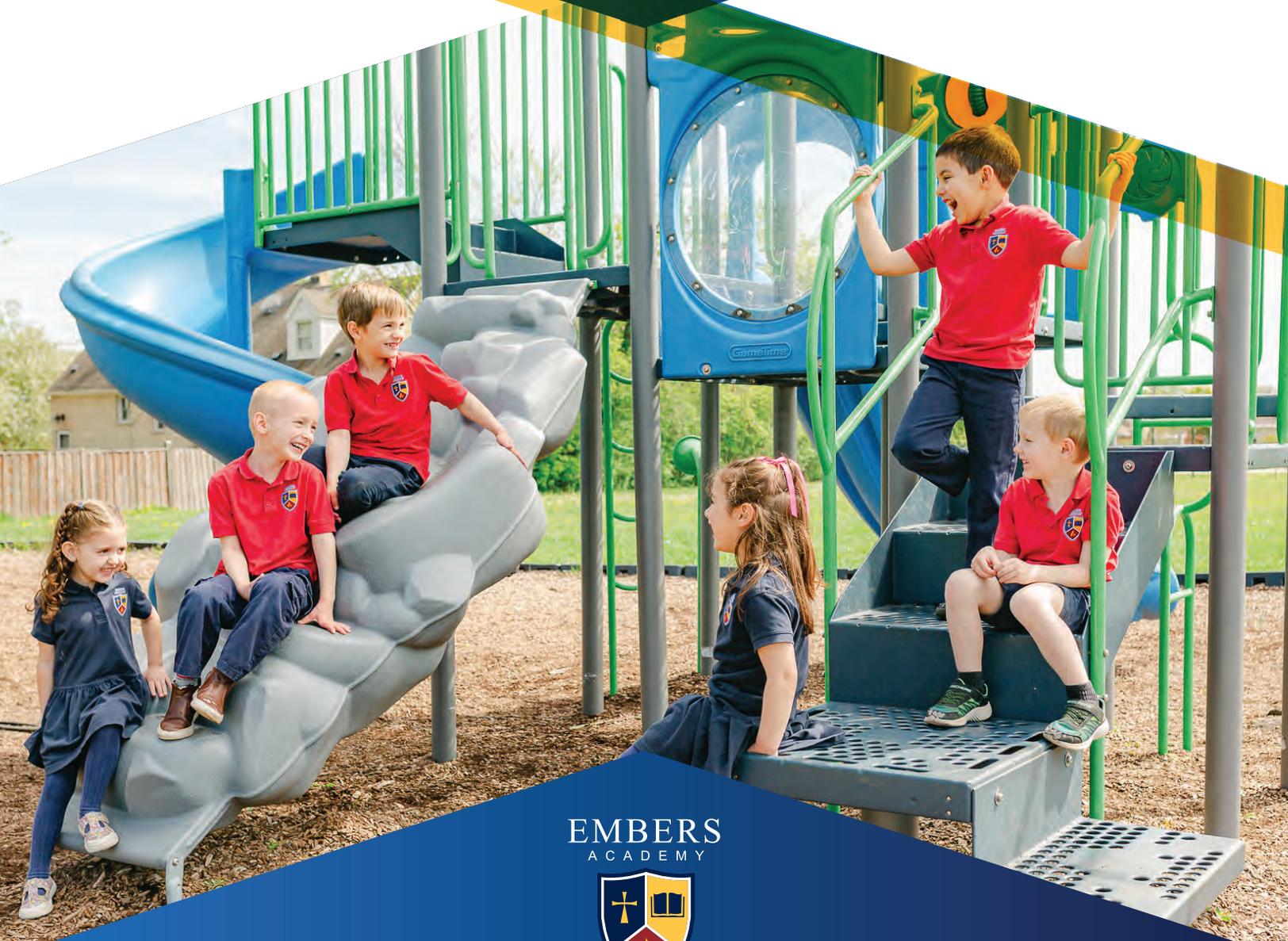


ANNUAL REPORT

2025



EMBERS
ACADEMY





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Financial Overview	1
Growing in Virtue	2
Stars and Stripes	3
Extravaganza	4
Annual Fund	7
Spark Spotlight.....	9



