

Where Does the Gala Money Go?

Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the annual St. Catherine Laboure Gala has endured as an elegant, exciting, and unifying way to help our schoolchildren, with special emphasis on families in need and those with special needs.

Each year, through the touching generosity of so many advertisers, corporate sponsors, auction donors, and attendees -- coupled with the remarkable volunteer efforts of the Friends of St. Catherine -- the Gala's bottom line has grown significantly over the years. Thanks to the Gala's enormous success and these open hearts, more than \$815,000 has been raised, and the children of St. Catherine's are enjoying a safer, more modern, and more academically rigorous environment as a blessed consequence.

The 2000 gala's founding organizers included Cathy and George Sweeney, Ed and Jodi Marsico, Tom and Colleen Weber, Joe and Michelle Pease, and Mark and Diane McNaughton.

The 2018 Gala was led by Colleen Formica and Jennifer McNaughton, with decorating chairs Kerry Dietrick and Rose Norton, who were supported by dozens of talented volunteers who seem to make magic happen every year.

In consultation with Father Sullivan, the School's Principal and Parish Manager, the Gala's proceeds are directed to the most pressing needs of the School each year.

The Gala's hard-earned dollars are divided as follows:

--10 percent is donated to the Father Curtis Delarm Scholarship program, to provide tuition assistance to families who desire a Catholic education for their children but who are struggling to manage the cost of tuition,

--10 percent is donated to the Christian McNaughton Endowment Fund, a FOCUS fund at the Diocese maintained for the future needs of the School, and

--80 percent is devoted directly to the School's immediate academic, technology and infrastructure needs.

Last year, the Gala generated net income of \$55,500.00.

In keeping with the mission, \$5,550.00 (10%) was devoted to the Father Delarm Scholarship;

Another \$5,550.00 (10%) was devoted to the Christian McNaughton Endowment Fund at the Diocese.

The remaining \$44,450.00 was used to continue the Friends of St. Catherine's long-term mission to promote and support technology programs and to meet other essential needs of the School. Funds raised at the 2018 Gala were used to continue the iPad program and to sustain technology licensing and support. Gala earnings were also used to make important safety and security enhancements to the School campus. In addition, 2018 Gala funds were used to modernize aging infrastructure within the School building which included significant upgrades and replacement to the HVAC systems.

The 2019 Gala, which will be the 18th annual event, is scheduled for February 9, 2019. The Gala has a funding goal of \$70,000.00 or more to continue to meet the ever-growing needs of the School and to further the Gala Committee's desire to support new and innovative programs.

The founders of the Gala, and those who have inherited the torch, are so grateful for the generosity of so many, which has allowed these charitable funds to grow and do good works. We cannot thank you enough for empowering St. Catherine's to better teach minds, form hearts and grow disciples of Christ.

God bless you richly.

The Friends of St. Catherine Laboure School

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