

2017-2018  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
INSIDE



# DePaul CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL MATTERS



**COMING  
IN 2020**

DePaul  CRISTO REY

## Capital Campaign Near Goal as Campus Transformation Underway

Spurred by the incredible momentum of the past months, DePaul Cristo Rey has experienced two astounding milestones. The first is the start of construction with the foundation and walls already visible for the first of the two new buildings anchoring the campus transformation. The second milestone is that the capital campaign funding this transformation is almost at its \$20.2 million goal – a mere 15 months after its launch.

Support for the **Building. Futures. Together. For a Greater Cincinnati Campaign** has come from many sectors – individuals, foundations including the **SC Ministry Foundation**, board members, companies, the Cristo Rey Network, and New Market Tax Credits. This generous response led campaign leaders to encourage gifts to push past the goal. “We are overwhelmed and grateful for the gifts we’ve received so far,” says **S. Jeanne Bessette**, DPCR President. “We are now seeking an additional \$500,000 in gifts to enable us to fund items

beyond the scope of the original plans. These include a fully integrated AV system for the new student center, additional food service equipment and security measures, as well as upgrades to the exteriors of the current buildings to match the new construction.”

The campaign began quietly in August 2017, went public with a May groundbreaking, and accelerated as **Messer Construction** crews began turning the school’s main parking lot into the new cafeteria/gymnasium/student center. That project is on schedule for a spring 2019 completion, and then crews will move immediately into the second phase – construction of a new three-story academic building. The project is designed by **CR architecture + design**.

To learn more about supporting the capital campaign, contact S. Jeanne Bessette at 513.861.0600 or [jeanne.bessette@dpcr.net](mailto:jeanne.bessette@dpcr.net).

# Innovative Program and Fund Support Bruin Grads

Books, bus cards, meal plans, small tuition gaps and room and board deficits. **Larisa Wright** has seen any one of these often unexpected expenses derail students' college plans. As DPCR's director of graduate success, she is the primary liaison, advocate and cheerleader for our alumni in their quest to complete college. "I call myself a traveling student success office as I offer academic support but so much more to keep our graduates enrolled in college," she explains.

DPCR began its Graduate Success Program on a small scale after the first class graduated in 2015. It quickly became apparent that there was a need for significant financial support and a full-time staff person as these first graduates and those in the next three classes faced the realities of college, most as first-generation college students.

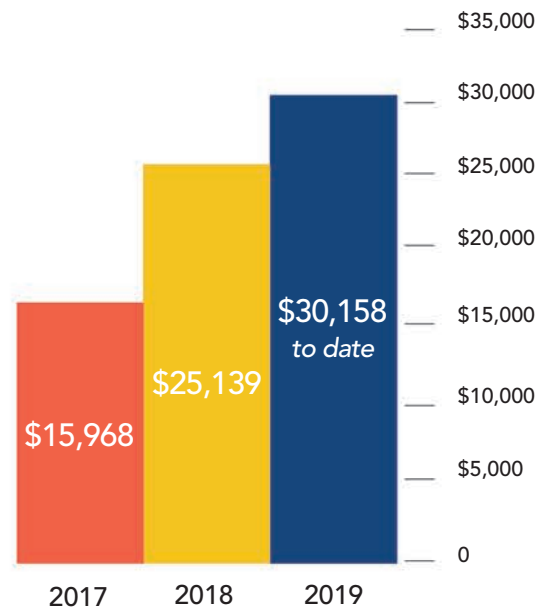
"Data shows that, for a number of reasons, the national college graduation rate is low for low-income/first-generation students," Larisa explains. "Financial concerns, limited family support, and lack of access to resources are all factors that have been identified as barriers to these students' success," she says.

"The goal of our program is to improve the college graduation statistics for our alumni by helping them access the campus resources available to them and to teach them self-advocacy," she says. "I also help them apply for DPCR mini-grants to fill in the funding gaps some of their families simply can't afford."

Larisa visits students on their campuses, both locally and out of town, bringing encouragement, care packages and real advice. "In August, I met one of our graduates at UC Blue Ash College because she had received a mini-grant to pay for her books," Larisa explains. "While I was there, I connected with four other students – two needed help to pay for books and the other two needed scheduling advice that resulted in appointments with their academic advisors."

