (Truszinski) Beringer
Donald Bitzan
Kevin '68 Borgert
Joyce '50 (Brunner) Brannan
Dr. Frank Brown
Bette '45 (Kapphahn) Buchanan
Gloria '40 (Reel) Budik
Pat Buttweiler
Doris Carey
Mary Lou '42 (Reel) Colbert
George Courier
Jacquelyn '56 (Theisen) Cronquist
Ray Daleiden
Rose '40 (Ferche) Dooley
Paul '68 Dwyer
Mary Earl
Rosemary '41 (O'Keefe) Ebnet
Patrick '59 Eisenreich
Captain David '52 J. "Ike" Eizenhoefer USN
Patricia '61 (Jenkins) Litzinger
Caroline '62 (Blommer) Erickson
Edwin '42 Fischer
Karen '59 (Weiler) Fladung
Rose '49 (Mueller) Fondell
Gary Formhals
Suzanne '61 (Woods) Fritz
Bernard '42 Gambrino
Floyd '47 Graham
Karlene '52 (Ertl) Greulich
Deborah '75 (Koshiol) Haggard
Vera '41 (Nolen) Hahn
Michael '72 Haley
Pauline Hall
Joseph '63 Hall

Delores '39 (Dominik) Heacock
Dean Heacock
Richard '64 Heltemes
Jerome "Jerry" '73 Hess
Captain Herbert '24 John Hiemenz,
US Navy (Retired)
Donna '66 (Lahr) Hinnenkamp
Dan '66 Hollenhorst
Thomas '65 Jacobs
Delores '51 (Schabel) Johannes
Evelyn "Evie" Faye Karboviak
Tony Keller
James "Ken" '48 Keller
Patricia '50 Kinsella
Mary Ann '46 (Koprek) Kirk
Gary '54 Klein
Colonel Walter '41 Kosel
Marion Koshiol
Kathleen '61 (Schlough) Koshiol
Elaine '58 (Schroeder) Krueger
John Mark Lande
Elizabeth "Betty" '52 (Laudenbach)
Lansing
Daniel '76 Lanz
Donna Larsen
Jerome "Jerry" '51 Larson
Patricia '61 (Jenkins) Litzinger
Margaret '44 (Burns) Lytle
Sarah '66 (Strobel) MacFadden
Virginia '52 (Hagen) Meyer
Lieutenant Colonel Bruce '64 Meyer
Katie Mimbach
David '53 Nearman
Winifred '45 Nieland
Sr. Merle Nolde, OSB
Ralph '43 Opatz
Elaine Orth
Florine '40 (Landsberger) Pawtowski
Michelle '65 (Hahn) Peterson
Marcella '46 (Traut) Piasecki
Chloe Poissant
Doloris '49 (Schneider) Posch

Shirlee '67 (Bruemmer) Prior
Tom Rademacher
Jeannie Rademacher
Rita '46 (Bromenschenkel) Rassier
Eugenio '57 Reichensperger
Ruth Rengel
Thomas '76 Richardson
Bernice Robak
Ralph '47 Rooney
Elliot '53 Rubald
Mike '69 Salaski
Robert '48 Schaefer
Laverne '48 (Danzl) Schille
Charles '51 Schlosser
Dorine Schlosser
Dorothy "Dotty" '55 (Popp) Schmit
Charles '45 Schwankl
Bernice Schwegel
Harriet '46 (Schneider) Shaw
Jim '73 Sisk
Mary Sommers
Joyce '56 (Schwinghammer) Stock
Kenneth '56 Strack
Gary '66 Stuart
Thomas '59 Leon Chance
Joan '41 (Borgerding) Thompson
Sue Thoreen
Donald '58 Tomczik
Margaret '52 (Lauermann) Turlo
Phyllis '61 Umerski
John Undersander
Kathleen '39 (Matter) Valesano
Sr. Jeanne Marie Vanderlinde
Jean Weitzel
Sr. Clare Witzman
Martin '86 Wolle
Bernadine '54 (Gappa) Zerbonia
Wayne '61 Zimmerman

Serving Acts of Kindness - The Courage Award of 1972

Madeline Hartjes '05



Chuck (Wally) Waletzko '73

As reunion weekend approaches and we look forward to catching up and sharing memories, we have a heartwarming story to share with our community that unfolded because of a chance encounter at last year's reunion weekend. The story began 50 years ago when a student showed his classmate unexpected kindness that made a lasting impact. Chuck (Wally) Waletzko '73 reached out earlier this year relating the story to us in an email.

