

## **The Alive in Hope Foundation's 2008 Bishop's Christmas Luncheon Raises \$624,000 in Scholarship Support**

**Over 1,900 students new students have seats in Catholic Schools in Brooklyn and Queens thanks to the Bishop's Scholarship Program.**

**Brooklyn, NY (January 8, 2009)** – The Alive in Hope Foundation celebrated its third Annual Bishop's Christmas Luncheon at Abigail Kirsch, Stage 6 at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Wednesday, December 10, 2008.

His Excellency Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, and Honorary Co-Chair, renowned Chef Michael Lomonaco of Porterhouse New York in Columbus Circle, NY, joined Co-Chairs Mary Ann Mattone and Susan Rohan, distinguished Hosts and Committee members to honor Dr. Frank Macchiarola, Chancellor of St. Francis College, and his wife Mrs. Mary Macchiarola, and Mr. John Loconsolo President of Loconsolo Paints. Bishop DiMarzio presented the Macchiarolas with the Pope John Paul II Distinguished Stewardship Award and Mr. Loconsolo, the Emma A. Daniel's Benefactors Award.

The Luncheon raised \$624,000. Proceeds were directed towards the Bishop's Scholarship Program (BSP) a collaborative scholarship effort which this year, will allow 1,900 new children the opportunity for a quality, values-based Catholic education. While families receiving aid from the Bishop's Scholarship Program come from varying ethnic and religious backgrounds, they share common financial hardships. The average household income of BSP families is \$26,000.

Over 600 individuals attended, representing the Alive in Hope Foundation's corporate, foundation, local business, parish and school partnerships. The afternoon began with carols performed by the talented St. Bernadette's choir and a touching rendition of God Bless America by Kiana Jean-Mary of St. Clare's School in Rosedale. Students from Bishop Loughlin High School volunteered their time to assist with the day. These young people served as a moving reminder of the importance of the Bishop's Scholarship Program.

Kevin Norton of the Bank of New York Mellon noted: "The Bishop's Christmas Lunch is a great event, and a really nice way to bring in the Christmas season. We are pleased to support the Alive in Hope Foundation, and the valuable work they accomplish. It's great getting to meet some of the kids who are helped by Foundation face to face."

Maurice DuBois, co-anchor of "CBS 2 This Morning" led the program as Master of Ceremonies; highlights of the afternoon included the exceptional musical talent of Irish Soprano Deirdre Masterson and friends, and the premiering of a video detailing the work of the Foundation. Photographs from the Bishop's Christmas Luncheon are available on the Foundation's website [www.aliveinhopefoundation.org](http://www.aliveinhopefoundation.org).

The Alive in Hope Foundation was created in 1998 to support the social, spiritual and educational needs of the people of Brooklyn and Queens. Since 1998, over \$21,000,000 in grant and aid has been awarded in support of this diverse, urban community. This assistance is made possible thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors to the Foundation. For additional information on the Bishop's Christmas Luncheon and the Alive in Hope Foundation contact Thomas Flood or Marion Boteju at 718.965.7375 or email [info@aliveinhope.org](mailto:info@aliveinhope.org)

[Click here](#) to view photos from the Luncheon.