

# PHSpirit

2024



## ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROGRESS!



**A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY  
OF PARACLETE HIGH SCHOOL**  
*The Catholic High School of the Antelope Valley*

# PHSpirit 2024

**PHSpirit is published annually by the Advancement Office at Paraclete High School for alumni and friends.**

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*We welcome Connie and Newton to the Advancement Team!*

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Athletic Complex Progress!



19

**FEATURES**



Athletic Complex Phase 1 Completed! ..... 3  
 Homecoming 2023 - at Paraclete!..... 4  
 Meet the Class of 2024 ..... 5  
 Faculty News ..... 8  
 With Deep Appreciation!  
 PHS Honor Roll of Donors ..... 14

**DEPARTMENTS**



In Memorium ..... 8  
 Alumni Profile - *Meet Artem Guillermo* ..... 9  
 From the Advancement Office ..... *Centerfold*  
 History Channel Your Inner Spirit..... 19  
     *Sister Beatrice*  
 Staying Connected ..... 21  
 Reunions ..... 23  
 Upcoming Events ..... *Back Cover*

# ATHLETIC COMPLEX PHASE ONE COMPLETED



“Wow!” is what most any guest says upon arrival at our Athletic Complex. The dedication takes place on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 10 AM, and we welcome the entire Paraclete community but require an RSVP to properly accommodate our guests.

The John and Dorothy Shea Family Foundation donated the lion's share of the monies needed to get the ball rolling (pun intended!) for this dream-come-true complex for the Paraclete Spirits. After sixty years, we finally have home field advantage for outdoor sports. Dorothy and John Shea endorsed the project before his passing in October of 2022. Mr. Shea's attitude in helping throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and beyond was, “You know, if I don't do it, who will?” His goodwill and generosity transformed the lives of so many children including our very own Spirits. Transformation is certainly the word we would use when describing the before and after pictures of the acreage west of Paraclete's academic campus. We deeply appreciate the Shea Family Foundation and its mission.



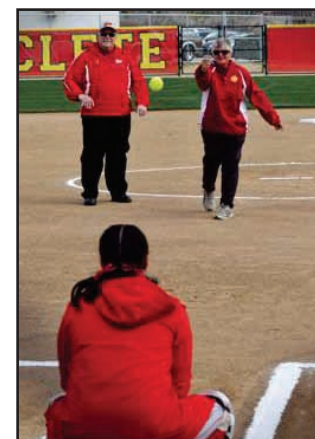
For the last 16 years the Paraclete Advancement Office has been raising monies for the second phase of the master plan. Thank you to the many alumni, families, grandparents, PHS faculty & staff, and community members who have financially contributed to this effort. Your contributions have made a huge difference to the current and future students of Paraclete High School.



A host of major donors contributed to the success of phase one of our complex in addition to the Shea Foundation. We would like to publicly thank the Ahmanson Foundation; Dan Murphy Foundation; The Calandri Family, specifically Brandon, his wife Nicole, and his father John; The Engelhardt Family; Hernando and Fran Marroquin Family; Deacon Gary and Jeannie Poole; Mrs. Barbara Russell; The Lutz Family: Brian - Class of 1992 and Brenda Class of 1995; John and Linda Ciufu; Sheri Ciufu; Knights of Columbus Council # 2455 (Lancaster); Tim Baal and Diane Baal Podegracz; The Lanski Family; The Galier Family – Peter '82, Donna (Ferrini) '81, Tim and Lauren; and Suzanne (Orr) and Rick McGuire.

Many alumni have been contacted by Caryl Hier several months ago as she “went back to work” for the Spirits. She thoroughly enjoyed going down memory lane with those who so kindly took her calls or replied to emails. Her fundraising success on behalf of Paraclete is deeply appreciated by all. She made a substantial difference in the success of our *Once a Spirit, Always a Spirit Campaign*.

Thank you to all who have donated to our Athletic Complex Building Fund. Our Spirit Legacy Walkway displays the engraved pavers from our many donors. This opportunity is an ongoing effort to raise money for future phases of the athletic complex and beyond. For more information on giving a donation including purchasing a paver, contact Janet Bower at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) or (661) 943-3255 ext. 111. We welcome gifts of all sizes.