"There was a friend of mine throughout grade school and high school by the name of Pete Steinkopf. He played football and wrestled, and even though he never got to start or letter in a sport, he made up for it with his grit and determination. Inspired by Pete's great attitude, I decided to collect \$0.25 from all of the student athletes with whom he played. I used the money to buy a tall trophy at Fitzharris Athletic Store. At the year-end sports banquet, we surprised him with the trophy which read, "The Pete Steinkopf Courage Award - 1972." He was greatly surprised and most appreciative. I was thrilled to see him honored in this way."

I called up Chuck to gather more information on the inspiration behind his gift, and to ask how he had pulled it off!

"Pete and I knew each other since grade school at St. Paul's," Chuck recounted. "We grew up together. I would see him running laps in the gym in a sweatsuit, working harder than everyone else but without the rewards the natural athletes got. I'd ask him what drove him to continue on. Pete would always say, 'This is my deal. I'm doing the best I can, and that's all anyone can do.'" Chuck knew that in a similar situation he would not have had the same good attitude. He wanted Pete to receive recognition for all his efforts, so he took matters into his own hands.

Chuck went around collecting money from all the athletes. Each pitched in a quarter towards the \$18 needed to buy the trophy. "They were happy to contribute. Pete impacted all of us."

He then contacted the head of the athletic department about the upcoming Letterman's banquet. As a senior, Pete would be receiving a participation award. At the end of the banquet the head of the athletic department read the statement Chuck had written, acknowledging Pete's dedication and hard work, and presented the trophy. It came as a complete surprise, and Pete's parents were so proud to see their son applauded for his strength of character.



Peter Steinkopf '72

The story doesn't end here. Last summer, Pete Steinkopf was attending his 50th year class reunion and happened to see Chuck Waletzko's sister, Kathy McCann, who was in his class. He asked her for Chuck's number. A week later Chuck received a call.

