



THE JOSEPH FUND  
OF CAMDEN

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Empowering Camden's  
youth through education*



# Contents

- 2** Letter from the Executive Director
- 3** 2023 at a Glance
- 4** Board of Trustees
- 5** Overall Impact
- 9** Giving Report
- 11** Gatherings for Good
- 14** Catching Up with Our Scholars



# Letter from the Executive Director

The following pages contain examples of our fundraising success, highlights from our events, and profiles of the students we help. Collectively, they are intended to provide an inspiration to our community of donors, our advocates, and the many families that knew our founder, Father Bob McDermott, along with everyone who supports our mission.

However, this report is intended to do that and much more. This document was created to serve as a reflection of the incredible generosity of the individuals who believe in investing in the education of tomorrow's generation. Our partners believe in enabling access to values-based, high-quality, and safe education. This life-changing opportunity is delivered by teachers and administrators who devote their lives to changing lives and creating a community around learning, caring, and loving.

Thank you for delivering the education that changes lives, to our partners for providing environments filled with love, and the individuals who are committed to giving this gift to others.



**Brian  
Riggs**



We worry about our children no matter what age they are, but we're trying to give families an opportunity to get their kids into environments where they're not worried all day long.

# 2023 at a Glance



**184**

scholars from **157 families** received a safe, high-quality education



**\$410k+**

raised to empower Camden children



**192**

donors united to disrupt the cycle of poverty



**\$25k**

commitment to emergency tuition for at-risk students



**265**

backpacks filled with school supplies for the year



**\$7 million**

raised in our history

# Board of Trustees

## 2023-2024



**Welcome to our newest  
Board members!**



**Neal Rafferty**  
*Merz Aesthetics*



**Brian Lynn**  
*Claritas Financial Partners*

James Wujcik, *Chair*  
Robert Hoey, *Past Chair*  
Altheia LeDuc, *Treasurer*  
Chris Campbell  
David DeStefano  
Edward Hutchinson  
Kyle Jamaitis

Robert Kennedy  
Brian Lynn  
Dr. Molly Phillips  
Dr. Pat Procacci  
Neal Rafferty  
Patricia Savage  
Gerard Toscani



# Overall Impact

Created by The Joseph Fund during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Summer Enrichment Program at the Child Development Center is a two-month, curriculum-based summer program that serves as a gateway for Pre-K and K students to begin their educational journeys.



*Since 2021, **over 100 students** have been able to participate in our very own Summer Enrichment Program thanks to more than **\$130,000 in support.***







*Holy Name*  
*Sacred Heart*  
*St. Cecilia*  
*St. Joseph*  
*Pro-Cathedral*



**Over the last three years, we have provided  
tuition assistance to more than  
150 Camden-based families.**

**We have contributed over \$200,000 in support  
to welcome 200+ Joseph Fund Scholars to  
receive a high-quality, values-based education.**



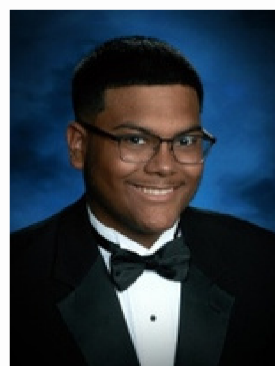
This year, six high school students at Camden Catholic and six students at Gloucester Catholic received individual support in excess of \$3,000 per student. We are proud to watch these young adults grow as Scholars and eventually become **Joseph Fund Graduates**.

This scholarship has been a big help to my family financially and I don't know where I would've been without it. I appreciate your generosity and everything you have done for me. I can't thank you enough.

Amanda Kim, CCHS '24  
Current Joseph Fund Scholar



Amanda Kim  
Class of 2024



Armani Lopez  
Class of 2024



Axel Perez  
Class of 2024

We would like to thank the **Procacci family** for the annual support of each student at Camden Catholic along with **Barb and Bob Brown** for their generosity toward our rising stars at Gloucester Catholic.



