



Educating Girls for Life

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

"Working to be who God made me."



Educating Girls for Life

**2014
2015**

OUR MISSION

Marian Middle School, a Catholic school serving adolescent girls of all religious, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by fostering their spiritual, academic, social, moral, emotional, and physical development in preparation for and successful completion of college preparatory high schools.



Educating Girls for Life

Theme for 2014-2015 School Year

Transformation: Transformed Into Our True Selves

Terms Used Each Quarter

Self Aware • Self Determining • Self Advocating • Self Giving



Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Fifteen years ago, seven communities of Catholic sisters and several lay women had a vision. They sought to establish a school that would alter the lives of girls from low-income backgrounds and their families by providing a quality, faith-based education in a private school setting. Their goal was to provide the knowledge and resources necessary

to break the cycle of poverty for families in the St. Louis community. Thanks to their vision and supporters like you who believe in their vision, Marian Middle School became a reality.

During the 2014-2015 school year, Marian Middle School's 15th school year, 76 urban adolescent girls received a life-altering education. These girls received a quality education through the Academic Program and enriching extra-curricular activities through the Enrichment Program. An additional 65 young women received academic, social, and financial support through the Graduate Support Program. All this is possible because of your belief in our mission.

Support from donors like you provided 94 percent of our school's funding during this anniversary year. Without you, fifth grader Adrienne would not have made more than three years of reading growth and 12 young ladies would not have graduated from high school in May. You are making a difference in so many lives by being a part of the Marian Middle School family.

The 2015-2016 school year will bring many changes. New staff members, including a new principal, and new goals. We look forward with great faith and enthusiasm to all the changes in store for our school. Thank you for supporting Marian Middle School's mission to break the cycle of poverty. Together, we are *Educating Girls for Life!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Hunt'.

Craig Hunt
Board Chair

Thank you!

2014-2015 Board of Directors

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OUR VISION

- Marian Middle School is a leader in providing life-altering education to urban girls on their journey towards self-discovery.
- Marian alumnae graduate from high-performing secondary schools ready for success in higher education and the workplace.
- Marian alumnae college graduates are accomplished leaders equipped to make informed decisions and create enduring, positive change.



Message from the President

To the Marian community:

What an incredible year it's been! Marian Middle School celebrated a milestone this school year: 15 years of *Educating Girls for Life*! Since Marian opened its doors to 14 fifth and sixth grade girls on July 31, 2000, several transformations have taken place. The school moved from the top floor of the former St. Anthony of Padua High School building to our current home in the former Holy Family Grade School on Wyoming Street. What started out as a vision to offer a life-altering education for middle school girls in underserved communities has become a pathway of opportunity for them and their families. Our enrollment of 76 students at Marian during the 2014-2015 school year put us close to our capacity of 80. We also had 65 Marian alums in high school and 59 alums in college! The vision of our founding communities is still in motion.

During this anniversary year, our school-wide theme was **Transformation**. Students explored the theme by discussing the following terms: Self Aware, Self Determining, Self Advocating, and Self Giving. Throughout this report, some of our eighth graders express their own transformations since becoming Marian girls.

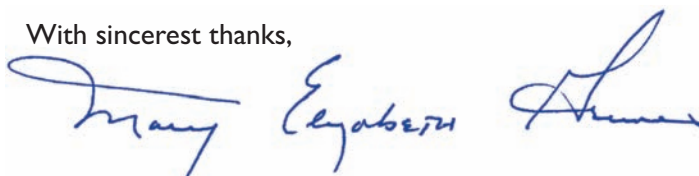
Join me in celebrating a few of the milestones and achievements that took place this year:

- Sister Sarah Heger, CSJ, became vice principal this school year, while still serving as fifth grade teacher.
- All 20 eighth grade students graduated in May and will attend high school in the fall.
- All 12 seniors graduated from high school and will attend college in the fall.
- The Robians, Marian Middle School's robotics team, placed fourth overall in a regional competition and they were nominated for the Teamwork Award.
- Sister Sarah received a Peabody Energy Leaders in Education award for inspiring, guiding, teaching, and leading her students.
- Fifth grader Jalila wrote an essay about adversity and it was published in the 24th volume of *The Courage of Children*.