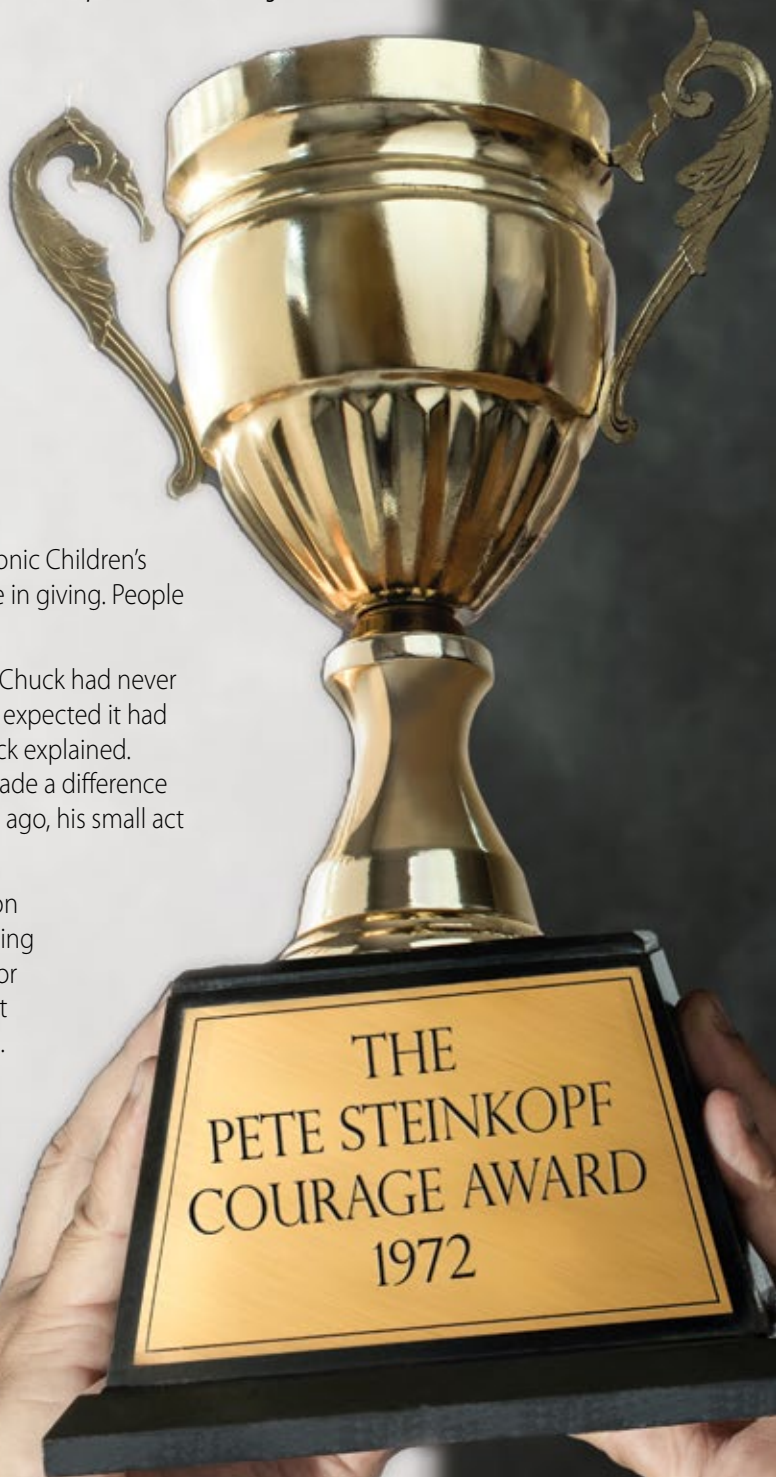
"Pete told me that my act of kindness 50 years earlier had stayed with him throughout the years, and had encouraged him to prevail through many challenges. Whenever he didn't feel up to something, whenever he doubted himself, he would just look at that trophy and remember the Courage Award. And it would inspire him to keep going."

Pete wasn't the only one impacted by the experience. Chuck realized that the courage award was his first foray into raising money for a cause, a passion that would turn into a life-long calling. "The courage award impressed on me that fundraising is about following your heart. I was happy to present the opportunity to make a difference for someone we all cared about." Chuck eventually became the director of fundraising and stewardship for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, allowing him to dedicate himself in service to his faith. Chuck retired 7 years ago due to losing his sight. He feels especially privileged to have been able to raise funds for projects like the Tom Decker





*Cathedral Wrestling Team 1970
Peter Steinkopf: second row - far right.*



memorial in Cold Spring, and the Quin Siemore Chapel at the now Masonic Children's Hospital in the U of M campus. "Fundraising is all about having gratitude in giving. People want to know their life has greater meaning and impact."

Pete gave a great gift back to Chuck by reaching out to him. Until then, Chuck had never known whether the courage award had the impact he had hoped for. "I expected it had sat on a shelf for maybe a year at most, then ended up in a landfill," Chuck explained. "Hearing from Pete after all these years, and that the award had really made a difference in his life, was like a dream come true." It affirmed to Chuck that 50 years ago, his small act of kindness really did make a difference.

While many alumni are looking forward to making connections in person at this summer's reunion weekend, Chuck isn't so sure he will attend. Being blind has its challenges; he wouldn't be able to approach familiar faces or know who he's talking to in a crowded, noisy space. But he's hoping that sharing this story inspires more people to reach out via phone or online. For Chuck, connecting with people one-on-one would be much more meaningful, and much less awkward to navigate.

"No one wants to see me wearing a sandwich board and carrying a white cane!" He laughs. "Wally isn't what he used to be, life serves us a lot of curveballs. I do hope that this story encourages people to connect with each other in a deeper way."

We couldn't agree more. If this story is any evidence, there are great gifts we can receive through reconnecting with friends from our youth. You might just find that the kindness you showed in the past ripples right back to you in unexpected and amazing ways.

Calling all alumni! Inspired by Chuck, we are putting together class directories. Please update your contact information with your preferred email, phone number, and address, and let us know if we have permission to share this info with your fellow classmates, at <https://cathedralcrusaders.org/alumni>. We're hoping that this might open the door for more serendipitous connections to be made, and for us to hear about them!



