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.

Peggy VanDyke
President
Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education
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
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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
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.

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!

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

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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
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

REVENCES
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