



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT





# **Our Mission**

Cristo Rey St. Martin, a Catholic learning community, empowers young people of limited economic means to become men and women of faith, purpose and service. Through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, integrated with relevant work study experience, CRSM students graduate ready to succeed in college and life.







## Greetings from our President

Dear friends of CRSM,

These lines from Ken Untener's prayer inspired us to choose *Planting Seeds for Success* as the theme for our 2022 Annual Report:

"This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise."

Seeds are the ultimate metaphor for hope – young and full of potential - and a fitting symbol for our students. Cristo Rey St. Martin is a community of donors, business partners, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who create the ecosystem where our students flourish. Our young people are our future. With proper care and nurturing, they will grow to their full potential, but it doesn't happen overnight. It takes intentional, focused work, day-afterday and year-after-year, for our students to bring their God-given talents to fruition. This is especially true in a community climate full of challenges.

High school drop-out rates at local public schools here remain close to 50% and the pandemic has only complicated the educational landscape here. But at CRSM, students are thriving. CRSM represents only 7% of the high school population in North Chicago and Waukegan. However more than 50% of all new bachelor's degrees being earned by Pell Grant eligibility in our area belong to CRSM alumni. This year's Annual Report illustrates how CRSM students and alumni are blossoming despite so much uncertainty and how they are using their God-given talents to make the world better.

Our success has always been a team effort – a collective success resulting from the hard work and generosity of so many people, including you! We simply cannot do it alone. Even though you are not physically in the hallways and classrooms on a daily basis, you are with us in spirit. **Your support is more important than ever!** You help us continue and extend our mission.

By supporting our students, their families, and our community, you are planting seeds for success. You are sowing seeds of hope for brighter futures. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Preston Kendall President

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\* Endorsing Community Representative



# **100%** of the Class of 2022 accepted to 4-year bachelor's programs for the third year in a row.



















# **THE RECORD-BREAKING CLASS OF 2022**

## LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS IN CRSM HISTORY

# **101 Students**

ONLY SCHOOL IN THE CRISTO REY NETWORK TO HIT 90% RETENTION RATE FROM FRESHMAN TO SENIOR YEAR

| ΠΙΟΠΕΣΙ        |
|----------------|
| ENROLLMENT     |
| IN 4-YEAR      |
| INSTITUTIONS   |
| INCLUDING      |
| ARRUPE COLLEGE |
|                |

HIGHEST AVERAGE AMOUNT OF COLLEGE FUNDING PER GRADUATE HIGHEST AP EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE BENCHMARK IN SCHOOL HISTORY\*



| 9 | 7 | 0 |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | _ | _ |  |

\$41,282



**CRSM Students Thrive During Challenging Times!** 

**98%** Above a 2.0 GPA

**79%** Above a 3.0 GPA



Students establish our first **Black Student Union** giving African American students a voice on campus and affirming black lives and black culture.

## Fine Arts Programming

is started featuring our first drama production on the new stage and an art show in the spring.



# WORK PREPARED

# Corporate Work Study Program Successfully Adapts to the Changing Work Place

Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep is known for its rigorous college preparatory curriculum. CRSM students also participate in a unique work study program that gives them real-life work experience that helps drive these impressive stats.

Always innovating, CRSM has had to adjust during the COVID-19 pandemic and devise new ways for its students to work. It wasn't easy, but we adapted to remote, then back-to-the-office and hybrid work schedules successfully.

As the pandemic shutdown unfolded across the country, and many businesses went remote, CRSM pivoted to make sure that all of its students were placed in jobs. That took creative thinking, including **proactively recruiting area foundations and nonprofits to partner as job sponsors.** The results speak to the success of the program. "The good news is many of our partners have been able to come back this school year, but certainly not all. Our current partners and new organizations all worked to make this happen."

- Brian Weinberg, Director of the Corporate Work Study Program



# WORK PREPARED Corporate Work Study Program





CORPORATE WORK STUDY PARTNERS IN THIS COMMUNITY



## **Community Outreach**



# COMMITTED TO FAITH AND JUSTICE

From the Ukraine to Peru, as well as locally, students are helping to feed children across the globe "We know that during these tough times some people are struggling to get food supplies, so we decided to come help and give them the necessary food. When we see an opportunity to come and help out and give back, we take advantage of it." – Evelyn, CRSM Class of '22 Graduate



CRSM students pray at Broadview Detention Center.



Rise Against Hunger food distribution event



CRSM partners with local organizations to hold mass vaccination clinics and keep community members safe and healthy.



Students volunteer every month to help feed more than 600 neighbors at each pop-up Northern Illinois Food Bank distribution event.

