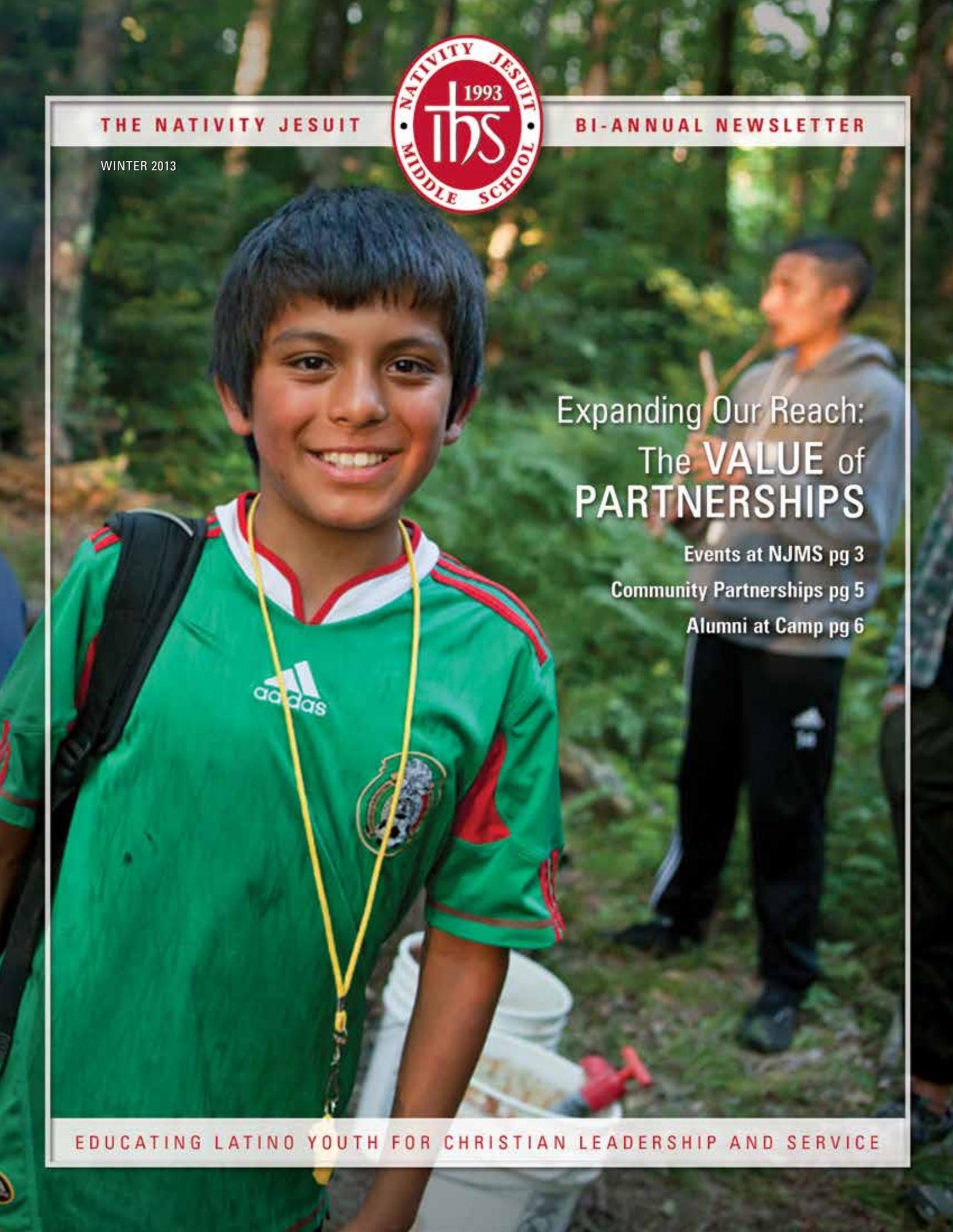




THE NATIVITY JESUIT

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013



Expanding Our Reach:  
The **VALUE** of  
**PARTNERSHIPS**

Events at NJMS pg 3

Community Partnerships pg 5

Alumni at Camp pg 6

EDUCATING LATINO YOUTH FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## DEAR FRIENDS OF NATIVITY

As I reflect on the past nine months of my experience at Nativity, I am reminded of the many blessings we have received in this community, one of the greatest being our benefactors. Your support has seen us through 20 years of academic success - 97% of our students graduate from Catholic, college-preparatory high schools and 85% go on to post-secondary education.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for many Latino children throughout the country: 51% of Latinos ages 20 and older do not have a regular high school diploma; in 2008, only 12% of Latinos completed Bachelor's degrees. Since the U.S. Census Bureau predicts one in four U.S. students will be Latino by 2021, the demand for quality educational programming is clear for this burgeoning demographic. Nativity's success offers hope for this community and our Jesuit identity challenges us to respond to this need.

