



Beyond Expectations

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

 **CRISTO REY**
ST. MARTIN COLLEGE PREP



CRSM has reached a historic milestone

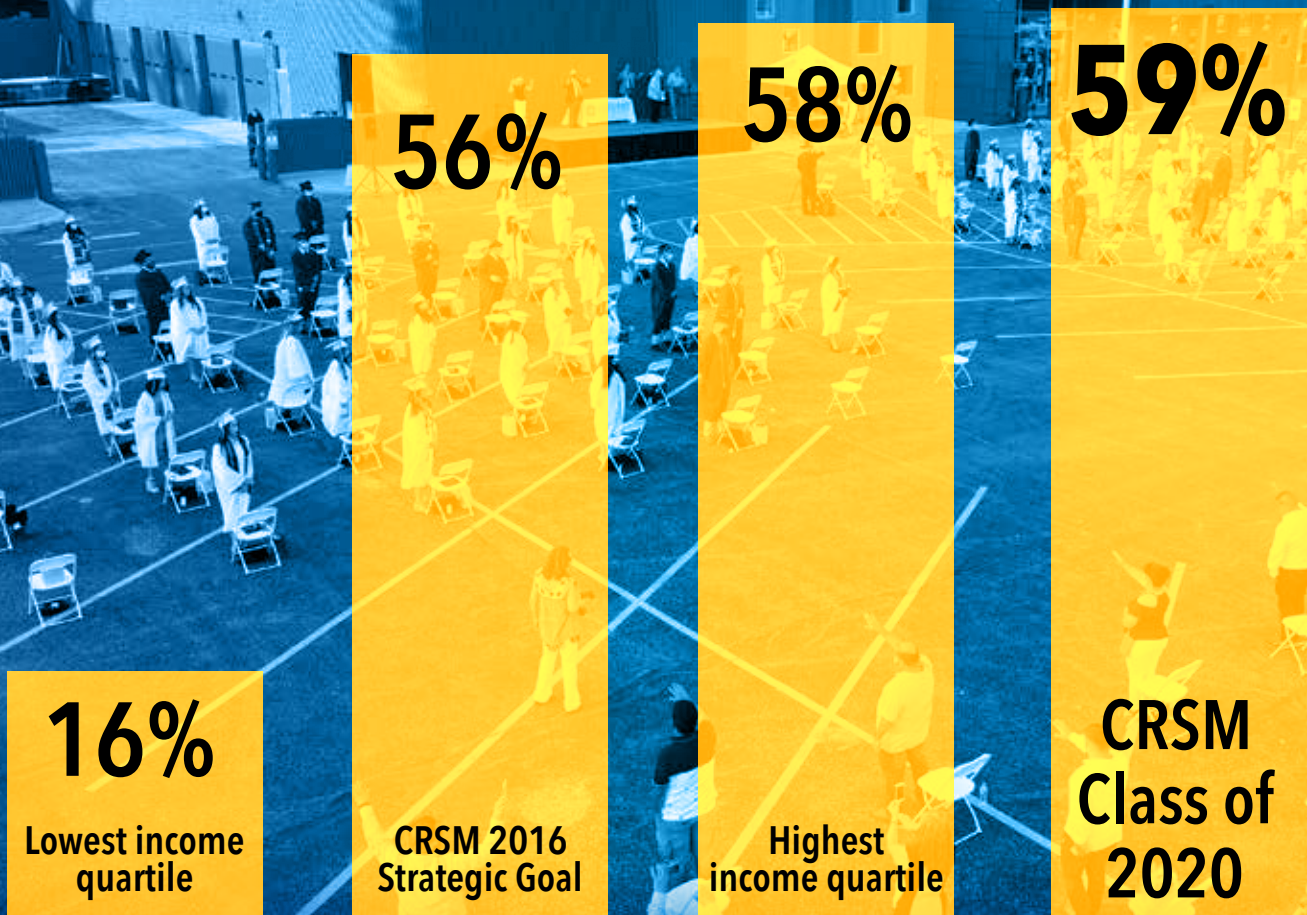
At Cristo Rey St. Martin, college acceptance is not the finish line.

It is one step in a much longer journey. CRSM students are not only getting into college, they are graduating. **The Class of 2020 achieved a 59% bachelor's degree completion rate, surpassing the 58% national benchmark for students from the highest-income families in the country.** These outcomes are even more powerful because of how efficiently they are achieved.