All of these achievements could not have been accomplished without generous supporters like you. You allow Marian Middle School to be a beacon of hope for girls from low-income backgrounds and their families. Thank you for supporting our mission to break the cycle of poverty by *Educating Girls for Life*!

With sincerest thanks,



Mary Elizabeth Grimes



Message from the Principal

Greetings from the hallways of Marian Middle School!

Every day this past academic year, our morning assembly started with our student body chanting: "Working to be who God made me." Our students came up with that jingle on the first day of school. It's been a daily reminder of our school's mission: to be a part of God's transformative work through the education of girls. It's a mission that is close to my heart and I know, close to yours as well.

Marian Middle School's 15th school year was a transformative year and it ended with the graduation of 20 young women from eighth grade. These young ladies will attend 10 different high schools throughout the St. Louis metro area. As I watched them walk down the aisle at St. Pius V Catholic Church, ready to move on to a new stage in life, I was struck by the transformations that I've seen. One example is Mariel, a young woman I first met as a shy fifth grader. Like many of our students, Mariel came to our doors with both amazing potential and some academic gaps in knowledge. Initial reading tests showed her to be reading at a second grade level, three grade levels below where she should be performing. A small school, lots of individual help, supportive family, and plenty of hard work were the keys to her success—nothing innovative or magical, just all the things we know work about Catholic education. Her confidence grew, as did her skills, and she earned a 3.61 GPA her eighth grade year. On graduation evening, she looked stunning in a simple, pink dress, with her proud parents and eight year old sister behind her. She walked confidently to the altar of the church, where she delivered a prayer in Spanish in front of a crowd of more than one hundred supporters. She's off to Bishop DuBourg High School in August, with many more graduations to come.

We saw another transformation this year in the mother of one of our graduates. Christine Schone was a faithful volunteer while her daughter, Alexis, attended Marian. Ms. Schone proclaims that Marian showed both her and her daughter the value of education and encouraged her to aspire for more. This encouragement gave Ms. Schone the inspiration she needed to go back to school and earn a college degree. She recently graduated from Harris-Stowe State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree. That's the power of an educated woman—a wage earner for her family, a role model for her daughter, and a leader who will make a positive contribution to our city through her work in criminal justice. We're proud of Alexis, who is earning a 3.5 GPA at Bishop DuBourg High School, and even more proud of the impact Marian has had on her entire family.

We are so grateful that you have been a part of our work. Your support transforms lives, and I've been blessed to be a witness to countless transformations over the last 10 years. On behalf of all our Marian Middle School students, families, and staff, thank you!

In gratitude,

Christy Toben

Christy Toben
Principal

2014-2015 Staff Members

Mary Elizabeth Grimes, President
Christy Toben, Principal
Stephanie Airaghi
Clare Bass, CSJ
Dianne Decker
Adrienne Garcia
Yajaira Guedez
Alonzo Harris
Gabrielle Hearn
Sarah Heger, CSJ
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2014-2015 Service Volunteers

Nya Brooks,
Vincentian Mission Corps
Eleanor Humphrey,
Loretto Volunteer Program
Kate Stroble,
Ignatian Volunteer Corps

2014
2015



students

STUDENTS
TRAVELED FROM

25

ZIP CODES

...to receive a
life-altering education
during the 2014-2015
school year.

59%

from Saint Louis City

40%

from Saint Louis County

1%

from Illinois

Student Data

Student Demographics

Number of Students	76
Students in fifth grade	15
Students in sixth grade	21
Students in seventh grade	20
Students in eighth grade	20

During the 2014-2015 school year...

Marian girls
independently read **1,506** books containing

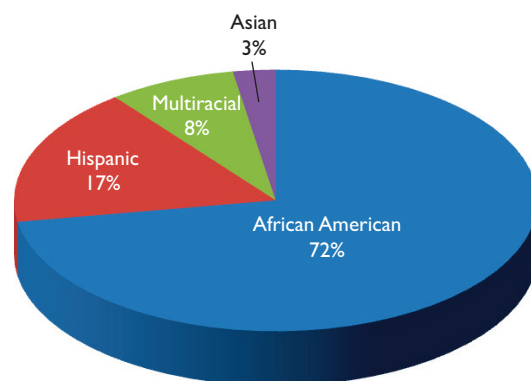
71,139,374 words!