Alumni Service Award Recipient Ted Bechtold '13

Madeline Hartjes '05

This year, Ted Bechtold '13 was awarded the Alumni Service Award from Cathedral for his remarkable dedication to helping Ukrainian civilians and refugees in need. Ted was teaching in Ukraine when the war with Russia broke out. Amid the chaos and confusion, he felt called to help. He started a nonprofit organization to raise funds and personally deliver food, clothing and other resources to citizens of Ukraine most impacted by the brutalities of the war. With donations primarily coming from family, friends, and parishioners from Ted's hometown parish in St. Joseph, Minnesota, Ted was able to raise over \$100,000 towards his relief efforts.

Ted gave a presentation sharing his experience in Ukraine to students at Cathedral, and another presentation to community members at St. Joseph Parish. St. Joseph, many of whom had contributed to his humanitarian efforts. The audiences listened with great respect for one among us who had willingly put his life on the line to help others. The following is a summary from Ted of the experiences he shared.

In February 2022 Ted was living in Kyiv when Russia first attacked Ukraine. He moved to Romania and spent March through May of 2022 working in a refugee camp. He reached out to his Minnesota community for donations to help refugees, many of whom were former students and their families, flee to safety and relocate to countries in Europe, the US, and Canada. He returned home briefly during the summer months while planning his next steps to help those in need.

Ted and another teacher he had befriended in Ukraine saw the need to get vital supplies to the devastated villages at the frontlines. Together, they founded a charity organization called Atlantic Aid to raise money for the cause. Ted returned to Kyiv in September of 2022 to get started. It was then that Kyiv was first attacked. The Russians dropped dozens of kamikaze drones over the city about once a week, aiming to take out the power grid. "The drones sound like a moped or lawnmower overhead - they say if you hear a moped, take cover." After the attacks, blackouts occurred across the city. Ted's plan was to teach class during the week and deliver supplies on the weekend. Regular power outages forced his class to frequently cancel.

Every Friday through Sunday, he and his friend Andy would go to Kharkiv, a large city about 20 miles from the Russian border, and pack their truck to the brim with a couple thousand pounds of food and supplies. Then they'd spend two days delivering them right to the doorsteps of civilians living amidst the turmoil and wreckage. Often they were driving right into danger. "Our outpost for deliveries was a safe house in Saltivka within Kharkiv. It was the most bombed area in the whole country due to its close proximity to the Russian border." In Kupiansk, just one mile from the Russian front line, they were close enough to be in sniper range of the fighting. "Everywhere we went we could hear drones flying overhead and bombs being dropped." Land mines were also a constant threat.

Many of the villages they went to were recently liberated from Russian occupation. They were the first people to arrive with aid. "The further from the big cities, the fewer other charities you'd find. We were crazy enough to go where no one else would. We'd drive around honking, trying to get people to come out. They were completely terrified. As it got colder we'd look for smoke from the chimneys to see where people were living." After they got to know some locals they



Truck full of bullet holes - village of Hlyboke, close to the Russian border



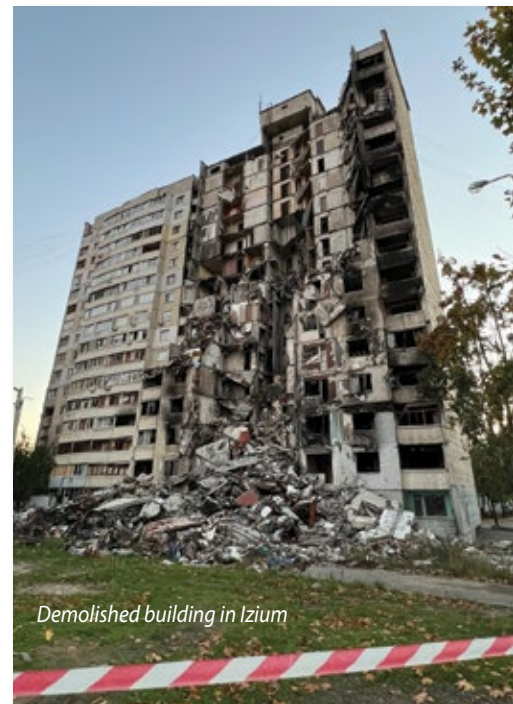
had an easier time finding survivors and getting them to trust that they were there to help. "In the countryside, grocery stores were destroyed, and gas stations too. For many, they had no one else to turn to, nowhere else to go."