In the past three years almost \$71,000 has been awarded in alumni mini-grants mostly for tuition, living expenses and books. For our graduates each grant can be the difference between staying in college or dropping out, as **Dominesha**, Class of 2015, explains. "I don't know what I would do without DePaul. The grant for my tuition gap allowed me

## \$ Graduate Success Disbursements



to start the semester on time and I'm one step closer to graduating. I feel like right now you all are my only supporters."

## Graduate Success Fund Is Next Campaign Phase

The next phase of the **Building. Futures. Together. For a Greater Cincinnati Campaign** seeks to provide a consistent, sustainable source of funding for the Graduate Success Fund. Since its inception in 2016, the fund has disbursed almost \$63,000 in mini-grants to alumni. As our pool of graduates grows, so will the need for more resources as they enter and persist through college. This phase has a \$4 million goal to provide a consistent, sustainable source of funding for this critical alumni priority. We hope to generate a minimum of \$120,000 a year to support our alumni.

If you'd like to learn more about how to support the Graduate Success Fund, please contact **S. Jeanne Bessette** at 513.861.0600 or [jeanne.bessette@dpcr.net](mailto:jeanne.bessette@dpcr.net).



# Barbara Bennie Receives First Founders Leadership Award



Longtime volunteer and former Board of Directors Chair **Barbara K. Bennie** is the first recipient of the Founders Leadership Award. This award honors someone specially connected to DePaul Cristo Rey whose leadership demonstrates the inspiring qualities of St. Vincent de Paul, the school's

namesake, and the school's founders, the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**. Those qualities are service, charity and a passion for the mission.

Mrs. Bennie became a volunteer in 2009, before DePaul Cristo Rey even opened. Her early efforts included everything from clerical tasks to connecting the president to influential community members. When DPCR opened in 2011, she was named to the Board of Directors, eventually becoming board chair. During her tenure, strategic and master planning led to the current campus expansion initiative, the launch of the first capital campaign, and the start of construction. Her work continues on the Capital Campaign Leadership Team.

She was recognized during the annual Founders Day Mass, celebrated on September 27, the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul.

## New School Logo, Uniforms Reflect Students' Professionalism and Growth

DePaul Cristo Rey students have new uniforms that include the school's new logo. School leaders chose a more streamlined, professional uniform to showcase students on campus and as young professionals in the Corporate Work Study Program.

The uniforms include the new DPCR logo, researched and created by CWSP Partner, **FRCH Design Worldwide**. Through meetings, research and student and staff focus groups, the FRCH team developed the new logo design which they christened "growth." Here's how the designers explain it, "Taking a lesson from the upturned leaves of plants as they grow and transform, the design celebrates students' individual growth and personal confidence developed through academic achievements."

We think it also resembles an open book, a bird in flight and our initials, D and P. The logo also includes a cross to represent the faith-based mission of the school and its sponsor, the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**.



## Grad's Path Leads Toward Ministry



"For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" This is one of **Chris Mester's** favorite Bible verses, and it's fitting as he describes his evolution as a college student, man of faith and aspiring pastor.

Chris, a 2016 DPCR graduate, received the Credo Perago Floreo Award at DPCR's 2016 commencement. The award recognizes the graduating senior who has shown the most academic, professional and personal growth over four years at DPCR. Chris, now a student at the University of Cincinnati, continues to demonstrate persistence and maturity which have helped him discover new paths in college.

"The transition to college was pretty rough at first," he recalls. He lived on campus and started as a biology major, before changing to criminal justice. "There are challenges going into college and as an adult, you have to figure them out on

your own," he says. "One day I was walking near campus and saw Crossroads Uptown church. I had felt that I needed to start going to church again so I went in. The community there welcomed me and I fell in love with it. Everything has changed since then."

Chris has become active in Campus Outreach, a ministry for college students, and spent this past summer in Sandusky, Ohio, with other students learning ways to share his faith. He's now living with his family to save money as he continues pursuing his UC degree with an eye to the future. "When I graduate I want to go into ministry and be a pastor. I hope to eventually pursue a master's in divinity degree," he shares.

Chris says his greatest accomplishment in college so far is that, "I've found my calling. My grades are good, I've matured a lot and everything is going well. I'm on the path to what I want to do and life's good."

## Teachers Among "The Best of the Best"



Three DePaul Cristo Rey educators have been recognized among "The Best of the Best" in **Cincy Magazine's** 2018 Outstanding Educators Recognition Program. They were highlighted in the magazine's August/September issue. The 2018 DPCR honorees include English Teacher **Pat Brennan** (left), Math Teacher **Dominic Masotti** (right) and Religion Teacher **Julia Sandmann**.