With the third-lowest cost per student in the Cristo Rey Network and a cost comparable to surrounding public school districts, CRSM is proving what is possible when students are given access to opportunity, support, and a community that believes in their potential.

That difference is changing lives.

Beyond Expectations



BA/BS College Completion Rate

* NSC (National Student Clearing House) Data Report

Greetings from our President



Dear friends of CRSM,

Beyond Expectations is the theme for this year's Annual Report because CRSM students are defying the odds and finding success at rates far beyond what statistics for their demographic would predict.

At North Chicago and Waukegan High Schools, fewer than 15% of graduates ever enroll in a 4-year college. At CRSM, 100% are accepted each year and over 90% matriculate each year. CRSM students account for 10% of the high school population in Waukegan and North Chicago but 71% of all bachelor's degrees earned by Pell-Eligible students in the same area!

While family income levels for nearly all CRSM students fall in the lowest quartile for the U.S., our alumni are graduating bachelor's programs at the same rate as students coming from the highest quartile of income.

There is very little difference in the average academic profile of incoming 9th graders at North Chicago or Waukegan public high schools compared to CRSM's 9th graders, yet the results after four years are dramatically different. It is quite a contrast!

Our students' successes in attending and graduating from college put them on par with students from high performing schools like Lake Forest High School and Glenbrook North.

In a speech before the NAACP twenty years ago (2006), President George W. Bush famously referred to the "soft bigotry of low expectations." At its core, CRSM's mission is about high expectations, believing in our students, and giving them opportunities to prove just how good they are.

Your generosity supports our mission: you open doors so that students can engage in transformational classroom and workplace experiences that change their lives!

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Preston Kendall".

Preston Kendall
President

Greetings from our Incoming Board Chair



Dear friends,

As I step into the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am honored to celebrate another remarkable year for Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep. This year's theme, ***Beyond Expectations***, perfectly reflects what makes this school so extraordinary. Every day, students, faculty, staff, families, and supporters demonstrate that when high expectations are paired with opportunity, there is no limit to what young people can achieve.

CRSM continues to raise the bar academically while remaining steadfast in its mission to make a transformational, college-preparatory education accessible to students who are eager to learn, grow, and lead. Equally inspiring is the school's commitment to being a thoughtful steward of every dollar entrusted to it, ensuring resources are invested where they make the greatest impact: on our students and their futures.

For over 20 years, Wintrust has been proud to stand alongside CRSM because we believe strong schools build stronger communities. Supporting organizations that open doors to education, opportunity, and long-term success deeply aligns with who we are as a company and with our commitment to the communities we serve.

Personally, it has been a privilege to serve on the board for over 10 years alongside so many dedicated individuals who make this mission possible. Together, we are investing not only in today's students, but in tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in the incredible potential of every CRSM student. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together, continuing to go ***Beyond Expectations*** in every sense of the phrase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James Draths".

James A. Draths
Executive Vice President
Wintrust Commercial Banking
Chair, CRSM Board of Trustees

College Ready

**We do not serve a different student.
We serve students differently.**

At Cristo Rey St. Martin, access is only the beginning. **CRSM accepts 77% of students who apply** from the Waukegan and North Chicago area, welcoming young people with the same backgrounds, hopes, and challenges as their peers in surrounding schools. Once they arrive, they stay. **With a 96% retention rate**, CRSM walks with students from freshman year through graduation, surrounding them with the academic, personal, and professional support they need to thrive.



Beyond Expectations

96%

Retention Rate
Freshman-Senior Year:
Average For 3 Years,
**Highest In
Cristo Rey Network**

