



In the classroom, the community, and Chicago

THE GIFT OF CRISTO REY

By: Emily Blaha, Cristo Rey Volunteer

For the last five years, it has been my great privilege to serve the students and families of Cristo Rey. Every year it just gets better; I am repeatedly dazzled by the students, often left wondering how on earth they are able to continue impressing me in so many different ways! It simply never gets old.

The problem is that I can never seem to do enough for Cristo Rey. And the reason is because Cristo Rey gives me so much. I have spent many years serving the students and families in a number



Emily Blaha (pictured right) poses with Betsy Wille at last year's iVIVA! event.

of ways: first, as a full-time counselor for a year, then as a committed advocate and volunteer, and now, as a member of the iVIVA! Planning Committee. And no matter what I do for the school, the families, and the community, it always ends with the feeling that I owe them because of what they have taught me or

because of how they have inspired me. They show me what it means to share themselves selflessly with a love that holds nothing back.

My commitment to Cristo Rey is simple. I do whatever I can to share myself in ways that will benefit the school. And this year, it means I'm helping to plan our BIGGEST and BEST iVIVA! Event yet! Our annual Event has been tremendously successful, and this year promises to be even better! We have the unique new venue of Morgan Manufacturing, a fantastic musical act with the Johnny Blas band and live mariachi, and delicious Latin cuisine all lined up for our guests. And as always, we will have enticing live auction items for you, all for the benefit of student scholarships at Cristo Rey.

Our iVIVA! Event is a win-win. You'll have the chance to take part in a fun evening of giving back, all in support of some of the hardest working students and families in Chicago. You will have a great time and feel good about it! Hope to see you on May 7th!

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iVIVA!
2015

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Because of its etymology, the word – scholarship – most often reminds us of the opportunity to provide a student with an academic opportunity. And while providing a rigorous college preparatory and faith-based learning environment is central to our mission, receiving a scholarship to attend Cristo Rey Jesuit High School means so much more here in

Pilsen. It means a life changing experience for the entire family.

At Cristo Rey, we place an even greater emphasis on providing an all-inclusive high school experience that has no financial barriers for families. From athletic uniforms to graduation gowns, field trips and Kairos retreats, access to an after-school arts program to free breakfast and lunch for every student – everything is included; there are no hidden fees. The students' earnings in their work-study jobs and their families' modest contribution to tuition is all that we ask of our students and families to contribute. It is our desire to ensure that finances are never an impediment to parents encouraging their children to be ambitious in pursuit of their passions and goals.

Because not all of our families are able to contribute their portion of tuition, we provide tuition scholarships to 90% of the student body, a testament to our school's adherence to its mission of providing access to a quality, Catholic, college preparatory education for exclusively low-income families.

Our flagship scholarship fundraiser event, ¡VIVA!, will take place on May 7, 2015 at Morgan Manufacturing. The success of this event is crucial to our mission. ¡VIVA! Events have grown to raise nearly \$350,000 in net proceeds, which helps provide scholarships to more than 250 students. These funds ensure that Cristo Rey can continue to offer an all-inclusive high school experience. I hope that you will consider supporting our Scholarship Fund by attending ¡VIVA!, buying a raffle ticket, or becoming an event sponsor and bringing your friends and colleagues.

In this issue, you will see our Scholarship Fund at work. Students' learning extends far beyond the classroom: exploring financial literacy in the Investment Club; experiencing God through a Kairos retreat; and participating in a service trip to Washington, DC. Cristo Rey is a success because of our generous donors and supporters. Join us on May 7th and make a difference in the lives of our students and families!

¡VIVA Cristo Rey!

Antonio Ortiz, President

LAS MUJERES DE CRISTO REY EVENT RAISES OVER \$31,000 FOR ART EDUCATION

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School held its inaugural Las Mujeres de Cristo Rey fundraiser for the Arts on January 29, 2015. More than one hundred guests gathered to support Cristo Rey – raising over \$31,000 for the Art Fund! Introducing an art education program will allow students to voice their creativity and cultural upbringing through artistic expression. This opportunity, combined with Cristo Rey's unique work-study program and rigorous coursework will help us to strengthen our education of the whole person.

