



# SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTER

Transforming students, their families, and communities by touching hearts and inspiring minds.



Annual Report August 2018 - July 2019

## *Touching Hearts and Inspiring Minds*

Dear Friends,

As we enter our 25th year of service to the families of the Back of the Yards neighborhood, I am pleased to share the highlights of the 2018-2019 school year. We are proud of our eighth grade graduates from the class of 2019, who are now beginning the next phase of their education at college prep high schools, such as De La Salle Institute, Back of the Yards College Prep, Our Lady of Tepeyac, and various Noble Street and Acero charter high schools. Unlike other private schools, San Miguel does not turn away students who are performing below grade level or are academically at-risk. Enrollment decisions prioritize students who are struggling academically or social-emotionally, whose families are economically disadvantaged, and are living in the neighborhood.

It is San Miguel's mission to transform the lives of our students and instill in them a sense of hope for a brighter future. We achieve this through targeted intervention at a critical time for academic success, access to technology, and experiential learning opportunities. As we expose our students to the possibilities their lives can hold, we hope to broaden their worldview and help them realize the potential they possess. As a result of the academic skills they've acquired while at San Miguel, and the support received in high school, our students are graduating from high school at a rate higher than their peers in the neighborhood. They are now furthering their education at a number of 4-year universities, including Lewis University, University of Illinois Chicago, St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Loyola, De Paul, and the University of Dubuque.

As you will see, our Annual Report highlights the success of our students and provides a narrative of the financial stability of San Miguel School. This story of transformation is accomplished through a comprehensive program that includes:

- Extended school day and extended school year
- Personalized attention and academic support, with a 10-1 student/teacher ratio
- Parent commitment and involvement
- Experiential learning, spiritual formation, and extracurricular athletic teams
- Supportive social-emotional and behavioral skills training
- Dedicated, committed, and loving faculty and staff who inspire our students
- Faithful and steadfast prayer

Yet, we could not do it without you. San Miguel is an amazing place where God is present and your generosity transforms the lives of students at risk. I am grateful to you and to all who have helped make this year a success through your generosity of time, talent and treasure.

I am pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Jeff Smart. Jeff comes to us with a long history of dedication to fundraising for private, Catholic education. I look forward to introducing him to you and hope that you will visit the school or attend events in support of San Miguel. Please contact Jeff at [jsmart@sanmiguelchicago.org](mailto:jsmart@sanmiguelchicago.org) or 773-890-0233 to witness your generosity in action.

Thank you for all you do for the students of San Miguel School Chicago. I hope that you will continue to recognize the good work of San Miguel and support our mission of TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION, COMMITMENT AND LOVE. Please pray for us.

Sincerely,



John Conerty  
Board Chair, San Miguel School Chicago





# School Rocks 2019

On September 6, 2019, San Miguel School held its signature event, SCHOOL ROCKS! Friends and supporters gathered with students and staff at Edgewood Valley Country Club to celebrate the mission and vision of San Miguel School.

**THANK YOU**  
to all of our partners  
and supporters of  
**SCHOOL ROCKS!**



## The Class of 2019 reflects on their time at San Miguel

*I'm grateful that I got the opportunity to go to San Miguel. I'm grateful I met some donors that made the school open for students like me. I'm grateful I made close friends at San Miguel. I'm grateful I met cool, nice teachers and staff. I'm grateful I learned and improved as a student. I'm grateful I transformed to be the person I am today.*

- Omar, Class of 2019



*What I've learned here at San Miguel is to treat others the way you want to be treated. I've also learned to not take things for granted and to always be nice to people. Here at San Miguel people have been supporting me since the day I stepped through the door. Another thing I learned here at San Miguel is to never give up on your dreams. People may bring you down but nothing can be more important than what you like and wish for. I've also learned to stand up for myself. San Miguel showed me standing up for yourself can change so many things.*

- Mariana, Class of 2019

*San Miguel is one of my favorite places to be and so much fun! There's so much here that I wish to never lose. This place is like a second home for me. Everything I need is here. I'm glad I came here! I've changed so much and I can't wait for more to come. This place has shown me so many new things and took me to many new places. I don't know what I would be doing right now without San Miguel. I learned a lot of new things being here that have opened my eyes to the fullest. Being here has shown me that no matter where you are, you are not alone. Coming here gave me a really good experience of the outside world. There are so many memories that I'm just speechless thinking about all the fun we had. Just to think that I am here makes me smile. I'm so grateful for San Miguel. The teachers, students, and the volunteers helped me so much I don't know where I would be without them. They have given me many opportunities in the time that I have been here. I'm thankful for everyone here.*