85%

College Readiness
**Highest In
Cristo Rey Network**

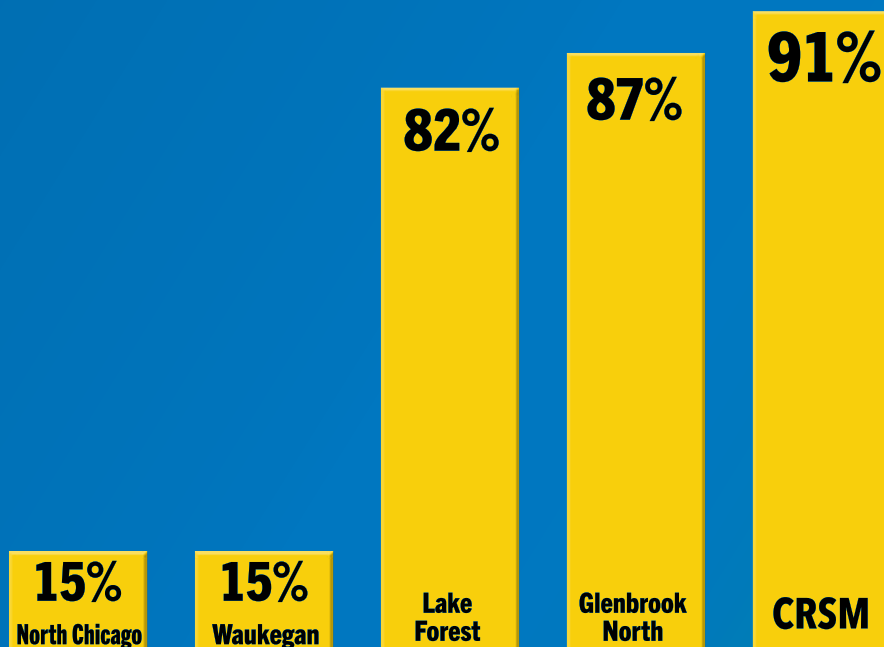
100%

Acceptance to 4-year
Bachelor's Program
Seven Years in a Row

\$17,400

Cost per Student
3rd lowest in the
Cristo Rey Network
of 41 schools

Community High School BA/BS Enrollment



* Illinois School Report Card



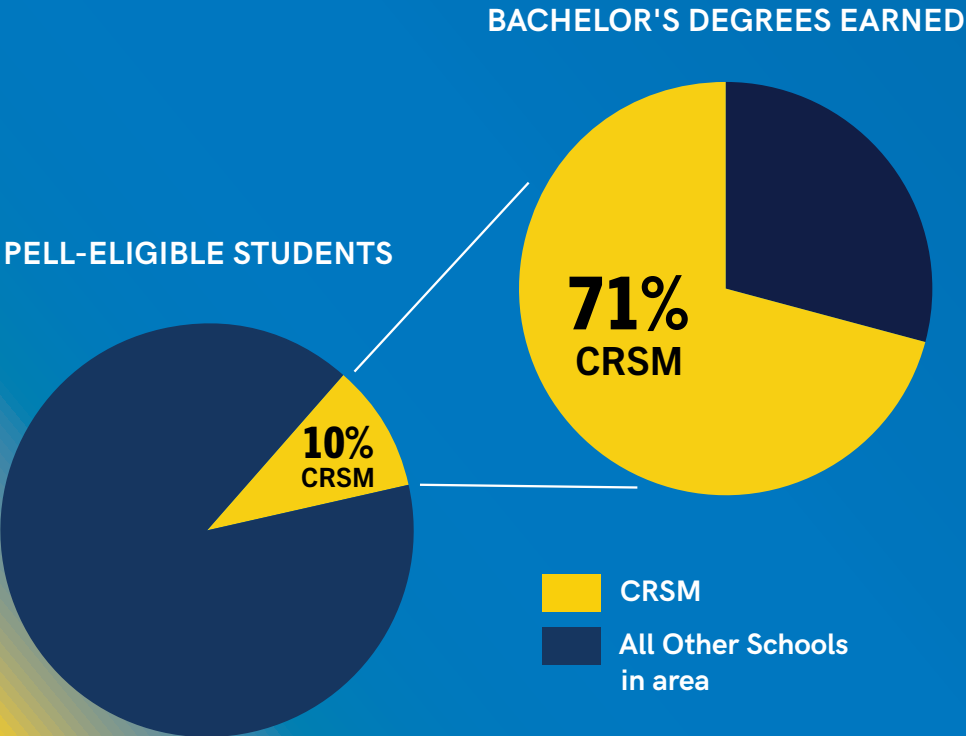
Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep earned Platinum recognition on the 2025 AP School Honor Roll, the College Board's highest distinction.

In the three years the AP School Honor Roll has existed, Cristo Rey St. Martin has earned Platinum recognition every year. Ranked among just 7% of eligible schools nationwide in 2025, this achievement reflects our community's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and college readiness.

