

# THE AIM HIGHER FOUNDATION

*2020-2021 Annual Report*





## FROM THE DESK OF: *Jean Houghton, President*

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Thanks to you, the story of families who want their children to experience the benefits of a Catholic education is changing.

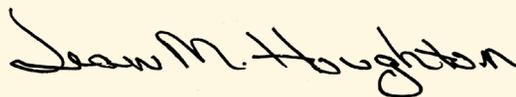
A Catholic education should be accessible to every child, regardless of the size of their parents' paycheck, and we at the Aim Higher Foundation believe it can be.

I am excited to share this annual report with you because it represents our progress toward accomplishing that goal. I also believe it speaks to the promise we make when you give to our mission. We do one thing: We provide tuition assistance scholarships to children so that they can attend a Catholic school. We do it efficiently. We do it well. We do it bigger and better each year.

And we're just getting started.

As you read on, know that we are grateful for your generous support and your partnership.

*In gratitude,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean M. Houghton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "H".

*Jean Houghton*

## OUR VISION

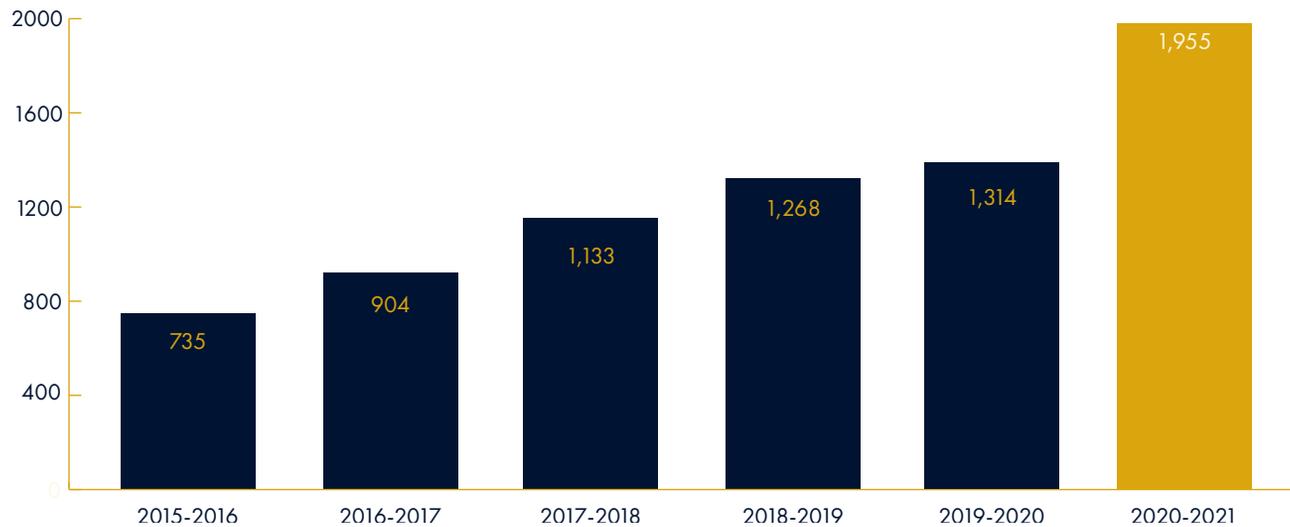
*The Aim Higher Foundation seeks to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, can access the life-changing benefits of a Catholic school.*

## OUR MISSION

*The Aim Higher Foundation provides \$1,000 scholarships to students from families with a demonstrated financial need who seek a K-8 Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This scholarship continues each year, until the student reaches high school.*

## OUR GROWING IMPACT

*Since 2011, and thanks to an increasing number of supporters,  
the Aim Higher Foundation has awarded  
**more than 10,000 scholarships**  
*worth more than*  
**\$8.4 million.***





## SEEING IMPACT FROM: *A Scholar Family*

Florence Ameyna moved to the United States from Kenya because she wanted a quality education for her daughters. Shortly before her husband was set to join his family, he unexpectedly passed away. “Our lives changed forever,” says Florence. As she began to navigate her new life as a single parent, her faith and the parish community at St. Jerome became an integral part of her story.

