



# ANGELS AMONG US

Guardian Angels Catholic School, Clawson MI  
Sharon M. Hammerschmidt, Principal

## Project Summary

**Angels Among Us** was developed as a participatory program for donors making significant tax deductible contributions to the school. Making faith based education affordable in today's economy is a challenge and a very real struggle for some of our families.

This initiative would help offset tuition costs by providing scholarship funds. Additionally, the donor would get to experience the Guardian Angels Catholic School difference through Partner Morning Activity sessions, thereby becoming vested in the school financially and emotionally.

### THEN

**1948** Guardian Angles Catholic School opens its doors with 232 students. The enrollment has been as high as 525.

**1990** A Latchkey Program added to accommodate working parents.

**2003** Preschool program launched to meet the needs of our three and four year olds.

**2003** US Department of Education awards Guardian Angels Catholic School its National Blue Ribbon of Excellence, recognizing our students' high standardized test scores and our dedication to academic excellence.

**2006** Guardian Angels Parents' group (GAP) raised enough funds to rewire and update the computer lab and added 38 new Dell flat-screen desktop computers.

**2007** Classrooms, library and the science lab equipped with additional new computers and printers.

### NOW

**2008 – 2009** Anniversary Celebration for Guardian Angels Parish's 85 Years and Guardian Angels Catholic School's 60 Years.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**2009 – 2010** Tentative launch date for **Angels Among Us**. With your help we will be able to continue our commitment to strong Catholic values and academic excellence.

Guardian Angels Catholic School is located in the city of Clawson, Michigan, which is only 2.4 square miles. Most of our parents are employed by automotive companies and their suppliers and have been adversely effected by downsizing and current economy.

## Project Results

### Levels of Giving:

- **Angel Among Us** - \$1500.00
- **Earning Wings** - \$500.00
- **Angel in Training** - \$250.00
- **Angel Corp** - \$150.00 allows you to designate a gift to a specific school department

Brochures were to be made available to parishioners of the parish. Families were to share them with:

- Relatives, neighbors, friends
- Their place of employment
- Additionally, print pieces were developed for vendors holding our parish/school accounts.

**Project goal:** An allowance of \$1000/student; at least \$250,000 in the launch year

The **Angel Among Us** Partner Program Mornings allow you to join our students on campus for a time of prayer, planned activity and continental breakfast.

Experience the Guardian Angels Difference – YOU are so very important to our students!



## What we have learned

Before an “ask,” a relationship needs to be fostered. In the past 3 years, community—building has been a top priority within the Guardian Angels Catholic Community.

The kick—off of **Angels Among Us** has been forestalled to focus our attentions on the year—long celebration of the Parish/School Anniversary. We realized it was imperative to develop a data base that would be fluid and functional. We updated contact information of parishioners and guests. We recognized the necessity of tying graduates to the school and began an alumni database.

Participants in our “85 and Over Luncheon,” were given the opportunity to interact with our students—the school choir sang for the guests, acted as servers, greeters and escorts and dined with the seniors.

An Annual Big Band Dinner Dance was launched to celebrate the Anniversary as we attempted to reach yet another circle of parishioners and friends. Proceeds were designated to Tuition Assistance.

With a need to target donors outside of the parish community, Guardian Angels participated in Schools Rule Competition hosted by Oakland Mall from September to December 2008. We were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, winning \$2500 and enjoyed media coverage (TV/newspaper) that accompanied the event.

During the 2008 - 2009 school year, the print piece draft was discussed by a Focus Group, School Advisory Committee (SAC) and Pastoral Staff. Participants were asked to review, critique and amend. It was determined that funds would be deposited into a single account and partners assigned randomly protecting the integrity of the donor and recipient.

With an eye to the economy and its impact on our family finances, a Review Committee has been formed to determine the amount and type of fundraisers allowed during the school year.