AP School Honor Roll Metrics	Criteria				Your School ?	
	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	 PLATINUM Your school achieved all Platinum criteria!	
College Culture	40%	50%	65%	80%	99% (101/102)	Platinum
College Credit	25%	30%	35%	50%	90% (92/102)	Platinum
College Optimization	2%	5%	10%	15%	53% (54/102)	Platinum



10% of Pell-eligible students in the area account for 71% of all bachelor’s degrees earned



* Illinois School Report Card

Work Prepared



Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program

In July 2025, Cristo Rey St. Martin, in partnership with Dominican University, launched its inaugural Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training Program, welcoming more than 40 students into this innovative workforce development initiative.

The program delivered strong outcomes in its first year, **with nearly 70% of students passing the Illinois Nurse Aide Competency Exam on their first attempt, outperforming the 62% first-time pass rate of comparable dual-credit programs.**

Through this partnership, students received rigorous classroom instruction, hands-on clinical training, and the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized credential while still in high school. Equipped with these skills, many students are prepared to pursue employment in hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare settings through Cristo Rey St. Martin's Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP).

The success of this inaugural cohort underscores Cristo Rey St. Martin's commitment to expanding career pathways through strategic partnerships that prepare students for both college and meaningful careers in high-demand industries.



Corporate Work Study Program

Samantha Bahena: A 12-Year CWSP Success Story

At 15, Samantha "Sam" Bahena began as a Cristo Rey St. Martin student intern at **Advanced Resources**. Twelve years later, at 27, she has grown into the role of **HR Solutions Consultant Engagement Director**.

Through CRSM's Corporate Work Study Program, Sam gained early professional experience, mentorship, and a career path. With the guidance of Dina Fiorelli, now President of Advanced Resources, Sam turned a high school internship into a lasting career.

Her story is a powerful reminder of how **CWSP opens doors, builds confidence, and creates lifelong connections**. Thank you to Advanced Resources and Dina for helping Sam grow into the professional she is today.



Samantha Bahena, CRSM '17, HR Solutions Consultant Engagement Director

Beyond Expectations





Committed To Faith And Justice

Student leaders organized the **Prayer Trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, uniting the CRSM community in prayer while honoring the faith and traditions of our immigrant families.



On select Fridays throughout the school year, Cristo Rey St. Martin students and staff traveled to the **Broadview Detention Center to pray** in solidarity with immigrants facing detention and deportation. After pausing visits during the first semester due to heightened ICE activity, the vigils resumed in the spring, offering a faithful witness of hope, compassion, and the inherent dignity of every person during a time of increased immigration enforcement.



On February 17, Cristo Rey St. Martin **students led a Prayer Vigil and Public Witness** in response to the impact of immigration enforcement on families and communities. Inspired by student advocacy across the country, they chose to respond through prayer, reflection, and peaceful solidarity. During lunch and Flex, students gathered to honor those affected, pray for justice, and reaffirm the dignity of every person. This meaningful, student-led initiative reflected the values of our school community—faith, compassion, courageous leadership, and a commitment to justice in action.



Inspired by his experience at the Viatorian Youth Congress, Vincent '28 began leading weekly **Lectio Divina sessions during Flex**, creating a space for students and staff to grow together in prayer and reflection.

Committed To Faith And Justice



CRSM celebrates its 20th official Baccalaureate Mass.



Alumni Success



CRSM Alumna Amy Gisselle Inestroza '21 Named Fulbright Scholar to Portugal

*"CRSM taught me to make
the most out of every
situation . . . Grit taught
me to be persistent."*

- Amy Inestroza,
CRSM '21

Amy Gisselle Inestroza, CRSM '21, has been named a Fulbright Scholar to Portugal, where she will teach English in Madeira and pursue an independent project focused on immigrant communities.

Born in Honduras, Amy was raised in Chicago and later Waukegan by her immigrant mother. After her mother remarried, Amy's Mexican immigrant stepfather became an important source of encouragement, helping shape the resilience and determination she carried through her years at CRSM. ***"CRSM was a formative experience for me,"*** Amy shared. ***"Grit is ingrained in my soul."***

After CRSM, Amy earned **a full scholarship to the College of the Holy Cross, where she double majored in International Studies and Sociology.** Though she once planned to become a lawyer, professors helped her discover her passion for social justice, international relations, and immigration policy.