Students mastered **95%** of the books read
by scoring an **85%** or above on
comprehension quizzes!

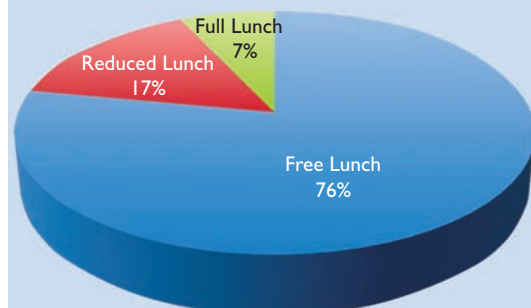
Fifth graders
made an
average gain of **1.37** years in reading!

Students earned an
average GPA of **2.58**

Ethnicity



Free and Reduced Lunch Program



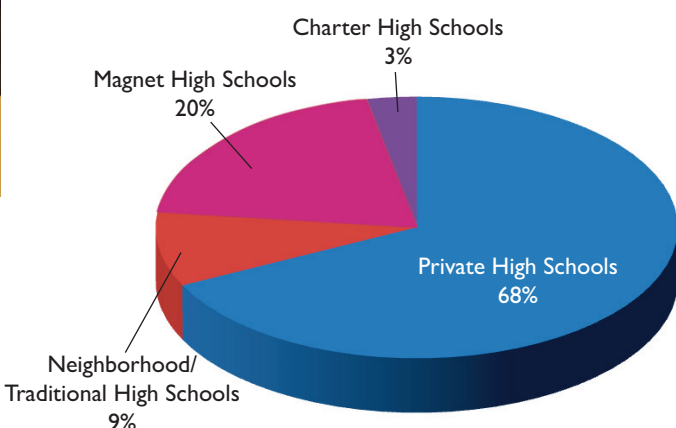
93% of the students qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch, a national indicator of poverty.

alumnae

Graduate Support Program 2014-2015 School Year

Number of Alumnae.....	177
In High School.....	65
In College.....	59
Receiving Scholarships from Marian.....	36

High School Enrollment



High Schools Attended

Bishop DuBourg High School
 Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School
 Carnahan High School of the Future
 Central Visual and Performing Arts High School
 Chapparral High School (California)
 Clyde C. Miller Career Academy
 Cor Jesu Academy
 Crossroads College Preparatory High School
 Gateway Science Academy
 Gateway STEM High School
 Grand Center Arts Academy
 Incarnate Word Academy
 La Joya Community High School (Arizona)
 Logos School
 Nerinx Hall High School
 Notre Dame High School
 North Tech High School
 Northwest Academy of Law
 Oakville High School
 Rosati-Kain High School
 Saint Joseph's Academy
 Trinity Catholic High School
 Ursuline Academy
 Villa Duchesne

25
HIGH SCHOOLS
ATTENDED

Colleges Attended

Alabama A&M University
 Blackburn College
 California State University - Sacramento
 Columbia College
 Hampton University
 Harris Stowe State University
 Jackson State University
 Lincoln University
 Maryville University
 McKendree University
 Missouri State University
 Philander Smith College
 San Jacinto College
 Saint Louis College of Health Careers
 Saint Louis Community College
 Saint Louis University
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Southeast Missouri State University
 Southwestern Illinois College
 University of Central Missouri
 University of Missouri - Columbia
 University of Missouri - Kansas City
 University of Missouri - Saint Louis
 Webster University

24
COLLEGES
ATTENDED

High School GPA By Class

	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012
Class of 2011	3.19	3.35	3.38	3.38
Class of 2012	3.04	3.00	3.02	—
Class of 2013	3.36	3.18	—	—
Class of 2014	3.06	—	—	—

We are proud to report that Marian Middle School alumnae have a 95% high school graduation rate, far surpassing the 75% graduation rate for female students of similar background and circumstance in the City of St. Louis.



