



The Messenger

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GuardianCatholic.com



Celebrating Two Decades of the Ron Townsend Golf Classic

Honoring an Advocate for Education and Community

We are delighted to announce the upcoming 20th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic, a milestone event that marks two decades of unwavering support for quality education. This cherished tournament, named after the remarkable Ron Townsend, is an eagerly anticipated occasion each year, raising funds for educational opportunities for hundreds of Guardian students and families.

A Remarkable Role Model

Ron Townsend has been a devoted advocate for Guardian Catholic School since joining the Board in 2003. His journey, from growing up in Jacksonville's Durkeeville Housing Complex to achieving a distinguished career in the television industry, retiring as President of Gannett Television Group in 1996, exemplifies the power of determination and perseverance.

Throughout his life, Ron has remained dedicated to helping others. He has served on numerous civic leadership councils and corporate boards, demonstrating a strong commitment to his community.

His many awards, including recognition from organizations like the United Negro College Fund, the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Jewish Humanitarian Award, attest to his significant contributions to society.

A Champion for Education

In 2008, the Guardian Board established the prestigious Townsend Scholars Program to recognize and support high-achieving students, providing them with mentorship and academic support throughout high school. This scholarship offers Guardian graduates full tuition to attend Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Bishop Kenny or Bishop John J. Snyder High School, creating pathways to brighter futures.

In 2015, Ron Townsend and Bob Shircliff co-chaired the *Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy* capital campaign to construct a new facility to combine the students of Guardian's two legacy schools, Holy Rosary and St. Pius V, on a single school campus, now known as Guardian Catholic School.

Our mission is to help students attain their potential through high quality Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment that inspires each of us to think, learn, achieve, pray and serve our communities.



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July 2023-2024

Board Members

- Jane R. Lanier – *Chair*
- Kristi Aiello – *Vice Chair*
- Msgr. Jim Boddie
- Beth Brockelman
- Nancy Chartrand
- Mark Dawkins
- Ed Fleming
- Keesy Goebertus
- Bill Hendrich
- Laurrie Leonard
- Susan Masucci
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- Thomas Szwed
- Donna Williams

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- Dan Rice
- Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, SND
- Jim Selzer
- Bob Shircliff*
- Bobby Stein
- Patricia Tierney
- Louis V. Walsh IV
- Lt. Col. Alton Yates
- *deceased

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- Deacon Scott Conway
- Rev. Mike Elias
- Sr. Cynthia Shaffer, SND

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- Jay Demetree
- Michael DuBow
- Paul Jones
- Mark Lamping
- Dan Rice
- Darnell Smith
- Bobby Stein
- Dwayne Stevens
- Ron Townsend

Message from the Board Chair



The start of a new school year brings the promise of hope for another group of wonderful children, nearly 400, who will succeed because of the Guardian program.

Guardian Catholic School provides strong academics in a faith-filled atmosphere so that our children can overcome the barriers imposed by economic and educational challenges and health disparities. The Guardian students learn how to prepare and model a strong work ethic that sees them through high school and beyond. Infused with all of this is an emphasis on good character and values that will sustain them throughout life.

Our Board of Directors and donors are committed to seeking and helping to provide the resources needed for Guardian’s sustainability. Every member of the Board gives of their treasure, talent and time as volunteers.

Across the country, many inner-city Catholic schools have closed, leaving generations of children without many opportunities. In Jacksonville, we must never let that happen. But so much depends on the continued support from friends like you who believe in every child’s God-given potential.

Please join us today by making a gift to Guardian. There are many opportunities for you to make a significant difference. On the back of this newsletter, we have included a wish list of possibilities for you to consider. You may also be interested in joining The Guardian Giving Society which recognizes donors for their cumulative giving. You can find more information at GuardianCatholic.com/Support/GivingSociety. We hope you will become a member, and if you are already a member, please consider an additional gift for this school year.

We are grateful for your support. Please contact me any time for more information or for me to personally give you a tour of Guardian.

May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Jane R. Lanier, CFRE
Board Chair





Board Member Spotlight | Bill Hendrich

Bill Hendrich’s remarkable journey from a successful career in media to a passionate advocate for community service exemplifies the values that Guardian Catholic School holds dear. A devoted member of the Guardian board, Bill generously contributes his wisdom, passion, and dedication to our mission.