One of their biggest projects was helping out in the city of Izium. The pictures of this town, a little smaller than Saint Cloud, were harrowing - almost every building over two stories was damaged. People who survived were scraping together makeshift residences in the ground levels,

getting by without electricity, heat, or water. "The Russians dropped cruise missiles randomly over villages. We'd see places where there used to be a home and now there was just a gaping crater and shards of wood."

Besides the horrific pictures of destroyed villages and homes, Ted also shared stories of the remarkable bravery he had seen. The war has inspired a powerful sense of pride in their homeland as people band together. Their Christian faith also keeps the Ukrainian spirit alive. Ted's team visited a church filled with people praying in Izium, and another site where locals would go to collect holy water. Ted shared stories of survivors who credited Jesus' hand with saving their life. Everywhere he looked there was evidence that the Ukrainian people rely on their faith as a source of strength and hope.

As the war continues on, the needs also shift. Over the winter months, the Atlantic Aid organization partnered with groups in the Netherlands and Poland to provide warm clothes, blankets, and other essentials. His team coordinated with a couple other charities to deliver Christmas presents to children. Now, as the season shifts again, the organization has returned to delivering food and medical supplies.



Demolished building in Izium



Grocery haul in Kharkiv

"The war is changing all the time," Ted said in a recent phone call. "The Russians just bombed a major hydroelectric dam in Southern Ukraine - now my team is helping out people from Kherson, a city nearby, escape to safety as their homes are flooded. We want to be where the need is greatest."

As for what we can do, Ted says the most important thing is to keep the aid coming. "The people of Ukraine are incredibly thankful to the US in particular." Through the Atlantic Aid organization Ted estimates that they have helped over 2,000 families with over 60,000 pounds of supplies. While funding has slowed down, every week Atlantic Aid is still delivering food and supplies to the frontlines. Ted has returned to Minnesota to continue raising funds while others on the team remain in Ukraine delivering supplies. The more money that comes, the more they can do. It remains their priority to follow closely behind the frontline distributing supplies to newly liberated villages.



"The war is horrible. I don't see it ending any time soon, but I'm hopeful that Ukraine will prevail." Ted stresses that staying engaged and aware is very important. The need is still great. He encourages everyone interested to follow the Atlantic Aid on instagram for updates. You can also donate directly to their instagram account at [@Atlantic_Aid](#), or to his paypal at bechtoldted@yahoo.com.



Captain Herbert John Hiemenz '24, US Navy (Retired) 1907-1994

Followed his Call to Serve

Madeline Hartjes '05

In society, we often applaud heroes great and small, from people whose acts of bravery make the news to those whose small acts of kindness cause rippling effects through the community. But how many of us have been blessed to personally know someone that made a lasting mark on the course of history?

Cope Hiemenz knew such a person. It was his father, Captain Herbert Hiemenz, Cathedral class of 1924.

Herbert Hiemenz began his story just like many at Cathedral: a bright student seeking to make his mark in the world. His unique drive and brilliant mind set him apart, leading him to become an Engineering Duty Officer in the US Navy. Herbert was to play a key role for our Country during the deadliest war in history, World War II. He directed the rebuild of the entire Pacific US fleet, turning the tides in our favor. He continued to serve after the war through his expertise in engineering, supervising the construction of the biggest warships yet created.

Herbert grew up in St. Cloud in a family of 13 children at 723 4th Street South. His father, Adam Hiemenz, ran Eddie's Market, the store where you could find "just about everything." Herbert's mother Elizabeth died young, so he and his siblings were raised by his stepmother, Mary. All 13 children went to St. Mary's Elementary and Cathedral High School.