Guests heard from Norma Briseño a mother of a current senior and an alumna who is currently studying at Georgetown University. Mrs. Briseño delivered a moving message about the impact of the school on her children and family: "Thanks to Cristo Rey, both of my daughters had scholarships in their years there. At Cristo Rey we are not only a school, but we are a family. The teachers put a lot of love and dedication into their work and do their best to see your son or daughter succeed. They are teachers who never give up on your kids. It has truly been a blessing to be a part of the Cristo Rey family."

We are grateful to the Women of the Board of Directors for their vision and for generously hosting the evening. Thank you also to Catalyst Ranch for offering a memorable venue and to BigStar, PRP Wine, and Limelight Catering for their demonstrations and wonderful food and drink.

All proceeds from the event will support Art Education at Cristo Rey including the choir program, annual spring play, instruments, and art supplies and will make a difference in the lives of our 541 students.



Left: Norma Briseño, a Cristo Rey mother, shared her experience with guests.

Below: Board Member, Deirdre McBreen, enjoys our donated wine over conversation with a friend.



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE

By: Lillie Sellers, Director of Corporate Relations

This year marks a milestone with one of the Corporate Work Study Program's (CWSP) long-term job partners, The University of Chicago Medicine (UCM). They have put a team of students to work in Occupational Medicine (OM) since the fall of 2004.

Three students assist the busy office with health screening documents for hospital employees, scan charts, complete data entry projects, prepare mail and blood work for delivery and pickups, confirm patient appointments, assist with mailings, and even fit employees with respiratory masks to protect them while at work.

Tedi Cohen has supervised Cristo Rey students in OM for several years, and many of her student workers stay at UCM all four years of high school. In fact, she has been honored several times as a "four-year supervisor" at an annual spring luncheon reflecting mutual high praise for the students and their supervisor.

As a ten-year partner of the Corporate Work Study Program, the University of Chicago Medicine received a plaque that depicts a mural which is on the outside of the Cristo Rey building. This artwork reflects the life of the students and their culture and was commissioned in 2006 to honor the school's tenth anniversary. More than 35% of the current job partners have provided jobs to Cristo Rey students for ten or more years, a clear indication of the strong relationships developed in the history of Cristo Rey's CWSP.

In the fall of 2014, UCM's Supply Chain department hired student workers as well. It is a real testament to the students and supervisors when a partner expands the program to other departments. Working in a hospital is a great experience for students. Not only are they exposed to careers in health care – they are contributing to their work places in tangible ways. The combination of a dedicated supervisor and eager students ready to learn creates a meaningful program. UCM is an excellent example of how students are filling important roles at many area hospitals, including: Advocate (Christ Medical Center, Condell Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Lutheran General Hospital), Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Loyola Medicine, Northwestern Medicine and Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center. Students work across all departments: Human Resources, Information Technology, Marketing, Reception, Nutrition, Records, Purchasing, Facilities, and more.

Through the Corporate Work Study Program, students job-share a position with employers throughout Chicagoland to earn their high school tuition. Employers are able to fill an entry-level position at a competitive cost with well-trained students while enhancing diversity and talent pipelines. In return, students gain valuable on-the-job experience in highly professional settings. For more information on putting students to work in your office or expanding the team you have in place, please contact Lillie Sellers, Director of Corporate Relations, at lsellers@crstorey.net or 773-890-6886.



Marisela, Cristo Rey sophomore, prepares blood work for her co-worker in Occupational Medicine.



On hand to mark the ten year commitment between Occupational Medicine and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School are, from left to right, Leif Elsmo, Executive Director of the Office of Community & External Affairs, teen employee Marisela, Tedi Cohen of Occupational Medicine, and Antonio Ortiz, President of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School.

APPLYING MATH SKILLS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

By: Amanda Burke and Kate Schulte, Math Teachers

The first year of the Cristo Rey Magnetar Investment Academy was a success! A group of twenty sophomores and juniors stayed after school every Thursday in order to learn and apply concepts about saving, investing, and overall financial planning. The curriculum was developed by Magnetar Capital in order to engage youth in financial planning and prepare them for the future. Students study financial lifecycle and planning, general financial management, investing and the stock market, and building a financial portfolio. Moderators and math teachers, Amanda Burke and Kate Schulte, decided to bring the program to Cristo Rey in order to bridge the gap between the mathematics classroom and the real world. The Investment Club seemed like a great way for students to apply concepts from the math classroom and their work-study jobs.