Bill and his wife, Helen, have called the Jacksonville area home for the past 18 years. Their journey in the community began at Holy Family parish, and in 2018, they transitioned to St. Paul’s after moving to Neptune Beach. Throughout their time in Jacksonville, the Hendrichs have been active members of both churches, demonstrating their unwavering commitment through tithing, capital giving, annual contributions to the Bishop’s Appeal, and support for Catholic Charities.

Throughout their time in Jacksonville, Bill and Helen have consistently supported numerous charitable organizations, including Guardian Catholic School, the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, Hubbard House, Daniel Kids, Angelwood, the Sulzbacher Center, and the North Florida Land Trust.

In his professional career, Bill held leadership positions at Cox Media Group, where he was Executive Vice President, Radio, overseeing programming, operations, and sales for the company’s 59 radio stations in 11 markets. Bill was elected to three terms on the National Association of Broadcasters Radio Board of Directors and served as the Chairman of the Florida Association of Broadcasters. He was also an active member of the Jacksonville Sports Council and contributed to THE PLAYERS Championship by serving on THE PLAYERS Council Advisory Board.

After retiring in 2020, Bill Hendrich has taken his passion for community involvement to new heights. In addition to the Guardian board, Bill serves on the boards of WJCT and the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, where he also participates in their mentoring program.

As Chair of Guardian’s Volunteer Committee, Bill has bolstered and invigorated the school’s pool of resource



“Parents and guardians who want something better for their children want their kids to be at this school.”

volunteers. He has built strong relationships with local chapters of groups such as the Knights of Columbus, Young Catholic Professionals, and the Order of Malta, as well as high schools including Bishop Kenny and Bishop John J. Snyder. Bill has grown Guardian’s network of volunteers for various projects including bi-annual food distributions, campus beautification projects, and the annual golf tournament fundraiser.

Wanting to do even more, Bill has recently spearheaded a new early learning literacy initiative for Guardian’s Early Learning Program in partnership with a group of his former Cox Media colleagues. “Guardian is one of those great resources that helps families who care,” said Bill.

Bill Hendrich’s commitment to faith, service, and community has left a lasting mark on the Guardian community. We are grateful for his dedicated service on our board and look forward to continuing our shared mission of providing a quality Catholic education to our students. Thank you, Bill, for your unwavering support and leadership.

Message from Sr. Cynthia



I have often heard Wall Street mogul, celebrated singer, motivational speaker, and Guardian Catholic graduate, Carla Harris, state that her success in life is, in part, attributed to the firm academic foundation that she received in elementary and middle school. Furthermore, she does not hesitate to express her gratitude for the opportunity to attend a faith-based school that supported her family's deep Christian values.



Carla's lived experience embodies the mission of Guardian Catholic to "provide a high-quality Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment that inspires us to think, learn, achieve, pray, and serve our communities." Guardian Catholic's dedicated administration, faculty, and staff continue to be committed to this mission day in and day out.



This year, along with building a firm foundation in the fundamentals of math, reading, and writing, the new STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) initiative is preparing our students to be future-ready learners who are able to navigate the complexities of the digital era.



Together, we can change lives so that our students can change the future. Together, we can protect the potential and motivate our students to be the best that they can be. Together we will create a place where faith is paramount and we "seek first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33).

Sr. Cynthia Shaffer, S.N.D.
Head of School

*"No one can do it alone."
— Carla Harris*

Celebrating Two Decades of the Ron Townsend Golf Classic (CONT'D)

After retiring from the Board last year, Ron's commitment to the school endures through his service on Guardian's Ambassadors Board and the Golf Committee.

The 20th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic

An icon among the golfing community, Ron Townsend made history in 1990 when he became the first African American to be invited to join the elite Augusta National Golf Club. In 2005, Ron helped launch Guardian's first annual golf tournament, which now proudly bears his name. Over the years, this event has raised over \$2 million in scholarship funds for Guardian students. Former Jaguars kicker Josh Scobee has been the tournament's Honorary Chair since 2013, attracting many local sports celebrities to participate in the tournament each year.

The 20th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic, chaired by Rick Cannington, will take place on February 26, 2024, at the beautiful Timuquana Country Club. The tournament will feature nine hole-in-one contests, a Million Dollar Shootout, a Helicopter Golf Ball Drop raffle and a fantastic silent auction. We hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone event and continuing Ron Townsend's legacy of supporting quality education for all.