*Coach Margaret Neill enjoyed the honor of throwing the first pitch.*

# Athletic Complex Testimonial

*Thank you to George Pulos for these inspiring words.*

“I am a Paraclete Alumni Parent (Mojave HS '79) who loves the mission of Paraclete HS. My two daughters had the privilege of graduating from Paraclete. One played basketball and the other ran cross country/track and field. It sure was nice having basketball games and practices on campus. However, it was not the same story for track and field. Where were we going to have practice today? Sprinters at one location, distance runners at another and the field events can practice on campus. Who is going to drive who to what practice location and what about risks with driving in heavy traffic, liabilities, and the safety of our athletes? Never having track meets on campus, always having to pay entry fees and facility use fees to some other school. Spirits, we can do much better; our students need their own facilities. For me personally, when I heard that Paraclete was about to break ground on the athletic complex, my first reaction was excitement, and my next thought was how can I be a part of this project? Being in the 'back nine of my life' how can I contribute to something that will continue giving long after I'm gone? My answer was to purchase a Spirit Legacy Walkway paver.”



George Pulos, Mojave, CA

## Homecoming 2023 ...at Paraclete High School!

Following the inaugural football game at Calandri Stadium at Paraclete where the Spirits beat Cathedral 21-7, our gridiron guys faced the St. Francis Golden Knights for our Homecoming Game resulting in a double overtime thriller. We got the short end of the stick with the 28-21 loss to former Paraclete coach Dean Herrington and his Knights. The Spirits finished the regular season with a “W” and secured a playoff berth. The journey, with its ups and downs, brought joy to the team and fans!

### Homecoming 2024

On Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Spirits face the St. Paul Swordsmen for our Homecoming Game. Tickets are limited and will be available a few days prior to the game; check our website or social media pages for details. Go Spirits!

Here are pics of some of the alumni who came to cheer on the Spirits for Homecoming 2023!



*The Calandri Family enjoyed the games at Calandri Stadium!*



# Welcome to the Paraclete Alumni Family!

## Class of 2024

### Class Theme: Senior Verse – a Web of Life and Destiny

Here are highlights from the Senior Surveys.

#### Which memory or memories will you remember forever about your time at Paraclete?

**Charlie Anthony:** “First time meeting peers after 2/3 of the year online for zoom.”

**Vidya Batra:** “When asked which memories I will remember, it's difficult to list them all in just a few lines. I've experienced countless wonderful times at Paraclete that I will cherish forever. From the interactive field days to Spirit Start-ups, and the last weeks leading up to graduation... I'll cherish it all.”

**DeAndre Bennet Jr.:** “I will remember how everyone was nice.”

**Grace Calandri:** “I will always remember Field Day because all grades were able to come together and create a day filled with appreciating each other and the fun times we've had through the years.”

**Anthony Camas:** “The memories I made playing baseball... having the opportunity to make the playoffs my senior year and upset some big teams. I will also remember being the first to throw a pitch on the new baseball field. I will also remember my junior year when one of my childhood dreams came true... playing where the Jethawks played.”

**Presley Case:** “I will forever remember taking our senior sunrise picture on the athletic field we just got this year of 2023-2024.”

**Noah Davis:** “Meeting my girlfriend.”

**Richard Diaz:** “Playing Homecoming on the brand-new field as a kicker and scoring the very first PAT ever on the new field.”

**Berenice Elenes:** “The family environment filled with love and acceptance.”

**Aiden Fricke:** “Playing in the home opener in the new football stadium and playing the home opener on the baseball field.”

**Nathan Gates:** “I won't forget the gym as I spent all four years playing in there. I'll miss my table under the tree in front of the gym.”

**Lola Johnston:** “I will forever remember the football games at the stadium, and the student section surrounded by my classmates.”

**Maddox Manuel:** “Getting the Athletic Complex.”

**Lukas Niebla:** “The memories I will remember and cherish the most are all the great times in class with friends. Some classes at Clete don't even feel like classes, because of your friends. I will always remember all the shenanigans and tomfoolery that happened to make me happy.”