As a student Herbert displayed unusual grit and a drive to make himself known. He was the class salutatorian, editor and bookkeeper of the school newspaper, and writer of the class play. His classmates called him, "The most brilliant of the entire school," Cope remarks. "He had a finger in just about everything." And he had high standards. Cope humorously comments, "He was a tough customer... very particular about making sure things were done right." This trait would serve him well in the years to come.

As an adult Herbert spoke of Cathedral High School with fondness and gratitude. It was in these halls that his passion for science was born. "Dad accredited three spiritual leaders from his youth with helping to shape his future. The support he received from Monsignor Keaveny and his principal Reverend Charles was instrumental in directing him to the

Navy. As for his love of engineering, he attributed that to his science teacher, Sister Bernice."

Following high school, Herbert was nominated by a member of Congress for the U.S. Naval Academy and began his training in 1925. He graduated with distinction and then went aboard the battleship USS West Virginia for his two-year sea duty. After that he completed a postgraduate course in ship construction and finally earned a Master of Science degree in naval construction at MIT.

His first station was in Brooklyn, New York, where he met his wife Margaret. They moved to the San Francisco Bay area where they began their family of four children. It was while he was stationed at Mare Island that the US officially joined the war. The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec 7th, 1941 was meant to cripple our nation's power and spirit. "The US joined the war in a rough position," Cope says. "The attack damaged three-quarters of the entire fleet. Japan's strategy was to render our navy useless before we could even join the war. But they didn't count on what an industrial giant the US is." Herbert Hiemenz, commander at the time, received orders to establish the shipyard at San Pedro, CA. He had to start nearly from scratch. "It was a huge responsibility. Dad was overseeing 26,000 men running the shipyard. They were building submarines, tenders, troop ships, aircraft carriers, you name it, like crazy. The US Navy nearly tripled in size by the end."

Japan did not have the same access to resources and building power, and eventually their navy was spread too thin. For a war that was largely fought at sea, Herbert Hiemenz's efforts were crucial to a positive outcome. He was awarded a letter of commendation for his exceptional work during the war from the first United States Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal. He was also appointed captain soon after at an extraordinarily young age.

After the war, Captain Hiemenz was



Captain Herbert Hiemenz



Hiemenz Family

**Senator Theodore F. Greene
and Capt. Herbert Hiemenz**

repositioned wherever the need for his expertise was greatest. He served in a variety of naval engineering and construction jobs in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, joined the Bureau of Ships in D.C. responsible for the planning and development of the fleet, and then became supervisor of shipbuilding

at the Newport News shipyard. There he oversaw the construction of the largest supercarriers to date, coined the "floating cities." The supercarriers were a new development in defense, designed to be portable airfields bringing navy aircraft within striking distance of any foe. "During wartime, these ships would have crews of around 5500 sailors," Cope describes. "They had a barber, laundry, soda fountains, you name it. They had to live on them for months."

Creating the floating cities was a remarkable feat in engineering. A quote from Captain Hiemenz illustrates his work:

"You keep so in touch with the construction of the ship that it becomes a part of you."

Even after he officially retired from the navy in 1959, the captain didn't slow down. He stayed on as chief inspector at the Newport News shipyard for another 10 years, then became public relations manager at Horne Brothers shipyard. Although his excellence in his work was undeniable, he was always modest in his attitude, asserting that the credit for his successes belonged to the team effort of many.

The busy captain made sure to make time for his family. Cope has many fond memories of his dad from his childhood: visiting Minnesota for fourth of July barbecues at the family cabin on Grand Lake, catching frogs for fishing bass, and visiting with his many cousins. Captain Herbert Hiemenz always maintained a strong connection to his roots in Minnesota. A particularly charming newspaper article from the St. Paul Pioneer Press in 1956 captures Captain Hiemenz's humor in its opening paragraph: "Looking over more than a thousand feet of flight deck one day last summer, the Navy captain listened to the busy sounds of workmen completing two years' work on the big hull, and said, 'Doesn't look as though there will be much doing until she is floated. I think I'll go fishing.'"

Captain Hiemenz died at the age of 87 and was laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery with full military funeral honors as a national hero. Along with his great service to his country, he left his mark on his communities, his friends, and family. We are especially proud to tell the story

of this alumnus who accredited Cathedral with being a leading influence on his future career. Captain Herbert Hiemenz's unique brilliance, drive, and determination inspire us all to joyfully pursue our own path in our calling to serve others.