Educating Girls for Life

2014
2015

GUIDING VALUES

We incorporate each of the following guiding values into our alternative educational program:

- Quality Education
- Service to Foster Justice, Peace, and Equality
- Respect for the Uniqueness of the Individual
- Faith-Filled Life
- Family and Community Spirit



Marian has taught me to be self giving and to give myself praise for my accomplishments.”

– Nijay, MMS Class of 2015

“

Marian has taught me to self advocate and stick up for myself.

– Ariel, MMS Class of 2015

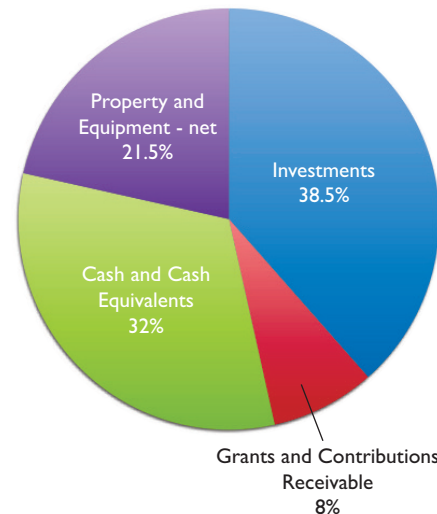


Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2015

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$755,276
Investments	\$917,377
Accounts receivable	\$2,195
Grants and contributions receivable	\$193,249
Prepaid expenses	\$6,811
Property and equipment - net	\$511,115

Total assets **\$2,386,023**



Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$6,123
Accrued liabilities	\$7,300
Notes payable	\$42,880

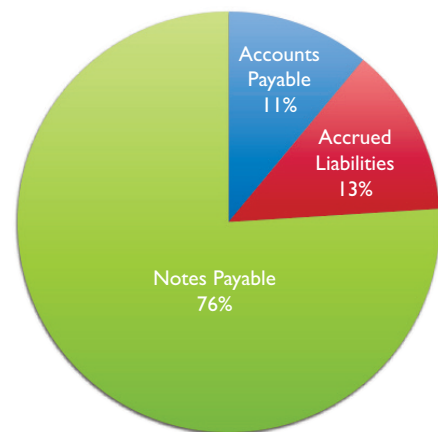
Total liabilities **\$56,303**

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,441,925
Temporarily restricted	\$887,795

Total net assets **\$2,329,720**

Total liabilities and net assets **\$2,386,023**



“

Since becoming a Marian Girl, I have grown to be self aware and more outgoing.

– Melissa, MMS Class of 2015



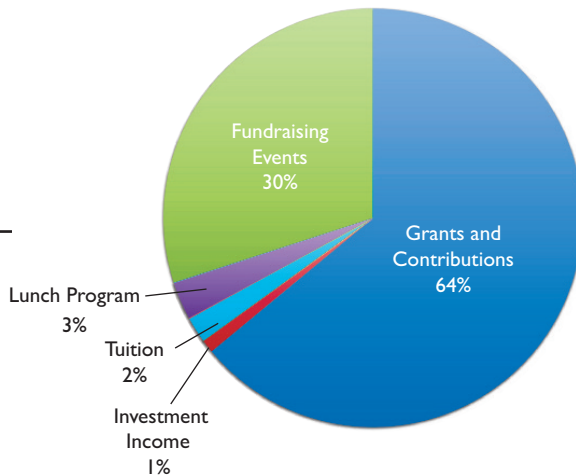
finances

Statement of Activities

June 30, 2015

Support and Revenue

Grants and contributions	\$1,014,344
Fundraising events	\$481,693
Tuition	\$28,886
Lunch program	\$45,111
Investment income	\$15,068
Other	\$6,990
Total support and revenue	\$1,592,092