**Katie Oke:** “Anything with my friends, at break, at lunch, and during class. The retreats were also something that I really love.”

**Adrian Olmos:** “Any memories made during sports. If there was a fast and easy way to find good friends, it's through the athletic program. Also, plenty of the teachers nurture students throughout their students' journeys to ensure the best experience.”

**Priscilla Saldivar:** “Any of the Veritas Retreats were always the best part of my years.”

**Tyler Soles:** “My favorite memory from my time at Paraclete was being the first team to play at our new stadium, as well as the first quarterback to score a touchdown in front of the whole city.”

**Hailey Unnerstall:** “I will forever remember the dances as well as the memories I have made with my friends. I love the friends I have made here.”

**Zariah Walker:** “I'm going to remember Homecoming Week. Homecoming Week was so fun. There was something new and different to do every day. It was filled with nothing but good vibes, and I created so many good memories with my friends. The Homecoming Game was so fun, too.”



## Do you have a favorite teacher, staff member, or coach? If yes, who and what would you say to him or her if you had the chance?

**Diego Barahona:** “Mr. Miller – sorry for not doing my Chapter II practice test.”

**Kai Brown:** “The whole staff. Thank you, guys, for everything. I appreciate every single one of you guys.”

**David Buckley:** “Mr. McWilliams. Thank you for being the inspiration and role model you are.”

**Anthony Camas:** “Saul Bravo. Thank you for always leaving our campus clean and our field as well. I won't forget the time you caught an owl getting chased [by ravens].”

**Isabella Chavez:** “The Keepers. Thank you for bringing joy to my high school experience.”

**Sariah Cornelius:** “Mrs. King, Mrs. Hernandez, Ms. Fowler, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Ladensack... thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to be your student.”

**Maya Cornell:** “Mrs. Seidel. Thank you so much for allowing me to realize my full potential as a student and as a writer. Your teaching has made a world of difference and inspired so much confidence in me.”

**Samantha Deharo:** “Mrs. Olague. Thank you for pushing me to be a better example in the classroom but outside of the classroom as well.”

**Karys Earley:** “My favorite staff members would have to be Father Norbert, Ms. Vargas, Ms. Olague, and Ms. Seidel. Thank you all for contributing so much positivity, graciousness, and kindness throughout my high school experience at Paraclete. I will forever cherish it.”

**Anthony Gorrindo:** “Father Norbert. Thank you for always being there for me and supporting me. You made these years fun.”

**Matthew Mahoney:** “Mrs. Erickson. Thank you for preparing me for college.”

**Ari Martin:** “Mr. Miller. Thank you for the push.”

**Gaby Olivo:** “Mrs. Castellanos. Thank you for making class feel like home.”

**Reyna Sandoval:** “Ms. King. Thank you for always believing in me.”

**Kylee Segale:** “My favorite teacher is Mr. Miller. I like his style of teaching and humor.”

**Rebecca Study:** “Coach Andy. Thank you for making me a better person, on and off the track.”

**Sofia Vazquez:** “Mr. Urmanski. Thank you for making me fall in love with chemistry and allow me to realize what I want to do with my future.”

**Joshua Weilbacher:** “Coach Lopez. Thank you for always helping me and guiding me to be great.”

**Shaun Williams:** “Mr. Miller and Father Norbert. You guys are the best.”

**Nelida Willis:** “Miller, Huerta, Urmanski, Bandziulis, Seidel, Guy at CleteHouse Café, Saul, Office Ladies... you were awesome; speaking to you always made my day.”