OUR MISSION

Embers Academy is a private, independent school, rooted in the Catholic faith, serving grades pre-kindergarten through fifth. Embers is committed to the pursuit of academic excellence and character formation and works in partnership with parents, who are the primary educators of their children. Embers sees each student as a child of God — a gift from God — and helps them to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and practice moral behavior.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Dear Embers Community,

Thank you very much for your generous sacrifices of time and treasure to bring the mission of Embers to life. In the 2024-25 school year, a record number of parents volunteered for school events and activities. In addition, we raised over \$250,000 at the Extravaganza for a second consecutive year. This support and commitment enables Embers to consistently improve how we carry out our mission to partner with you in the education of your children.

As our school continues to grow, we have expanded our physical footprint with a new lease that includes the entire South Wing of the building and increased access to Paluch Hall. Thanks to the additional space, our students now have a dedicated library to feed their imagination and grow their love for reading. Additionally, a new lunchroom will provide our children the space to deepen their relationships with their classmates through socializing during the lunch period. Finally, we are excited that the additional space will enable us to host more parent formation sessions onsite.

My wife and I are very thankful to be part of the exceptional Embers community. On behalf of the Board, I thank you again for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

George Holohan
Embers Board of Directors

2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET

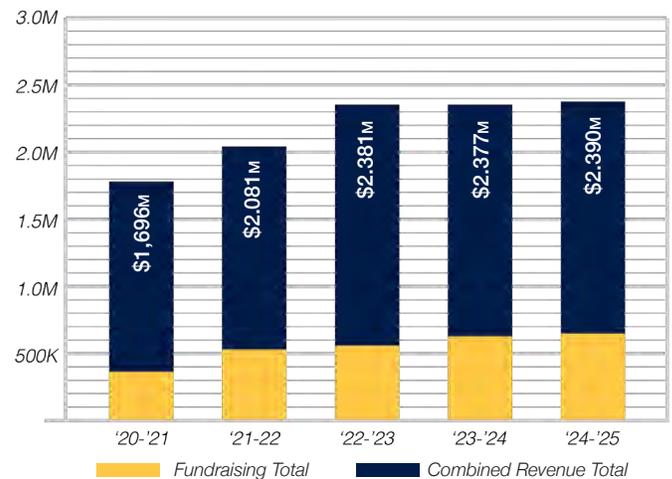
Revenue

Tuition and Fees	\$1,663,361
Fundraising.....	\$652,932
Annual Fund (\$355,402)	
Extravaganza (\$297,530)	
Other.....	\$73,391
Total Revenue	\$2,389,684

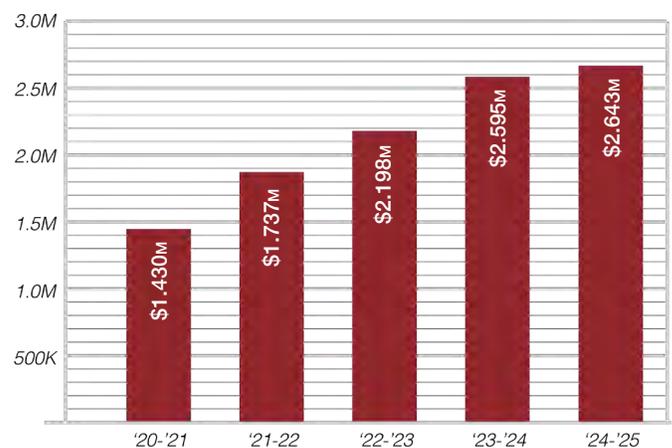
Expenses

Maintenance & Facilities.....	\$508,727
General Operations	\$2,134,092
Total Expenses.....	\$2,642,819

ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE



ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES



GROWING IN VIRTUE

This year, Embers introduced The **Spark of Virtue Award** at its monthly, all-school assemblies. Every month, homeroom teachers select one or two students who have been exceptional examples to their friends and peers of implementing the virtue into their daily lives.