Marbelys Santiago  
Class of 2024



Juan Almonte  
Class of 2026



Adrianna Plaza  
Class of 2027





Brianna Colon  
*Class of 2026*



Mirlenis Rodriguez  
*Class of 2026*



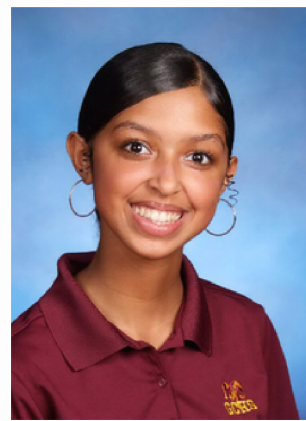
Jah'dir Edwards  
*Class of 2027*



Fernando  
Jardon-Morales  
*Class of 2027*



Diego Torres  
*Class of 2027*



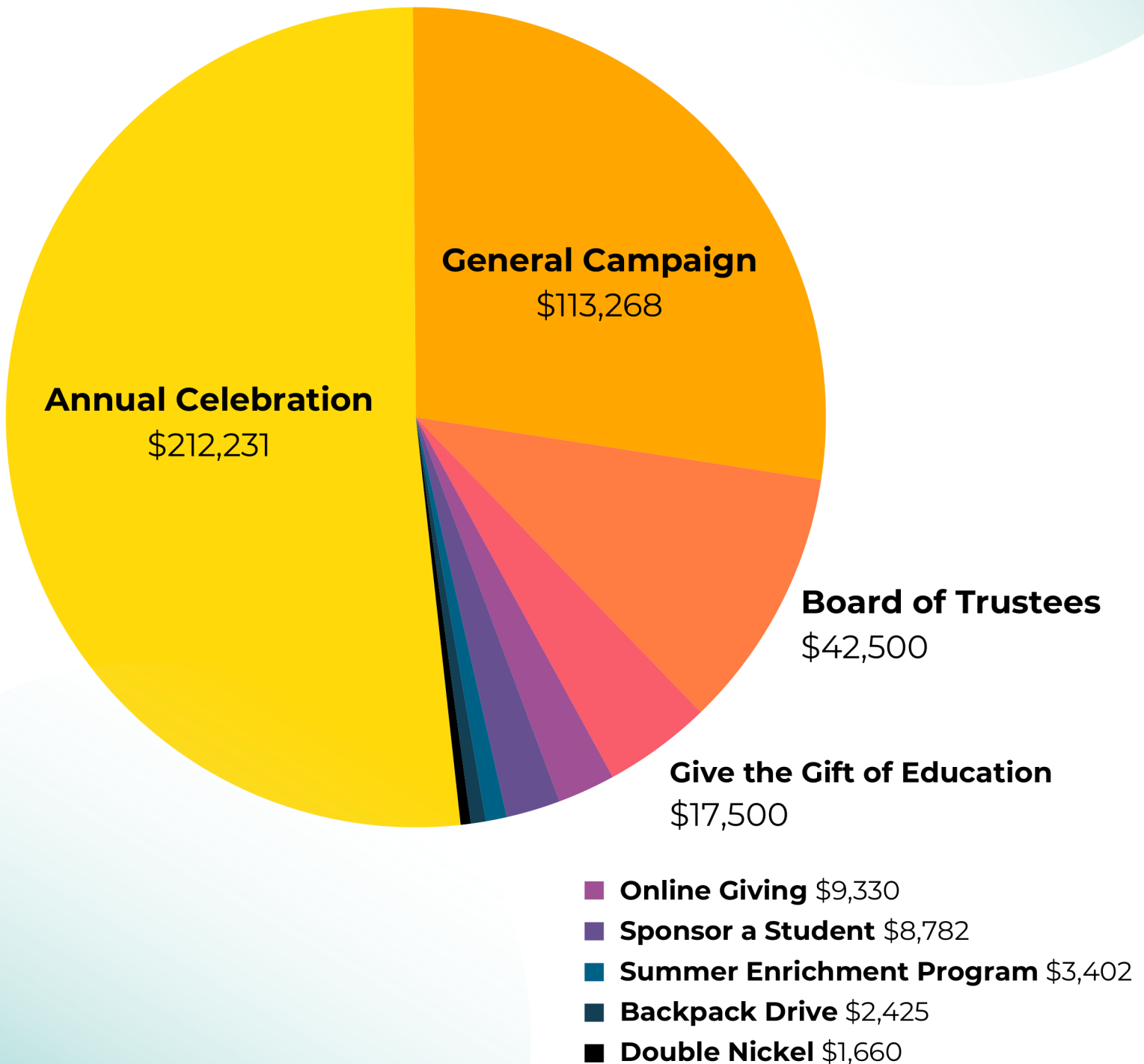
Jaelyn Vazquez  
*Class of 2027*

***Since 2021, more than 32 high school students have been able to lay the groundwork for the rest of their lives thanks to \$93,000 of our support.