**Special thanks to Cope Hiemenz for sharing his father's story. Cope still lives in Newport News, and can see the historic supercarrier the USS Enterprise his father built near his home.*



Your Vision Sustains Our Excellence

The Cathedral Education Foundation is an independent, 501(c)(3) charitable trust that exists to support Cathedral through endowed funds. It was formed in 1978 by members of the community who saw the value that Cathedral brought to our community and wanted to ensure that Cathedral remained a strong, vibrant, and growing educational institution for youth well into the future. The endowed funds retain their principal, with distributions from earnings supporting Cathedral families, teachers, and programming. Your gifts to The Cathedral Education Foundation will have a lasting impact on the school and community for generations to come.

Cathedral Scholarship Fund

Gifts of any amount to the Cathedral Scholarship Fund are endowed funds that provide financial assistance to qualified families in the form of tuition scholarships. With a growing number of Cathedral families requiring tuition assistance (over 33%), these scholarship funds are crucial to making Cathedral an accessible and affordable option for all. *Opportunities exist to create named scholarship endowment funds.



Cathedral Teacher Fund

Gifts of any amount to the Cathedral Teacher Fund are endowed funds that provide educators with funding for professional development opportunities, competitive wages, and reasonable benefits. As we face a national teacher shortage, Cathedral recognizes that we must provide fair and competitive wages and benefits to our educators if we want to recruit and retain the best. *Opportunities exist to create named teacher endowment funds.

Cathedral Endowed Fund

Gifts of any amount to the Cathedral Endowed Fund are unrestricted, providing Cathedral with earned income each year to put towards best use as determined by Cathedral leadership. These funds give the school maximum flexibility to accomplish strategic priorities and sustain the excellence of its programs. *Opportunities exist to create named unrestricted endowment funds.

Donor Designated Named Funds

Donors may establish a fund in their name with a minimum gift or multi-year pledge of \$25,000. Donor Designated Named Funds have the flexibility to distribute both interest and principal to a designated use in accord with the donor's intent at the time the fund was established. Donor named funds may be:

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- designated to student scholarships, providing tuition assistance to families in need, or
- designated to teacher development, recruitment, and retainment.

Donor Designated Named Funds often reflect the area the donor wishes to designate funds to for example: Donor Designated Named Funds often reflect the area the donor wishes to designate funds to within their name, such as, "The Smith Family Scholarship Fund," or "The Doe Family Teacher Fund."

The Cathedral Education Foundation has over 130 Donor Named Funds set up by individuals, families, organizations, and alumni classes, all working in perpetuity to ensure the long-term stability and permanency of Cathedral. These endowed funds are managed ethically and responsibly by a dedicated Board of Trustees.

To set up a Donor Designated Named Fund, contact Mark Dockery at **(320) 257-2139** or **mdockery@catholiccommunityschools.org**

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The Cathedral Education Foundation is the single most important resource for tuition assistance, helping families with qualified need make their dream of attending Cathedral School a reality. I am committed to helping The Foundation grow so that it can continue to offer financial support to families, educators, and school programming for years to come."

~ Paul Pfannenstien, Cathedral Education Foundation Trustee Chair

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Need to update your contact info?

Visit www.cathedralcrusaders.org/alumni or
email info@cathedralcrusaders.org.

*We welcome all alumni and your families to
return to Cathedral for Reunion Weekend!*

AUGUST 11-13, 2023

*Take a walk
down memory lane!*

Friday, August 11, 4-8 pm: All Class Social,
Cathedral North Building

Saturday, August 12, 10 am: 40th and Beyond Brunch,
11-2 pm: Campus Tours

Sunday, August 13, 9:30 am: Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral



For the latest details on reunion weekend, and to update your contact information, visit:

www.cathedralcrusaders.org/alumni/ or call (320) 257-2121.

Cathedral is working on putting together class directories, so in addition to updating your preferred phone, email, and address, please also indicate if you are comfortable sharing your contact info with your classmates.

Help us keep in touch with you! Please update your contact information with your preferred email, phone number, and address at <https://cathedralcrusaders.org/alumni>