“Part of our school identity includes helping students grow in human virtue. Awards are visible ways to recognize students who are making an effort to live out the Virtue of the Month,” explained current Headmaster Pablo Boville.

In addition to the assemblies, teachers use literature, discussions, and activities during their weekly Virtue Period, to expand their students’ understanding of virtues like loyalty, diligence, and friendship.

This small sampling of real award nominations submitted by our faculty are testament to our Sparks living in virtue!



Jacob initiated the trend of saying “thank you” to teachers at the end of class, inspiring his peers to follow suit.
Virtue of Gratitude



Therese gave her mittens to a friend who was cold.
Virtue of Generosity



Jeremiah does not run out to recess. He waits for his friends if they forget something or take a while to put on their jacket.
Virtue of Loyalty



Ophelia pays attention to detail, has fantastic handwriting, and keeps materials organized.
Virtue of Diligence

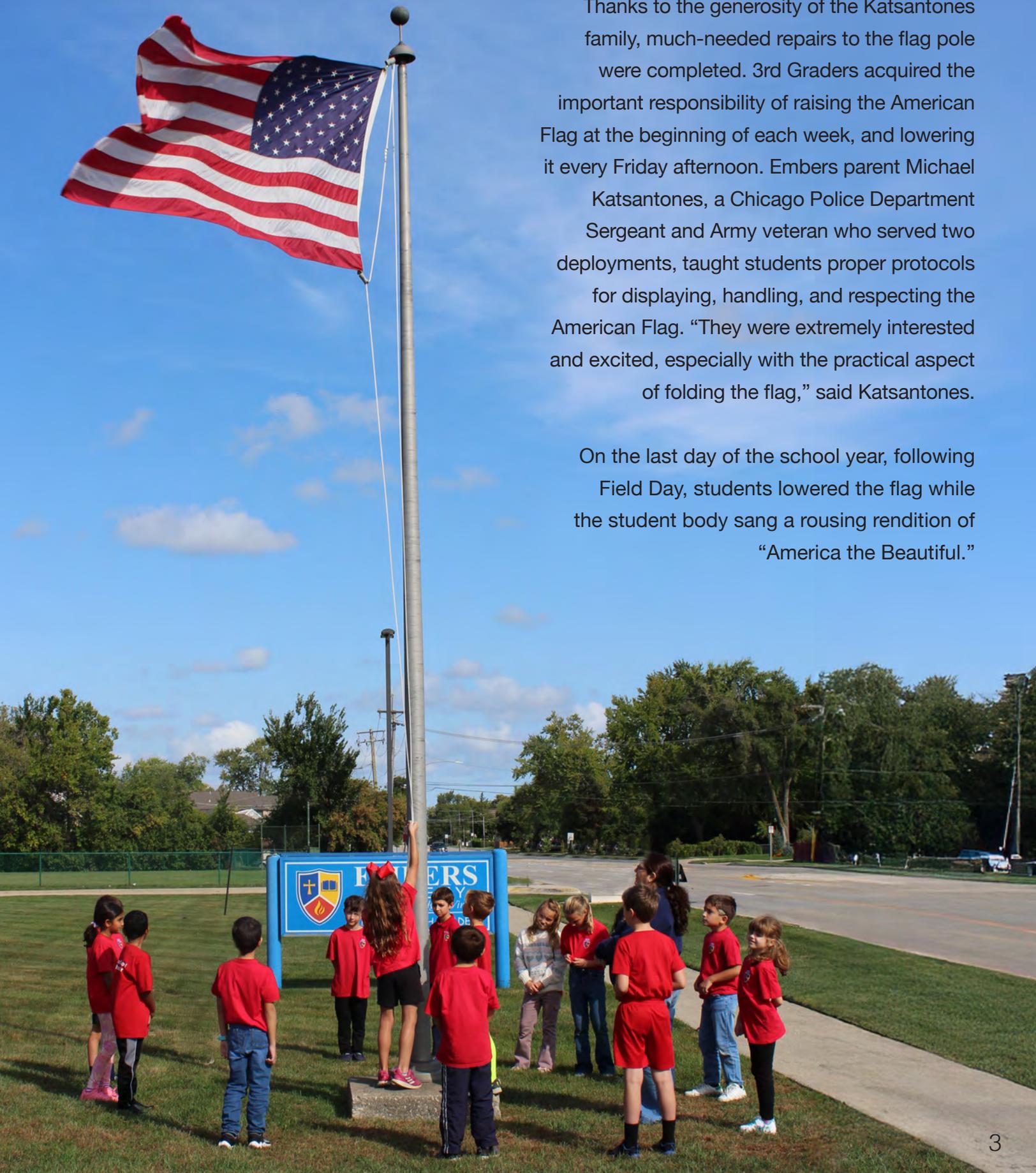


Playtime meets virtue formation during our students’ visits to Embers Town.

STARS AND STRIPES

Thanks to the generosity of the Katsantonos family, much-needed repairs to the flag pole were completed. 3rd Graders acquired the important responsibility of raising the American Flag at the beginning of each week, and lowering it every Friday afternoon. Embers parent Michael Katsantonos, a Chicago Police Department Sergeant and Army veteran who served two deployments, taught students proper protocols for displaying, handling, and respecting the American Flag. “They were extremely interested and excited, especially with the practical aspect of folding the flag,” said Katsantonos.