Expenses

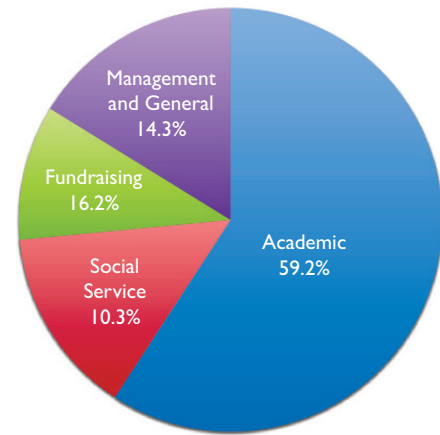
Program services	
Academic	\$954,283
Social service	\$165,546
Total program services	\$1,119,829

Supporting services	
Management and general	\$230,664
Fundraising	\$261,157
Total supporting services	\$491,821

Total expenses **\$1,611,650**

**INCREASE (DECREASE)
IN NET ASSETS** **(\$19,558)**

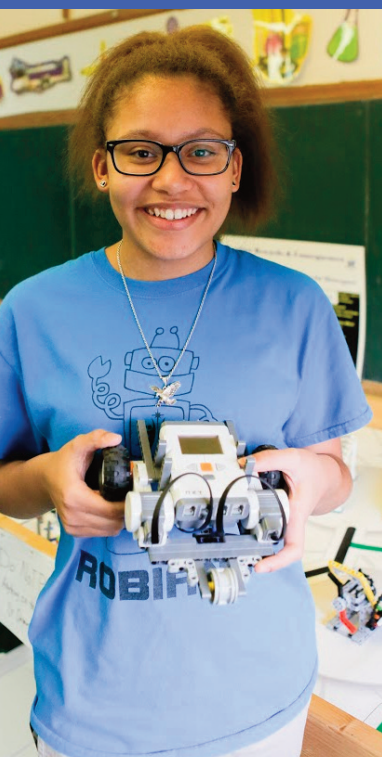
Net assets at beginning of year	\$2,349,278
Net assets at end of year	\$2,329,720





Educating Girls for Life

2014
2015



**It costs more
than \$12,000
per year to
educate one
Marian Girl.**

Thank you TO OUR

Marian Middle School thanks the following donors for their generous gifts during the 2015 fiscal year. The following lists gifts received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please help us correct our records by calling the development office at 314.771.7674 ext. 24.

Corporate Sponsors

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Systemation	



“

**Marian has given
its life to us.**

– Ro’Niyah, MMS Class of 2015

”



DONORS!



“Thanks to Marian, I am self determined to graduate from high school and college.”
— Jaylah, MMS Class of 2015

Sponsoring Religious Communities

Daughters of Charity - St. Vincent de Paul Province of St. Louis
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Province
Sisters of Loretto
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet - St. Louis Province
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union Central Province

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Assistance League of St. Louis
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St. Louis Mental Health Board
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Today and Tomorrow Foundation
Trio Foundation of St. Louis
Vassia Family Charitable Foundation
Vatterott Foundation
Veiled Prophet Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
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Blue Hills Community Services
Cor Jesu Academy
Gateway Vincentian Volunteers
Loyola University Chicago
St. Joseph's Academy
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The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
Ursuline Academy
Ursuline Nuns of the Parish of New Orleans
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Christopher Young

“‘Educating Girls for Life’ means supporting girls all the way through college and giving us the knowledge we need to succeed.”

— MyKinzi, MMS Class of 2015





Educating Girls for Life

2014
2015



Thank you TO OUR

Rising Stars Alliance \$1,000-\$4,999

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Robert and Sandra Stearns
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Janet Varner
David Weiss
Kathy Wisniewski



Marian taught me to treat my body with respect and to love myself.

— Imani, MMS Class of 2015

DONORS!



I am working to be who God made me by being self aware in my actions, self advocating for myself so I may do better, self determining to get my work done, and self giving by using what I do best to help others. – Daryn, MMS Class of 2015

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Chris and Carol Brescia
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Educating Girls for Life

2014
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Invest in Her Future

Marian Middle School families commit to supporting students based on their financial capacity. The typical family pays \$400 annually. However, the actual cost of educating one Marian student is more than \$12,000. It is through the generosity of our donors that we are able to succeed in our mission to break the cycle of poverty by *Educating Girls for Life*.



Marian taught me to self advocate and ask for help when I need it.

