

# KEEPING IN TOUCH



Fall 2006

## DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

Throughout the history of Catholic education, our schools have been supported by a "living endowment." That is, the religious men and women who gave freely of their time and talents to support the Catholic schools of the past. Their commitment and dedication provided the finest religious private school system in the world.

Due to changing financial challenges, Catholic school leaders and educators must establish new programs and funding formulas that ensure the viability and survivability of our educational institutions. Almost every Catholic elementary school has established and expanded school development programs. At St. John-Sacred Heart School we are very fortunate to have a growing enrollment, excellent teaching staff and strong alumni, parishioner and parental support. To ensure that we continue to excel, a development program was created to ensure the longevity of our school.

In general, development is concerned with establishing a plan to ensure the future of quality education in our community. At St. John-Sacred Heart we felt it was important to layout a comprehensive plan. Over the entire last school year, a three year strategic plan was created to help us focus on the programs we felt were important to either enhance or develop. As a result, a few areas of focus were improving public relations and marketing, recruiting and retaining students, establishing endowment and annual giving programs and creating an alumni relations program. One way we would like to improve communications with our alumni is to produce a timely newsletter to keep all of you updated on the happenings at St. John - Sacred Heart School.

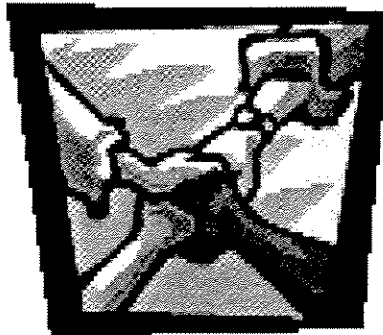
The Development committee is dedicated in building relationships with those who will share the good news of St. John-Sacred Heart School. Our alums, parishioners and school parents are blessed with many talents. If you feel that you can give some of your talents and time to continue SJSH's long heritage of education our children to walk as disciples of Jesus, then please contact us! Nearby or far away, recent alum or adult, YOU can still be a part of YOUR school.

God's blessings to you all!

Development Committee Chairpersons:

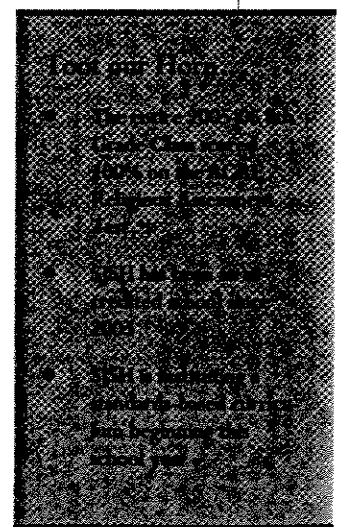
Peg Braun  
(920) 989-2843

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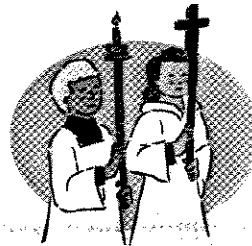
## THAT WAS THEN...

- In 1856, European settlers arrived in the Sherwood area
- Churches were built in St. John (1862) and Harrison (1864)
- The first brick school was erected in St. John in 1877
- The existing brick building was constructed in 1955
- The original St. Stephen Church in Sherwood was converted into a school and remained such until 1907
- The existing brick school in Sherwood was completed in 1957
- First consolidation of two Catholic schools in the Green Bay Diocese in 1969

## THIS IS NOW...

It's amazing how much can happen in a short time! In the past 10 years, SJSH School has...

- Expanded and enhanced the kindergarten program
- Added a pre-school program
- Updated the music and math curricula, and added a study skills class, health class, Spanish language, retreats for all students, and an active Christian Leadership Council
- Developed new public relations and marketing tools
- Upgraded the business operation of the school and obtained Accreditation
- Improved school operations
- Improved the school facility, including an impressive new gym and commons area at Sacred Heart



## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a school endowment fund for St. John – Sacred Heart with the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Green Bay. After more than a year of research the Development Committee, Finance Council, Father Dave and parishioners with expertise in endowments identified a fund that will benefit our school, parish and the individuals making contributions.