Florence yearned to send her daughters, Robyn and Zoe, to a school with high quality academics and a rich faith life, but she felt the cost of a Catholic education made it impossible. **Aim Higher allowed Robyn and Zoe to enroll at St. Jerome with the certainty that they will receive support every year through 8th grade.** “The sigh of relief, to know that somebody is paying for my child to be able to go to school—it was heavy, and now I feel lighter,” she says. Thanks to support from St. Jerome, Aim Higher, and their school community, Robyn and Zoe are thriving. “They are the village,” she says. “The kids have grown and blossomed. Life is easier.”

**6,000**

qualified applications  
received in 2020

**1,955**

scholarships awarded  
in 2020

## 10 YEARS OF *Aiming Higher*

**2011**

Archdiocese asks community leaders to help increase access to Catholic schools

**2013**

First Night of Light celebration raises \$430,000 for children and Catholic schools

**2017**

Aim Higher and CSAF form a partnership to award more scholarships

**2019**

The Foundation awards 1,314 scholarships to students and launches mission school fund

**2012**

Aim Higher awards 730 scholarships totaling nearly \$500,000

**2015**

Aim Higher grows to include full-time professional staff

**2018**

The Foundation awards 1,268 scholarships to students in every Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese

**2021**

The Foundation awards \$2M in scholarships



*“The reason we chose a Catholic school is because we know that our child will not only receive a first-rate education, but she will also be immersed in a Catholic culture that fosters faith, develops virtue, and encourages courageous leadership.”*

PARENT OF AIM HIGHER SCHOLAR

## PUTTING OUR FAITH IN: *Catholic Education*

Catholic schools are “places where students are challenged to grow in all areas of their lives,” says Archbishop Bernard Hedba. They provide an academically robust, values-based, and spiritually enriching education for children with a higher purpose as they grow into leaders of their high schools, colleges, families, Church, and community.

The Aim Higher Foundation helps children access the educational excellence and life-changing benefits that come with a Catholic education by making tuition more affordable at K-8 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Aim Higher Scholarships, once awarded, follow students from Kindergarten through 8th Grade, allowing each recipient to receive an additional scholarship each year until they begin high school.

**99%**

of Catholic school  
students graduate  
high school

**85%**

of Catholic school  
students attend a  
four-year college



## SHARING GRATITUDE: *A Donor's Perspective*

Our support for the Aim Higher Foundation stems from our own educational experience and is rooted in Catholic social justice teaching. We, and all four of our children, attended Catholic elementary and high schools, so we've seen first-hand how our schools helped us raise our kids, forming them academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Through volunteering around the Twin Cities, we've also seen how critical early childhood education is to a successful adulthood.

Our participation with the Aim Higher Foundation has shown us even more directly how differentially life-changing our Catholic schools are for families who, without outside financial support, would have no alternative but to send their children to schools that may not provide as robust an education and that likely don't align with their beliefs.

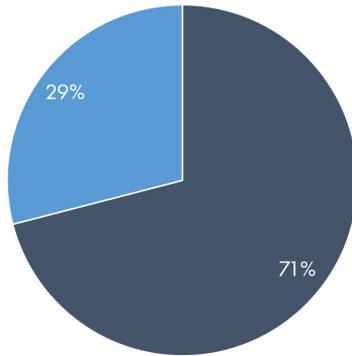
On a larger scale, in this time of increased focus on social justice and recognizing that most Aim Higher scholars are people of color, it's gratifying to know that Aim Higher's work is helping to address societal inequalities.

All that said, at the end of the day, the reason we support Aim Higher is really simple – we want to give other parents the same opportunity we had to send their kids to the school of their choice.