While the Jesuit motto Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam translates to "For the Greater Glory of God," it is also a distinguishing characteristic of the Jesuit way of proceeding. It can be phrased as "choose that which serves the more universal good, that is, that which makes the widest impact." As the national results cry for more to be done educationally for Latinos, Nativity must respond to this call by making a wider impact - serving more students and doing so with innovative ideas.

We recognize that now is the time to do more. We ask you to consider how you might help us widen our impact. Will you help us serve more students, reach more families and, in turn, strengthen our Milwaukee community? Your continued investment ensures greater academic success and stronger possibilities for a brighter future for our students. Thank you for your unwavering dedication. You truly emulate what Ignatius called us to be - men and women for others.

Gratefully,



**MELODIE WYTENBACH**  
INTERIM PRESIDENT



*"Your support has seen us through 20 years of academic success..."*

# NATIVITY CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration in June ensured the continuation of Catholic high school education of our students by raising \$250,000 for the Siewert Scholarship Fund – what a phenomenal tribute to Larry and his dedication to our mission! We are poised for even greater success.



Mr. Siewert greets a guest.



Adrian M., Mary McIntosh, Roy A., Rosario Sanchez enjoy the party.



Guests take chances on some great prizes!



Cesar co-emcees the evening!



Alumni Flag procession begins the program.



Guest speaker, Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ delivers a moving speech about compassion and second chances.



Larry Siewert, man of the hour, receives a standing ovation as he admires NJMS alumni!



Gabe Rivera, '01, makes a plea to donors.



Eduardo, proud to be an NJMS class of 2013, appeals to donors.

## NJMS BOASTS ANOTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL GOLF OUTING

Thanks to WaterStone Bank, our Event Sponsors, and our very dedicated volunteers and hosts: Scott Roberts, Pat Lawton, Maria Chase, and Matt Coburn.



Carlos and a classmate wait to greet golfers.



Joe Delgadillo listens to one of Terry Briscoe's stories!



Golfers relax after a round and enjoy the Mariachi Band.



The Gaspar's listen intently as Interim President, Melodie Wyttenbach, shares news about the future of NJMS.



"The Homer" gets ready to begin another successful auction.



Pat Lawton, Maria Chase, Jenna Green, Terry Walsh Mike Gaynor, (front row), Bill Strotman, Mike Lauer and Marc Marotta (back row) enjoy a break in their game for a photo.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### CHAIR:

**David Murphy** – Vice President, Office of Marketing and Communication, Marquette University

### BOARD MEMBERS:

**Jaime Alvarado** – CEO, APM Milwaukee, Inc.

**Terry D. Briscoe** – CEO, National Insurance Services, Inc.

**Brian Dix** – Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.

**Eric J. Fors** – Consultant

**Doug Leonhardt, S.J.** – Marquette University, Office of Mission and Identity; Board of Members

**Eleazar Lopez, Jr. '97** – Financial Advisor, Catholic Financial Life

**Dan McDonald, S.J.** – Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus; Board of Members

**John A. Mehan** – Managing Director -Public Finance, Robert W. Baird & Co.

**Robert T. Monday** – Chairman of the Board, Ronald McDonald House

**Jeffrey Ruidl** – Real Estate Department, Northwestern Mutual

**Warren J. Sazama, S.J.** – President, Marquette University High School; Board of Members

**Jay Schwister** – Managing Director, Robert W. Baird & Co.

**Anna Varley** – Assistant Professor, Cardinal Stritch University

**Robert J. Wisniewski** – President & CEO, Trade Press Media Group, Inc.

**Melodie Wyttenbach** – Interim President, Nativity Jesuit Middle School

**Michael W. Zielinski** – Chief Compliance Officer, Mason Street Advisors, LLC (Past Chair)

### EMERITI BOARD MEMBERS:

**Anthea (Tia) L. Bojar, Ph.D.** – Exec. VP for Academic Affairs, Cardinal Stritch University

**Joseph L. Delgadillo** – Owner, Consultant

**George J. Gaspar** – Retired Managing Director, Petroleum Research, Robert W. Baird & Co.

**William T. Johnson, SJ** – NJMS Co-Founder

**Donald W. Layden, Jr.** – Quarles & Brady, LLC; Warburg Pincus, LLC

**Scott A. Roberts** – President and CEO, Ziegler Capital Management, LLC

**John L. Stanley** – President, The Legacy Group

**Julie A. Tolan** – President, CEO; YMCA

# PARTNERSHIPS ABOUND AT NATIVITY

Nativity has developed numerous neighborhood and citywide partnerships over the past twenty years, exposing our students and families to a wide range of area talent, resources, and programs. We are grateful to all of our partners that create amazing learning opportunities for our Nativity students.

