

The Messenger



4920 Brentwood Ave, Suite 201 Jacksonville, FL 32206

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GuardianCatholic.com

The Cascone Family Endowed Scholarship

Guardian Catholic School received a gift establishing a named, endowed scholarship from the Elizabeth B. and Michael Cascone, Jr. Family Foundation. The Cascone Family Scholarship will provide funding for children of Guatemalan families of Holy Rosary Parish or students most in need to attend Guardian.

The Cascones have been dedicated supporters of Guardian for many years, with Michael Cascone, Jr. serving as one of the first Board Chairs from 1999 to 2001. The Cascone family also has a special connection to Holy Rosary, the church where Michael's mother and father, Dorothy "Dot" and Michael Cascone, Sr., were both parishioners when they first started dating as teenagers and later were married.



Left to right: Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, Kathy Cascone, Elizabeth Cascone, Michael Cascone, Jr., Juliette Cascone Gredenhag, Sr. Cynthia Shaffer

Dot and Michael Sr.'s families immigrated to the United States from Ireland and Italy, respectively. In this regard, they share something in common with the scholarship's intended recipients. A community of Guatemalan immigrants began worshipping at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in 2020, and a number of the children from those families are currently enrolled at Guardian Catholic.

"Since the founding of the U.S., people have immigrated

here, and that's what makes our country great," said Juliette Cascone Gredenhag, Secretary of the Cascone Family Foundation.

"The Catholic Church is universal in its desire to help those in need, so it's truly an honor to extend a helping hand to our Guatemalan families."



Our mission is to participate in God's work by providing advocacy, resources and governance to Guardian Catholic School. These resources enable the school to provide educational and spiritual opportunities to children and families regardless of financial situation or religious preference.



18th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic

Guardian's 18th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic was held on February 28 at Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. This year's tournament was a great success thanks to our sponsors, Honorary Chair Josh Scobee, Chair Rick Cannington, and Golf Committee

Chair Ron Townsend. We are grateful to all the participants, sponsors and volunteers who helped us raise more than \$180,000 for tuition assistance for students at Guardian Catholic School. Thank you!

(continued on pg. 3)



Board Members

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Bobby Stein
Dwayne Stevens
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Dear Friends of Guardian,

Guardian Catholic School, the Sisters of Notre Dame and their amazing faculty are dedicated to providing excellence in education for our children and families on the Northside of our community. This is only possible because of our loyal donors and friends who believe every child has potential, which, when nurtured in an environment with strong values and encouragement, results in success.

We have a Board that is active and engaged, giving and involved in many projects for the school. One example is Mark Dawkins, Professor of Accounting and Former Dean at the Coggin College of Business at the University of North Florida. Mark is working on an upcoming Speakers Series that opens possibilities and opportunities for our older middle school students.

We have been blessed by visits from community leaders like Seth Williams, publisher of the Resident News, who gave a talk recently to the 6th grade students when touring the school, and it was motivational in every way. The teachers and children know that when we present positive opportunities and encouragement, great things happen to young people — it may be just the spark they need.

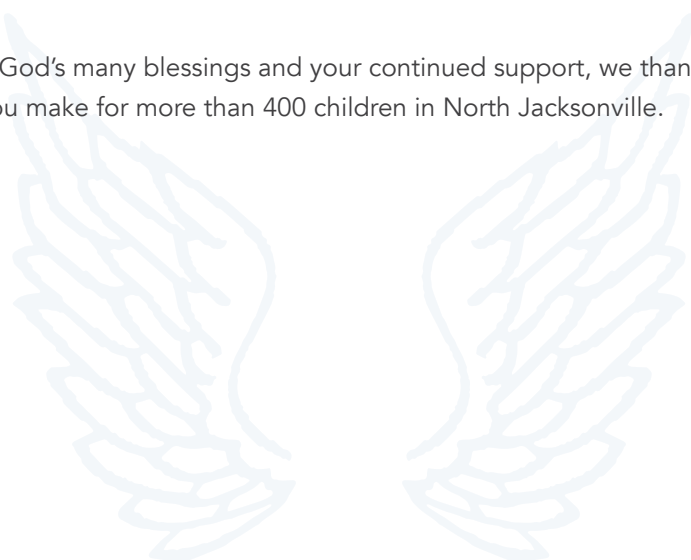
There are so many ways that you can get involved through your gifts to the school. With the help of our donors, Guardian is establishing a Faculty Development Fund for continuing education that will have a direct result in the classroom and help with teacher retention in our inner-city school. We are in the planning phase for a state-of-the-art Outdoor Learning Center with a focus on science, including an urban garden that can be replicated throughout our communities in the city. In addition to expanding our music and robotics programs, we are adding a new math component to our Summer Learning Program based on the proven success of the digital phonics lab that was implemented last year.