**Alejandro Zarco:** “Mr. Landa. Thanks for making class interesting and being a cool teacher.”



## Describe your Paraclete High School experience in five words or less:

**Jazlin Banegas:** “Fun, encouraging, comfortable, funny, motivating.”

**Vidya Batra:** “Fast, memorable, and too short.”

**Emilee Bruner:** “Fun, memories, joy, laughter.”

**Mister Burnside:** “Best time of my life.”

**Grace Calandri:** “Accepting, involved, memories, opportunities, family.”

**Angelo Contreras:** “Memorable, fun, humorous, educational, disciplined.”

**Thomas Estaville:** “Complete high school experience.”

**Elisha Avie Garcia:** “Rigorous, rewarding, friendly, thoughtful, long-lived.”

**Emellie Hernandez:** “Fast-paced, many friendships.”

**Gabrielle Hooper:** “Knowledge, fun, friendly, spirit, family.”

**Elias Ledesma:** “Exposed me to real world.”

**Devon Marshall:** “Fun, challenging, new, life-changing, foundational.”

**Katelynn Mazariego:** “It will always be unique.”

**Cassius Mendez:** “Super duper ultimately awesomely fun.”

**Iris Razo:** “Dramatic, motivating, intense, worth it.”

**Faith Rodriguez:** “Challenging but rewarding.”



## Your advice or words of encouragement to underclassmen:

**Valerie Alvarado:** "Have fun and don't procrastinate."

**Marina Arredondo:** "If you're serious about college, be serious about your grades, do regular service projects, and do extra stuff that makes you stand out."

**De Andre Bennett Jr.:** "Stop judging others and talk to the people that are alone."

**Kiera Carr:** "Don't let the time here pass you by. Take every chance you get to make memories. The time flies faster than you realize, and it would be ideal to make memories that you will always cherish."

**Yuki Clutter:** "You are bigger than your fear and worries."

**James Cunningham:** "Do what makes you happy and not what seems cool. At the end of the day, you are the only person that has to live with yourself forever."

**Conner Fountain:** "Get involved, take any chance you can to go to retreats, get in clubs, play sports. They just enrich your experience and make the years more fun... especially retreats. They are a blessing and are unique to PHS so take advantage of them."

**Ixi Go:** "Savor every moment and enjoy it while you can. You're living in what you'll call 'the good old days.'"

**Benjamin Kennard:** "Turn in all of your homework and take a couple hard classes."

**Devon Marshall:** "Plan ahead!!! Choose your classes for your future and not so much for the moment."

**Leyla Morgan:** "These are some of the most prominent years in your transition from being a kid to an adult. Surround yourself with people who will be good for you. Take care of your health, be consistent in work, stay focused, and don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone."

**Elizabeth Singleton:** *"Once you accept and start to cherish Paraclete, you will see the gift from God that it is."*

**Angelina Soliz:** "Don't give up because the sacrifices your parents make for you are worth it when you reach the end. Make them proud."

**Dories Welch:** "Don't be afraid to try new things because they may lead to new beginnings."

## Give a prediction for 10 or 20 years in the future about a classmate:

**Luke Andrew:** "Heather Boyd – in 20 years hopefully she's just about made it through med school and is a doctor."

**Haley Asaro:** "Abriel Ginn will be a successful animator in 20 years."

**Mina Barriga:** "Kadynce Ruane – a dermatologist in California with a fancy car, house, lots of pets, and wears pink scrubs to work."

**Anthony Camas:** "Mister Burnside – NBA player or overseas."

**Dario Figueroa:** "Emellie Hernandez – a famous journalist who writes well-known exposés about the entertainment industry."

**Abigail Garcia:** "Leyla Morgan – I predict she will be a very successful independent woman who has her own job and living a happy life with God."

**Andrew Grushkin:** "Lola Johnston – President."

**Jessica Jacobo:** "Nelida Willis – will own the \$3,000,000 mansion she always showed me in pre-calc."

**Tyler Neal:** "Djay Phillips – NBA superstar."

**Iris Razo:** "James Cunningham – he's going to make amazing discoveries in anthropology."

**Andrew Rosell:** "David Buckley – playing professional volleyball for the USA team."

**Hailey Unerstall:** "Noah Davis – I think he'll be working here. He has always been very involved and spirited."

**Nelida Willis:** "Jessica Jacobo – she will be a vet, a good one. She works at a nice vet place and has a husband that she loves. We'll still be friends."

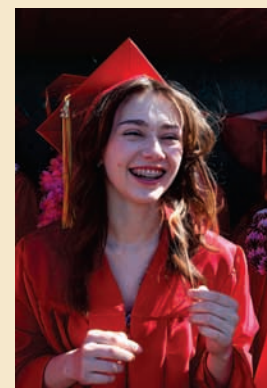
## Advice to your future self:

**Bethia Ackerman:** "Be patient and learn to appreciate what is given to me."

**De Andre Bennett Jr.:** *"Do everything out of love."*

**Ryan Brown:** "You're going on a rigorous path. Do not forget yourself and do not forget the goal, the promised land that you've set upon."