# Champions of Change Generously Support DePaul Cristo Rey



*The Champions of Change Table Captains.*



*Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley told the students, "I think you work harder than most high school students I know."*

"I can't think of many projects as worthy of support as DePaul Cristo Rey. The education of the whole person - mind, body and spirit is so important." With these words Cincinnati **Mayor John Cranley** helped set the tone for the spirit of generosity that flowed through DPCR's first Champions of Change Fundraising Luncheon.

sponsor today is opportunity... your sponsorship isn't about pulling people up, it's about placing them shoulder to shoulder to compete in the game of life."



*Table Captain Andrew Horning of Quotient with DPCR students Happy '21 (left) and Donald '20 (right), both work at Quotient through the Corporate Work Study Program.*

Led by a dedicated group of table captains, the Champions of Change luncheon introduced new friends to DPCR and raised almost \$80,000 in one hour. The table captains, young professionals from around the community who believe in the school's mission, each invited guests to learn more about DPCR and pledge support.

Guests heard not only from the mayor, but from DPCR graduate **Deanna Wilson '15** who's on track to graduate from college in 2019, as well as table captain **Nick Reilly of HORAN Capital Advisors** who closed the program with the powerful message, "DePaul Cristo Rey isn't a charity. The beneficiaries of this mission, our students, aren't devoid of smarts or determination. What they lack is the right opportunity and most importantly, that's what they ask for. What you



*Mary Lynn and Joe Sunderman, Sr., were guests of their son, table captain, Joe Sunderman, Jr. (not pictured). Shown behind them are Marianna '20, Sister Jeanne Bessette, and Deanna Wilson '15.*



# School Missions, Students Are Similar – Half a World Apart

*By Maggie Bell, Social Studies Teacher*



This past summer I was lucky enough to travel to the Shanti Bhavan School located in Baliganapalli, Tamil Nadu, India. I first heard of Shanti Bhavan from the Netflix documentary *Daughters of Destiny* which chronicled the experiences of several of the school's students. The school's mission is to break the cycle of poverty by empowering children from India's lowest socioeconomic classes. I was floored by the girls featured in the documentary, and struck that the school's mission closely mirrors that of DePaul Cristo Rey. By the end of the second episode I was already filling out my volunteer application!

After an interesting introduction to international travel, I made it to the school where I met the administrators, teachers, aunties (women who help raise and take care of the children), volunteers, and, of course, the students. The sense of community was palpable and I was immediately taken in by every person on campus. This especially helped as I tackled classes I would have never dreamed of teaching. Sixth and eighth grade Indian History was a challenge, but nothing compared to 12th grade English Literature, fourth grade

Creative Writing or third grade Computers! This was on top of the extracurricular activities such as PT (which is like recess/P.E. classes), Girls Club, and trivia competitions. Though it was stressful, the support of my fellow volunteers, teachers, family and friends back home, and students got me through. I was stretched both professionally and personally, and I wouldn't change that for the world.

Now back home in the States, I try to keep the lessons and memories of Shanti Bhavan part of my daily life. I keep finding myself smiling with the thoughts of playing soccer with the girls (they were very patient with me), eating dinner with the fifth graders, dancing with the students and volunteers at graduation, and the individual conversations I had with so many incredible people. I have incorporated my SB students' name cards into my DPCR classroom decoration to help keep my experience present, and remind myself how similar our students are even though they exist on the other side of the world.



# Bruins Go Beyond School Borders

Service to others is a DePaul Cristo Rey value. Service opportunities are embedded in the religion curriculum, offered as after-school and weekend options, and encouraged within students' own families, churches and communities. As DPCR service opportunities continue to grow, more students applied for summer 2018 service experiences than spots available.

## 1. NAZARETH FARM

In June Assistant Principal **Kerrie Katsetos** (second from right) and Spanish Teacher **Michael Delaney** (far left) accompanied five students to Nazareth Farm in rural West Virginia where they worked with other high school students on home repairs in the community.



## 2. ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Social Studies Teacher **Michelle Semancik** accompanied four students on a weeklong July immersion experience through St. Vincent de Paul in Cincinnati. The students served around Cincinnati at a food pantry, furniture bank, community garden, and homeless shelter.



