



MADONNA FOUNDATION

Franciscan Ministries sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

Madonna MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF THE MADONNA FOUNDATION AND ALUMNAE OF MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL
JULY 2024 EDITION



Stories and Highlights of the 2023–2024 School Year



Pictured above are the 2024 Graduates



Pictured above are the McAuley Breakfast Group with MF team

OUR 2024 GRADUATES

All 15 Madonna seniors graduated this spring and will attend college in the fall. Their hard work and dedication resulted in multiple acceptances and scholarship offers from over 85 colleges and universities coast to coast! The aggregate total of scholarship offers was more than 5 million!

OUR SCHOLARS

Twenty three freshmen were selected for the 2023-24 school year. We also welcomed back 18 sophomores, 15 juniors and 15 seniors.

MADONNA SCHOLARS 2023

JOSEPHINUM ACADEMY

Ciara Martinez

MOTHER MCAULEY

Sandra Reyes

Bertha Espinoza

Kylie Trendle

OUR LADY OF TEPEYAC

Andrea Velaquez

RESURRECTION HIGH SCHOOL

Ana Medic

Mary Moroko

McKayla Spandary

Miriam Elia

Haneen Almajid

Olivia Kosturibic

REGINA DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Isabel Hoyos

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

Natalie Lopez

Rebecca Guerra

Elizabeth Lopez

Congratulations to all graduates as they begin the next stage of their educational journey.

Madonna MATTERS

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2023–2024

CAREER DAY

This year's focus was Women in Business and Women in Law. In November, our students met with several women professionals to gain an understanding of potential career paths in Accounting, Business, HR and IT. The common message of these highly accomplished professionals urged our scholars to follow their passion and rise above limitations imposed by society to achieve their goals.

We are so grateful to Andersen Tax, our community partner, for hosting this event at their corporate office in Chicago.

In March, the scholars participated in a WOMEN EVERYWHERE event hosted by a group of dedicated lawyers, judges and court officers at the Cook County Court house who shared their personal journeys with our students. This informative day showcased several different careers in this field and the students were invited to sit in on the court proceedings to gain firsthand knowledge of possible careers. We are so grateful to our partners at the Court House for providing this meaningful experience to our scholars.



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars and their families

The Trinity Scholars also participated in a panel discussion with Nuveen Investment professionals. The students learned about a variety of careers that Nuveen offers as well as internships they can apply for once they are in college. We are so grateful to our new program partner, Nuveen Investments!

ACT

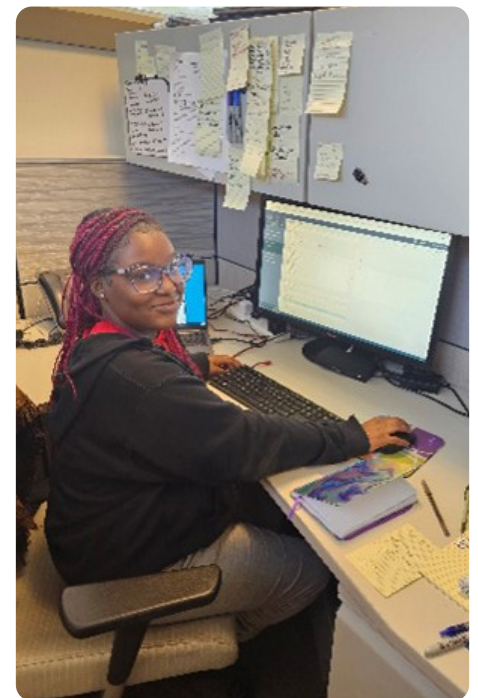
The juniors took part in a virtual ACT prep course with the Jeanius Prep. They provided the Madonna scholars with ACT test preparation and individualized study throughout the year. Access to year-long prep class materials and online instruction helped the students increase their ACT scores, opening more doors to college acceptances.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

One of our rising seniors spent the summer of 2023 working for the Franciscan Ministries corporate office in our IT department. We were also excited to have one of our rising juniors complete a summer internship with the Field Museum in Chicago with their digital media team. We are so grateful to be able to provide these experiences to our scholars.



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at Career Day at Andersen Tax



Pictured above is summer intern Makayla

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2023–2024



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at Wesleyan College



Pictured above are the Madonna student volunteers at Misericordia



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars with Team from Nuveen Investments

— STEAM — THE CHICAGO FIELD MUSEUM

To further scholar interests in STEAM, the Madonna Foundation teamed up with our program partner, the Chicago Field Museum. Scholars spent the day working along scientists to identify various mammals by their skeletal structures and create muscular clay models. They also took a behind the scenes tour where they saw how fossils are stored for research in moving lockers, went to the art floor to see how displays and scenery are created to compliment artifacts, and learned about several careers in the museum that we never knew existed.

In April, the students also took a trip to visit the Chicago offices of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill. The professional team shared their career paths in Engineering and Architecture. The students were very eager to learn how these professionals incorporate and create their designs for the urgent environmental challenges facing the need for a sustainable future. We are so grateful to this new program partner for sparking the interest in STEAM careers for our students.

— COLLEGE VISITS

This year the students visited two college campuses, Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University to gain an understanding of the requirements for college acceptances. Visiting these two campuses gave our students the opportunity to visualize their future and encouraged them to continue working hard to ensure their future success.

