



FIRE

Foundation for Inclusive
Religious Education

Annual Report 2012-2013

For Fiscal Year Ending June 2013



Dear Friends of FIRE,

This has been another great year for the Foundation. I have been privileged to work with our outgoing executive director and founder, Maura Nulton, for 16 years. She has been a tireless promoter of our cause, serving as a board member and president, and most recently, as our executive director – all while raising eight children. I am in awe of all she has achieved. She, Carnie and fellow founding parents had a dream 16 years ago that their children would attend their parish schools with their siblings. Well, today that dream is a reality. This year, we welcomed Our Lady of the Presentation Parish and School and the Bright Futures Fund Schools into the FIRE family and continued to make grants to our six grade schools and Archbishop O'Hara High School.

Our grants help defray the cost of para-educators and special educators in their schools. While this is a great achievement, we know that it only scrapes the surface of the needs facing our schools. Services from public school districts are diminishing, causing an even greater burden for those parents who have children with special needs. The number of children with special needs has also grown exponentially. Our parishes have made a commitment to educate all of the children in their parish families when it is the best educational decision for the child. Together we are living the mission that Jesus called us to: "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me." Matthew 18:4-5.

We welcomed our new executive director, Lynn Hire, in September. She had a baptism by fire taking the helm just before our successful BonFIRE on Oct. 5. She comes to us with many years of marketing experience and as a member of St. Peter's Parish. Her children attended school with some of our first students who piloted the program. I am confident she has great plans for our future. In addition, we thank the dedicated staff of Julie Rose, for keeping the office running smoothly, and Katie Duffy and Joanne Scurato, for their dedication to making our events successful.

Friends, please know that your continued support makes a difference in the lives of all our parish children every single day.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy VanDyke".

Peggy VanDyke
President
Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education

2012-2013 Annual Report

This report reflects donations received between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013

OUR MISSION

To provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education in their home parish schools.

OUR STORY

The Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education (FIRE) was founded in 1996 by a group of parents who shared a common dream – for their children with special needs to attend their parish schools with siblings and friends. Since that time, through the efforts of parents, a dedicated board of directors and community members who embrace inclusive Catholic education, thousands of dollars have been raised and countless lives have been impacted in a powerful and positive way. FIRE offers financial grants for qualifying schools within the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. These grants assist with the cost of special education teachers, para-educators and resources, enabling schools to educate children with special needs alongside their peers. FIRE enhances the education of all children by teaching acceptance, compassion and the value of every child of God. Children grow up knowing and appreciating each other's unique gifts.

CONTACT US

M. Lynn Hire
Executive Director
816-756-1858 ext. 253
hire@diocesekcsj.org

Julie Rose
Office Administrator
816-756-1858 ext. 252
rose@diocesekcsj.org

Mailing Address:
FIRE
The Catholic Center
20 W. 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

STAY UP-TO-DATE

FIRE is launching an electronic newsletter in 2014. **Send us your email address** so we can provide the latest and greatest on the people, parishes and projects that bring our mission to life. Send your email to: fire@diocesekcsj.org.

FIND US

To learn more please visit our website:
www.fire-program.org.

FOLLOW US



SUPPORT US

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible contribution!

SPECIAL THANKS

Creative – Trozzolo Communications Group, Photography – Lesley Reller

SAVE THE DATE

MEET FRIENDS. RAISE FUNDS. GET FIRED UP FOR A GREAT 2014.

FIRE Starters Breakfast

February 4

The Bean Hangar @ The Roasterie

FIRE Golf Tournament

April 28

Hillcrest Country Club

Purses with Purpose

May 8

Location TBA

BonFIRE 2014

November 1

Starlight Theatre

FIRE by the Numbers

2012-13

- ◆ **61 students** received direct support so they could attend a Catholic school.
- ◆ **382 students** benefited from the availability of special education support.
- ◆ **4000+ students' lives** were impacted by inclusive religious education.
- ◆ **22.5 para-educators** enriched students' learning experiences.
- ◆ **9 schools** received grants to defray the cost of offering special education services.
- ◆ **197,500 dollars** were granted to schools for special education staff and resources.

Designate FIRE for
your United Way
contribution at work.*

**WE ARE A WRITE-IN
OPTION ONLY. IT'S EASY!**

Write:
Foundation for
Inclusive Religious Education (FIRE)
20 W. 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Questions?
816-756-1858, ext. 252

**not available through
United Way of Wyandotte County*

Donate your car to FIRE today
and we'll pick it up tomorrow!

1-800-237-5714

Call us toll free to get the wheels in motion for your donation. We handle the entire car donation process from start to finish and we'll provide the donation receipt to you at the time of pickup. Making a car donation is quicker, more convenient and much more rewarding than selling or trading it in. Make a difference for FIRE today!

FIRE

Board of Directors July 2012-June 2013

OFFICERS

Peggy VanDyke, *President*
Dan Bowers, *Vice President*

Debbie Whittaker, *Treasurer*
Mary Madden, *Secretary*

FIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marilyn Breitenstein
Josh Brewster
Becky Conaghan
Kevin Connor
Patti Dearth
Nicolette Gibson

Mary Anne Hammond
Jeff Hughes
John Humphrey
Eileen Crowe Johnson
Stan McClatchey
Chad Meyer

Tammy Neeb
Maura Nulton
Darren Prenger
Joe Rose
Craig Scurato
Mark Ungashick

FIRE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

M. Lynn Hire

PARTNER SCHOOLS

Archbishop O'Hara
Nativity of Mary
Our Lady of
Presentation

St. Elizabeth
St. Peter's
St. Therese
St. Thomas More

Strong City Schools
– Holy Cross
– Our Lady of the Angels
– Our Lady of Guadalupe
Visitation

Financials July 2012-June 2013

REVENUES

Grants	\$33,200	11%
Contributions	68,142	24%
BonFIRE	126,882	44%
Golf Tournament	31,549	11%
Breakfast	14,877	5%
Purses	7,598	3%
Interest /Other	1,097	1%
In-Kind Contributions	2,681	1%
Total Income	\$286,026	

EXPENSES

Educational Grants	\$192,314	68%
Personnel Expense	59,904	21%
GA & Supplies	20,628	7%
Professional Fees	6,258	2%
In-Kind Expenses	2,681	1%
Total Expenses	\$281,785	
Net Income	\$4,241	

FIRE

Foundation for Inclusive
Religious Education

The Catholic Center
20 West 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1525