## 3. SOUTH DAKOTA

Teachers **Katie Hoekzema** and **Julie Murray** drove cross-country with four DPCR students in July to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota for the Re-Member service experience. There they built and delivered bunk beds, skirted trailers and built a community garden while learning about the culture and history of the Lakota people.



## Greater Cincinnati's Youngest Professionals Join the Workforce



Shortly after the new school year began, DePaul Cristo Rey students began a new year of the Corporate Work Study Program becoming Greater Cincinnati's youngest professionals.

By the time the new year of CWSP got underway, freshmen and new students had already completed the two-week CORE summer orientation and job training program (Corporate Office Readiness Enrichment).

Six new Corporate Partners joined the program this year including:  
**Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**  
**Cincinnati State Technical and Community College**  
**Episcopal Retirement Services**  
**Quotient Technology Inc.**  
**St. Francis Seraph Ministries**  
**Verst Logistics**

DPCR is grateful to these current CWSP Partners who have increased the number of student employees at their organizations for this school year:

**Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** from four to eight students.  
**Cincinnati Union Bethel** from two to six students.  
**KDM POP Solutions Group** from two to three students.  
**Mercy Health** from six to 12 students.  
**Paycor** from four to eight students.  
**St. Elizabeth Healthcare** from four to six students.

In all, DPCR has 100+ Corporate Partners, each one critical to the success of the program, the school and our students. Thank you to all who make this program successful.

## New Members Named to Board of Directors

Seven business and community leaders have joined the DePaul Cristo Rey Board of Directors. They are: **John Browner**, president of the Sycamore Gas Company; **Cindy Howell**, owner/operator of CHAP Clips, LLC; **Gail Kist-Kline**, president of The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences; **Dan Neyer**, president/CEO of Neyer Properties; **Rick Reynolds**, retired/financial advisor for Bartlett & Company; **Tim Stautberg**, retired chief financial officer for EBTH, Inc.; and **S. Caroljean Willie, SC**, program director at EarthConnection.



*John Browner*



*Cindy Howell*



*Gail Kist-Kline*



*Dan Neyer*



*Rick Reynolds*



*Tim Stautberg*



*S. Caroljean Willie, SC*

Each has been appointed to a three-year term.



# Corporate Work Study Leadership Changes Enhance Program

New leadership in the DePaul Cristo Rey Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) will enhance the service and support to our current Corporate Partners while building the program, adding new partners to ensure a job for every student.

**Abby Held** has been named executive director of the CWSP, responsible for the overall effectiveness of the program, recruiting new partners and retaining current partners. She is a DPCR veteran having started in CWSP business development in 2013 and later taking on fundraising and alumni support responsibilities. She brings to her new position a strong background in sales and marketing as well as her experience and connections within DPCR.

Also joining the program is **Rayna Moore** serving in the position of associate director for CWSP Operations. Rayna manages all of the day-to-day aspects of the program including student transportation, supporting and communicating with on-site supervisors, and preparing students to work through the summer CORE program and throughout the school year. Rayna has



Abby Held



Rayna Moore

worked as an organizational consultant and has managed programs at several nonprofit organizations including Lighthouse Youth Services in Cincinnati and the Chicago Urban League.

As DPCR grows, the CWSP must grow to provide a work-study position for each student. If you know of a potential company to partner with us, please contact Abby Held at [abby.held@dpcr.net](mailto:abby.held@dpcr.net) or 513.861.0600, ext. 318.

## Rain Didn't Dampen Enthusiasm at Golf Classic

Chilly, rainy weather didn't deter 104 golfers from a day on the links in support of DePaul Cristo Rey. The seventh annual DePaul Cristo Rey Golf Classic was originally planned for September, but persistent, heavy rains necessitated rescheduling it to October 15. Even that day started chilly with morning rain, but resilient, generous friends played through the damp conditions for a successful event at the Western Hills Country Club.

Many thanks to Golf Chair **Tim Stautberg** of the DPCR Board of Directors as well as sponsors, golfers and volunteers. Presenting sponsors were **Fast Park & Relax** and the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**.

The event raised almost \$70,000 for the DePaul Cristo Rey Tuition Assistance Fund.



Congratulations to the winning men's foursome of (left to right): Bruce Howland, Louie Randolph, Bill McCloy and Paul Bizzarri.

◀ Liz Baker, Carla Mattcucci, Ginnie Walker and Betty Stenger claimed the prize as the high-scoring women's foursome.