Amy credits CRSM teachers, coaches, and mentors with encouraging her leadership and confidence. As a student, she served as captain of the soccer and basketball teams and as vice president of the student body.

Through the Fulbright Program, Amy will continue building on that foundation, using teaching, research, and cultural exchange to serve and learn from communities in Portugal.

Alumni Success

Advanced Degrees

43

Master's Degrees
or Higher

1

PhD

3

JDs

1st

Alumni in the Cristo
Rey Network to
serve on a school's
leadership team



Alexis Alvarez, MS
CRSM 2015
Senior Associate, PwC



Maribella Barrios, MA
CRSM 2014
Student Affairs Program
Coordinator
Northwestern University



Andy Estrada
CRSM 2019
3rd Year Medical Student
(MD Candidate)



Mayra Mendez, MS
CRSM 2013
Executive Director
Clean Power Lake County



Isaac Morales, PhD
CRSM 2008
Clinical Pharmacy Manager
Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
U.S. Dept. Of Veterans Affairs



Cheyenne Williams, JD
CRSM 2015
Associate, Alston & Bird



Karolyn Williams, JD
CRSM 2012
Attorney, Office of Indiana
Attorney General



Kimberly Zenteno, JD
CRSM 2015
Associate, Vorys, Sater,
Seymour & Pease LLP

Beyond Expectations

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& TRUST COMPANY, N.A.®
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Our Students' Futures

Beyond Expectations



Brand Meets World



Non-Profit Partners

A Safe Place	CRSM La Mesita	Habitat For Humanity	Roberti Community House
Aurora Medical Center	D112 - Braeside Elementary	HACES	St. Anastasia School
Big Brothers Big Sisters - North Chicago	D112 - Indian Trail Elementary	Highland Park Montessori	St. Dismas Parish
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	D112 - Oak Terrace Elementary	Highwood Library	University Center of Lake County
CCSD21 - Eugene Field	D112 - Red Oak Elementary	HR McCall School	Waukegan Park District - Field House
CCSD21 - Twain Elementary	D112 - Sherwood Elementary	Keshet	Waukegan Public Library
CCSD21 - Whitman Elementary	D112 - Wayne Thomas Elementary	Kohl Children's Museum	Willow House
Center for Enriched Living (CEL)	Elawa Farm Foundation	Lake County Health Dept	Youth Conservation Corps., Inc.
Chicago Botanic Gardens	Family Focus	Lake Forest College	YouthBuild Lake County
	Glenkirk	Mano A Mano	
	Greenwood Elementary School	Montessori Connection West	

Community Engagement and Volunteers



Cristo Rey St. Martin was proud to host **iBIO's STEMgirls Summer Camp** as the Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization **celebrates the program's 10th anniversary**. **CRSM has partnered with iBIO since 2019** to help introduce young girls to hands-on **STEM** learning and future career pathways. This year's **Case Breakers** theme invited campers to explore forensic investigations while building curiosity, confidence, and problem-solving skills. CRSM students and alumni also served as volunteers, helping lead activities and inspire the next generation of young scientists and innovators.



Mano A Mano remains a steadfast partner to Cristo Rey St. Martin, supporting our students through civic engagement initiatives while also standing alongside our families during heightened immigration enforcement. Through Know Your Rights workshops and resource cards distributed on campus, they helped equip our community with information, guidance, and hope during a time of uncertainty.



Ladder Up and the St. Viator Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provided free tax preparation services at Cristo Rey St. Martin, helping local families maximize their refunds and strengthen their financial well-being. Together, these partnerships expanded access to trusted tax assistance for both the broader Waukegan community and CRSM families.

Throughout the year, CRSM students participated in monthly **Lunch and Learn** sessions, where CRSM alumni, business partners, community partners, board members, and other volunteers shared insights from a wide range of career fields. Students heard from leaders including:



Hon. Virginia M. Kendall,
Chief Judge of U.S. District Court,
Rich Steiner of Walgreens



Andrew Pasch of Pfizer,
Brenda Gutierrez, CRSM '15 alum
(Medline)



Mayra Mendez, Executive Director
of Clean Power Lake County and
CRSM 2013, Venoncia Bate-Ambrus
of the Healthcare Foundation of
Northern Lake County

Student Life



More than 75 students participated in this year's production of Mean Girls: The Musical High School Edition, presented April 16-18.

