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December 7, 2009

Fulcrum Foundation Holds Seventh Annual Chairman's Breakfast

Dear Fulcrum friend,

Journeys in Catholic Education was the theme of the Fulcrum Foundation's Chairman's Breakfast, held on November 13 at the Harbor Club in downtown Seattle. One hundred supporters of Catholic education enjoyed a program that highlighted the journeys of our schools, our teachers and the families Fulcrum supports.



St. Alphonsus' teacher Mary Johnson described the journey to multi-grade, single gender classrooms that have made a positive impact on their school's learning community. Teachers Liberty Sponek and Betsy Gottschalk of Assumption School in Bellingham detailed an impressive garden project, the produce of which is sold to raise money for a sister school in Cambodia. The Woldsalassie family shared their journey from Ethiopia to the United States and expressed undying gratitude to all the donors who help support them with tuition assistance. Daughters Bethel and Ruth came to the microphone to recite their favorite poems and quotes, easily the most charming part of the morning. Teacher Phil Moore from St. Patrick School in Tacoma detailed his cross-curricular approach to educating the whole student. The 5th grade students built a grotto incorporating learning from math, physics, technology, social studies, art and religion.

Guests were also updated on the Fulcrum Foundation's grant programs, which exceeded \$2.3 million in awards this past year for tuition assistance, schools in need, and teacher/staff excellence initiatives. In its short 8 year history, Fulcrum is on pace to distribute its 14th millionth dollar toward Catholic schools and Catholic school families.

IRA Distributions are Tax Free if Given to Charity

A rare charitable gifting opportunity has been extended. Until December 31, 2009, if you are over the age of 70 ½, you are eligible to make an IRA distribution to the Fulcrum Foundation. Your IRA distribution made directly to Fulcrum will not be included in your federal or state taxable income! This qualifies for an IRA Required Minimum Distribution. There is a maximum limit of \$100,000 on the distribution annually.

We advise you talk to your tax adviser before making a decision regarding this tax free IRA distribution.

Sue Mecham



Cambodia Garden Project
presented by Assumption School
teachers



Woldsalassie family, tuition
assistance recipients



Grotto carved by students at
St. Patrick School

Just For You

Would you like to transfer the balance of your IRA at death and avoid paying hefty taxes? [Click here](#) to receive our brochure entitled *Protect Your Dreams* and learn how smart retirement asset planning can reduce or avoid taxes.

Gifts of Land



Many friends of charities have benefited from a gift of land or a gift of land with a building or other structure. There are two main benefits for this gift. First, there is a charitable deduction, normally for the fair market value at the time of the gift. [>>>read further](#)

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Hearing Aid Assistance for Seniors in Need

Dear Savvy Living,

Are there any organizations that you know of that offer low-cost hearing aids to seniors on a very tight budget? [>>>read further](#)

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Part Gift and Part Sale

Sue and Jim Wilson bought their first home many years ago. As they were landscaping in the yard, painting and fixing up that home, Jim was impressed with the home improvement store. [>>>read further](#)

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House Votes 225-200 to Extend Estate Tax

On December 3, 2009 the House passed the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers and Small Business Act of 2009 (PETFSSBA). The Act would make the \$3.5 million estate tax exemption and the 45% estate tax rate permanent. It would also continue the existing rules that permit estates to pass on property with a stepped-up basis. [>>>read further](#)

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