February 26, 2024
Timuquana Country Club
Learn More | Sponsor | Register
RonTownsendGolfClassic.com

Alumni Spotlight | Jeffrey Southerland



“My time spent at Guardian was possibly the most formative years of my childhood, and I’m forever indebted for all the gems I learned.”

We are excited to highlight one of Guardian’s many successful graduates, Jeffrey Southerland (c/o 2012). A proud alumnus of Guardian Catholic, Bishop Kenny High School and the University of South Florida, Jeffrey is currently in his final year of law school at Stetson University. He received the Florida Bright Futures Academic Merit Scholarship and a fellowship to Stetson from the Suncoast Estate Planning Council.

Jeffrey found the transition from a public school to a private Catholic school after 5th grade to be very eye-opening. He shared that he especially loved uniforms and not having to worry about picking out an outfit every day. Reflecting on his experience, Jeffrey recalls a strong sense

of camaraderie which he described as, “a feeling like Guardian was just an extension of home, a place full of family.” Now, he realizes that the school created a safe space for him and other children to learn, play, and grow.

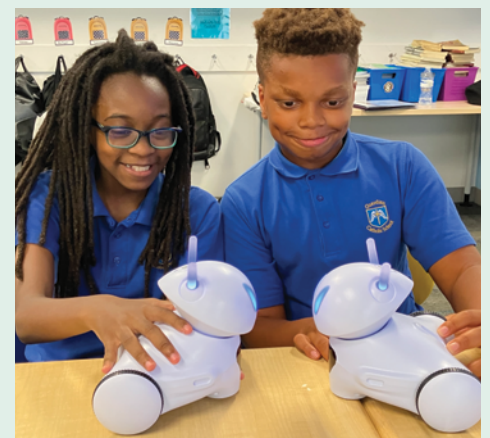
Annual school speech contests showcased his talent for public speaking; he proudly recalls that he placed second in the 6th grade and first in 8th grade. In an environment that nurtured a strong work ethic and protected his potential, his talents for speech, oratory, and academic excellence flourished. May God continue to bless his efforts to become a faithful civic servant as he pursues his new career as an attorney.

New STREAM Class

Guardian Catholic School’s STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) initiative is underway! We are thrilled to provide access to a Catholic interdisciplinary approach to learning for our students. The goal of the program is to foster an environment that allows students to build on skills that are applicable to real-world problem solving. Through STREAM, students will complete Project Based Learning (PBL) that integrates a variety of subjects including science, math, religion, technology, and the arts.

Guardian welcomes Ashley Gibson as the school’s new STREAM Facilitator. Ms. Gibson joins us from Savannah, Georgia where she participated in the Teachers of Tomorrow program. Ms. Gibson is a passionate advocate for STEM education and works to promote active learning through engaging content, hands-on activities and student collaboration. Ms. Gibson leads weekly STREAM classes where students gain practice in hands-on application of the Engineering Design Process. Through the Design Process, students across grade levels are able to identify problems, ask questions, and design, create, and evaluate possible solutions.

In addition to hiring a STREAM Facilitator, Guardian has partnered with Eduscape as a leader in professional development in STEM. Guardian teachers will be working with Eduscape throughout the year to strengthen their skills in STEM instruction. Educators will focus on student-led instruction, project-based learning, and technology integration. With the support of Ms. Gibson and our Eduscape team, Guardian is excited to work with our teachers in ensuring that STREAM is part of every subject’s curriculum.





Guardian Catholic School

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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.

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Guardian Catholic School
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Jacksonville, FL 32206

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GuardianCatholic.com/DonateNow
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Donate Today

Guardian Catholic School Wishlist

\$50

- 3 Bibles
- 10 pints of tempera paint
- 1 dozen foam frisbees
- 200 pre-sharpened Ticonderoga pencils
- 50 boxes of facial tissue
- 1 hydroponic grow pack replacement kit

\$100

- 4 new library books
- 4 magazine subscriptions for media center
- 10 sets of watercolor paints
- 10 cheer pom-poms
- 5 sets (12) of paint brushes
- 1 set recess-ready sports balls
- 10 practice basketballs
- 10 practice soccer balls

\$250

- 2 drones
- 2 practice soccer goals
- 1 set of chroma note hand chimes
- 12 religion books
- 6 school pro-electric pencil sharpeners
- 7 polar fleece uniform jackets
- 10 moisture-wick uniform polo shirts



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