The cast and crew demonstrated remarkable dedication and resilience, even continuing the show after a tornado warning on April 17 required everyone to shelter in place. In addition to entertaining audiences, the production made a positive impact by requesting donations for House of Peace, a domestic violence shelter in Waukegan, raising \$400 to support its mission.



CRSM held its **7th Annual Art Show** in the student union this spring, featuring works from over 50 students in the form of sculptures, paintings, photography, and multimedia design.



Girls' Soccer took home a Regional Title for the second year in a row.



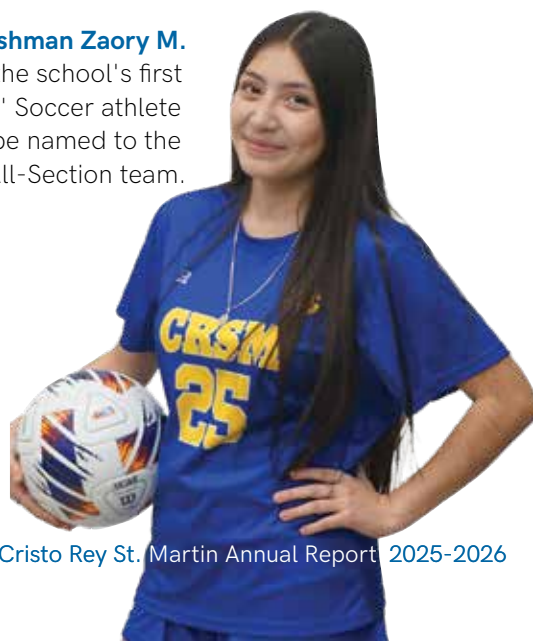
Both Girls' and Boys' Volleyball teams won the Cristo Rey Network Midwest Volleyball Tournament for the third year in a row.



Romeo Young, CRSM '26, ranked #3 in the state of Illinois for Boys' Volleyball hitting percentage.

CRSM Freshman Zaory M.

became the school's first Girls' Soccer athlete to be named to the All-Section team.



30 Years of Leadership, Vision, and Impact

For 30 years, Preston Kendall has helped shape the Cristo Rey mission with vision, humility, and a deep belief in young people. **As President of Cristo Rey St. Martin and a founding member of the Cristo Rey Network and Corporate Work Study Program,** Preston has opened doors for students and families across the country.

At Cristo Rey St. Martin, his leadership helped strengthen the school's future and expand opportunities for generations of students. His impact is reflected in leaders like Viridiana Fajardo, CFO of Cristo Rey St. Martin and the first Cristo Rey alumna in the nation to serve on a school leadership team.

As we celebrate Preston's 30 years of service, we give thanks for his leadership, vision, and lasting impact on Cristo Rey St. Martin and the entire Cristo Rey Network.



Fr. John P. Foley, SJ, Sr. Judy Murphy, Cardinal Francis George, Preston Kendall (1996)



"Preston's greatest legacy is found in the people he has mentored and inspired. His impact lives in every student supported, every door opened, and every leader encouraged to believe in their own potential."