**Kai Brown:** "Stay focused. Family is everything. Whatever can be given could also be taken."



**Francisco Centeno-Matiz:** “The past is important because you learn from it, but don't get stuck in it.”  
**Jessica Clemmons:** “Go after EVERYTHING. You can make it in track and in love.”  
**Jonathan Contreras:** “Keep God in your life and never lose your faith.”  
**Sariah Cornelius:** “Remember to keep music in your heart.”  
**Zoe-Lynn Harris:** “Come back home once and a while. This is where your roots are, and you need to appreciate your experience.”  
**Aniste Hyde:** “God is within her... she will not fail.” [Psalm 46:5]  
**Antonio Madrigal:** “Always have perseverance.”  
**Junivan Mendez:** “You've made it this far kid. Don't go and chicken out.”  
**Raegan Nuckles:** “Live life to the fullest & never take anything for granted.”  
**Sebastian Perez:** “Don't be a grumpy man.”  
**Sierra Ponso:** “It's okay to be unsure and it's okay to not know everything or have all the answers right away. Your life is just now beginning and not knowing your exact path is okay.”  
**Nick Sandoval:** “Follow Christ.”  
**Edward Santiago:** “Be easy on yourself; no one has ever been in your shoes before, so listen to no one but yourself and those you love.”  
**Jamie Sencion:** “To not let stressful moments dictate your mindful decisions.”  
**Tyler Soles:** “Keep working young buck!”  
**Lily Strong:** “Stay true to yourself, because God made you perfectly and He loves you.”  
**Vithusha Varatharajan:** “Keep going, you are capable of so much more.”



## Faculty News

### *Best wishes to Lee Matalon and Guadalupe Castellanos!*



At our last faculty meeting for the 2023-2024 school year, Principal John Anson presented our band teacher Lee Matalon and Spanish teacher and team moderator Guadalupe Castellanos with certificates and gifts acknowledging their retirement and their 33 and 25 years of service, respectively, at Paraclete. Others were also recognized for milestone anniversary achievements. We wish Lee and Guadalupe the best in their retirement years and congratulate our faculty members on their success with advancing Paraclete's mission.



## *In Memorium*

*“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”*

*Luke 10:20*

- 1967 Kathleen Orr Dailey passed away on September 22, 2023.
- 1985 Veronica Ortega passed away on December 11, 2023, in El Paso, Texas.
- 2002 Lymar Benjamin Cole passed away on December 9, 2023.
- 1969 Kathie Barnes Hall passed away on February 6, 2024.
- 1976 Lauren deRosier passed away on February 14, 2024.
- 1992 Pamela Miller passed away on June 22, 2024.
- 2004 Christopher Bower passed away on June 8, 2024.
- 2015 Vincent Gahret passed away on August 10, 2024.



# Alumni Profile ~ *From Russia with Love ... for the Spirits!*

## Artem Guillermo

**Paraclete 2015 graduate is now a member of the PHS faculty.**



With his degree in biochemistry from California State University, Northridge, Artem happily joined the Paraclete Faculty as an algebra, chemistry, and biology teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. He expects to be awarded his credential soon and is pursuing his master's degree. A pre-med path was his original quest, but he discovered that he

enjoys teaching. His goal is to continue teaching at Paraclete, which he finds to be very fun, and join the faculty at Antelope Valley College someday as well. Artem is an integral member of the Paraclete faculty, so our administrators and staff are grateful.

Artem holds dual citizenship as an American and a Russian as his father is an American and his mother is from Russia; his parents met online. Artem is fluent in Russian and English (his mother taught English in Russia). He was born just a few years after the collapse of the U.S.S.R. Artem remembers that times were tough for the Russian population as he grew up—the ruble was nearly worthless. The family moved to America in the fall of 2012 and took a month getting to know California as tourists. Once settled in the Antelope Valley, Artem became a Spirit as a sophomore.