◀ Golf Chair Tim Stautberg is shown with (left to right): Donald '20, Thalia '20, Miah '20 and DPCR President Sister Jeanne Bessette.

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**S. Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.**

*DePaul Cristo Rey High School*

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**Julie Ross**

*Community Volunteer*

# 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends of DePaul Cristo Rey,

At DePaul Cristo Rey High School, the 2017-2018 school year will forever be a very significant one in our history! At the beginning of that year, we embarked on a campaign to provide our students with two different kinds of security: the security of a safe, appropriately-sized, modern, expanded school facility AND the security of knowing that once in college, we will help them persist to graduation.

How in the world can we make such ambitious projects happen? Through YOUR investment! From our beginning we have depended on the generosity of those who embrace our mission of transforming young lives through education and work study. In the space of just over a year, we have very nearly reached the goal set by our Board of Directors to raise \$20,220,000 for the construction of a greatly expanded campus. This could happen only because people understand that there will be a return on their investment – not only in bricks and mortar – but more importantly in the thousands of students who will eventually be touched by a DPCR education.

When we turned to you to ask you to invest in our unique brand of education, we were admittedly worried about the other critical funds and events that drive the operation of our school including the Annual Fund, Rey of Light and the Golf Classic. We were not let down! Our annual needs were met even as people dug deep to support capital needs, some making the largest charitable gift of their lives.

We are blessed by your investment in our students, and they are certainly blessed by your generosity. I hope and pray you feel blessings as part of the return on your most generous investments today and for years to come!

Gratefully,

*S. Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.*

**Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.**

*President/CEO*



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*"The Corporate Work Study Program really helps students grow professionally, and I have learned a lot. At last year's job I learned how to prioritize tasks and I learned that some things are important and some can wait. I also learned not to procrastinate – it only gives you more work."*

– Daniel '20

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 and John Getz  
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## BRUIN SOCIETY

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*"A personal goal I have for this year is to make first honors. Last year I managed to achieve second honors all four quarters while juggling being a freshman on the varsity basketball team and Corporate Work Study. This year I plan to get more involved, work harder academically and athletically, and encourage my fellow classmates to keep up with their grades and achieve first or second honors."*

*— Iyannah '21*



*"What I like best about DPCR is the learning environment. When learning new topics, rather than being stifled, questions are encouraged. I can't count the number of times a simple lesson has turned into a class-wide debate. The open-mindedness of the students and faculty is very welcomed."*

– Kai '19

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## S. Janice Was Unofficial Head of DPCR Fan Club



Before she even landed at DePaul Cristo Rey in 2011, **Sister Janice Ernst, SC**, had spent 35 years as an educator, another 10 as a hospital chaplain, and the first part of her retirement serving senior citizens in Colorado. She was one of the school's very first volunteers, serving as a front-desk receptionist. "S. Janice became a friend to our young teachers, the unofficial head of our

school fan club, an athletic booster and one of our key storytellers," recalls DPCR President **S. Jeanne Bessette**.

S. Janice died in June at the age of 83; illness had forced her to relinquish her DPCR volunteer duties a few years earlier, but never her love for the school and its students. While battling cancer she continued to facilitate visits and welcome students to the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. In 2014 she received DPCR's Spirit of Service Award; an honor that meant a great deal to her.

"I personally cherished her support during the challenging years of getting this school off the ground," says S. Jeanne. "I will value and thank God for her friendship for the rest of my life."



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### **Jerry Jimmerson**

Sparkle and Tom Worley

## **Tom Neyer Helped Build DPCR**



As DePaul Cristo Rey's huge construction project is now underway, the foundation of this campus transformation was laid years ago thanks to the work of **Tom Neyer, Sr.** His sudden death in November 2017 has left a void in our community but a wealth of appreciation for the role he played in literally building this school.

Tom brought a lifetime of commercial real estate and

construction expertise to his pivotal role in starting DPCR in 2011. He was a member of the Advisory Committee which supported the Sisters of Charity in their feasibility study ahead of opening the school, chairing the Site Selection Task Force. With the Sisters of Charity's feasibility team, Tom visited dozens of properties across Cincinnati in search of the right location to open DPCR. When the Sisters purchased the Clifton campus, he led the work to renovate it, stayed on to serve on the first Board of Directors, and continued to serve on the Facilities Committee until his death.