Upon completion of the Magnetar Academy curriculum, students received a \$100 grant to open a Schwab One/Custodial Brokerage Investment Account where they invested in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds using the lessons they learned as a Magnetar student. In addition to the curriculum, ten students were chosen to compete in the Magnetar Academy Team Challenge on March 7th at Soldier Field. Cristo Rey competed against thirty other schools throughout the Chicagoland area. The competition tested the students' knowledge of the curriculum as well as their ability to think on their feet and build the best \$100,000 portfolio in three rounds.

Before each round, students were given economic indicators for an actual historical period from the stock market and were asked to build a portfolio within different sectors of the market. Anticipation was high during the competition, but Cristo Rey students were determined to crack the top ten. After a fierce competition, Cristo Rey won eighth place and successfully determined the best possible investment for their portfolio. The students were thrilled with this result and cannot wait to return next year. Congratulations to the team!

Students also had the opportunity to hear from Akbar Gbaja-Biamila, former NFL player and current host of American Ninja Warrior, who shared what he learned about spending and saving money throughout his career. In the future, Cristo Rey hopes to expand the program and to continue to give students the opportunity to apply mathematics concepts in a real world setting.

The Investment Club is looking for guest speakers and field trips in the financial field. If you are interested in helping us, please contact: aburke@crstorey.net or kschulte@crstorey.net.



In their first year competing in the Magnetar Academy Team Challenge, Cristo Rey students placed eighth out of thirty high schools.



Investment Club students worked together to build a portfolio based on economic indicators from a historical period in the stock market.

GOD WORKING THROUGH ME FOR OTHERS

By: Maria Isabel Z., Class of 2015

The first time I went to Kairos I felt like a great weight was lifted off my shoulders. My connection with God had been at its worst. I had blamed my grandfather's death on God. After I came out of Kairos, I was happy. I realized things happen for a reason, and God loves me. I realized he works through other people and wants to help us. My relationship with God strengthened and because of this I was able to forgive someone who had hurt me. On the retreat, I thought to myself, "Why can't I forgive others?" I thought about how God is always forgiving us, and this helped me to be able to forgive someone who had betrayed me.

Another relationship I wanted to improve was my relationship with my father. Before the retreat, my relationship with my father was like oil and water. We could not be together in any way or form. We were not able to talk to each other because it would always lead to an argument. After Kairos I was able to sit down and have a conversation with him. Now I am able to have small conversations with him, and these conversations have truly brought us closer.

When I decided to apply to be a Kairos leader, I did so with the mentality that I wanted to give back. Kairos had changed me and my life. I wanted to serve and help change someone's life with God's help. When we started to prepare for the retreat, I was very excited. I could not believe I was a leader. During the two months of training, I couldn't wait for the reactions my classmates would have with every surprise. But as the date got closer I started to get nervous. I kept thinking people would fall asleep during my talk, or I would not be able to guide the retreatants. I was scared I would not do a good job. Finally, the day of the retreat arrived. The first day I was nervous and followed our instructions strictly. On the second day, I was a little more relaxed and followed the process of the retreat in my own way. I gained



Over forty students joined Isabel on February's Kairos retreat. Kairos is a long-standing Cristo Rey tradition - this retreat marks the school's 40th Kairos.

this confidence when the people in my small group shared personal things with our group. I felt honored. These were people I saw in the hallway but rarely talked to. Now we were sitting together in a circle an hour away from home, and they were telling me how they felt about their life and what has changed them the most. I was so afraid I would not be able to gain their trust; but here they were trusting me and trusting each other. We were able to talk to each other and strengthen our relationships with God.

In my first Kairos, I learned how to see God and forgive. In my second Kairos, I got to experience God working through me for others. As I reflect on my experience as a Kairos leader, I think that I fulfilled my mission to give back and make a difference in someone's life.