On the last day of the school year, following Field Day, students lowered the flag while the student body sang a rousing rendition of “America the Beautiful.”



AN EXTRAVAGANZA TO REMEMBER

The Embers community enjoyed a festive evening at our Kentucky Derby-themed Extravaganza, **Race for the Roses**. A filmed Derby Contest skit and musical number by our talented students and Fire Choir provided lively entertainment for our guests, whose elaborate hats, fascinators, and Spring-inspired fashion added to the enthusiastic atmosphere.

Many Embers alumni were in attendance, both as guests and volunteers. Former Head of School Gladys Davis, former Embers Chaplain Fr. Francis “Rocky” Hoffman of Relevant Radio, and numerous faculty and staff were present to honor PreK Teacher Tammy Dabe on her retirement after 20 dedicated years at Embers.



Fr. Rocky and Gladys Davis present Tammy Dabe with a gift of appreciation.

Parents and teachers shared heartfelt testimonials, including reasons for choosing Embers amidst financial and logistical considerations, so their children can benefit from the exceptional Embers experience. Attendees enthusiastically raised their paddles and purchased raffle tickets to support Embers’ mission and growth. The crowd lingered after the program’s conclusion as the Northridge Jazz Band played into the night. Building on last year’s momentum, the 2025 Extravaganza was another record-breaking event!



"Embers really has it all: the academics, the faith-building, and the virtues. It doesn't come without sacrifices...but it's completely worth it."
 - Julie Donovan, parent and faculty



