

## Frances Joseph Gaudet Fund Report 2017

Episcopal Community Services (ECSLA) is a social service agency of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana that honors the legacy of Mrs. Frances Joseph Gaudet, a turn-of-the century educator and activist. The agency's activities are coordinated by the Gaudet Committee comprised of the Bishop and members appointed from across the diocese. The committee stewards the Gaudet fund that awards annual scholarships to students of Episcopal schools in the diocese, and offers grants to community organizations that serve the needs of African-American children.

Mrs. Frances Gaudet earned a national reputation in her life as a prison reformer and missionary. She was a driving force behind the establishment of the first juvenile court in New Orleans. Upon her death she left a trust to the Diocese of Louisiana to be used for programs benefiting underserved children and families. Mrs. Gaudet, who was a parishioner of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in New Orleans, the historic African-American parish in our diocese, is honored in the calendar of The Episcopal Church on Dec. 30 of each year. She continues to serve as an inspiring example for lay ministers across The Episcopal Church, and her ministry is ongoing through her generous gift to the Diocese.

### Scholarships

Mrs. Gaudet was a firm believer in the power of education. Gaudet Fund Scholarships are need-based scholarships offered to pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade African-American students of Episcopal schools of The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. The scholarships come from 70% of the annual investment income of the Gaudet Fund. The committee annually reaffirms the percentages to be allocated to scholarships as part of the budgeting process.

In 2017, ECS and the Gaudet Fund were proud to offer \$100,000 in scholarship assistance to African American students at Episcopal schools across our diocese. The committee decided to make some changes to the award process this year. In the past, scholarship applications were made to the committee, and members of the committee, with the help of Cassandra Reiger in the diocesan office, would pour through dozens of lengthy applications. What we have learned in the past few years, however, is that the committee was largely duplicating work which the schools have already done through their own admissions processes. We also recognize that they know their students and their students' needs better than does the committee. This year we had applicants apply directly to their schools instead of to the committee, which allowed the schools to make the decisions on the lowest level about how the best to award the scholarships. Doing so has kept the committee from duplicating work that schools are better equipped to handle. It has also cut down the administrative work done by the committee and the diocese, which was a factor in justifying the elimination of the diocesan administrative fee from our 2018 budget. We are grateful to the Executive Board for freeing up this money so that the fund can offer \$15,000 more in scholarships and grants in 2018.

Here are the amounts awarded to our schools in 2017:

School	Award	% of African American Students Enrolled
St. Paul's Episcopal School, New Orleans	\$25,744	13%
Episcopal High, Baton Rouge	\$15,762	11%
St. Andrew's Episcopal School, New Orleans	\$14,960	13%
St. James Episcopal Day School, Baton Rouge	\$14,520	5%
Trinity Episcopal School, New Orleans	\$13,679	10%
St. Luke's Episcopal Day School, Baton Rouge	\$6,230	15%
Trinity Episcopal School, Baton Rouge	\$3,555	11%
St. Matthew's Episcopal School, Houma	\$3,234	12%
Christ Episcopal School, Covington	\$2,315	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>11% AVG</b>

## Grants

The grants awarded by the Gaudet Fund are intended to fund not-for-profit agencies that create, manage, and expand educational opportunities for African-American children within the Diocese of Louisiana. All not-for-profit agencies are eligible to apply; however, preference may be given to Episcopal organizations. The Grants come from 30% of the annual investment income of the fund. The committee annually reaffirms the percentages to be allocated to grants as part of the budgeting process.

In 2017, the fund distributed \$37,500 in grants to:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Award</b>
St. Anna's Arts for Kids After School Program	\$10,000
St. Anna's Arts for Kids Summer Program	\$10,000
Kids Orchestra	\$7,500
Upturn Arts	\$5,000
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>

## The Committee

The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Bishop

The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Rob Courtney, Chair – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, New Orleans

Ms. Lindsey Ardrey – St. George's Episcopal Church, New Orleans

Mr. Les Bradfield – Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

Mr. Owen Cope – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge

The Rev. Stephen Crawford – St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Franklin

Dr. Kendall Genre – Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

The committee would like to express our gratitude for the contributions and dedication of Mr. Dick Moreland from Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans, who died earlier this year. Dick was a faithful, longtime member of the Gaudet Committee who cared deeply about Mrs. Gaudet's legacy, and the work that the Fund enables. We will miss his kindness, good humor, and wisdom going forward.

If you have any questions about the Gaudet Fund and our work, please contact the Rev. Rob Courtney, [rcourtney@stpauls-lakeivew.org](mailto:rcourtney@stpauls-lakeivew.org), or the Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, [smanning@edola.org](mailto:smanning@edola.org).