This fund is unique because it is the first custodial agreement with The Catholic Foundation.. Enabling our school to retain ownership of the fund. Our goal is to generate a minimum of \$25,000 in seed money for the endowment through a matching fund contribution program called *The Legacy League - Founders*. This program entails securing at least 20 families willing to contribute a minimum of \$500, creating a pool in excess of \$10,000. The remaining portion of the endowment is created by securing matching contributions from at least six families. The matching contribution investors would pledge to match \$.25 per \$1 donated to the fund, up to the first \$10,000. This equals a \$2500 maximum matching contribution. We are currently seeking \$500 donors and matching contributors for this project.

A beautiful wooden cross, entitled *The Legacy League – Founders*, will list the names of the \$500 contributors and the matching fund contributors for the school endowment. This hand-crafted cross will hang in a prominent location in the new building addition. Any donation made under the above guidelines would be included. This could include, but is not limited to, donations made by families, organizations, and memorials.

The purpose of establishing this endowment is to create a steady source of school income that can be relied upon year after year. We are extremely fortunate to have support from parishioners, alumni and friends who are dedicated to the longevity and success of our parish school. With your contribution, you will be perpetually supporting the day-to-day operations of the parish school. You will be leaving a *lasting legacy*. Your support ensures a strong future for our parish by providing a Catholic education for the future of our Church, the children.

**Please read the enclosed brochure and complete the donation form if interested in becoming either a matching contributor or \$500 donor. Feel free to contact endowment chairperson Peg Braun (920) 989-2843 with any questions. Deadline for becoming a founder of the endowment is SEPTEMBER 15, 2006.** Additional contributions are always welcome at anytime.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this unique opportunity to become a founder of the St. John – Sacred Heart School Endowment.

# RECONNECTING OUR ROOTS

As the Development Committee seeks to improve Alumni Relations here at SJSH, we're updating our Alumni records and are hoping for your help!

If you...

1. have information regarding any SJSH alums,
2. know an alum who did not receive this newsletter and would like to,
3. think we need to update your own records, including current address, spouse, or children,
4. would like to receive communications via email, or...
5. you would like to be removed from our mailing list,

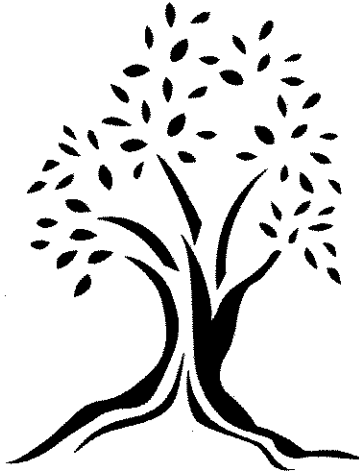
please contact the St. John-Sacred Heart Parish Office at 920-989-1515 to let us know what's happening!

Are you connected to the internet? Visit the St. John-Sacred Heart School website at:

[www.stjohnsacredheart.org](http://www.stjohnsacredheart.org)

to see what's going on! Watch the website for new additions as well, including the opportunity to update records online and view this newsletter just for alums!

One last bit of information: the SJSH Annual Report will be available in the entrance of Sacred Heart Church in Sherwood later this fall. If you would like an annual report mailed to you, please don't hesitate to call the school office at 920-989-1373.



# REUNION NEWS

This year, the SJSH School classes of 1977, 1978, and 1979 were honored at the annual St. John-Sacred Heart Parish Picnic. This is an annual tradition begun by Father Ken many years ago and continued by Marion Mirsberger.

As the classes gather, they are given a flower, have their photographs taken, and stay to catch up with their friends. Some attendees haven't seen each other since graduation, and all those who attend really enjoy the reunion! This year's reunion included 69 graduates

from the three years represented. A special thanks to Marion for all her years of hard work coordinating these reunions, and to Dolores Thiel for helping to continue the tradition this year!

*The St. John Christian Mothers truly value the liturgy in our school— they will be providing busing for students at St. John to participate in all-school masses and activities for the 2006-07 school year. Thank you!*

# TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Help us celebrate the Eucharist and bring in the new school year by joining us at Sacred Heart on Wednesday, September 13th!



All are welcome at the first all-school Mass of the year in Sacred Heart Church at 8:30 am. Following the Mass, join us for an Open House and Social in the Sacred Heart School commons area. See the students in action as they rev up for another school year; tour the facilities and check out the changes since you've attended SJSH; enjoy some refreshments and reconnect with other alums, parishioners, and parents of students!