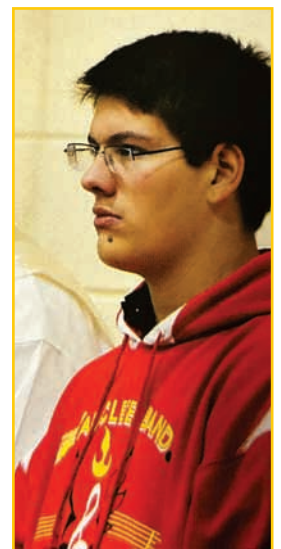
When asked about his years at Paraclete as a student, he credits Kristina Bandziulis as a PHS teacher who positively influenced his great interest in science, and remarked, “Now I get to work with her!” Artem expressed gratitude for Paraclete's English Department and how much the development of research papers was “hammered” into the students. He recalls having Mike Kelly as his junior year English teacher and understood the reason behind Mr. Kelly's assignments and lessons once he was assigned research papers in college. His biggest challenge he faced over the years was the language

barrier, but speaking with Artem, his command of English is exceptionally good, and he has a pleasant accent.

Looking for a story about his college days, Artem shared the humorous attempt of fellow students who would come to him for tutoring at zero hour before the semester conclusion, asking him to “teach me all of it,” referring to a math course. No doubt, Artem gives pearls of wisdom to his students including what the lack of effort will get you.

In addition to his love of science – and science fiction – Artem is a musician. He plays the drums and has performed with the Paraclete band both as a student and as a teacher. He also plays the piano having attended music school in Russia. He has participated in judo events and enjoys tinkering with computers. When asked about his taste in music, he said he likes it all – jazz, rock, and classical as examples. Artem Guillermo is truly a well-rounded international gentleman.

Artem and his family return to Russia occasionally to visit family who live near the Black Sea (he compares the Black Sea coast to Santa Monica, California). The locals and tourists enjoy many Western amenities including Hollywood movies translated into Russian. When asked about religion, Artem explained that he grew up with Christian faith, but that, “When we are in Russia we are very busy working, so going to church isn't what we do on the regular basis.”



Wrapping up the interview, Artem answered the question, “I love it when...” with these words: “You do you.” He shared that he treats the students as young adults trusting they rise to the occasion. He has not been disappointed.

# Paraclete High School Business Partners

**Thank you to our Business Partners for your support!  
We encourage the Paraclete Community to visit these businesses.**

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or Janet Bower at ext. 111 or [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org).**

# JOIN THE GENEROSITY MOVEMENT. SUPPORT OUR MISSION.

## PLEASE GIVE TO THE PARACLETE ANNUAL FUND

"My most memorable moment would be my very first day at Paraclete High School. We walked into the gym, and it exploded with school pride and such a contagious feeling of pride. From that moment on, I knew Paraclete was the school for me!" - Imani F. '12



"I'll always remember sports bus rides, retreats, and rallies, because sports are where I made my closest friends, retreats are when I really bonded with my class, and rallies are where everyone got to showcase their talents and have fun." - Lauren D. '23

"When asked which memories I will remember, it's difficult to list them all in just a few lines. I've experienced countless wonderful times at Paraclete that I will cherish forever. From the interactive field days to Spirit Start-ups, and the last weeks leading up to graduation... I'll cherish it all."  
Vidya B. '24

"I love the rallies we have. I love that everyone is close in this school. Paraclete is honestly a great school."  
Joey E. '19



"I can speak with confidence when I say Paraclete turned me into a people person. Through Campus Ministry and ASB, Paraclete provided me with unparalleled opportunities to engage with my school and greater community." - John C. '23



**Thank you for helping us meet our students' needs. There are two easy ways to support Paraclete:**



Donate online: [www.ParacleteHS.org](http://www.ParacleteHS.org)



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My employer has a Matching Gift Plan - forms enclosed.