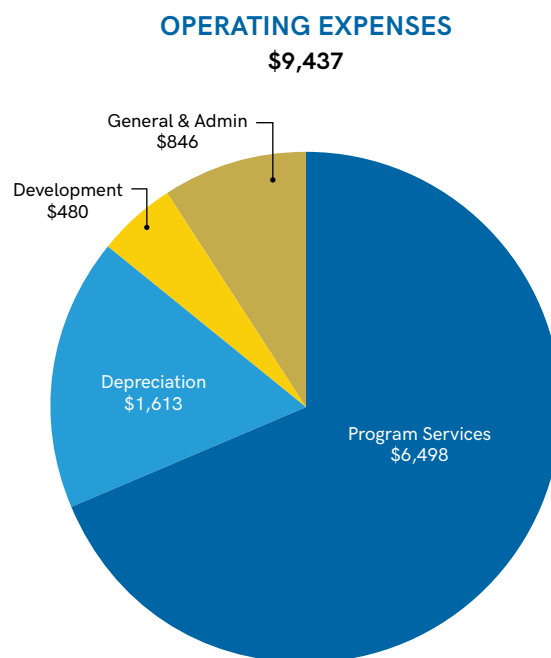
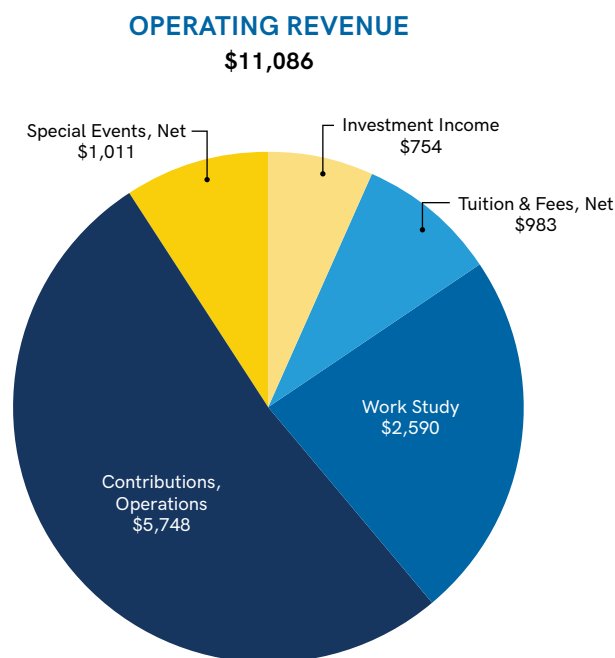
-Viridiana Fajardo,
CRSM '10

Operating Revenue And Expenses

Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep, CRSM Work Study and CRSM Support Corporation

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

\$ in thousands



Associate Board

The **Cristo Rey St. Martin Associate Board**, formerly the Saint Martin Advisory Council, was reestablished in January 2025 to strengthen support for the school's mission, expand community engagement, and create new opportunities for young professionals and leaders to champion Cristo Rey St. Martin students.



Friends and family came together on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at Cristo Rey St. Martin to enjoy pickleball, build community, and support our students. The inaugural Associate Board fundraising event, Pickledon, raised more than \$3,000.



On February 12, 2026, the Associate Board hosted its second fundraising event, Drinks for Dreams, at 28 Mile Distilling Co. Guests enjoyed an evening of fellowship, student musician performances, and philanthropy, helping raise more than \$12,000 to support Cristo Rey St. Martin students.



As part of professional development support for our students, Associate Board members volunteer at various work-study functions throughout the year, including Lunch & Learn Sessions (pictured above), summer training week, and Career Conversations.

Honor Roll Of Donors



\$100,000+

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\$50,000-\$99,999

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HONOR | MEMORIAL GIFTS

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Doug and Mary Ann Evanoff

James and Marie Cowhey
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Marlene Eby
Miranda Eby

James and Mary Fran Finkler
Jim and Mary Finkler

Chris Fillipo
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Tom Fox
Thomas Cunningham

James Gartland, SJs
Maureen Kennedy Barney

**Bill Greener, Barb Foelber,
Chuck Greener, and
Candice Tonon**
Tom and Karen Greener

**Happy Birthday to my dear
friend KCU**
Tom and Kelli Moorhead

Ava Hardel
John and Loretta Lieske

John Keyes
Mark and Margaret Tritschler

Mary Ann Leahy
William Leahy

Simon Moughamian, Jr.
Jose Molina-Ortega and
Debra Moughamian

My brothers and sister
Barbara and Richard Foelber

My children
Charlene Greener

Bevie Parker
Bill and Pamela Russell

Bishop George Rassas
Pam Ast
John Dylong
William and Dorothea
Linklater
Thomas and Patricia Sullivan

Cindy Rourke
Anthony Hoban

Tom and Gerrie Ryan
Keith and Marge McClintock

Cindy Rourke & Susan Felitto
Robin Doerge and Mike
Marino

Max and Leo Salgado
Jesus and Charlie Salgado
Candice and Tim Tonon

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF:

Stormy Bidwill
Dennis and Mary O'Brien

Henry and Donna Boelens
Jennifer Glassford

Teresa Butcher
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Kloempken
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Thomas Fitzpatrick
John Fitzpatrick

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Debra Baruch
Lynda Caselton
James and Cecile Mikulski
Michael and Donna Tessner
Walter and Susann Trnka

Jerry Mortensen
Bill and Pamela Russell

My Dad
Carlos Morales Jr.

Joan Paparigian
Nishan Paparigian

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