## **Global Outreach**

# Planting Seeds

# COMMITTED TO FAITH AND JUSTICE

Students' trek to South Dakota Indian reservation sparks reflection on Identity, value, and legacy

"Getting to the top of the peak was truly an unreal feeling, the sense of accomplishment it gave me to see the beautiful mountains. It made me realize how beautiful our world truly is. The first thing I did when I got to the top was call my parents. I wanted to show them what I was able to accomplish with their love and support and help them realize that it was because of them I'm here." - Fernanda, CRSM Class of '22 Graduate



CRSM juniors and staff travel to Nazareth Farm in Salem, West Virginia for homebuilding, discussions, and a weeklong immersion in Catholic social teachings.

## Crossing the U.S./Mexico Border

"We saw how unsafe it is for immigrants," says Maritza. "It hit close to home and was very emotional for me because my mother crossed there and was caught once but tried again and made it. She was 18, my age." - Maritza CRSM Class of '22 Graduate



# **ALUMNI SUCCESS**

"My main message is that we all deserve a place at the table in business, and it is our job to find the way to make ourselves successful and give back."



Oscar Gonzalez, Class of '17

# Work Study Program Helps Alum Discover and Inspire Career Path

At the intersection of psychology and business, Oscar Gonzalez, Class of '17 alum used his time on campus at The College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA to further his academic studies and learn the kinds of skills—tenacity, patience, collaboration—that he hopes will drive his success.

"I want to use my degree to make the world a better place," says Gonzalez, an Accounts Payable Analyst at Discover Financial Services in Riverwoods. In 2021, Oscar earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from The College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. He started working at Discover his junior year in high school through the Corporate Work Study Program and has worked summers and holidays during the last five years until he was hired full-time last January, after obtaining his bachelor's degree. The first person to attend college in his family, the North Chicago 23-year-old said he was inspired during his four years at CRSM to serve others and give back to the community. Initially he sought to become a physician, but now is using his psychology studies paired with the Certificate of Business Fundamentals he studied for at Holy Cross to "mentor students to be successful at work, but also to be good human beings." At Discover, he's a mentor to 27 CRSM students who work in the work study program. He's also volunteered to mentor students at CRSM.

A varsity soccer player during his four years at CRSM, Gonzalez played on the Holy Cross Soccer Club and was an avid volunteer there for groups advocating for minority rights.

# ALUMNI SUCCESS - FULL CIRCLE! 25% of Alumni College Graduates Now Working In Jobs With Corporate Work Study Partners





Katia Astudillo Project Designer at JGMA CRSM Class of 2015

\* Advanced Resources



Samantha Bahena Consultant Engagement Associate Advanced Resources CRSM Class of 2017

abbvie



Jalyn Jones Associate Scientist at AbbVie CRSM Class of 2016



Some Shining Examples



Sebastian Rodriguez Environmental Health Safety Specialist at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science CRSM Class of 2019



Melissa Cisneros A Safe Place Rapid Rehousing Coordinator/ Case Manager CRSM Class of 2011





Edwin Medina Accountant Technician at AbbVie CRSM Class of 2011





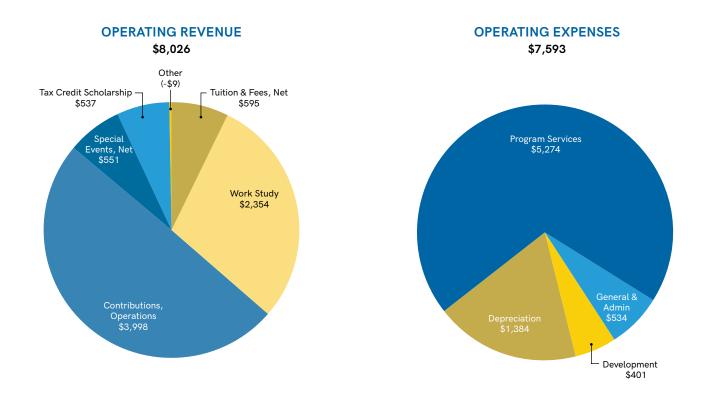
Ranice Sanford FDP Analyst, RPU-Cash/Sales AR at Walgreens CRSM Class of 2017

Jalgreens

# **OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

## Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep, CRSM Work Study and CRSM Support Corporation For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

\$ in thousands



### **Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program Contributions**

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program allows individuals and corporations to donate to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) and **receive a straight credit on their Illinois state taxes of 75% of the value of the donation**. Empower Illinois and The Big Shoulders Fund are SGOs approved by the Illinois Department of Revenue and operating in Lake County. When making your scholarship donation through one of these SGOs, you can specifically designate that your donation will benefit Cristo Rey St. Martin students. One of our Development Team members will be happy to walk you through the process and answer your questions. **Designating CRSM students through this program is like quadrupling your donation to our school**.

