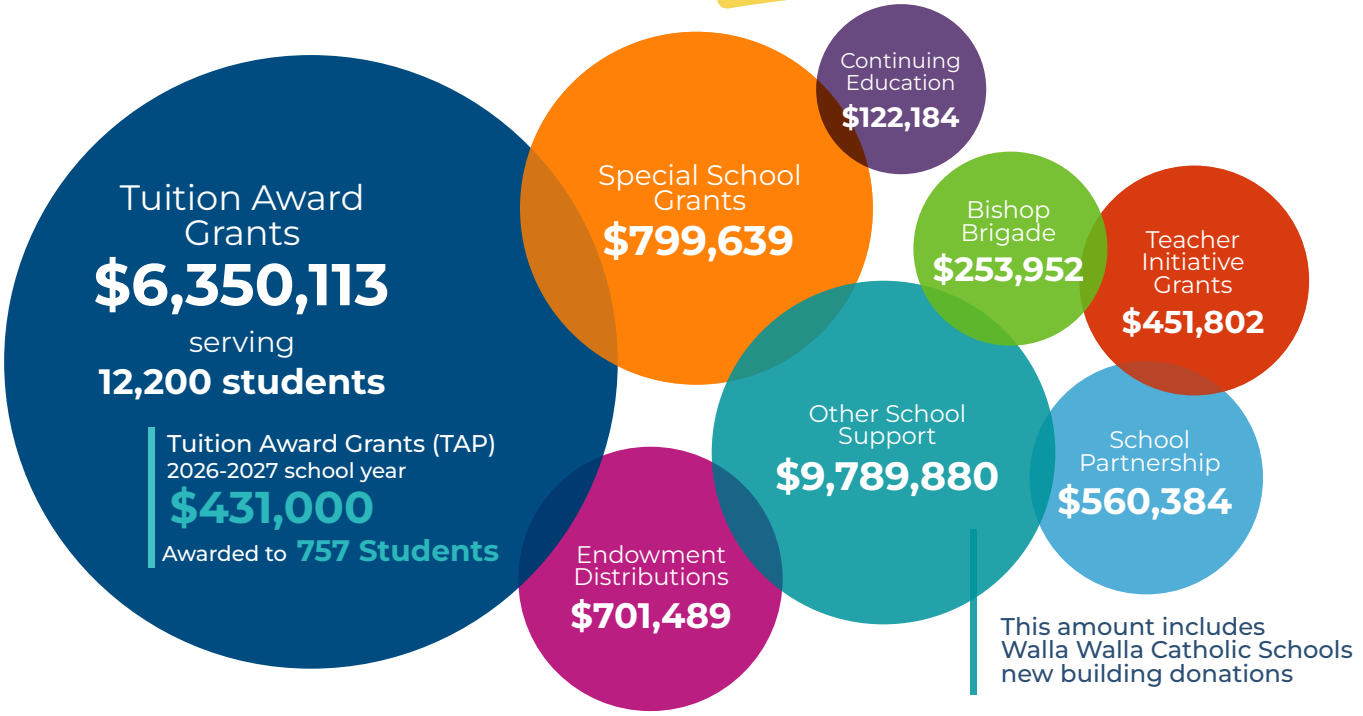
FALL 2026

NAZARETH NEWS

SHINING A LIGHT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

A Look Back 2012 – Present: Total Giving $19,029,450



Since 2013, the Irene Horrigan Endowment held at the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Washington granted us the opportunity to **distribute $2,640,076.** Irene left in her will money for the establishment of an endowment for the benefit of Catholic schools in Eastern Washington.

And since 2014, the Catholic Diocese of Spokane has **contributed $1,320,510** from endowments that benefit Catholic Education.

A Historic Gift. A Lasting Legacy.

An Extraordinary Investment in the Future of Catholic Education

One of the most remarkable moments of this year's Celebration of Light was the announcement of an extraordinary anonymous gift of $5,021,904.70 to support the construction of the new Assumption Catholic School building in Walla Walla.

This transformational gift represents the largest single one-time contribution in Nazareth Guild's history and is an extraordinary expression of generosity, faith, and dedication to Catholic education. The donor's remarkable commitment reflects a deep belief in the importance of Catholic schools and a desire to ensure that future generations can experience an education rooted in faith, academic excellence, and the development of the whole child.

This gift is about so much more than a new school building. It is an investment in children, families, faith, and an entire community. Catholic schools nurture the whole child, academically, spiritually, and personally, providing a foundation where students can discover their gifts, grow in their faith, and become the people God calls them to be.

Because of this extraordinary generosity, generations of Walla Walla students will have a place to learn, grow, build friendships, and thrive. We are deeply grateful for this donor's faith-filled commitment and for the legacy this gift will create.

One extraordinary act of generosity. A profound expression of faith. A legacy that will ripple through generations.