Don & Diane Mulligan

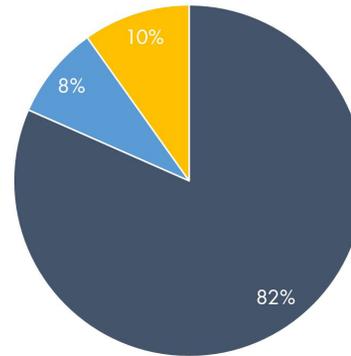
# FINANCIAL POSITION: 2020-2021

Total Income  
\$3.2M



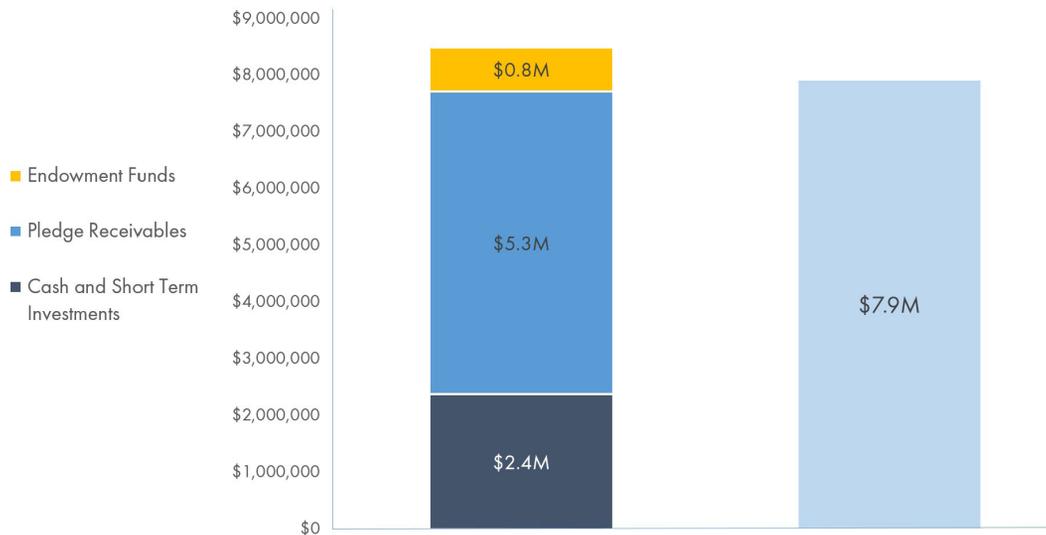
- Collections of Campaign Pledges
- Annual and Foundation Giving