## Layton Boulevard Neighborhood Association:

This past spring Nativity received an association grant made available to area schools to build raised gardens. Under the guidance of our shop teacher, Eric Sutkey, and our science teacher, Jennifer Gaul, the 8th graders built wooden foundations for the vegetable beds while the 6th graders planted a variety of vegetables. With this partnership we'll be able to teach the students about sustainable gardening, conserving resources and composting. This experience will also demonstrate how urban gardening can provide food for Nativity families.

## Wisconsin Bike Federation- Milwaukee Chapter:

Our summer bike week is possible because of our partnership with the Wisconsin Bike Federation. The Federation

teaches about bike safety and provides bikes and helmets to our 5th grade students. Student bikers put into practice what they learn as they bike the Hank Aaron Trail all the way from Nativity to Bradford Beach.

## 4-H Club - STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Robotics Team:

For the past three years, Nativity students from all grades have had the opportunity to work with 4-H

representatives and engineers from Rockwell Automation to build robots with Legos. With their support, Nativity students participate in the annual First Lego League Competition at Marquette University High School.

## Future Cities Project:

Speaking of engineering, Mrs. Darla Erato and the 8th graders continue to work with area engineers and students from Marquette University as they

compete annually in the Milwaukee area Future Cities Project. Students are asked to design and build a future city which solves an urban problem, such as water runoff. In addition to building a model of this future city, students must

research, write, and present papers.

This partnership develops a range of student's skills in science, math, technology, forensics, and writing.

## The Milwaukee Rampage:

Thanks to the generous support of Dan Doucette,

Nativity students participated in soccer camps and clinics facilitated by Rampage Coach, Boro Susevic, and his players. These soccer opportunities allow students to work on individual and team-skills. Boro coached the students for a week at camp and held a clinic in Nativity's gym.

## Camp Esmerelda:

Tennis is a game that students on the near south-side of Milwaukee might not grow up playing, but "Queen Esme," director of Camp Esmerelda, has been a great teacher and ambassador of the game. Queen Esme works with Nativity students weekly, dishing out both tennis and life tips to a lucky group of tennis stars.

## Urban Ecology Center & Discovery World:

Both the Urban Ecology Center and Discovery World provide Nativity students hands-on learning experiences in the

areas of science and nature. With regular field trips throughout the year to both organizations, Nativity students are able to take advantage of their expertise and programs.

*"We are grateful to all of our partners, who enable us to give our students experiences we might not otherwise be able to provide for our students."*

**JIM WILKINSON  
PRINCIPAL**



## GRADUATE SUPPORT

I am inspired by the work of Larry Siewert, and I look forward to continuing the mission of developing our graduates to become leaders in the community. I interviewed our alumni counselors at camp to learn about their experiences.

### ALUMNI COUNSELORS AT CAMP – IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The impact of the alumni counselors on the current students was immediately apparent. “I want to come back here and be a camp counselor when I am old enough,” Jonathan, an 8th grader, told me after realizing that he would be leaving camp in a few days. For the past three summers, Jonathan has spent five weeks at Camp Thunderhead in Mercer, Wisconsin. We were chatting on a picnic table overlooking the soccer field when he continued, “It’s hard to believe our last camp is almost over.”



*Alumni Camp Counselors: Manny '08, Santiago '07, Erik '08; (1st row) John Meuler, Director of Graduate Support, Adrian '08, Roy '08, Victor, '06, Irving '03, Assistant Director (2nd row)*

Jonathan’s idea to return to camp as a counselor was reinforced by his role models at camp. Though alumni have served as counselors in the past, this summer proved to be a turning point because eight alumni returned to Camp Thunderhead. Two of these alumni – Santiago (NJMS class of '07) and Victor ('06) – were returning for their second summer and even served as head counselors in their cabin. The eight alumni, all enrolled in universities, are fulfilling the mission of Nativity by instilling the values of service and leadership into a new generation of Nativity students.



The bond that develops between current students and alumni counselors provides an important foundation for growth. The alumni counselors recognize that their role is especially significant in fostering healthy relationships for the campers. Santiago commented, “I’ve had a good relationship with Juan [an 8th grader] because he reminds me of myself when I was at Nativity. He asks me for advice on how to better himself.” Because the current students have role models who have blazed the trail, they are learning

life lessons that will empower them for the future.



