

Nativity News

Summer/Fall
2018

2001 ST. ANDREW
The NATIVITY SCHOOL



PORTLAND CHEFS lend their time and talent to benefit Nativity School at its 5th Annual Harvesting Success Dinner.

PACIFIC COAST FRUIT INVESTS IN EDUCATION
CEO Dave Nemarnik keeps up a family tradition of supporting education opportunities.

Another Successful Year



Aaron Leonard-Graham received Nativity's Fr. Kevin Connell, S.J. Founder's Award for the class of 2018. The award honors students who have grown the most at Nativity as a result of taking full advantage of the school's services.

By Rose Gerber

There are many milestones and achievements to celebrate for Nativity School students and alumni as we leave behind a school year and embark on another. Nativity alumni are heading off to colleges and universities around the country having earned competitive scholarships at their dream schools or pursuing careers in their chosen fields.

Alumnus Yvan Kate was named an Act 6 Scholar for 2018-2019 and will be attending Warner Pacific College. Out of hundreds of applicants, Yvan was one of the seven selected to attend Warner Pacific for this full-tuition scholarship opportunity. When asked how he felt about it, he said he felt "good and bad." He felt bad because there were so many smart people who deserved the scholarship and good because he was so grateful for the opportunity.

Alumnus Briceton Branch Jr. will be attending Oregon State University and will play football on a scholarship this coming school year. Briceton was reading below grade level when he arrived at Nativity and is now, because of his hard work here, going to college. Nativity is very proud of what Briceton has accomplished, on and off the field -- and we are excited to see what the future holds for him.

Alumna Kennedy Nicole Gregory has received the Pathway Oregon financial aid award, which covers all tuition and fees at the University of Oregon for four years and alumna Michaela Carter received both the PCC Structural Scholarship and a Precision Castparts scholarship which, combined, will provide a full ride at Oregon State University.

After receiving his Master's of Social Work at George Fox University, alumnus Sedrik Taylor-Reavis is in Chicago pursuing his dream of being a social worker, at Catholic Charities of Chicago. Alumna Candace Tillery recently took on the role of Marketing Coordinator at Warner Pacific College after completing her Bachelor's degree in Marketing at the University of San Francisco.

These are just a few of the exciting developments in our alumni community. It warms our hearts to see Nativity alumni, who grew so much at our school, achieving big things. Students like class of 2018 Nativity graduate, Aaron Leonard-Graham, (pictured above) will be able to look to these alumni and know that success in school and career will continue to be within their reach.

Alumni Profiles

By Alicia Tillery



ARTICE M. JACKSON

Seattle Nativity School

The new Graduate Support Director at Seattle Nativity School, Artice Jackson, reflects on her Nativity experience and how it has impacted her life. Before attending St. Andrew Nativity School, Artice was terrified of public speaking and suffered from low self-esteem. During her time at Nativity she was able to overcome these obstacles by participating in the Promoting Success Luncheon, Mass, and presenting class projects. “I was able to face my fears and gain a sense of confidence that I began to apply to all areas of my life both socially and academically.” Artice has come full circle and is now a resource to other Nativity alumni as they continue their journey to success.



GABRIELA RUBIO

Mano a Mano

Most new students at Nativity are nervous about the rigors of the school, but not Gabriela Rubio. “I was so excited to be the second person in my family to attend Nativity. Roberto, my older brother, graduated class of ‘04,” she said. Gabriela values the relationships she built at Nativity and credits her Jesuit education and former teachers for molding her into the socially conscious woman she is today. Gabriela works as a Youth Program Coordinator for Mano a Mano, an organization dedicated to helping youth in the criminal justice system avoid recidivism. “I feel like I am giving back to the community and world in my current occupation and see a connection between the work I do, and the work Nativity does.”



DANIELLE WEST

Our House

This year’s Promoting Success Luncheon speaker, Danielle West, shared the importance of a great education and how Nativity School has impacted her both academically and personally. Danielle recalls her time at Nativity as a season of growth stating that those adolescent years were essential to her future success. “Even though I did not know it at the time, my years at Nativity were a jump start to my future.” Danielle is currently impacting her community as the Program Coordinator for Our House, an organization that helps those living with HIV. Danielle will continue to help those in need as she pursues her Master’s in Social Work.

Proving Food is Love



(From left to right) Rick Gencarelli of Grassa and Lardo, James Layton of Southland Whiskey Kitchen, Matt Sigler of Il Solito, and Sarah Schafer of Irving St. Kitchen.

By Sarah O'Brien

When you think of Nativity's hometown of Portland, a few defining characteristics come to mind. Portland is a city of creatives and makers. It is a city where amazing food is right at your fingertips. The people of Portland also care deeply about causes like education and social justice. The chefs and artists who come together for the annual Harvesting Success Dinner embody these qualities of Portland. The event is only in its fifth year, but it has a rich history of partnerships with dedicated supporters.

Since the first Harvesting Success Dinner in 2014, local chefs have brought their talents to the dinner in support of Nativity School. Each year, four chefs collaborate to bring a four-course, family style dinner to the Nativity community. James Layton of Southland Whiskey Kitchen, who is in his second year of volunteering, explains why he keeps coming back: "We are extremely happy and proud to be able to contribute to Nativity School, especially in this way which allows us to do what we do best, cooking and service! The time and effort that the school puts into each student from the time they attend until well into adulthood is beyond comparison in today's educational system. Giving students from diverse and difficult backgrounds a chance at success is an exciting endeavor to be able to support."

Leading up to the event, each of the chefs invite a group of Nativity students to tour their restaurants and sample the cooking demos to be served at the dinner. Eighth grader Eden recalls, "It was really fun! The food was delicious, and I tried some new foods I have never eaten."

Harvesting Success also gives attendees the chance to bid on a painting by a local artist. This year, Joanne Kollman will paint a scene inspired by her time with the students. She recently volunteered to teach an art class as part of the summer school program.

Through their talents and gifts, this generous community of Nativity supporters are uplifting the education of our students for a brighter future.

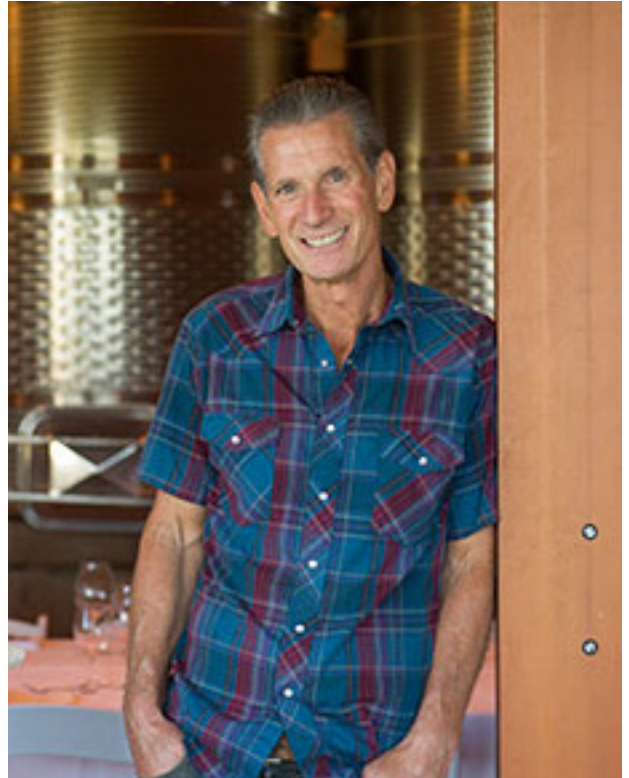
Corporate Profile

By Carolyn Becic

An American Success Story and a Generous Supporter

Emil Nemarnik immigrated to the United States from the former Yugoslavia (now Croatia) when he was just 10 years old, leaving behind his parents and 10 siblings. Growing up, he worked in the produce department of a small grocery store to help pay for college. A graduate of Central Catholic and the University of Portland, Emil opened Pacific Coast Fruit Company in 1977 and continued to work there until he passed in 2015.

Emil and his wife Kathleen were always generous to educational institutions. That tradition continues with his son David, who now runs Pacific Coast Fruit Co., and has given generously to Nativity School since 2004. In addition to student sponsorship, for the past five years, Pacific Coast Fruit has given the fruit and vegetables for the Harvesting Success Dinner which features local, top-notch chefs. “St Andrew Nativity School is making a real difference in children’s lives, children who are given a chance to embrace the skills and values needed to create success for themselves and their community,” commented David. We are so appreciative of the Nemarnik Family for supporting Nativity School for the past 15 years.



David Nemarnik, Pacific Coast Fruit Company CEO



Nativity Operations Manager, Justin Scalzo, nominated Ms. Roberts and presented the award.

Nativity’s Ms. Roberts honored

At the Multnomah County Volunteer Recognition and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, Lela Roberts was Awarded the Gladys McCoy Service Award. This is the highest award given at the ceremony. Ms. Roberts taught Gladys’ children at some point during her 48 year career in education. She started out teaching Physical Education and served as a principal at multiple Portland Public Schools. Ms. Roberts was the lead teacher at Nativity School when it first opened and is currently running the lunch program. Her former students come back often to visit with her and express their appreciation for her care and mentorship. Her years of experience are an invaluable asset for the school.

Feature a Teacher

Ms. Strickland

“I love everything about working at Nativity—I love my co-workers, I love the kids, I love how small we are so that we can form really strong relationships with families.”



By Sarah O’Brien

Sonya Strickland, Nativity School’s counselor, grew up in the Eugene area with her mom, eventually moving to Portland for college. She received her Bachelor of Science in 1994, majoring in Sociology with a minor in Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State University. She received her Master of Social Work in 1998 and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in 2005.

Before finding her home at Nativity, Sonya worked a range of positions from being a Child Protective Services (CPS) Caseworker for the Department of Human Services to a therapist for Lifeworks Northwest. She started working as the school counselor at Nativity in 2007.

Sonya does one-on-one counseling with students and works with families and teachers to meet each child’s needs academically and emotionally.

In the summer, Sonya conducts home site visits to better inform the faculty about a student’s home life. Students have the opportunity to sign up for counseling groups during afterschool enrichment. Boys to Responsible Men is co-facilitated by Sgt. George Weatheroy and runs throughout the year. Girls groups vary but include GIRLS (Girls in Real Life Situations), a loss and grief group, and a self-esteem group for girls who aren’t close with their father. She also hosts Rhoni’s Girls, a class in memory of Rhoni Wiswall.

When asked why Sonya loves Nativity School, she replied, “I love everything about working at Nativity—I love my co-workers, I love the kids, I love how small we are so that we can form really strong relationships with our students and their families.”

Sonya is married to Patrick who works for CPS and coaches Jefferson High School’s basketball team. She has one son who is 21, and Patrick has three children 22, 21, and 18. Sonya and Pat were recently blessed with twin grandsons. Sonya loves scrapbooking, lifting weights, and spending time in nature.

Discovering Surfing

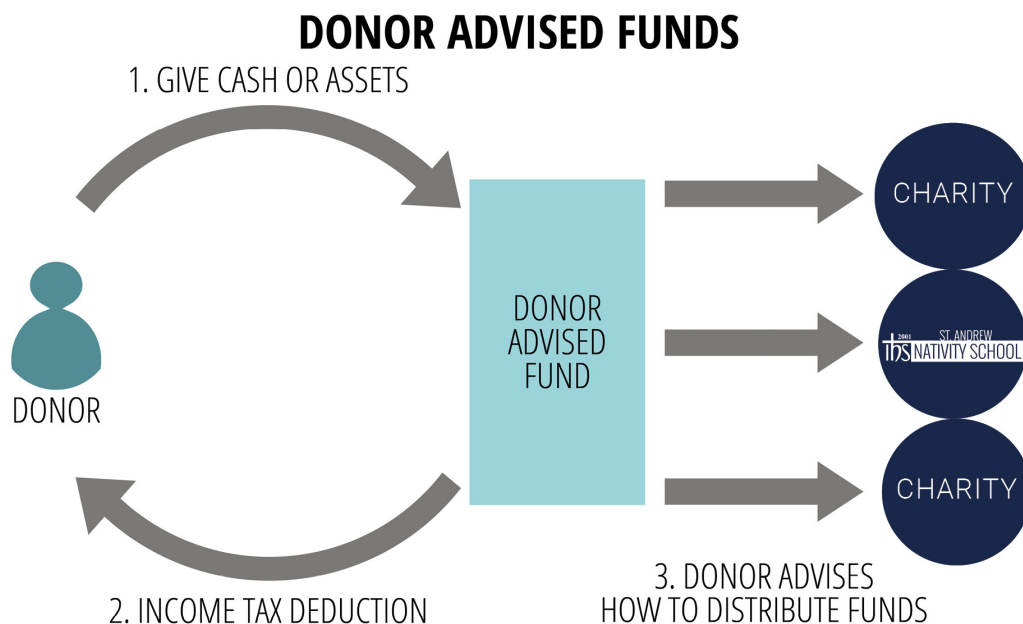
Nativity students were given the opportunity to learn how to surf through the generosity of SOFAS, a non-profit surfing camp founded by father and son, Mike and Stephen Scott. Mike learned to surf when he was 57, challenged by his son Stephen to lead a much healthier lifestyle after Mike had a heart attack. Nourished by Stephen's unending wit, wisdom and patience they now share many surfing moments and memories. You can learn more about SOFAS at www.sofasurfing.org.



Nativity students get a surfing lesson at Short Sands Beach in Oswald West State Park.

A tax-smart way to give

A Donor Advised Fund is a great way to support Nativity School. You can contribute cash, appreciated assets, or investments that have been held for a year or more without paying capital gains taxes. Ask your financial institution about Donor Advised Fund options or call Nativity Operations Manager, Justin Scalzo, at 503.335.9600 for more information.



St. Andrew Nativity School
4925 NE 9th Ave
Portland, OR 97211

Non Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Portland, OR
Permit No 175

Nativity News Summer/Fall 2018



SAVE THE DATE!

HARVESTING SUCCESS DINNER

NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Learn more and get your tickets at:
www.nativityportland.org/events