## ALUMNI SHOWCASE

### An Interview with Olive Gosz (Stommel) *Sacred Heart's Oldest Parishioner & Alum*

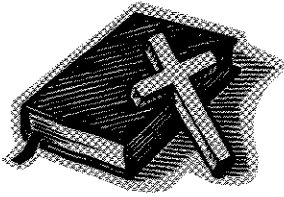
Olive was born on September 4, 1905 in Mayville, WI. Her family moved to Sherwood when she was 7 years old, and she began her education at Sacred Heart School in 1912. In Olive's class there were five students, herself, Linda Klassen, Pete Brown, Ray Kees, and Gerald Kiefer. Children would leave home early in the morning to make the long walk to daily mass before school at 8:00 a.m. On cold winter days Olive's father would hook up the team of horses so the children in her family as well as the other children along the way could ride to school. Sometimes the sleigh would be so full that the older children would stand on the runners. When Olive attended Sacred Heart School there were only two rooms. As more children enrolled it grew to become a three-room school. The basement of the school was also utilized. One half of the basement served as a chapel. The other half was where the coal furnace and wood burner was kept.

Olive reminisced about her favorite teacher, Sister Roberts. Sister Roberts was inspirational in involving the students in the stage plays and the one big party each year which was held around Christmas. Her favorite subject was German. However, Olive was unable to continue her studies in German because the curriculum was quickly stopped after the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

Olive was required to take a final 8<sup>th</sup> grade examination in order to graduate from Sacred Heart. However the exam was located in Hilbert. She would have to take the train from Sherwood to Hilbert. Olive remembers leaving home at 6 a.m. to walk to the train depot in Sherwood in order to catch the train and get to Hilbert in time for her exam. After a very long day, she returned to Sherwood about 4 p.m. and walked home. Olive successfully graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1917.

After graduation, Olive desired to become a nun. Because of family obligations, she stayed at home where she assisted her mother in taking care of the family by cooking, baking, and many other household and farm chores. Olive married George Gosz and had one wonderful son, Clifford. She continued to help on the family farm, care for her son, cooked, cleaned and all the other chores that were expected of a mother and wife. After attending school, Olive's son went into the military and later became a lawyer. He lived in California until his death nearly twenty years ago. After her husband's death, nearly 50 years ago, she decided to volunteer at St. Elizabeth Hospital. For the next 25½ years, Olive dedicated her time and talents to patients at the hospital. She drove from Sherwood to Appleton everyday. A few of Olive's duties included working at the front desk, attending the gift shop, escorting patients and delivering the mail. Olive embraced the importance of family and dedicated her time every Saturday and Sunday from early morning until evening so those with children would be able to be at home together.

There is no doubt that Olive lives her Catholic faith to the fullest extent. Her dedication to her family and those she served as a volunteer at the hospital is truly an inspiration to embrace our faith and live life like Jesus would want us to. Be sure to remember Olive in your prayers as she turns 101 years young in September!



*"It is not how much we do but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving."*

*Mother Teresa*

### **St. John – Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund**

Please accept a huge thank you for becoming a Legacy League Founding Member! Your dedication to our parish school is a gift that will be used to support Catholic education in our community for many generations to come. A beautiful handcrafted cross, entitled *The Legacy League – Founders*, will list the names of the \$500 contributors and the matching fund contributors for the school endowment. This cross will hang in a prominent location in the new building addition. Please let us know how you would like your donation to the endowment acknowledged.

**I (We) would like to become...**

\_\_\_\_\_ a **Matching Contributor.**

Please contact me after all donations are collected to determine my (our) pledge of \$.25 per \$1 up to the first \$10,000. The maximum matching contribution will not exceed \$2500, unless specified by the donor.

\_\_\_\_\_ a **\$500 donor.**

Enclosed is my check made payable to: **SJSH School Endowment Fund.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Contributions to become a founding member must be submitted no later than:  
September 15, 2006***

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I (We) would like our contribution to be acknowledged on the plaque as...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In appreciation of \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the person(s) you wish to be notified.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

With your contribution, you will be perpetually supporting the day-to-day operations of the parish school. You will be leaving a *lasting legacy*. Your support ensures a strong future for our parish by providing a Catholic education for the future of our Church, the children. THANK YOU!

*If you have questions please do not hesitate in contacting  
Endowment Chairperson: Peg Braun (989-2843)*

Please return this form to the parish office no later than September 15th:

**SJSH Parish  
Attn: School Endowment  
N369 Military Rd  
Sherwood, WI 54169**