

## A Message of HOPE as We Enter a New Year...

Dear Friend:

In 2011, *Ralph* graduated from All Hallows High School with four years of quality education under his belt and a plan for the future.

This talented young man now plans to serve his country in the Marine Corps and eventually transition into a career in law enforcement.

He says, “I would like to thank Inner-City Scholarship Fund, my school and most importantly my family, for believing in me. And of course, people who support ICSF. I wouldn't be where I am today without your generosity.”

*Jessica* graduated from Cathedral High School. She spent time in ICSF's Job Opportunities Program, where she learned valuable skills like resume writing and got to participate in classes and mock job interviews. Jessica also spent many hours volunteering for her community because she wanted to give back.

“I am forever grateful for the opportunities that were available to me because of the support of ICSF,” Jessica says. “Thank you for helping to make my academic dreams come true.”

Both of these recent graduates represent the *power of education*—not only to give students knowledge, but also to prepare them to be **active, engaged participants** in their neighborhoods and in the wider world.

Throughout New York City, ICSF provides scholarships to students whose parents wish to provide them with a quality education in a safe environment, but can't afford school tuition. **Each one of our donors helps make this possible.**

**Why do people choose to give to ICSF?** Here are just a few reasons.

**1. Wise use of resources.** Our Catholic schools can provide a quality education for about \$10,000 less than the public schools can. And donations to ICSF go to support students' education, not overhead. **87 cents of every dollar we receive goes directly toward a child's education.**

**2. Results.** Our statistics don't lie. Our students are deeply involved in the educational process and determined to succeed. **They work hard with the support of their families and sponsors to graduate from high school and go on to higher education.** Fully 95% all ICSF graduates pursue college or university studies. ***Donors provide them with the financial “boost” they need.***

Nearly three out of every four students enrolled in our 92 designated elementary and secondary schools come from homes living at or below the federal poverty line. Our average scholarship

recipient's family income is approximately \$24,000 per year. Over half of ICSF students come from single-parent households. But through a joint effort that includes schools, parents, and donors (not to mention the power of their own hard work), our students can break the cycle of poverty through the power of education.

**3. Holistic programming.** We're not only concerned with graduation rates, even though they're very important. Donations to ICSF also help to provide things like job training and upgrades to classroom technology so that students are prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century job market.

Every single one of our donors is a vital part of our mission—to provide quality education to so many of our city's children. A gift may seem small, but it can have a tremendous impact.

**Because of people like you, these students are able to get the quality education they richly deserve.**

Thank you!

Sincerely,

(signature)

Susan George  
Executive Director