For more information on this program and how you can take advantage of it, please visit our website at: cristoreystmartin.org/ways-to-give

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the following individuals made contributions to an SGO and directed their scholarship funds to CRSM students:

| Anonymous                          | Karen and Jeff Dickmann     | James and Mary Osborn      | John and Kathy Schreiber          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John and Elaine Berens             | Mike Feldner                | George and Peggy Pandaleon | Fredrick Schroeder                |
| William Blake                      | George and Mary Fitzpatrick | Elizabeth Parkinson        | Francis and Kirsten Sorensen      |
| Terry and Cindy Brady              | Thomas and Roberta Fox      | Marty and Barb Perry       | Jean and Thomas Spiegelhalter     |
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| Angela Nilius and Ray Damijonaitis | David and Kathleen Kennedy  | Cindy and Mike Rourke      |                                   |



## **BUSINESSES THAT INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS' FUTURES**

- AAAASF
- **AirAnswers**<sup>®</sup>
- A Safe Place
- Abbott
- AbbVie
- The ABIS Group Advanced Group
- Advocate Condell Medical Center
- Antylia Scientific
- The Art Center of Highland Park
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  - JGMA
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    - L. Marshall Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

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- Lake County Department of Transportation
- Lake County Recorder of Deeds
- Lake County Sheriff's Office
- Lake County State's Attorney's Office
- Lake Forest Bank & Trust Company, a Wintrust Community Bank
- La Mesita de Martin
- Learn Charter Schools
- Libertyville Bank & Trust Company, a Wintrust Community Bank
- Lions Mathematics and Science Christian Academy
- MacLean-Fogg Company
- Mano a Mano
- Most Blessed Trinity Parish
- North Branch Dermatology

- Northbrook Bank & Trust Company, a Wintrust Community Bank
- North Chicago **Community Partners**
- NorthShore University HealthSystem
- North Shore Water **Reclamation District**
- Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital
- NTI, Inc.
- Omnicell, Inc.
- Our Lady of Humility Parish & School
- Pasquesi Home and Gardens
- Prairie Crossing Charter School
- **Ragdale Foundation**
- Ray Bradbury Experience Museum
- Roberti Community House
- Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Sciences
- Rust-Oleum

- SaraCohen Consulting School of St. Mary Snap-on Credit
- St. Anastasia Parish
- St. Anthanasius School
- St. Francis Xavier
- St. Joseph Catholic School
- Society of the Divine Word
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- Stepan Company
- Underwriters Laboratories
- **US** Foods
- Village Green Montessori
- W.W. Grainger, Inc.
- Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc.
- Waukegan Park District
- Woodland Foods
- YouthBuild Lake County
- YWCA of Lake County

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A-Abbott Driving School Anonymous David and Mary Andersen Baxter International Inc. Suzanne Bessette-Smith Jonathan Boulahanis Joan Bransfield Gerald Brennan Jr. Kevin and Lori Burns Susan Carsello and Frank Patzke Hugo and Catherine Chavez Howard Chrisman and Amy St. Eve Jerome Claeys III Maureen Collins Community Christian Church of Lincolnshire John and Rosemary Croghan Karen Dahl Robert and Pat Daily James and Kathy Dasso Steve and Tami DeGroot Margaret Draths Daniel Drury Michael and Nancy Duncan Paul and Susan Dunn Mark and Joanne Eenigenburg Michael and Aileen Ellis Wendy and Erik Feldhaus Brent and Susan Felitto Frances E. Streit Foundation Melissa Frey and Bill Pridmore John and Kelly Graham Gym Mass Song Group Cheryl and Eric Hild Tom and Chris Hjorth John and Lisa Iberle Illinois Club of Catholic Women Mary Clare Jakes Evan Karnes II and Janet Pioli Anthony and Barb Kesman John and Susan Kobza



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## CELEBRATING A LIFE WELL-LIVED: NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS CRSM ADVISOR FR. JOHN MILTON, CSV OF THE VIATORIAN COMMUNITY

For more than 10 years, Fr. John Milton, CSV, generously shared his vast knowledge in physics and became a spiritual companion to the CRSM community. In September 2022 he would have celebrated 70 years as a Viatorian and 65 years as a priest. He passed away Jan. 24 at the age of 92.

To celebrate and honor Fr. Milton's legacy, the Clerics of St. Viator created a college scholarship fund for a CRSM graduate seeking to pursue a career in the STEM field. The Fr. John Milton Scholarship was presented for the first time at the Class of 2022 graduation in June. Graduate Ezequiel J. is the first recipient of the scholarship and plans to major in mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois.

A retired physics professor at De Paul University and founding member of the science staff at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, **Fr. Milton commuted for more than 10 years to Waukegan to serve as advisor to Kumkum Bonnerjee, physics teacher.** In recognition of his service, the CRSM physics lab is named in his honor.



"Fr. John was a spiritual companion to many at CRSM. We are so grateful to the Viatorians who were among the founding religious communities to back Cristo Rey St. Martin when it opened in 2004 and continue to support its mission."

- Jim Dippold, Director of Campus Ministry