A Message of Gratitude — Be a Champion for Catholic Education



Dear Friends of Nazareth Guild,

What an incredible evening! Our 2026 Celebration of Light brought together a community of generous supporters who believe in the future of Catholic education. This year's theme, The Ripple Effect, was a beautiful reminder that one gift, one act of kindness, or one person's dedication can reach far beyond the moment.

We were especially honored to recognize **Dave McKenna as our Champion of Catholic Education.** Throughout his years at Gonzaga Prep, Dave has touched the lives of thousands of students, creating a ripple that will continue through generations. His dedication is a wonderful example of how one person can make an extraordinary difference.

Whether you joined us that evening or were unable to attend, I want you to know how grateful we are for your continued support and belief in our mission. The generosity and excitement surrounding this year's event were inspiring, and the impact will continue long after the evening ended.

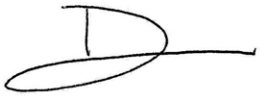
As we continue our follow-up from the event, we are still working toward our fundraising goal. If you couldn't attend, or haven't yet had an opportunity to make a gift, **it's not too late to be part of the ripple effect!**

One of the most direct ways to make a difference is through our Tuition Award Program. **Each tuition award is $500 and helps one qualifying student continue their education at a Catholic school. Would you consider sponsoring at least one student with a $500 gift?** Your generosity can help open the door to a Catholic education for a child and make a lasting difference for a family.

Dave McKenna has shown us what it means to be a Champion of Catholic Education. **You can be a champion, too.** Your gift, whatever the amount, can create opportunities, change lives, and send a ripple of hope through our Catholic school communities.

Be a Champion. Create a Ripple. Change a Life.

With gratitude,



Debbie Battaglia
Executive Director, Nazareth Guild

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A Fond Farewell and a New Opportunity

Nazareth Guild extends its heartfelt thanks to Aleisha Webb, Office Manager, for her contributions and service to our organization. We are grateful for the time and care she has given to supporting our mission and wish her all the best in her next chapter.

We are now seeking a part-time administrative assistant to join the Nazareth Guild team and help support our growing work on behalf of Catholic education.

Know someone who might be a great fit? Please share our job advertisement on LinkedIn!

Faith Through the Fire: Continuing to Support Our Families

When the fires affected families and communities in our region, we all responded with a commitment to help ensure students could continue their Catholic education during a difficult and uncertain time. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the collaboration of our Catholic school community, funds raised in the amount of $20,454.00 will provide tuition support for families who were impacted by the fires.

The Nazareth Guild Board will be reviewing the needs and determining how these funds can be distributed most effectively to provide meaningful assistance to affected students, families, and schools. Money will be distributed by the end of this year.











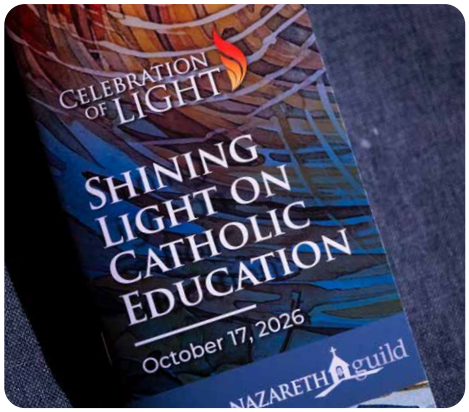





Beyond the Gala: Making an Impact All Year Long

The Celebration of Light may be our signature fundraising event, but the work of Nazareth Guild continues throughout the year!

Each November, we open our Teacher Initiative Grant program for a two-week application period, giving teachers across Eastern Washington's Catholic schools the opportunity to request up to $500 for resources, materials, and equipment that enhance their students' learning experiences.

Just before Christmas break, approved grants are awarded to teachers. We love thinking of it as a little Christmas surprise for the dedicated educators who give so much to their students!

One of our favorite parts is seeing the grants in action. Teachers often share photos of their students using the new resources, along with heartfelt thank-you notes. These glimpses into their classrooms allow us to share the impact with you, our donors, and show how your generosity is making a difference in the everyday lives of teachers and students.

The Celebration of Light brings us together for one special evening, but your generosity creates opportunities all year long. This is the ripple effect of investing in Catholic education!

Investing in Education for Teachers: Growing the Ripple Effect

Great teachers make a lasting difference, and Nazareth Guild continues to invest in their professional growth through our partnership with Gonzaga University and the Diocese of Spokane Office of Education. Together we are expanding opportunities for educators with **a new course, the return of the Inclusive Learning Certificate course, teacher workshops, and a teacher-in-service day.** These opportunities equip teachers with practical skills and strategies to better serve the diverse learning needs of their students.

We are especially excited to share that **Nazareth Guild has secured $48,000 in donations from nine generous donors** to help cover the cost of classes for teachers this school year. Thank you to these generous donors for making opportunities possible!

This investment strengthens our educators, supports their schools, and ultimately benefits the students and families they serve every day.





Thank You to our Generous Sponsors!

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