- Julian, Class of 2019



*My three years here have been different stages, just like a monarch butterfly and its own stages. I also give thanks to God for making me change my mind and deciding to come to San Miguel. Now that I'm moving on to high school, things won't be the same as they are now here. I will have to adapt to new surroundings, along with new people. San Miguel will be a school that I will always remember and come to visit. Over the years, San Miguel became like a second family to me, where love, time, peace, and care all come together to provide the best for staff and students. I will never forget all the memories, experiences, classes, and especially all the people who helped and guided me to get through middle school. I will always appreciate that and will thank God always for this big opportunity.*

- Georgina, Class of 2019





## Words from a Graduate

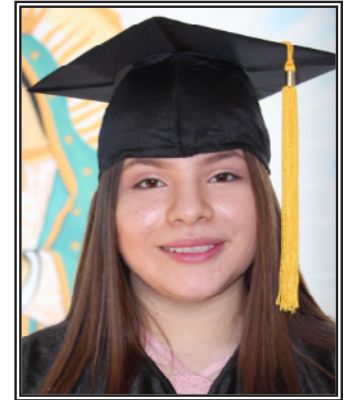
My San Miguel experience started as a 6th grader; I came from a big school in the state of Texas, and it was my first year in the United States. When I moved to Chicago, I was pretty nervous about starting school. One day I was introduced to San Miguel School. At first I was nervous about starting at a smaller school because for a couple of years I went to a big school and I got used to moving around more and also knowing more people in a big school. San Miguel changed my view and I realized that small things can be better in many ways.

At San Miguel, it's easy to talk to my teachers and communicate with them. Especially during 6th grade, being nervous about middle school was a challenge, but I have to admit that 6th grade was a fun year! It's when we first got introduced to the amazing field trips San Miguel has like Camp Gray and Dunrovin where you go every year. My first year at San Miguel was great and it was full of challenges I had to face, but that's what made me come back for the next year.

In 7th grade, I was a little nervous about meeting the new teachers in the class, but little did I know, those teachers would be so amazing. I enjoyed all my experiences during that year. I was growing by taking baby steps and I learned about my friends more. I made a lot of fun memories with friends when we would go on field trips. My favorite one was when we went bowling! We were so hyped and happy about it, because we made our reading goal as a class. Also, I think every field trip I enjoyed during 7th grade because I got closer to more people and learned more about every single person in my class. At the end of 7th grade it felt sad, but I was glad to move into 8th grade and learn more as a person and student. 7th grade overall was great. I was focused and felt able to do a lot of things, and so were my teachers who helped me communicate more and be more of who I am.

My third year in San Miguel was a big change! 8th grade changed me to become more of a mature person during certain situations in life. School was supportive and so were my teachers. I'm super thankful I had my counselor and my teachers to talk to me and be able to communicate with them. I have created many fun memories with friends and grew closer to them. My favorite field trip in 8th grade was, of course, Washington DC! It's an awesome field trip. I'm so grateful and appreciate all the effort the teachers and San Miguel put into it, because this is something to remember. Overall 8th grade has been a year where I grew and I had to step out of the person I was hiding and face life's challenges. It's my last year at San Miguel and I'm proud to say I'm ready to take on the challenges high school will bring me.

I will always thank God for putting San Miguel school on my path in life. My experience at San Miguel is something I won't forget, something I will carry in my mind and heart. The memories and friends I made will be something I will cherish along with everything I have. My teachers and all the San Miguel staff are something I will always be thankful for because I can say they have become my family, and they have never left my side during the bad situations. San Miguel filled me with love and happiness and those things gave me the passion to continue living out and chasing my dreams. San Miguel School helped me become who I am today - to have the strength and make the choice to fight any battles and overcome any challenges. San Miguel made me feel like I'm unstoppable and that no matter what anyone says, I can do more and give more of myself to my family, community and the world. Most importantly, San Miguel opened my eyes to view my surroundings differently - to love what I have, to love what I'm giving, and to appreciate every single person and thing. I'm thankful for it, can happily say I made it, and I wish I didn't have to leave. But I know San Miguel will always be there for me, and it will always be my home and family.