STUDENT-RUN RADIO STATION LAUNCHES AT CRISTO REY



Music-loving students now have another extra-curricular opportunity at Cristo Rey. New this year, students launched a radio station, REYdio at Cristo Rey. Tune-in for today's hits and yesterday's classics. Stream REYdio at Cristo Rey on Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 9pm and hear student DeeJays Jalapeno, Coplex, and Vortex. For more information, visit: www.REYdio.net.

STUDENTS ATTEND SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC

By: Liz Young, Service Coordinator

On November 14, a delegation of eight Cristo Rey students joined over 1,600 members of the Ignatian family for an inspirational weekend at the 17th Annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ). The IFTJ is a nationwide social justice conference sponsored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network, an organization that works to mobilize Jesuit institutions and ministries in order to affect positive social change on critical issues facing the world. Cristeros started networking even before they arrived at the conference, bonding with like-minded students from Christ the King, St. Martin de Porres, St. Ignatius, and Loyola Academy during the 12 hour bus ride to Washington.

From keynote speakers to breakout sessions, students explored topics including liberation theology, global peacemaking, feminism, climate change, and the legacy of the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. Students met with a staffer in the office of Representative Luis Gutierrez to advocate for comprehensive

immigration reform, responsible foreign policy in Central America, and environmental justice at the legislative level. The Cristo Rey delegation was especially impacted by the words of a college student whose journey to justice began when his birth mother left him on the steps of a church in Vietnam: "Not everything that grows in a garden is a flower."

The student's speech reminded the audience that there are multiple sides to every story; if we are to maintain any hope for change, we must learn to adopt an attitude of listening and analyze the world from different perspectives. The Cristo Rey group returned to Chicago eager to continue the process of uprooting injustice, sowing truth, and witnessing transformation in their own communities.

Throughout the month of February, teach-in participants sponsored an Ignatian Family Advocacy Month at Cristo Rey in order to support works of social justice that can help change American policy. IFTJ participants discussed social justice topics and offered educational materials during school lunches. This opportunity for students to explore social justice themes is just one of many service opportunities that enable our students to live out their commitment as "men and women for others."

Right: As part of their visit to Washington, students were able to sightsee in the nation's capital. Here they are standing outside of the White House.



Above: Students pose outside of the office of Representative Luis Gutierrez where they advocated for issues important to them.

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, August 10, 2015

Golf



for Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

**Onwentsia Club
Lake Forest, Illinois**

Visit www.cristorey.net/golf
for more information
and sponsorship opportunities.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 7 ¡Viva!, Morgan Manufacturing, 401 N. Morgan
- 8 Mother's Day Mass
- 25 Closed for Memorial Day

June

- 4 Board of Directors Meeting
- 11 Baccalaureate Mass
- 11 Last day of work in CWSP
- 12 Awards Day and Graduation

July

- 3 School closed in observance of Independence Day
- 6-10 CWSP Summer Business Institute Week One
- 13-17 CWSP Summer Business Institute Week Two

August

- 10 Golf for Cristo Rey,
Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest
- 24 Classes begin
- 27 Mass of the Holy Spirit
- 31 First day of CWSP

*All events are at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
unless otherwise indicated.*



Senior Editor:

Elizabeth J. White, Vice President of Advancement

Associate Editor:

Ashley K. Donohue, Director of External Relations

If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter and other Cristo Rey communications, visit www.cristorey.net to sign-up.



Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
1852 West 22nd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60608

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Welcome to Cristo Rey Jesuit High School's newsletter, Las Obras.

In English, las obras means “the works” as in collected works, i.e. the works of Shakespeare, the works of Christ, the works of Cristo Rey. We thought it a fitting title to share the news about the “school that works.”

Here you will find stories written by our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Together we will share with you the great works that we are doing in the classroom, the community, Chicago, and beyond.

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- The Gift of Cristo Rey
- Event Raises over \$31,000 for Art Education
- CWSP Celebrates Ten Years with University of Chicago Medicine

In the classroom, the community, and Chicago



In the classroom, the community, and Chicago

Spring 2015

Las Obras
THE WORKS OF CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL



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You can also make your contribution at www.cristorey.net

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.