Race for the ROSES

BY THE NUMBERS

\$297,000+

Raised for Embers

250+

Guests in Attendance

160+

Mint Juleps Enjoyed

40+

Parent Volunteers

EVENT SPONSORS

BLAZE

Tom and Ali Carter

FLARE

Sam and Patsy Carter

PARTNER

Rod Bahjat and Luma Naim

Jason and Kelly Beck

Liston Legal Group

Brian and Mindy Lukens

George and Pilar Holohan

Northridge Prep

Derek and Jamie Simon

Colton and Alli Smith

Peter and Maura Spingola

EXTRAVAGANZA DONORS

Anonymous (x2)
Leila Abdollahian
Kevin and Mary Adley
AmTab
Shane and Mary Anastasi
Hammad Asghar and Citaly Carbajal
Martin and Amy Babbo
Bob and Katie Baehl
George and Malgorzata Balaban
Julie Barder
Robert and Julene Barder
Jeff and Jessica Bartel
Russ and Kim Beck
Michael and Connie Beckman
Robert Black
Jacek and Sylwia Bohaczyk
Tom and Dorothy Boland
Pablo and Toni Boville
Christopher and Mary Therese Brown
Sebastian and Catherine Brukalo
Kevin and Linda Buggy
Rory and Keara Burke
Thomas and Gabriela Burke
Michael and Pascale Burns
Margaret Campbell
Robert and Meredith Carpenter
Samuel and Laura Castillo
Joaquin and Maria Castillo Ibero
Isaias and Diana Chaves-MacLean
Mary Childers
Edna Colon
Joe and Emily Conroy
Thomas and Marisol Cunningham
John and Tammy Dabe
Craig and Bonnie Davis
Louis and Gladys Davis
Aldo and Debbie Diaz
Elizabeth M. Dolack
Kieran and Kayla Driver
Anne DuBray
David and Julie Dylegowski
Edward Jones
Joe and Lauren Egan
Anthony and Hortensia Esquivel
Niall Fagan
Carlos and Brenda Fernandez
Samantha Flood
Angela Fortunato
Joseph and Faye Foster
John and Julie Galluzzi
Christian and Elizabeth Gauna
Anthony and Kathleen Gillespie
Robert and Colleen Gilligan
Christopher and Kristine Goffos
Goldman Sachs
Robert and Danielle Gorzelanny
Michael and Beatriz Gray
Robert and Nina Greiber
Nawaf and Tanya Habib
Patrick and Lisa Hanretty
Scott and Jeanne Henschell
Fr. Francis Hoffman
Teresa Hoffman Liston
Andrew and Madeleine Holoska
Joseph and Vallery Hrbacek
Cory and Caroline Jensen
Michael and Gabriela Katsantones
Amelia Kesseem
John and Sharon Kestler
John and Shannon Kovacs
John Kurt
Michael and Janet Laird
Brian and Jacqueline Lastovich
Francisco Leyva and Joanna Presz
Jacky Liston
John and Volha Liston
Jody Lucchesi
Lauren Lucchesi
Nick Lucchesi
Jince and Sheena Lukose
John and Karyn Macfarlane
John and Mariana Madigan
Adam Malinowski and Atourina Gorgis
Janet Masterson
Patrick and Madeleine McEwen
Danny and Mary McGuire
John and Lili Mikan
Stjepan Misetic and Regina Cairo
Neda Naum
Mark and Mary Nomellini
North Shore Dental Group
Jorge and Javiera Ortega
John and Karen Ostrowski
Francisco and Michelle Parada
Jim and Mary Paschall
Cindy Pasowicz
Robert Pearce
Jacek and Elizabeth Predki
Jeffrey and Sarah Ptacek
Joseph Raoul, Jr
Relevant Radio
Review Well
Will Rey
Joseph and Grace Rhee
John Riccobono
Christopher and Alison Richards
Luis Rivas and Magdalena Kolodziej
Charlene Roland
Paul and Maria Rossi
Robert Sadlowski
Tom and Ann Sandberg
Alice Schafersman
Brian and Diana Silhan
Greg and Marzena Sipiora
Zhanna and Basil Slabodich
Lukasz and Jennifer Sledz
Michael and Katie Stangel
Michael and Lexie Stangel
Christian and Mona Stepansky
Konrad and Agnieszka Sulima
Philip and Bozena Theodoropoulos
Time Bank
Pedro and Laura Valencia
David and Shannon Walasinski
Dave and Denise Wasserman
Timothy and Sarah Weiske
William and Kerry Whalen
William and Michele Whalen
Joshua and Christina Williams

ANNUAL FUND

\$355K
raised in 2024-25



89%
family participation



This year's Annual Fund Drive was the most successful to date, once again surpassing its \$300,000 goal. High participation by our families, and 100% participation by faculty and board members, underscore our community's investment in the mission of Embers. Thank you to our many donors, whose incredible generosity continues to sustain our growth and enhance the Embers experience for our students.