We continue to look for solutions to the most basic needs like healthy fresh food and safe areas for children and families to play and gather outdoors. We are working to secure funding from donors like you to continue to offer field trips that explore the wonderful things Jacksonville has to offer educationally for every child. Please consider a gift to Guardian today, and if you are able, please accept our invitation to call us for a tour of our school.

With grateful appreciation for God's many blessings and your continued support, we thank you again for the difference you make for more than 400 children in North Jacksonville.

Jane R. Lanier

Jane R. Lanier
Chair, Guardian Board
904.477.0561



18th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic (CONT'D)

This year's tournament featured nine par-3 holes with hole-in-one contests where players had the chance to win prizes such as vehicles, trips or cash. The nine players with the closest shots on the par-3 holes also qualified for a shootout at the end of the day for a chance to score a hole-in-one to win \$1,000,000.

A number of local celebrity athletes played in the tournament including current and former NFL stars Ross Maticsk, Rashean Mathis and Sebastian Janikowski; former MLB players Brett Myers and Daniel Murphy; and pro golfer Steve Wheatcroft.

Golfers on the winning team, from Bishop Kenny High School, included Vincent Saladino, Todd Orlando, Damon Olinto, and

Patrick Kincaid, who each took home a Taylor Made golf bag travel cover as a prize.

Guardian's annual golf tournament was named after longtime Guardian Board member Ron Townsend in 2019 in honor of his many years of incredible service to Guardian Catholic School. Since its inception in 2004, the annual event has raised more than \$2.5 million for student scholarships!

On behalf of the Guardian Board and the Golf Committee, we offer our sincere thanks to the many supporters of this year's tournament for helping make high-quality education accessible for approximately 400 students in North Jacksonville.



Message from Sr. Dianne

Dear Friends,

In today's learner-centered classrooms, students take ownership of their learning, inquire about their interests, and build new knowledge through active participation in the learning and teaching process. This reality frames the questions that guide our approach to "protecting the potential" of our students. How do we provide the right mix of rigorous academic content, opportunities for critical thinking, problem-solving and working collaboratively? How do we cultivate a growth mindset in students? How do we create learning environments enriched with an interdisciplinary approach that is responsive to students' interests, abilities and needs?

Research supports STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) education as a rigorous interdisciplinary approach. STEM's emphasis on problem-solving and critical thinking develops skills students need for a successful life and career. Potential thrives when students have opportunities to solve problems in a team approach.

Other studies have focused on the impact of music education on students' motivation, attitudes and performance in math. Integrated physical activities improve academic outcomes in math learning, math fluency and classroom engagement

Guardian Catholic is in the early stages of creating an outdoor STEM³ Learning Lab. In addition to the traditional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — we plan to add Music and Movement. Our hopes and dreams include outdoor gardens, a greenhouse, weather station, underwater robotics lab, a rocket-drone launching site, outdoor musical instruments and a fitness station. Dreams like this become a reality thanks to our dedicated donors. Thank you for your faithful support!

With immense gratitude and God's blessing,

Sister Dianne Rumschlag, S.N.D.

Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, S.N.D., PhD
Head of School



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Daniela & Diego Suarez

Graduates of Guardian Catholic School, siblings Daniela and Diego Suarez share a passion for academics that has led to success in high school and beyond.

Daniela Suarez attended Holy Rosary (one of Guardian's legacy schools) from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Her academic success earned her the prestigious Townsend Scholarship to attend Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Upon graduating from Episcopal in 2021, Daniela was awarded a scholarship from Christ Episcopal Church to attend the University of North Florida (UNF), where she is currently a freshman studying Biomedical Sciences on the pre-med track.

Daniela encourages current Guardian students to take advantage of the "amazing resources" that are provided by the school, noting, "It is an environment that has always been supportive for me and my family."

Daniela's brother, Diego, a fellow Townsend Scholar, graduated from Guardian Catholic School in 2019 as class Valedictorian and is currently a junior at Episcopal. Diego is involved in

many extracurricular activities, including the National Spanish Honors Society as well as clubs focused on mental health awareness and food waste management, among others. He is currently considering the pursuit of a career in science. He will be well on his way, thanks to a four-year scholarship to a Florida university from June and Vincent Schuppert in partnership with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Reflecting on how Guardian helped prepare him for continued success in his academic career, Diego said, "The emphasis teachers place on their students is massive ... I truly believe who I am today is a product of the positive learning environment that the faculty, staff and Sisters helped to facilitate."

Welcome to Our Newest Board Members



Donna Williams

Donna Williams retired from Guardian Catholic in 2020 after 22 years. As a school guidance counselor, she served with competence and care and continues modeling our mission and spirit. She's an active member of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.



Gregory Redmon

Gregory Redmon is a partner with Senior Counsel Attorneys at Law. He serves on the Standing Committee on the Unlicensed Practice of Law and the Jacksonville Bar Association's Elder Law Committee. He also serves on the boards for Gateway Community Services, Aging True, and Elevate Jacksonville.



Kristi Aiello

Kristi Aiello is the director of regional business development for Florida Blue. Aiello also serves on boards for Dreams Come True, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation, Episcopal Children's Services, Communities in Schools, and Catholic Charities.



Nancy Chartrand

Nancy Chartrand helps lead the Chartrand Family Foundation. She has also been active with the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, and Florida State College at Jacksonville.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Winston Timmons

Guardian Catholic's teacher brings new energy to the Music Program

Mr. Winston Timmons, our new full-time music teacher, joined Guardian in August 2021. He is a percussionist who graduated in May 2021 from Edward Waters University in Jacksonville. During college he was the drumline leader and discovered a passion for "inspiring and teaching others about what music really is and means."

"Seeing my students grow and learn how to do what I love the most inspires me every day."

Mr. Timmons experiments with different techniques to keep students learning, engaged and having fun at the same time. "For first graders to learn how to read music is an accomplishment because it is a skill that not a lot of people have," he said. He believes that elementary and middle school are key years to learn how to read music and prepare for high school and college music programs.

Seeing the effort that students put into class and how they change their perception of music is what Mr. Timmons enjoys most about teaching at Guardian.

Mr. Timmons notes that his students' favorite way to learn is through playing music. With more instruments and equipment, the class could have better results and he could continue with a plan to start a drumline for elementary students, with more instruments being incorporated in future years.

Besides teaching at Guardian, Mr. Timmons teaches at a youth center, plays percussion for a local church and First Coast Wind Symphony, and is a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity.





Guardian Catholic School

4920 Brentwood Ave., Ste 201
Jacksonville, FL 32206



Your gift to Guardian Catholic School is an investment in our community and in the lives of the students we serve. Your valuable dollars ensure that our school can continue to provide unparalleled educational and spiritual opportunities to children and families in Jacksonville's urban core.

By Mail:

Guardian Catholic School
4920 Brentwood Ave., Ste 201
Jacksonville, FL 32206

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18TH ANNUAL Ron Townsend GOLF CLASSIC

BENEFITING GUARDIAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

