



# A Beacon of Hope

SPRING  
2017

The Campaign for Cleveland Central Catholic High School



## Beacon of Hope Campaign Nearing Goal!



Earlier this school year, our boys' basketball team had the thrilling opportunity to play at Quicken Loans Arena - home of the Cleveland Cavaliers. The pressure of the moment was not too great for our team, as they upset a highly-ranked opponent on a last-second basket, winning 64-62. Our faithful fans were overjoyed for them!

In some ways, I feel the same joy about the success we are accomplishing in CCC's Beacon of Hope Campaign. Thanks to the outstanding leadership and guidance of our Campaign Leadership Team, the campaign has steadily progressed through each phase. With each new campaign commitment, we gain another vote of confidence in the future of our school - and our students. Bravo!

Amazingly, we are now 21 months into this important campaign. This has been an inspiring endeavor, as we have seen surprising twists, creative ideas and generous commitments combine to propel us toward our goal of \$5.175 million.

Working hard as a team, our campaign leaders and volunteers have methodically driven our activity through each essential step. Due to this exceptional effort, I am delighted to report that our campaign continues to exceed our expectations.

As of March 31, the Beacon of Hope Campaign has soared to \$4,960,476 in cash or written commitments. That places the campaign at 95.85% toward our goal of \$5.175 million. I am impressed and humbled by the generous response our campaign has received! It is a pleasant surprise to say the Beacon of Hope Campaign's goal is already within reach. Due to this progress, the Campaign Leadership Team has decided to conclude the campaign effective June 30, 2017 (the end of the current fiscal year).

However, we realize that the last leg of the race can be the hardest. We will continue to solicit our remaining major donor prospects, our alumni, and do our best to secure more foundation funding opportunities. Through the grace of God and with your prayers and support, we will be successful!

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**Beacon of Hope  
Leadership Team**

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Jerry Kysela  
John A. Peca `70

**Campaign Committee**

Richard Castele  
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SND  
Leo Hyland  
Terri Preskar  
Janice Roccosalva  
Frank Roddy  
Robert Rosing  
John Simon `72  
Sr. Carol Anne Smith, HM

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Bishop Anthony M. Pilla  
Bishop Roger W. Gries, OSB  
Daryl and Jenniffer Deckard  
Carol Ann Rini  
Marc A. Stefanski  
George F. Wasmer

**Donors to the Beacon of Hope Campaign – through March 20, 2017\***

Anonymous (4)	Richard B. and Barbara† Fisher	Charles and Patricia Nock
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Richard Engel	Thomas and Evelyn Nichols	
Brian and Stephanie Ferry		
Kathleen Ferry and Brian Pyclik		

\*Not including gifts to the Central Catholic Fund

† Deceased

*"Beacon of Hope Campaign Nearing Goal!" continued*

In addition to the new roof and windows that we reported previously, we are now addressing significant HVAC issues, creating new endowed and annual scholarships, and bolstering our special needs programs. Hopefully, we will soon have good news to share regarding the enhancements to the facilities at Ben S. Stefanski, II Stadium.

On behalf of the entire Cleveland Central Catholic community, I sincerely express our gratitude for your campaign participation in support of our amazing school. CCC is truly a Beacon of Hope!



## WHY I GAVE

### Sister Carol Anne Smith, HM



safety, health, transportation and security needs of CCC students are the heartfelt concerns of all the adults at the school. And, through their own efforts and accomplishments, our students reflect the love and opportunities they receive from their teachers, staff and administrators.

Especially inspiring to me is Cleveland Central Catholic's comprehensive special education program, enrolling one-sixth of our students. For these young men and women, goals of graduation, college and meaningful employment are, not only within reach, but achieved year after year.

Cleveland Central Catholic is the Gospel lived. All are welcome. All are at home. Every single day this school community makes a tangible difference in the lives of students who do not have other viable educational and formation options for what Central Catholic provides.

Our teachers are selfless in their dedication, giving beyond the normal duties of faculty members. The

In his first Apostolic Exhortation, titled, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis states, "No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." This is the joy daily filling the halls of Central Catholic - the Lord's life-giving joy that results from genuine love, respect and inclusion.

## WHY I GAVE

### Bob '61 and Ingrid Sledz



Speaking for the St. Stanislaus High School Class of 1961, the 50th anniversary of our graduation in 2011 provided an opportunity to say "Thank You" and to give back to our alma mater. (St. Stanislaus is one of the four founding schools that today make up Cleveland Central Catholic High School.)

As adults, we appreciate how our childhood influences us in ways that we don't even grasp until we look back on them from a greater distance of life and time. We realize that during high school, we developed the most vigorous, healthy bodies we will ever have, but at the same time, we possessed the least common sense we ever had. That combination produced many memorable moments that we savor even today.

At our 50th class reunion, we established a \$10,000 sustaining scholarship in our class name. Folks from our class contributed to the fund, recognizing the influence of a particular loved one, teacher, coach, or classmates, etc. All was given with a heartfelt "Thank You" for our education and the faculty's guidance. The fund was set up so that even today, five years later, we can earmark contributions to help boost our CCC Class of '61 scholarship.

My wife, Ingrid, and I remain involved today with the St. Stanislaus Alumni & Friends and help to support St. Stanislaus Elementary School and parish. To aid in communication, we publish *The Spire* newsletter, mailed to over 900 households twice a year.

Ingrid and Bob Sledz encourage other alumni of the founding schools to join the St. Stanislaus Class of 1961 in establishing a sustaining scholarship in their class name. "It doesn't have to be for a "milestone event reunion," however, those are usually the ones where the most classmates try to attend. Contact classmates, let them know that the merger of our schools is flourishing and providing an education, just like the one we received, for future generations. These students are wonderful," exclaims Ingrid. "Cleveland Central Catholic High School is like a home away from home for many of its students. We need to support them."