GIFTS \$25,000+

The Bears Foundation
Jason and Lori Elder
Time Bank

GIFTS \$10,000+

Anonymous (x2)
Belvedere Trading
Brian and Teresa Jenn

GIFTS \$5,000+

Jason and Kelly Beck
George and Pilar Holohan
Derek and Jamie Simon
Colton and Alli Smith

GIFTS \$2,000+

Shane and Mary Anastasi
Joseph and Laura Carter
Will Rey
Richards Family Foundation

GIFTS \$1,000+

Rosemary Caruthers
Paul and Lauren Dubuque
Goldman Sachs
Michael and Beatriz Gray

Cory and Caroline Jensen
Victor and Janet Lau
Liston Legal Group
James and Beth Morgan
Mark and Mary Nomellini
Philip and Bozena Theodoropoulos

GIFTS \$500+

Hammad Asghar and Citlaly Carbajal
Rod Bahjat and Luma Naim
Martin and Amy Babbo
Jacek and Sylwia Bohaczyk
Joseph and Kimberly Eckert
Anthony and Hortensia Esquivel
Niall Fagan
William and Alexandria Gianniotis
Nawaf and Tanya Habib
Permsak and Betty Kovathana
Brian and Mindy Lukens
Marla's Lunch Giveback
Minas Mirza and Silvia Yono
Apo Naccashian and Nathalie Terzian
John and Karen Ostrowski
Joseph and Grace Rhee
Thomas and Ann Sandberg
Lukasz and Jennifer Sledz
Nawar and Maryem Telche

GIFTS UP TO \$499

Anonymous
Abbott
Simon and Siji Abraham
Manuel and Lollie Acuna
Kevin and Mary Adley
Shane and Teresa Ayers
Bilal and Fatin El Ayoubi
Fatin Ayoubi
Bob and Katie Baehl
George and Malgorzata Balaban
Noel and Juna Balbon
Robert and Julene Barder
Jeff and Jessica Bartel
Michael and Connie Beckman
Paul and Sara Black
Seamus and Larissa Boyle
Christopher and Mary Therese Brown
Sebastian and Catherine Brukalo
Rory and Keara Burke
Thomas and Gabriela Burke
Robert and Meredith Carpenter
Daniel and Sylvia Casaletto
Samuel and Laura Castillo
Joaquin and Maria Castillo Ibero
Cyril and Ciji Chacko
Samuel and Jennifer Choi
Dennis and Jenifer Christian

ANNUAL FUND DONORS



Sparks reenact the First Supper during Atrium.