— WINTRUST SMART MONEY WORKSHOP

Smart Money, a financial literacy workshop for scholars and their parents conducted by Wintrust Bank, was held in the fall. We were so excited to have Wintrust presenters join us at our high schools and present vital information to our students on how to best navigate for the future and plan for college by setting SMART goals. We are grateful to Wintrust, our community partner, for solid and helpful financial information.

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2023–2024 *Continued*

SERVICE PROJECTS

To instill and foster the spirit of giving back, scholars participated in our annual service projects. In December, we were so grateful to bring our students and families to two of the Franciscan Ministries senior living communities for our annual Christmas caroling event. It was such fun to be back in person with our senior residents and share the Christmas joy with them.

In February, the students dedicated time to giving back to the Misericordia Community. They toured the Misericordia campus, heard from their leaders about possible career and volunteer opportunities and devoted some time to volunteering in the various work programs along side the Misericordia residents. We are so grateful to be back in person volunteering again!

Supporting Madonna Foundation

BASEBALL RAFFLE

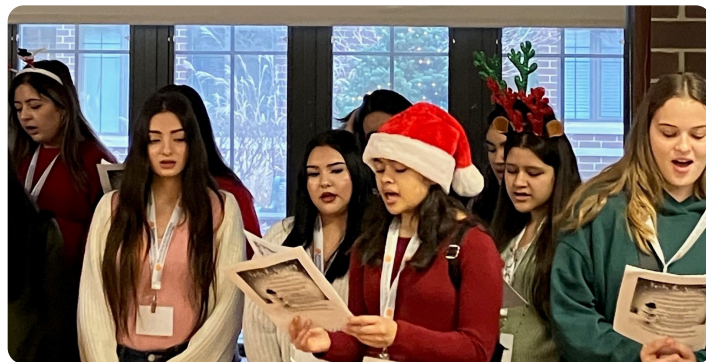
In the spring of 2023, the Madonna Foundation held its first raffle with a grand prize White Sox ticket package experience. The second-place winner enjoyed the Chicago Cubs versus White Sox baseball game. Many thanks to those that supported this fundraiser.

TRIVIA NIGHT

On November 18, 2023, the Madonna Foundation hosted its annual Trivia Night event. It was a huge success with over 200 people enjoying a fun filled night at Resurrection High School. Many new alumnae and supporters signed up and enjoyed seeing their friends and family during this friendly competition. Be sure to mark your calendars and gather your friends and fellow alums for next year's event on November 23rd.

FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY

On Friday, February 9th, Franciscan Community Benefit Services participated as one of the 18 charities benefiting from this black-tie fundraising event held at McCormick Place. We are grateful to all our donors and supporters who make this event possible for us, especially our automotive sponsor, Kelly Nissan of Oak Lawn.



Pictured above are students singing to the residents at the Village of Vicotory Lakes



Pictured above are the Madonna students with the Franciscan Sisters at First Look for Charity



Pictured above are Madonna Alums at Trivia Night

Supporting Madonna Foundation *Continued*



Pictured above are students with Judge Margaret at the Courthouse during the Women Everywhere workshop

MADONNA 5K

The 5K event was held in June of 2023 at Moraine Valley Community College. We are so grateful to our sponsors, donors and supporters who came to the event. Be sure to join us for the next one on August 25 at Resurrection High School. Contact Betsy Garbrecht for more information.

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE LUNCHEON

Our 2024 Annual Spring Alumnae Luncheon assembled 200 people to celebrate US! We prayed, sang the school song, feasted on delicious La Villa cuisine, reconnected and most of all we honored special alumnae with the Spirit of Madonna Award. This year's honorees, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, Rosa De Luna-Frede Class of 91, and Terri Roeslmeier Class of 74 were bestowed the award for their dedication to the Madonna Foundation, in true Madonnian fashion. It is always a special day when we gather in honor of each other. April 14, 2024, did not disappoint!



Pictured above are the Franciscan sisters of Chicago after receiving the Foundress Award at the Madonna High School annual luncheon



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Franciscan Ministries sponsored by
the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

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CONNECT WITH THE MADONNA FOUNDATION

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ALUMNAE, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! CONSIDER SERVING AS:

- Guest speaker
- Event host
- Committee member
- Volunteer

Contact Betsy Garbrecht at
331-318-5170 or egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org.

The Madonna Foundation, sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, continues the tradition the Sisters began at Madonna High School in 1949. Established in 2001, the Foundation has provided more than 1,600 awards totaling \$4.1 million in scholarship funding, along with dynamic college readiness programming. To all our supporters and donors who help us to create the next generation of accomplished and compassionate leaders, we say THANK YOU!!!!

——— LEARN ABOUT THE MADONNA FOUNDATION AND WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US.

Visit our website at www.madonnascholars.org and follow us on Facebook at [Madonnanpride](https://www.facebook.com/Madonnanpride) or contact Betsy Garbrecht by phone at 331-318-5170 or via email at egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org.

If you are a Madonna scholar alumna or Madonna High School alumna we would love to hear from you.

——— LEAVE YOUR LEGACY THROUGH OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

You can also support us through your estate plan. *Your legacy will extend for years into the future; impacting and transforming the lives of many young women ensuring promising futures.*

For more information on any of our charitable giving opportunities, contact Betsy Garbrecht by phone at 331-318-5170 or via email at egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org.