Total Expenses  
\$2.5M



- Scholarship Programs
- Fundraising Expenses
- Administrative Expenses

Total Assets  
\$8.5M

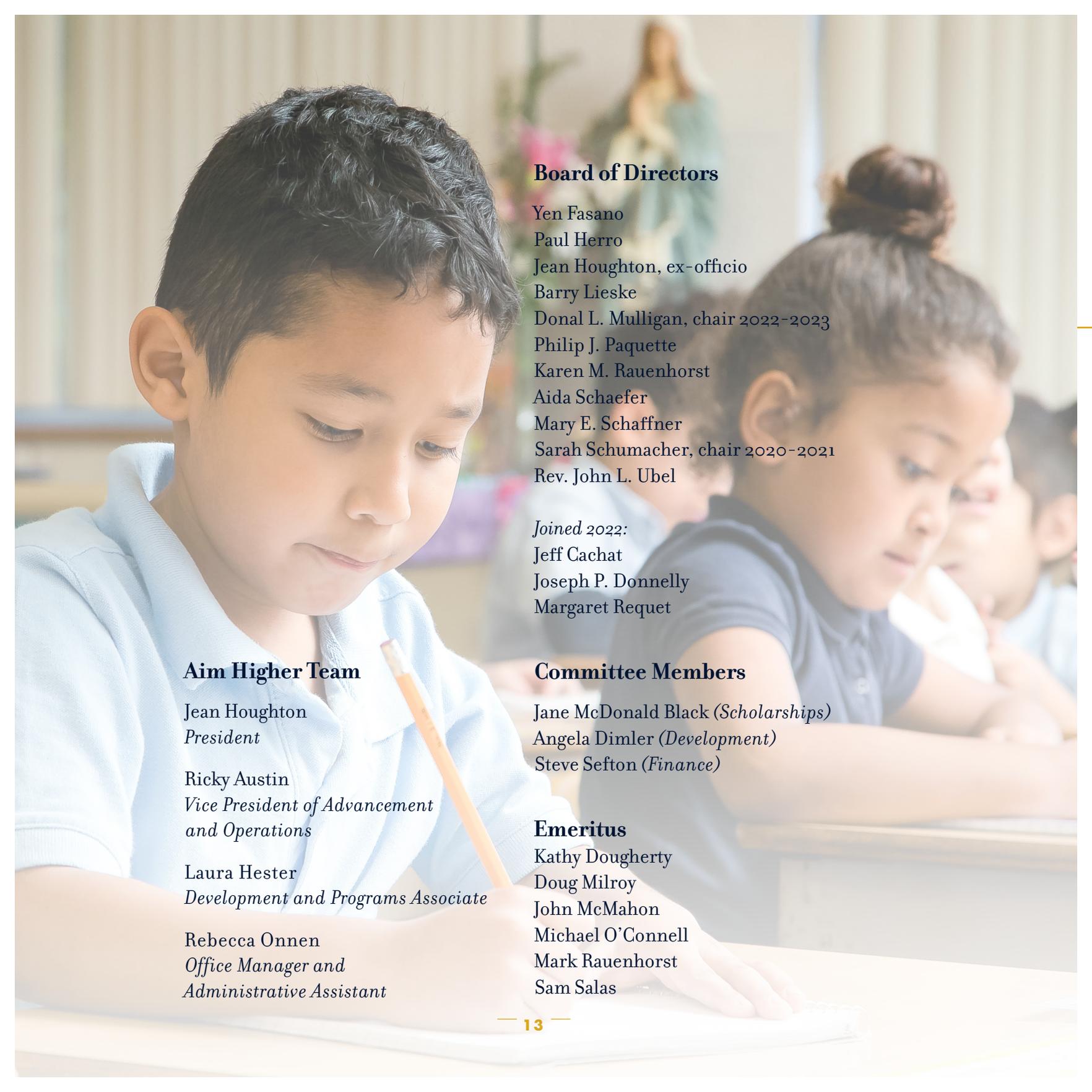


- Endowment Funds
- Pledge Receivables
- Cash and Short Term Investments

Future Scholarships  
\$7.9M

Future scholarships represent the amount of funding AHF expects to award current scholars to complete 8th grade at their Catholic school.

The results reported are non-GAAP using a modified cash basis of accounting to represent the cash received and paid during the year. Audited statements are available by emailing [info@aimhigherfoundation.org](mailto:info@aimhigherfoundation.org)



## Board of Directors

Yen Fasano  
Paul Herro  
Jean Houghton, ex-officio  
Barry Lieske  
Donal L. Mulligan, chair 2022-2023  
Philip J. Paquette  
Karen M. Rauenhorst  
Aida Schaefer  
Mary E. Schaffner  
Sarah Schumacher, chair 2020-2021  
Rev. John L. Ubel

*Joined 2022:*

Jeff Cachat  
Joseph P. Donnelly  
Margaret Requet

## Aim Higher Team

Jean Houghton  
*President*

Ricky Austin  
*Vice President of Advancement  
and Operations*

Laura Hester  
*Development and Programs Associate*

Rebecca Onnen  
*Office Manager and  
Administrative Assistant*

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Jane McDonald Black (*Scholarships*)  
Angela Dimler (*Development*)  
Steve Sefton (*Finance*)

## Emeritus

Kathy Dougherty  
Doug Milroy  
John McMahan  
Michael O'Connell  
Mark Rauenhorst  
Sam Salas

## A NOTE FROM: *Ricky Austin, Vice President*

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By helping more children attend a Catholic school, our growing network of supporters and friends is making a lasting impact not only on those children and the schools we serve, but also on the community at large.

With each scholarship we award, another child is given access to a great, values-centered education. They're given the opportunity to blossom and reach their full potential. Our community strengthens as they do.

The children of today are our legacy and our future, and they only get one chance at a great education.

Thank you for joining us to make sure they get that chance. Thank you for helping the children we serve *Aim Higher*.

*In service,*



*Ricky Austin*



The Aim Higher Foundation supports all Catholic schools  
serving grades K-8 in the  
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.



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