The alumni counselors are also open to growth at camp. The transition from camper to counselor provides opportunities to learn about responsibility. Erik ('08) said, “I have learned how to be more vocal and lead a group as a counselor.” Jesus ('08) added, “It’s all about the kids now. The most rewarding experience is seeing these kids grow and learn so much. I’m just here to help the kids make the most of their time at camp.”



In short, the alumni counselors are living out the mission of Nativity in a powerful way at camp. Christian ('04) noted, “I have improved in the art of counseling the campers into becoming better educated Latino youth who one day will be Christian leaders and servers of others.”

*John Meuler, Director of Graduate Support.*

## MENTORING – AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK

Jeff and Katie Ruidl felt a strong calling to become mentors because they themselves have been blessed with many mentors and are surrounded by a support system of close family and friends. “Nativity provided us with an opportunity to give back and serve as positive role models for several boys who will no doubt become future leaders,” said Jeff.

After graduating from Marquette High and beginning at Marquette University, Jeff Ruidl worked closely with the Nativity Graduate Support Program and volunteered with the middle school students as a basketball coach. His girlfriend, and now wife, Katie often helped at practices and games. After moving back to Milwaukee post-graduate school, Jeff and Katie were looking for a way to reconnect with the school and reached out to Mr. Siewert to learn more about the mentoring program.

### MENTORING KEEPS US BALANCED...

As mentors, Jeff and Katie found the Nativity graduates to be academically prepared, driven, intellectually curious, and a lot of fun. “Working with them keeps us balanced, appreciative of the advantages we were provided in life, and overall better people. Given that many of their parents did not graduate high school, students often need help

to remain focused on their long-term goals and reassurance that ‘staying the course’ is worth the sacrifice,” said Katie.

The Ruidls feel fortunate with the relationships they have forged with their mentees, developing friendships that have lasted well beyond their four years in high school. The Ruidls are also now proud Godparents to a child of one of their mentees.

---

*Those interested in learning more about the Nativity mentoring program may contact John Meuler, Director of Graduate Support at [Meulerj@njms.org](mailto:Meulerj@njms.org) or by phone at 414-645-1060.*

---

Beyond the mentor/mentee relationship, they have had the opportunity to meet many of their mentees’ parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, close friends, and even neighbors. They discovered the Hispanic community to be tight knit, hard-working, and embracing of people who are trying to help its students find success. “We also never tire of the home cooked meals that show up at our house on our birthdays and major life events,” said Jeff.

### NO SPECIAL SKILLS REQUIRED...

While a four-year commitment is not one to be taken lightly, the Ruidls realize serving as a mentor sounds more daunting than it really is. They believe it does not require any special skill sets or even that much concentrated time. While they try to see their mentees face-to-face quarterly, the Ruidls typically communicate through short e-mails and most often through text messages. NJMS also sets up frequent events, which facilitate the initial meeting and notify them when it’s time to get together. “The Nativity Graduate Support Program (Lead by John & Irving) and the mentor program are critical facets in the long-term success of our NJMS graduates,” said Katie.

“We have gained a deeper appreciation for the importance of education, how easy it can be to take it for granted, that its continued pursuit is not always an easy path, and that it takes a community that is willing to get their hands dirty to get a student across the finish line. We have also learned that once a NJMS grad finds success, his top priority is to help others along the way,” said Jeff.



**NATIVITY JESUIT**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 491

NATIVITY JESUIT MIDDLE SCHOOL | 1515 SOUTH 29TH ST. | MILWAUKEE, WI 53215



**HELP THE NATIVITY MISSION**

**DONATE ONLINE AT:  
WWW.NJMS.ORG**

**OR CALL (414) 645-1060  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED NATIVITY IN YOUR WILL?**

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO SUPPORT US NOW, THERE IS A WAY TO SUPPORT US IN THE FUTURE AND IT WON'T IMPACT YOU TODAY. A PLANNED GIFT IS AN EASY AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS. PLEASE CALL PAULA HARRIS AT 414-645-1060 OR EMAIL HER AT HARRISP@NJMS.ORG.



**YOUR SUPPORT IS ALWAYS WELCOME. BELOW IS A LIST OF NEEDED ITEMS:**

**NATIVITY JESUIT  
MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

ART SUPPLIES

**CAMP THUNDERHEAD:**

LEGOS AND KNEX BUILDING SETS • BOARD GAMES  
WASHERS/DRYERS • BIKES • LCD PROJECTOR  
FISHING POLES • UTILITY TRAILER  
4-PERSON BACKPACKING TENTS  
SLEEPING PADS/MATS