## STAFF AND TEACHERS

### Administrative Staff

Jeff Smart. . . . . Executive Director  
 Br. Mark Snodgrass . . . . . Principal,  
 6th Grade Teaching Team  
 Alison Orbin. . . . . Assistant Principal,  
 7th Grade Teaching Team  
 Sophia Cortes-Moreno. . . . . Director of Support Services  
 Erin Hempstead . . . . . Director of Intervention Programs,  
 8th Grade Teaching Team

### Support Staff

Sandra Alvarez. . . . . Librarian  
 Maria Esparza . . . . . Family Support Coordinator  
 Jessica Pina . . . . . Graduate Support and  
 College Readiness Coordinator  
 Marisela Romo . . . . . Food Service Coordinator  
 Sheila Senjanin . Finance & Human Resources Coordinator  
 Martha Tellez. . . . . School Secretary

### Faculty

Sheyenne Bauer . . . . . 7th Grade Teaching Team,  
 Lasallian Volunteer  
 Jennifer Coe . . . . . 6th Grade Teaching Team  
 Mike Fedoruk . . . . . 7th Grade Teaching Team  
 Avery Gase. . . . . 8th Grade Teaching Team  
 Terra Sands . . . . . Title I Teacher  
 Daniel Walton . . . . . 6th Grade Teaching Team,  
 Lasallian Volunteer

### Tutors and Volunteers

Enriquez Alvarez '15. . . . . i.t.a. Tutor  
 George Casson . . . . . Ignatian Volunteer Corps  
 Alix Flores '14 . . . . . i.t.a. Tutor  
 Melissa Hernandez '15. . . . . i.t.a. Tutor  
 Natalie Mayorga . . . . . Community Center Coordinator,  
 Notre Dame Volunteer Corps  
 Dulce Morales '14. . . . . i.t.a. Tutor  
 Ricky Munoz '08 . . . . . Volunteer Art Teacher  
 Cecilia Ruiz . . . . . i.t.a. Tutor, Teacher's Aide,  
 Notre Dame Volunteer Corps  
 Carolina Villa '10. . . . . i.t.a. Tutor

"To touch the hearts of students is the  
 greatest miracle you can perform."

- St. John Baptist De La Salle

## LASALLIAN CORE VALUES





# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, ADVOCATES, AND ADVISORS!

## Board of Directors

John Conerty  
*Board Chairman*

Neil Book

Br. Chris Englert

Freddy Flores

David Harker

Dan Hession

Marta Krug

Danny Kuo

Rachel Mitzi

Dan Real



"God has chosen you to make him known to others."

- St. John Baptist De La Salle

## Emeritus Board

Kevin Allodi

John Buck

Mike Christ

Dick and Marianne  
Drogosz

Br. Edwin Dupre

Lou Ebling

Cathy Elward

Rob Figliulo

Jack Flynn

Paul and Sandra  
Fullmer

Br. James Gaffney

Gordon Hannon

Doug Hayes

Br. Michael Quirk

Br. Larry Schatz

Ed Siderwisch

Guy and Sharon  
Wiebking



## Auxiliary Board

Dan Bowers

David Conroy

Megan Davison

Dominick Ens

Ted Gates

Samantha Siers

Angela Zuccaro



*Thank you to our program partners that provide services to our students!*



"God has called you to your ministry."

- St. John Baptist De La Salle



*Partners allow us to keep our high quality programs at a low cost.*





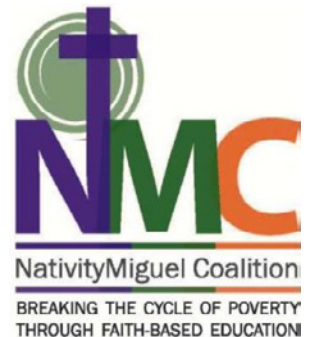
*Thank you to our program partners that provide services to our students!*



**THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS  
AT  
CHICAGO**



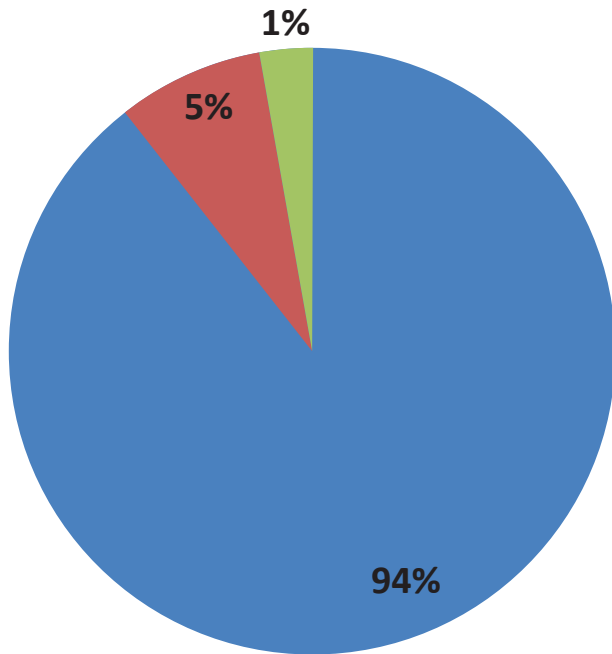
**BR. DAVID DARST CENTER**  
FOR JUSTICE & PEACE • SPIRITUALITY & EDUCATION



*Partners allow us to keep our high quality programs at a low cost.*

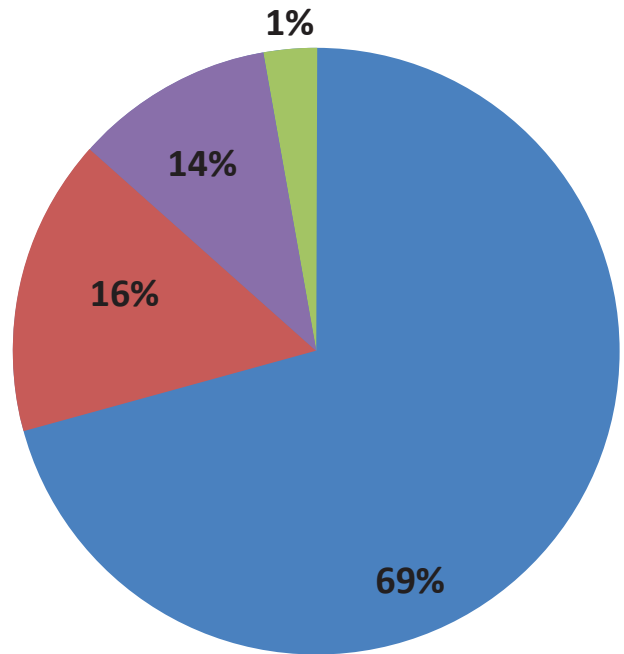
## 2018-2019 Financial Snapshot

**TOTAL INCOME \$1,489,419**



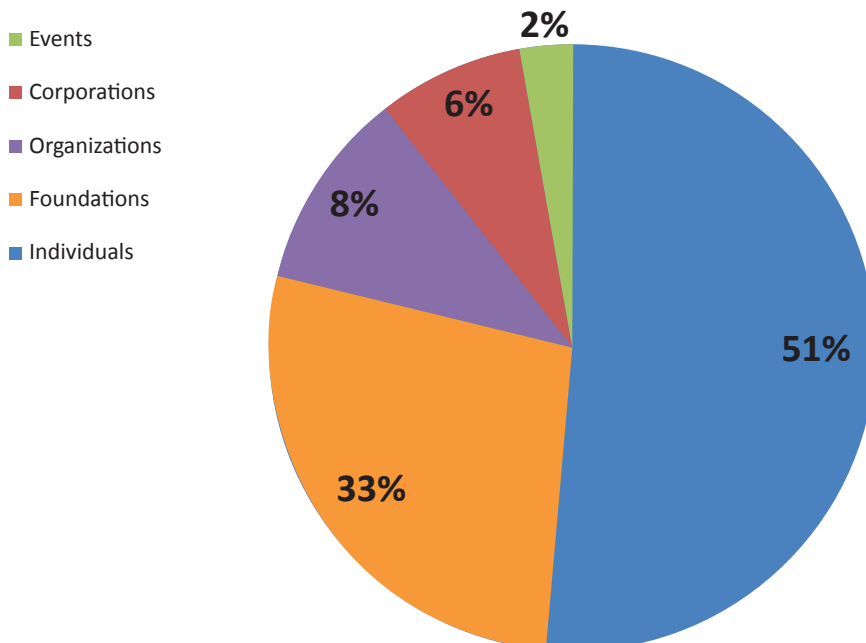
- Donations and Fundraising Events
- Tuition and Fees
- Miscellaneous

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,305,351**



- Program Operations: Middle School and Community Center
- Fundraising / Development
- Marketing
- General and Administration

**Donations & Net Events Breakdown: \$1,289,952**

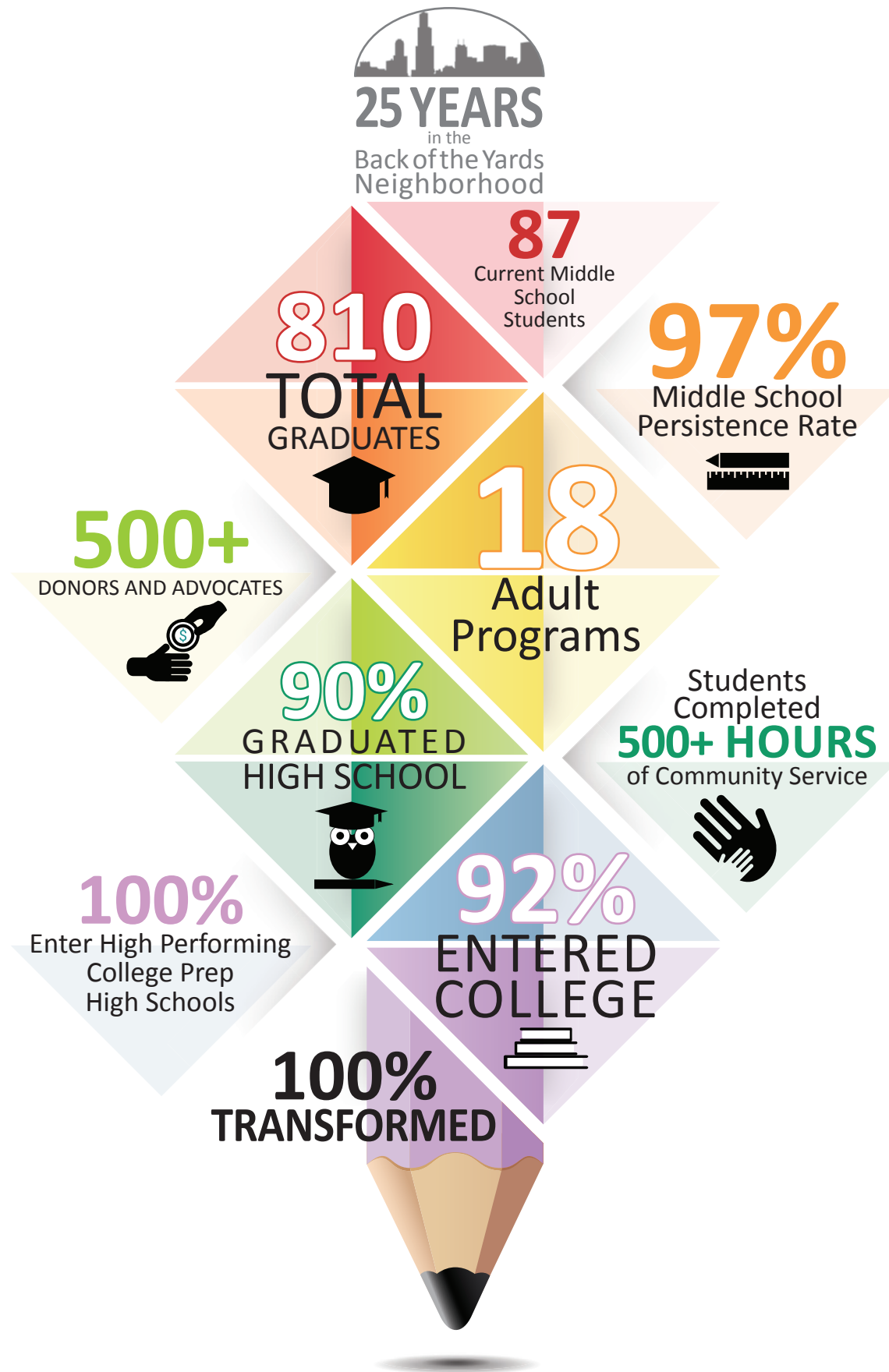


- Events
- Corporations
- Organizations
- Foundations
- Individuals

For an official audit visit  
[www.sanmiguelchicago.org](http://www.sanmiguelchicago.org)  
 or contact Jeff Smart  
 at 773-890-0233 or  
[jsmart@sanmiguelchicago.org](mailto:jsmart@sanmiguelchicago.org)



# BY THE NUMBERS





# Great Ways to Invest in the Future of San Miguel Students

## Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program – Invest in Kids

75% of total contribution to a SGO is available as a tax credit against an individual's or corporation's IL income tax.

### How do I contribute through Big Shoulders Fund?

1. Create a MyTax Illinois online account or skip to step #2 if you already have one. To create an account, you must first visit [mytax.illinois.gov](http://mytax.illinois.gov) and request a "Letter ID" from the Illinois Department of Revenue via the "Individuals" menu, which will be sent via U.S. mail within 7 to 10 business days. Once you receive the "Letter ID," you may create an account. Taxpayers should request the "Letter ID" now to avoid processing delays. The credits are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and donors must have a MyTax Illinois account in order to reserve credits.
2. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, log in to your MyTax Illinois account to reserve your credit. You will apply for a "Contribution Authorization Certificate" in the amount you plan to contribute toward the SGO. Also, designate the region and organization to which your contribution should be directed (e.g., Big Shoulders Fund, Region 1).
3. Make your contribution. You will receive your Contribution Authorization Certificate via your MyTax Illinois account within three days. You then have 60 days to send your contribution and your authorization certificate to an SGO such as Big Shoulders Fund.

## IRA Charitable Rollover

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover for donors 70½ and older:

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to San Miguel
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of San Miguel



**Gifts of Appreciated Securities and Planned gifts are always welcome!**

For more information please contact Jeff Smart at 773-890-0233 or [jsmart@sanmiguelchicago.org](mailto:jsmart@sanmiguelchicago.org)





Chef Mark Career Day



7th grade Science Project



Art Class 8th grade



6th grade Water Fight

"Take even more care of the education of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king."

-St. John Baptist De La Salle



EY Connect Service Day



6th grade BBQ 2019



Renaissance field trip to Chill Mindfulness Studio





Giving Tuesday Artwork



Just Roots



Garden Renaissance Class



Spirit Week PJ Day 8th grade



Mother's Day

"Let us Remember, That we are in the Holy Presence of God!"

- St. John Baptist De La Salle



Camp Gray 6th grade

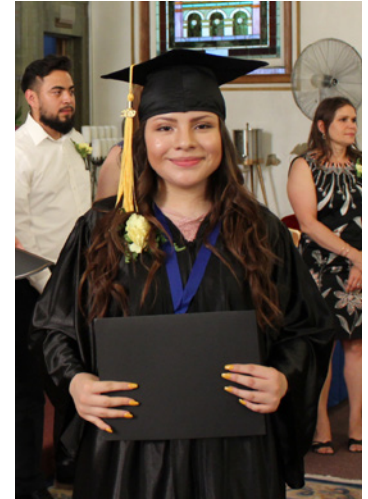


Camp Gray 6th grade





# Class of 2019 Heads to High School



“Earnestly ask Jesus that  
his Spirit may be alive in you.”

-St. John Baptist De La Salle

## Class of 2015, High School Class of 2019 Heads to College!

DePaul University

Harold Washington College

Hope College

Kennedy King College

St. Mary's University

Saint Xavier University

Lewis University

Loyola University

Morton College

National Louis University

Robert Morris University

University of Dubuque

University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Illinois  
Urbana Champaign





**SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL  
& COMMUNITY CENTER**

SAN MIGUEL FEBRES CORDERO SCHOOL

1954 W. 48th Street  
Chicago, IL 60609

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CHICAGO, IL

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## *What We Provide*



***YOU make this possible, thank you!***

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*The mission of San Miguel School is to transform the lives of our students, their families and communities through education, by touching hearts and inspiring minds.*

**Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever!**