***

# Giving Report



Our focus on transforming lives begins with an investment in the education of our youth. The Joseph Fund would like to thank our community for continuing to uphold Father Bob's mission to empower Camden for generations to come.





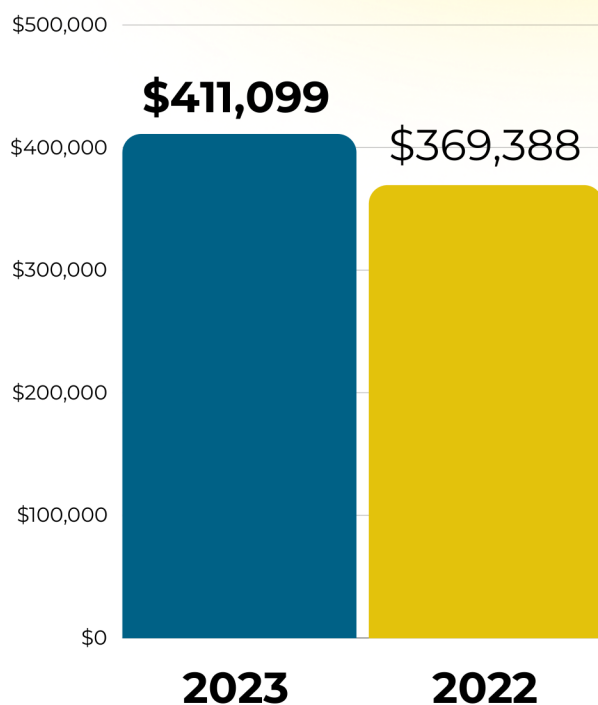
## 2023 Highlights

**\$200,000** pledge from the Halloran Foundation

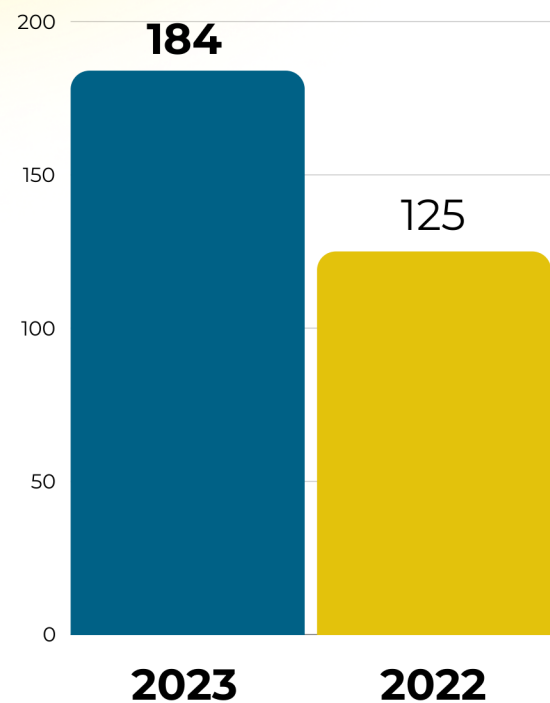
**\$30,000** match from the Bernard Foundation

