



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 2023 EDITION



Stories and Highlights of the 2022–2023 School Year



Pictured above are the 2023 Graduates



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at Family Orientation.

OUR 2023 GRADUATES

All 16 Madonna seniors graduated this spring and will attend college in the fall. Their hard work and dedication resulted in multiple acceptance and scholarship offers from over 50 colleges and universities coast to coast! The aggregate total of scholarship offers was more than 8.5 million!

OUR SCHOLARS

Twenty freshmen were selected for the 2022–23 school year. We also welcomed back 18 sophomores, 17 juniors and 16 seniors.

MADONNA SCHOLARS 2023

JOSEPHINUM ACADEMY

Danayt Bitew

Loyola University Chicago

Makayla McClarin

Saint Xavier University

Genesis Crane

Xavier University of Louisiana

Joesaya Henderson

University of San Francisco

MOTHER MCAULEY

Kierra Hudson

Univ. of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Ndeye Kambe

University of Missouri

Madeline (Maddie) Murphy

University of Iowa

OUR LADY OF TEPEYAC

Jasmine Diaz

Dominican University

Griselda Guerrero

Southern Illinois University

RESURRECTION HIGH SCHOOL

Grace Gronke

Marquette University

Laila Kouli

Emory University

Luvis Mei Lim

Marquette University

Meagan Cotter

Marquette University

Rachel Flores

Southern Illinois University

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

Karina Cabrera

Augustana College

Kiara Martinez

Marquette University

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

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2022–2023



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at Loyola University



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

COLLEGE VISITS

The Madonna Foundation was thrilled to have the opportunity to bring students and family members to visit the University of Illinois in Champagne Urbana on October 9th. This college visit enabled scholars and their families to explore the campus and get a feel for a Big 10 college environment. We are so grateful to our Madonna Scholar Alumna, Ashanti Teruel, for touring the campus with us and answering our questions. As a current junior at U of I, Ashanti had great advice for our students and encouraged our scholars to challenge and push themselves when in college.

We are also grateful to the staff at Loyola University for inviting us to Campus for the Gannon Center leadership workshop and tour. The Madonna Scholars enjoyed hearing from several Loyola University students and enjoyed a beautiful fall day on the Lakeshore campus.

In the spring, families and scholars headed to Wisconsin to tour the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus. On the tour we met with staff and professors from a variety of departments. We ended the day with student panel discussions that provided great information on the diversity and inclusion programs available on campus. We are so grateful to our newest donors and partners who are alumnae of this University and provided this amazing day for us.



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at the Chicago Field Museum.

STEAM — THE CHICAGO FIELD MUSEUM

To further scholar interests in STEAM, the Madonna Foundation teamed up with our new program partner, the Chicago Field Museum. A panel of scientists worked with our students on an archaeological preservation project and explained the critical importance of preserving and storing artifacts for future study. We are so grateful for this new partnership and the exciting potential careers that lie ahead for our students.

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 savings and budgeting. Wintrust presenters gave helpful advice 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 providing solid financial information to our families as they navigate some troubling times.

Madonna MATTERS

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2021–2022

CAREER DAY

This year's focus was Women in Tech and Women in Law. In February, our students met with several women professionals 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. We are so grateful to Automated Business Desgins, our community partner, for hosting this event at their corporate office in Chicago.



Pictured above are the Madonna Scholars at Career Day

In April, 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 at WOMEN EVERYWHERE

ACT

The juniors took part in a virtual ACT prep course with the Jeanus 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 helps our students increase their ACT scores, opening more doors to college acceptances.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

One of our rising seniors spent the summer of 2022 working on Madonna Foundation projects for the Franciscan Ministries corporate office. While in the office, our summer intern also spent time with our nursing staff at the office and at Franciscan Village to gain firsthand knowledge of a career in nursing. 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 is summer intern Maddie.

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2021–2022 *Continued*

SERVICE PROJECTS

To instill and foster the spirit of giving back, scholars participated in our annual service projects. In December, Madonna scholars created beautiful ornaments for the nursing staff at Franciscan Village and Mother Theresa Home. The students also created heartfelt Christmas cards and candy bags for the Franciscan Sisters. They also volunteered at a number of our fundraising events.



Pictured above are students during service projects

Advice Beyond the Classroom

This year the Madonna Foundation teamed up with our program partner, *Advice Beyond the Classroom*. Lead by co-founder Nick LoMaglio. This interactive workshop taught the students valuable verbal and non-verbal communication skills. The students were pleased to learn about these soft skills that will be useful in college and job interviews.

Supporting Madonna Foundation

TRIVIA NIGHT

Great showing of the class of 77! The Madonna Foundation Trivia Night was a huge success! On Saturday, November 19 over 120 alumnae including 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 18, 2023 and get your teams together. Be sure to visit our website, www.madonnascholars.org or call 331-318-5170 for more details.



Pictured above are supporters at Trivia Night

FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY

On Friday, February 10, 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 sponsor, Kelly Nissan of Oak Lawn.



Pictured above are the volunteers at Trivia Night

Supporting Madonna Foundation *Continued*



Pictured above are the Madonna 5K participants

MADONNA 5K

More than 100 participants joined in the Madonna 5k fundraising event in August 2022. Participants joined us at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills for a beautiful morning. This year's walk was sponsored by Automated Business Designs and Symbria, Inc. along with other local 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.

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE MASS, POP UP & LUNCHEON

On a blistering, rainy cold September day, we were so happy to be back and in person for our Alumnae Mass at Resurrection High School. Alumnae battled the elements to pray, reminisce, reconnect, and break bread at this annual event.

In February, was our first pop up event at Shoeless Joes in Schiller Park. Alumnae enjoyed the Madonna memorabilia, new alum swag and an energetic social event. Thank you, class, of 88 for a great turn out.

The highlight of the year was our Spring Luncheon at La Villa Restaurant on April 23rd. Over 170 Alumnae attended. Together we enjoyed a delicious family style lunch, with our signature Madonna drink, school themed basket raffles and many happy split the pot winners and our school song. We had some special former faculty members present Ms. Carsello, Ms. Sigl, Ms. Jensen, Sr. Helene, Sr. Jeanne Marie and Sr. Emilie Marie. It was a fantastic day!



Pictured above are MHS Alumnae at the Alumnae Mass



Pictured above are MHS Alumnae at the Spring 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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 @Madonnanpride

 @madonnascholars

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 1,500 awards totaling \$3.5 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.