"Our students will never directly know his influence here, but part of his storied legacy in Cincinnati is that he helped build a new high school for children he will never know, and he did it with grace, humility, faith and generosity," says DPCR President **S. Jeanne Bessette.**

### **Thomas Klinedinst, Jr.**

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### **Jane and Dick Yost**

Maria and Matt Yost



*"This school year I'm looking forward to seeing how far our soccer team will go. We are getting better and connecting with each other the more we play. I look forward to what we'll do in the future."*

– Paul '20



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*"I work at **CTI, Clinical Trial and Consulting Services**. I love the people I work with and the work environment. My supervisor has encouraged me to talk to people and get insight on different areas. Because of his help, I have been able to grow in my communication skills, learn about myself, and have made some great connections with the top people at CTI. I am now in a place many high school students aren't – I can say I have worked with and spoken with people who are at the top of their company."*

**– Heidi '19**

*Every effort has been made to keep this list error-free. If your name was overlooked or listed improperly, please accept our apologies and contact us to correct the error. The Advancement Office can be reached at 513.861.0600.*

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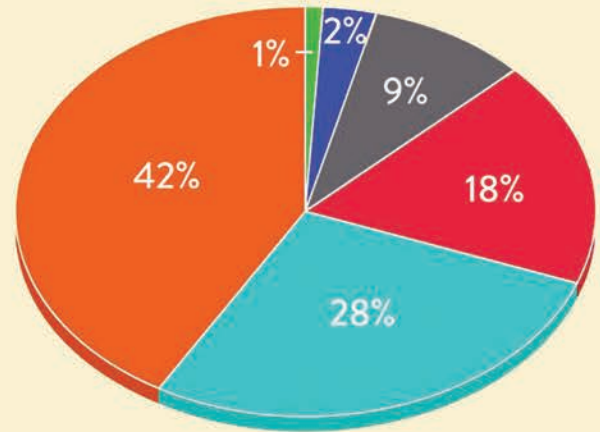
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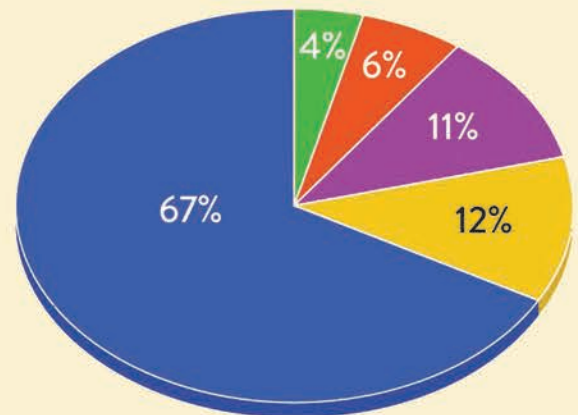
# REPORT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

## REVENUE



OTHER  
TUITION & FEES  
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS  
EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP  
CWSP  
ADVANCEMENT

## EXPENSES



OTHER  
TRANSPORTATION  
STUDENT SUPPORT  
FACILITIES  
PERSONNEL



## Three Tips for Year-End Giving

If you are like most people, you do your major giving near the end of the year. This probably occurs for several reasons. The closing of the tax season encourages itemizers to obtain income tax deductions, appeals from nonprofits increase awareness of financial need, and many people are simply predisposed to end the year by making a charitable gift.

Here are three tips to help you make the most of your year-end giving.

1. Calculate your income. Try to get an idea of your tax liability for the year. Did your unearned income increase? Did you sell any appreciated assets? Will you owe more taxes?
2. Review your stocks. Look at the stocks you have held for more than a year and check to see which ones have appreciated the most. It may be wise to make your year-end gift using one or more of these stocks.
3. Do your giving early. This is especially true if you want to make a gift of noncash assets (stock, real estate, etc.). Your financial advisors are busy beyond belief at year-end. The sooner you start your gift activity, the better it will be for you and your financial advisor. Your advisor can also help you understand the impact of your gift on your tax return and estate.

For more information about year-end giving opportunities to DePaul Cristo Rey, contact Vice President of Advancement **Sparkle Worley** at 513.861.0600, ext. 320 or [sparkle.worley@dpcr.net](mailto:sparkle.worley@dpcr.net).



**April 27, 2019**

**Rey of Light** is the premier fundraising event for DePaul Cristo Rey High School. Over the past six years, it has raised over \$2.6 million to benefit DPCR students.

**DUE TO CONSTRUCTION,  
WE ARE AT A NEW LOCATION –  
ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL**

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