I would like to make this gift in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

### Contribution Levels

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Other

**Questions? Email: [CThompson@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:CThompson@ParacleteHS.org) Phone: 661-943-3255 x129**

**SPiRiT in Christ   SPiRiT as Family   SPiRiT of Knowledge   SPiRiT for Success   SPiRiT to Serve**

# From the Advancement Office

*It's easy! Donate today! [www.paracletehs.org/support-paraclete](http://www.paracletehs.org/support-paraclete)*

## Benefits of Giving

### Endowment Funds provide long term support for our Paraclete.

Gifts to each named Endowment Fund are an investment in the long-term financial health of Paraclete High School. Endowment Funds are held in long-term investments with the principal remaining untouched, which creates a permanent source of revenue for the school's annual tuition assistance program. Each endowment fund is structured to grow over time through reinvestment of interest, and dividends earned will be used towards tuition assistance. Consider a gift to an Endowment Fund today!

**John and Haydee Nottoli Endowment Fund**

**Donna Martin Endowment Fund**

**Father Mariano Biasio Endowment Fund**

**Chris Hawkins Endowment Fund**

### Scholarship Funds provide help for students in need. *Name your own scholarship!*

Scholarship funds are ways to give back to Paraclete. A fund can be set up in your name to promote the ideals you embody or in the name of a loved one. A gift to one of these funds will allow a student in need the opportunity to get an advantage for life by attending Paraclete High School. Make a difference today by contributing to a fund.

**Michael McGuire Scholarship Fund**

**Coach Ray DeShane Memorial Fund**

**Tim Ward Memorial Fund**

**Nichter-Seidel Scholarship Fund**

If you would like to create a fund in your name or to honor a loved one, please contact Vicki Novelli at [VNovelli@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:VNovelli@ParacleteHS.org) or (661) 943-3255 ext. 128 or Janet Bower at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) or (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.

## Making a Pitch for Softball Donate to the Cause!

Join us in our pursuit of naming our new softball field, "Margaret Neill Field." We have raised \$750,000 from foundations for field construction. Now we have a goal of \$100,000 for the field naming. We ask that all Spirits sports fans contribute to this honor for Coach Neill. She has been our softball coach for over forty years and enjoyed a very successful season with another CIF Southern Section Championship this spring! For details on sending in your restricted gift, contact Janet Bower at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) or (661) 943-3255 ext. 111 or Connie Thompson at [CThompson@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:CThompson@ParacleteHS.org) or extension 129.

MARGARET NEILL FIELD											
BALL	2	STRIKE	1	OUT	1	H/E	H				
DARTRONICS											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	RUNS	HITS	ERR
LHS	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	1
PHS	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	6	12	0
SPONSOR											

# Naming Opportunities

Paraclete High School has made a difference in your life and has helped shape your future. Our Athletic Complex renovation project is about our current and future Paraclete students. Now is your opportunity to give back and leave a legacy.

<b>Naming Opportunity</b>	<b>Gift Level</b>	
Athletic Complex	2,000,000	RESERVED
Football and Soccer Field	200,000	RESERVED Calandri Family
Press Box	100,000	
Sound System	10,000	RESERVED Linda and John Ciufu
Flagpole	15,000	RESERVED Linda, John and Sheri Ciufu
Track & Field	100,000	RESERVED Engelhardt Family
Baseball Field	100,000	RESERVED Hernando and Fran Marroquin
Baseball Dugouts (2)	25,000 ea.	(1) Home Dugout RESERVED Lutz Family
Baseball Pitcher's Mound	15,000	
Batting Cages (2)	10,000	(2) Lanski Family, Tim Baal & Diane Baal Podegracz
Discus Cage	10,000	
Shot Put Ring	10,000	RESERVED Rick and Suzanne McGuire
Drinking Fountain	10,000	RESERVED Belle and John Fletcher
Baseball Bullpen (2)	10,000 ea.	(1) RESERVED Dr. Peter & Donna Galier
Andy Gavel Way	50,000	RESERVED Engelhardt Family
Sandra Acciani Pathway	25,000	RESERVED Engelhardt Family
Spirit Way (Ave. M west access driveway)	50,000	RESERVED Engelhardt Family
Softball Field	100,000	Pending
Softball Dugouts (2)	25,000 ea.	(2) Dugouts RESERVED Poole Family
Softball Pitcher's Mound	15,000	RESERVED Poole Family
Football Scoreboard Ad	100,000	(1) