

# Madonna *matters*



**MADONNA  
FOUNDATION**

*Franciscan Ministries sponsored by  
the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago*

**July 2022**

## Stories and Highlights of the 2021-2022 School Year

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 1,400 awards totaling \$3.4 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!!!!



Back Row: L to R: Jahmiyah M., Autumn W., Raquel O., Amelia K. and Isabella P.

Front Row: L to R: Abby B., Ariel A. Angela L. and Amira S.

### Our 2022 Graduates

All 12 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 colleges and universities coast to coast! The aggregate total of scholarship offers was more than \$6,800,000.



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at Family Orientation

### Our Scholars

Twenty freshmen were selected for the 2021-22 school year. We also welcomed back 17 sophomores, 16 juniors and 12 seniors.

### Madonna Scholars 2022

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

**Isabella Palomares**

*University of Illinois at Champaign*

**Raquel O'Malley**

*Purdue University*

**Amelia Krewer**

*University of Illinois at Chicago*

**Damaris Ramos**

*University of Illinois at Chicago*

**Arlene Galvin**

*University of Illinois at Chicago*

**Ariel Ayala**

*Loyola University*

**Amira Shackelford**

*Loyola University*

**Autumn Wilson**

*Western Illinois University*

**Abigail Burgos**

*Dominican University*

**Jahmiyah Madison**

*Louisiana State University*

**Angela Lopez**

*Arrupe College of Loyola*

**Milly Freire**

*Illinois College*

## Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2021-2022

### College Visits

The Madonna Foundation was thrilled to have the opportunity to bring over 75 students and family members to visit Mount Mary College in Wisconsin in September. As the two-year pandemic has abated and most restrictions have lifted, this college visit was able to be conducted in-person, enabling scholars and their families to explore the campus and get a real feel for the college environment.



*Students and parents enjoyed the visit and tour at Mount Mary College*

### STEAM – Argonne National Labs

To further scholar interests in STEAM, the Madonna Foundation once again teamed up with our program partner, Argonne National Labs. A panel of women scientists at Argonne discussed careers in cyber security, bio-medical engineering and other new and emerging careers in science and technology. We are so grateful for this continued partnership and the exciting potential careers that lie ahead for our students.

### FASFA/Financial Aid

In October, we partnered with Arrupe College of Loyola University, which presented a virtual workshop for our scholars and families focusing on the college application and financial aid processes. This workshop provides invaluable information that helps our students and families navigate the application process. We are so grateful for this continued partnership with Arrupe College and Loyola University.

### Career Day

We were so pleased to bring back an in-person Career Day this year. This year's focus was Women in Business. In February, our students met with professionals from the fields of accounting, human resources, finance, IT and law to gain an understanding of potential career paths. 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. Our scholars were encouraged and heartened to hear the stories of these successful women who worked hard and overcame obstacles to reach the pinnacle of their careers! We are so grateful to Andersen Tax, our community partner, for hosting this event at their corporate office in Chicago.

### ACT

The juniors took part in a virtual ACT prep course with the Princeton Review. 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 them increase their ACT scores, opening more doors to college acceptances.

### Wintrust Smart Money Workshop

Smart Money, a financial literacy workshop for scholars and their parents conducted by Wintrust Bank, was held in January. During the two interactive virtual sessions, participants learned the basics of spending, saving and creating personal and household budgets. Wintrust presenters gave helpful advice on how to best navigate difficult economic times and avoid falling into financial ruin or a mountain of debt. We are grateful to Wintrust, our community partner, for solid and helpful financial information to our families as they navigate some troubling times.



*Pictured above are Andersen Tax Managing Partner, Rosa De-Luna Frede with her colleagues and Madonna scholars*



## Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2021-2022

### Service Projects

To instill and foster the spirit of giving back, scholars participated in our annual service projects. In December, Madonna scholars created beautiful hand-made tie blankets for the families at St. Jude House, our domestic violence shelter in Crown Point, Ind. The students also created heartfelt Christmas cards for the Franciscan Sisters and residents of the Mother Theresa Home.



*Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars after they completed their service project*

### Summer Internship Program

Three recent Madonna grads spent summer 2021 working on Madonna Foundation projects for the Franciscan Ministries corporate office. The summer internship program enables students to gain valuable work experience and provides an opportunity to build skills such as problem solving and time management. During the internship, scholars' confidence grew as they successfully completed project tasks and acquired skill sets that will help them in college and their future careers.



*Summer Intern Xitlali P.*



*Summer Intern Jennifer R.*

## Advice Beyond the Classroom

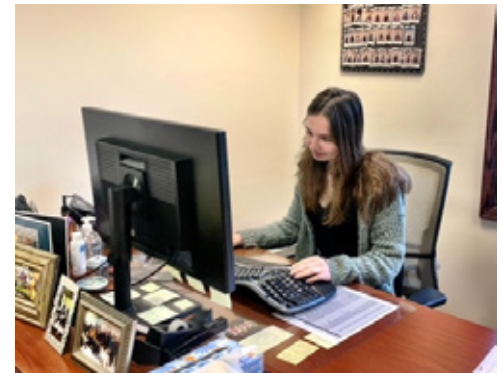
This year the Madonna Foundation teamed up with a new program partner, Advice Beyond the Classroom. Lead by co-founders Ashley and Nick LoMaglio, this four-hour, interactive workshop taught the students valuable verbal and non-verbal communication skills, including the importance of presenting oneself confidently and proper handshake. The students were pleased to learn about these soft skills that will be useful in the college and job interviews.



*Pictured with Nick and Ashley are the Mother McAuley students*



*Pictured with Nick and Ashley are the Our Lady of Tepeyac students*



*Summer Intern Ryan C.*



# Supporting Madonna Foundation

## Madonna Mile

More than 100 participants joined in the Madonna Mile fundraising walk in August 2021. Participants hit the trails in their hometowns or joined us at the Bean in Millennium Park, Chicago. Franciscan associates also participated in a walk at the corporate office in Lemont. This year's walk was sponsored by Terri Roselimier (MHS Alumnae Class of 1974) through her business, Automated Business Designs, along with other local area businesses. If you would like to sponsor this year's walk or find out how to participate, please reach out to Betsy Garbrecht at 331.318.5170.



*Pictured above are Madonna Scholars and families at Millennium Park*

## Trivia Night

The Madonna Foundation Trivia Night is back! On Friday October 1, over 120 alumnae, family and friends gathered at Resurrection High School for the annual Trivia Night. Everyone enjoyed the games, raffles and connecting with one another throughout the night during this friendly competition. Mark your calendars for November 19, 2022 and get your teams together. Be sure to visit our website, [www.madonnascholars.org](http://www.madonnascholars.org) or call 331.318.5170 for more details.



*Trivia Night volunteer committee takes time for a photo*

## Madonna Roast

The Madonna Foundation hosted the second annual Madonna Roast, a coffee and conversation event held on Saturday, March 5, 2022. The event held via Zoom brought together a variety of Madonna Foundation supporters including alumnae, donors and former Madonna Foundation scholarship recipients. The theme for the year was the importance of girls' Catholic education. Denise Makowski, Principal of Cyrus McCormick Elementary, Madonna High School Alumna and Advisory Board Member kicked off the event with a discussion about the importance of equal educational opportunities for young women and also shared her personal journey. Laura Curley, President of Trinity High School, shared why the all-girls Catholic high schools are ahead of the curve in preparing young women for college, careers and successful futures. Our last speaker, Ashanti Teruel, a former Madonna Scholar, joined us from her college dorm room at the University of Illinois at Champaign. Ashanti moved all of us by her remarks as she recounted the support that Madonna Foundation has given her and her family on her journey to higher education. Ashanti is a great reminder of why we all support this wonderful organization that works to realize dreams for its recipients. Thanks to all who participated in another successful Madonna Foundation community event! We are also grateful to our event sponsors who made this event possible. All proceeds raised were used to support Madonna scholarships



*Madonna Scholar Alumna, Ashanti T. in her dorm room at U of I*

## Supporting Madonna Foundation Continued

### First Look for Charity

On Friday, February 11, Franciscan Community Benefit Services participated as one of the 18 charities benefiting from this black tie fundraising event held at McCormick Place. We are so grateful to all our donors and supporters who make this event possible for us.

## Save the Date

### Madonna 5K

Please join us on August 14th at Moraine Valley Community College for the Madonna 5K run/walk. Register at <http://raceroster.com/59169>. Contact Betsy Garbrecht at 331.318.5170 for more details.

## Madonna Scholar Alumna Spotlight

### Meet Sabrina

Sabrina is a current junior at Loyola University and former Madonna scholar. While she was a Madonna Scholar, Sabrina worked part-time at St. Joseph Village, one of Franciscan Ministries' senior communities in Chicago.

St. Joseph Village graciously gave her the opportunity to work part-time with a flexible schedule so she could continue her studies. Sabrina, like so many of our Madonna scholars, is able to have these

life changing opportunities because of your dedication to our ministry. We could never support the Sabrinas of the world without your help. On behalf of Sabrina and all our scholars, thank you for helping to create these opportunities for the next generation of compassionate leaders!

*"My overall goal should I become a physician would be to help people make informed decisions that result in either a cure or a higher quality of life. My specific interest in aging and biomedical research arose from my experiences working at St. Joseph Village, an assisted living facility. For the past few years, I worked as a diet aide and frequently spent time conversing and performing basic assistance with feeding and hygiene. This arrangement allowed me the unique opportunity to observe various stages and types of age-related illnesses. My curiosity exploded and I wanted to learn all that I could from the patients and the nursing staff. This is why I am on the pre-med track at Loyola University and plan to specialize in geriatric care."*



Picture above are two of our volunteers: Komal and Tarak S.

## Learn about the Madonna Foundation and ways you can support us.

Visit our website at [www.madonnascholars.org](http://www.madonnascholars.org) and follow us on Facebook at *Madonnianpride* or contact Betsy Garbrecht by phone at 331.318.5170 or via email at [egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org](mailto: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](mailto:egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org).





# MADONNA FOUNDATION

*Franciscan Ministries sponsored by  
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## Madonna *matters*

### Connect with the Madonna Foundation

-  Facebook @Madonnianpride
-  Instagram @madonnascholars
-  [www.madonnascholars.org](http://www.madonnascholars.org)
-  Phone 331.318.5170
-  [egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org](mailto:egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org)

### 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](mailto:egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org).



*Madonna Scholars at Resurrection High School*