- Anthony and Kathleen Gillespie
 Robert and Colleen Gilligan
 Christopher and Kristine Goffos
 Leticia Gonzalez
 Robert and Danielle Gorzelanny
 Victor and Tina Grandinetti
 Anthony and Laura Gualandri
 Bob and Lelia Harig
 Scott and Jeanne Henschell
 Joseph Hodal
 Andrew and Madeleine Holoska
 Joseph and Vallery Hrbacek
 David and Danielle Huber
 Howard and Maria Humber
 Rolando and Maria Javier
 Jim and Pat Johnson
 Dan and Renee Kapel
 Pat and Young Kasarski
 Amelia Kessem
 James and Julie Koenig
 Michael and Kathleen Kopecky
 John and Shannon Kovacs
 John Kurt
 Brian and Jacqueline Lastovich
 Steve and Tina Lastovich
 Sam Lazar and Flora Shamoun
 Francisco Leyva and Joanna Presz
 Jince and Sheena Lukose
 Lucian and Lisa Lupascu
 John and Karyn Macfarlane
 Janet Masterson
 Carl and Anne Mazzone
 Patrick and Madeleine McEwen
 Emmett and Colleen McGovern
 Michael and Ellen McGrath
 Danny and Mary McGuire
 Peter and Eva McNamara
 John and Lili Mikan
 Maciej and Marta Mikula
 Stjepan Miscetic and Regina Cairo
 John and Catherine Mullen
 Darius and Magdalena Ner
 John and Janet Ostrowski
 Julian and Irene Owsiany
 Anthony Panzica
 Christopher Kainovic and Theresa Panzica
 Francisco and Michelle Parada
 Tejas Patel and Diana Covelli
 Volodymyr Pavlyshyn and Olha Omelyukh
 Jeremy and Jennifer Potempa
 Jacek and Elizabeth Predki
 Jeffrey and Sarah Ptacek
 Peter and Eva Radlinski
 Jacob and Heather Raffé
 Madeleine Raffé
 Janusz and Anna Rajska
 Karen Reardon
 Luis Rivas and Magdalena Kolodziej
 Charlene Roland
 Frank and Nora Romeo
 Deanne Roy
 Steve and Beth Samikkannu
 Georgia Sampedro
 Daniel and Oksana Schak
 Christopher and Elizabeth Seuffert
 Brian and Diana Silhan
 Jake and Anne Simmons
 Greg and Marzena Sipiora
 David and Elizabeth Smith
 Michael and Alexa Stangel
 Christian and Mona Stepansky
 Doris Stepansky
 Rafid and Luma Sukkar
 Carl and Mary Turano
 Masao and Louise Uenuma
 Andrew and Suzy Ullman
 Pedro and Laura Valencia
 Alvaro Vargas and Amanda Casas
 Marek Vasat and Katerina Strizikova
 James Vasquez and Aura Nieva Maliwanag
 David and Shannon Walasinski
 Daniel and Katherine Wasserman
 Dave and Denise Wasserman
 Tim and Sarah Weiske
 William and Kerry Whalen
 William and Michele Whalen
 Joshua and Christina Williams
 Grace Witry
 Wai Wong
 Robert Yalda and Linda Baezo

- Mary Collins
 Edna Colon
 Colonel II James N Pritzker Charitable
 Joseph and Andrea Corona
 Crosstown Coaching LLC
 Thomas and Marisol Cunningham
 John and Tammy Dabe
 Craig and Bonnie Davis
 Christopher and Kate DeCanto
 Ramon and Kristine del Rosario
 Aldo and Debbie Diaz
 Patrick and Julie Donovan
 Kieran and Kayla Driver
 Rosanne Dulski
 David and Julie Dylegowski
 Alphi Elackattu and Anita Pachikara
 Kemal and Claudia Fakovic
 Russell and Elizabeth Fernandes
 Joseph and Allison Ferrini
 Bernard and Crystal Floeder
 Benjamin and Kathleen Foster
 Joseph and Faye Foster
 Fresh Bakes LLC
 John and Julie Galluzzi
 Christian and Elizabeth Gauna

SPARK SPOTLIGHT



Fire Choir presents the Music Man Kids, with a cast of over 60 Sparks, and a cameo by members of Embers Band.



5th Grade girls basketball wins first place in the league with an undefeated season.



5th Grade is joined by students from Northridge and Willows Academy for the inaugural Leadership Day.



The Little Sparks program expands with new offerings, including Morning with Santa.



Sparks enthusiastically celebrate the announcement of our new Pope.



EMBERS ACADEMY
5340 N. Greenwood Ave.
Niles, IL 60714
embersacademy.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Carter, President
Brian Jenn, Secretary
Kelly Beck
Niall Fagan
George Holohan
Derek Simon
Alli Smith
Pedro Valencia