

CEF IMPACT REPORT

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

CEF IN '21

- ▶ Nearly **1,500 students** living at or below the poverty line are benefiting from CEF scholarships.
- ▶ **25 Catholic schools** in the Archdiocese are supported by CEF scholarships.
- ▶ **1 in 3 students** at these schools rely on CEF scholarships.
- ▶ **99%** of CEF scholarship recipients graduate from high school.
- ▶ **74%** of CEF scholarship recipients come from **minority backgrounds**.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE STABILIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Catholic Education
FOUNDATION

CTK

Support for low-income families makes a distinguishing impact

For decades, the Catholic Education Foundation's scholarship programs have helped Catholic schools open their doors to families most in need, bringing equity of opportunity through high-quality education. Last March, these scholarships became more vital than ever before – and the resolve of CEF donors followed suit.

An answer to the pandemic

“When parents called to tell principals they couldn’t afford to send their children back last fall, CEF gave the principals an answer,” said Dr. Vince Cascone,

the Superintendent of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. “For many schools, CEF scholarships have made the difference.”

Thanks to generous support of donors, CEF was able to approve 110 Guardian Angel emergency assistance scholarships and more than 90 additional tuition assistance scholarships to help families directly impacted by the pandemic.

“These scholarships have helped stabilize many of our schools by providing a bridge for families most in need,” said Dr. Cascone, noting that the majority of CEF

schools serve inner-city or rural communities.

A lifeline for low-income families

“These scholarships meant that families most acutely impacted would be able to stay within our communities,” said Cathy Fithian, principal of Christ the King Catholic School in Kansas City, Kansas. “They’ve allowed families to focus on putting food on the table, and educators to focus on preparing a safe and successful fall semester for their children.”



Students at Resurrection Catholic School in KCK receive individualized instruction.

The fourth quarter of 2020 brought record-breaking donor generosity, helping CEF continue the new crisis relief scholarship support into the spring. Principals say this support reaches beyond the schools' front doors.

said Nick Anderson, principal of Holy Family Catholic School in Topeka. "They experience selfless love, genuine faith, and one-on-one attention to their spiritual and emotional needs."

"We have many children who come from difficult and chaotic homes who get many of their physical needs met by our school community,"

A bright horizon

As principals begin enrollment for the fall semester, many are looking forward with optimism, expecting modified distancing restrictions to allow additional students into classrooms. Many CEF schools anticipate the largest enrollment increase in years.

"We don't fully know what impact 2020 will have on the years ahead," said Dr. Cascone. "But we do know CEF scholarships are effective in stabilizing schools. And our lowest income families know that CEF has their back."

BUCKING THE NATIONAL TREND

CEF schools are a statistical bright spot among U.S. Catholic schools

Catholic schools have made headlines this year for maintaining academic progress, with in-person learning becoming one of the greatest success stories of this school year. But based on the National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) annual report, the most promising success of CEF schools may have been their ability to maintain stable enrollment, bucking a national trend among Catholic schools.

A few highlights are below:

- ▶ **Enrollment**
Nationwide: **6.4% decrease**; largest decrease in over 50 years.
CEF schools: **2.9% decrease**
- ▶ **School closures**
Nationwide: Approximately **200** Catholic elementary schools closed permanently last year, disproportionately impacting inner-city, low-income, and minority populations.
CEF schools: **No school closures** in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.
- ▶ **The year ahead**
Nationwide: More school closures are expected due to finances.
CEF schools: Principals are anticipating their largest enrollment increase in years.

While a deeper dive into the stories behind the numbers will be needed in order to paint the full picture of 2020's impact, reports from CEF school principals and families make one thing clear: the CEF scholarship model has had an immense impact on schools' ability to meet financial obligations this year.



After nine years at Christ the King Catholic School in KCK, CEF scholars Adrienne and Andrea Ruby are preparing to enter high school next fall as leaders academically, athletically, and in their faith community. "I believe that the girls coming to Christ the King has been the single best decision I've made for them," said their mother Jodi.

To watch the full story, visit cefks.org.



HEAR IT FIRSTHAND

From donors & scholars

"We've discovered several ways to support CEF. You can make traditional cash gifts, use a Donor Advised Fund, donate stocks or life insurance, or use CEF's Kansas income tax credits. All options can put you in a better position tax-wise, and will help low-income students."

Roy & Bobbie Messick, Church of the Nativity

“Students who benefit from the scholarships provided by CEF are important to the rich tradition of our schools. A Catholic education is more than just classrooms and books. It's about the community and the values instilled in our students.”

Sarah & Kevin Dee, St. Agnes Catholic parish



THE NEXT GENERATION

CEF's young professionals have a passion for paying their blessings forward

For CEF's young professionals group, it's all about community. Supporting the communities that formed them, building a faith-filled community of peers, and investing in opportunities for the generation that follows.

CEF Futures is a group of young professionals in their mid-20's to late 30's, many alumni of Catholic schools, committed to promoting CEF's mission.

The group plans social and volunteer activities to benefit the Guardian Angel Fund, providing emergency scholarships for families facing a short-term crisis

that impacts their ability to keep up with tuition payments.

"I got involved with CEF to provide a better future for the next generation," said Chris Miller, co-chair of the Futures Leadership Council.

"There are so many Catholic young adults who want to pay forward some of the opportunities

they've been blessed with, and CEF Futures is focused on providing the critical support of those opportunities for students in need."

CEF Futures members paint the John Paul II Catholic School gym in Overland Park.





SAVE THE DATE FOR GAUDEAMUS

Mark your calendar to join us on **Saturday, October 23rd, 2021** for our annual benefit gala.

More details coming soon. For the latest, visit cefks.org/events.

Seventh graders at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School in Topeka create models of cells in science class.

GET INVOLVED

CEF is working hard to bring equity of opportunity to families in need across the Archdiocese, and there are many ways you and your family can help.

- ▶ **Join the CEF Futures Young Professionals**
CEF invites all philanthropically-minded 20-40 year olds to join the CEF Futures. To learn more, contact Amy Meara at ameara@archkck.org.
- ▶ **Sign up to become a volunteer**
CEF is welcoming new members for our committees and for various outreach initiatives. Check out our website at cefks.org/getinvolved to learn how you can help.
- ▶ **Support CEF with a tax-advantaged donation**
Consider making a gift of stock or an IRA distribution to support Catholic education. You can also direct gifts from your life insurance policy, family trust or donor advised fund. Contact Libby Knox at lknox@archkck.org to learn more.

To stay in the know about all of the ways you can support CEF, connect with us on social media, or visit cefks.org to join our email list.

SCHOOLS ARE ENROLLING NOW

If you or someone you love is considering Catholic education, don't wait. Find out today if a CEF scholarship can open the door to excellent, in-person learning in a supportive, faith-filled environment for your child. Visit cefks.org to learn more.



The Catholic Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 serving the Archdiocese of Kansas City in KS, providing need-based scholarships for students to attend K-12 Catholic schools.

"88% of our students receive free and reduced-price lunch. CEF scholarships are incredibly valuable for our school families."

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*Cally Dahlstrom, Principal
Our Lady of Unity Catholic School, KCK*

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