— Jamison, MMS Class of 2015

I am self determined to create a bright future for myself and to become who God wants me to be.

— Asia, MMS Class of 2015



Marian has allowed me to become a beautiful, confident, smart, and strong young lady.

— Taylor, MMS Class of 2015

Thank you TO OUR DONORS!

In-Kind Donations

In-kind gifts are essential to our fundraising program. We appreciate the various items and services that were given between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

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Marian is helping me to become who God wants me to be and taught me to be self giving in showing the gifts He gave me.

– Mariel, MMS Class of 2015

Marian has taught me to be more self giving and has allowed me to think more positively about myself.

– Doris, MMS Class of 2015



2014-2015

To find out how you can impact the mission of Marian Middle School through a financial donation, please contact:

Jessica McCarthy
Manager of Philanthropic Gifts

4130 Wyoming Street
Saint Louis, MO 63116

Phone: 314.771.7674 ext. 19
Fax: 314.771.7679
Email: jmccarthy@mms-stl.org
www.marianmiddleschool.org

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“Since I became a Marian Girl, I have grown scholastically, spiritually, and made everlasting bonds with my peers and teachers.”

— Mariah, MMS Class of 2015



“I’ve become self determined, pushing myself until I reach my goals, preserving and fighting through every obstacle and motivating myself to achieve greatness.”

— DeJa, MMS Class of 2015



“I have become more self aware, self determining, self advocating, and self giving by stepping up as a leader, helping others, and challenging myself.”

— Zoe, MMS Class of 2015

2014-2015 Committees

Marian Middle School is grateful for the many people who dedicate their time and talents to advancing and sustaining the mission of *Educating Girls for Life*. For more information on how you can serve on a committee, please contact the development office at 314.771.7674.

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2014-2015 Events

7TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S EVENT Girls Night Out

Thursday, October 23, 2014
Forest Park Visitor Center

Presented by 

"What a perfect combination! GNO brings together women who are passionate about education and are committed to making a real impact. This event opens a world of possibilities to our Marian girls! It's so exciting to see how GNO continues to grow!" — Susan Conrad



6TH ANNUAL Young Friends Wine Event

A Sweeter than Ever Benefit

Friday, November 8, 2013 • Bar Napoli

"The wine event has become such a great tradition that allows for young professionals and members of the community to come together in support of the wonderful students of Marian Middle School." — Meghan Hunt

14TH ANNUAL Marian Magic What About the Girls?

Saturday, April 18, 2015 • Four Seasons Hotel

15th Anniversary Sponsor:



Presenting Sponsor:



Award of Excellence Honorees:

Bellwether Foundation and John & Joan Vatterott

"Joe and I have been involved with Marian Magic since it was first held in a school cafeteria. It has grown above and beyond our expectations as has the school. One of the best parts of this event from the beginning has been the participation of the students either by greeting the guests, making an auction item, or selling raffle tickets. It means so very much to us that they are there and engaging with adults that they do not know with confidence and poise beyond their years. The financial rewards from the auction every year mean so much to their futures. By being there and seeing the "magic," both our guests and students understand all the good that comes from this event each year. It's always a very fun night!" — Diane Garea



4TH ANNUAL Young Friends Bowling Event

Ten Pins for Education

Friday, May 15, 2015 • Flamingo Bowl

"The annual Young Friends' fundraiser at Flamingo Bowl is a unique and interactive event that allows young professionals the opportunity to raise money for a good cause and have fun at the same time! With great auction items and a wine pull event, there's something for everyone." — Kaci Dannatt

Photos by Gara Elizabeth Dyson
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Educating Girls for Life

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Save the date!
Marian Magic

SATURDAY
APRIL 16, 2016



Educating Girls for Life

Marian Middle School's educational model incorporates three interrelated programs:

- The **Academic Program** prepares middle school students to succeed at high-performing high schools.
- The **Enrichment Program** provides leadership experiences and character development.
- The **Graduate Support Program** offers academic, social, and financial support to alumnae in high school and college.

For more information or to arrange a tour, contact us!

314.771.7674

www.marianmiddleschool.org
info@mms-stl.org

