



WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISING?

Development Fundraising is different from Campus Fundraising. Development Fundraising involves annual community-wide events, campaigns, and efforts to help support the **Oratory Schools**. Development includes a membership of staff, parents, alumni, students, corporations, foundations, private business, and patrons of the School System. The Development Office has executed: a Building Campaign for second phase of school growth, grants, and a major annual gala, *Noche de Alegría*, initiated in 1998. Altogether, these funds help meet campus needs and afford other opportunities for our entire school community (including Tuition Assistance).

Development Fundraising is primarily the responsibility of the President of Schools with the

assistance of the Development Office housed at the Corporate Office on the corner of Moore and Jackson. It helps the school system reach its financial goals to further enhance the curriculum, the fine arts program, extra-curricular activities, tuition assistance, campus grounds, security, technological advancements, etc. Our work includes seeking donations from foundations, parents, and the generous faithful and business communities. The Development Staff obtains major gifts from patrons and friends of the Pharr Oratory Schools, organizes and promotes the Annual Giving Campaign, (establishing our campus Sacred Spaces), and the Fund-A-Need Campaign that includes the schools' greatest need for the year.

Development Fundraising staff **are Maricela Y. Pérez, and Norma Uvalle**. Annually, staff writes grants seeking funds to serve our student body and their families. The most loyal and generous grants awarded have been from the Kenedy, Scanlan, Koch, and Vanguard Foundations. With grants awarded, the Oratory Schools have purchased video conferencing equipment allowing global communication in real-time with other students, teachers and international experts in addition to the sound system in the Lecture Hall. With funds awarded and raised we built our **Science Lab, Athletic Field, the PK-2nd Playground, Sacred Spaces, Security Lights, Front gate, Window treatments, Staff laptops, Technology upgrades, Promethean Boards, ELMO's, etc.** With private donations and the generosity of the Scanlan Foundation, we were able to level and seed the athletic field, purchase a sprinkler system, bleachers, a scoreboard, field lights and goal posts in addition to providing scholarships for Athenaeum students.

With the help of a parent volunteer gala committee, the Development Office promotes and organizes our major fundraiser, "Noche de Alergría". The annual success of this annual event helps advance our schools' goals and needs. It serves as the largest source of event income.

Tuition and fees alone pay about 80% of the schools' expenses. Together, parents, staff, and students, raise the remaining 20%. Perhaps someday soon, "School Choice" will become an option for "faith centered educational institutions". Then private schools can be supported with public funds, as are public schools, charter schools, and magnet schools! Let us all pray for school choice!!