**\$15,000** from an Anonymous Angel

**Total Funds Raised**



**Scholars Empowered**



*According to the U.S. Census Bureau, both Camden's poverty rate and the percentage of adults without a high school diploma are triple the state percentages.*

*The Joseph Fund is inspiring change through education.*



# Gatherings for Good





With all of the disruptions that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic over the last few years, we were blessed to be able to fully engage with our Joseph Fund Family in 2023. We cherished the opportunity to learn about the impact that education has had on your life over brews at Double Nickel, and it is always an honor to revel in the budding love of learning in our Scholars.

# Back to School

## *Revamping our Annual Fundraiser*



**Karena Morales** “

It gives me peace of mind as a mother knowing that they're in a great environment amongst their friends.

This year, our Annual Fundraiser was reimagined with a timely back to school theme. As part of our program, Karena Morales joined us to share how The Joseph Fund has touched her whole family.

As a mother of three students on the Saint Joseph Pro-Cathedral campus, including Summer Enrichment student Adriel Ortiz, her story shed light on the familial impact of our work and allowed our amazing donors to see how their generosity changes lives across generations.

Guests also had the pleasure to hear the student perspective from Joseph Fund Scholar Brianna Colon. A sophomore at Gloucester Catholic, she highlighted the impact her scholarship has had on her and her ability to pursue her dream of becoming an OBGYN.



Being a Joseph Fund Scholar means I get to receive the education I know I deserve, play the sports I love the most, and become the independent, intelligent, and remarkable woman I know I can be.

**Brianna Colon, GCHS '26**

Following a commitment from The Joseph Fund to support the Morales family throughout their educations, East Camden native Preston Brown served as a rallying force. As the Woodrow Wilson High School football coach, he is a beacon for the Camden community. Coach Brown brought to light some of the more somber conditions that affect the city. He instilled faith in his players that they could achieve, and soon after that, they were crowned Regional Champions. He was the subject of the NFL Film *Preston Brown: Improving Lives & the City of Camden Through Football*.

The Joseph Fund then awarded the Msgr. Robert T. McDermott Philanthropy and Community Service Award to the Dain Family. Just like The Joseph Fund itself is a family, Tony Dain has enriched our cause thanks to so many passionate members of their family supporting our mission. To further exemplify the Dains' altruism, their remarks ended with a declaration that **The Ralph L. & Florence A. Bernard Foundation would match an astounding \$30,000 raised tonight!**

With that, a thermometer appeared on screen and a fundraising blitz took place. In a matter of minutes, the thermometer was overflowing—**\$90,000 was raised before dinner had even started!** The Celebration raised over \$200,000 in scholarships to enable the next class of Joseph Fund Scholars to become medical professionals, regional champions, or proud parents themselves.



**“Of all the visions Father Bob had, there were none greater than a Catholic education as the means of breaking the cycle that has consumed Camden and so many cities around the country.” – Tony Dain**





# Catching Up with Our Scholars



On November 3rd, Executive Director Brian Riggs attended Camden Catholic's annual Gratitude Breakfast, a special morning where scholarship recipients gather and reconnect with supporters over coffee and bagels. It was great to get updates from our amazing Joseph Fund Scholars Marbelys, Amanda, Axel, Armani, Juan, and Adrianna.

With all of their classes and activities, it is a treat to hear how our Scholars are thriving and see how they have grown. One moment we are delivering backpacks to the kindergartners of the CDC, and before we know it, they are walking across the graduation stage!



# THE JOSEPH FUND

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## OF CAMDEN



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[thejosephfund](https://www.instagram.com/thejosephfund)

[josephfundcamden.org](https://josephfundcamden.org)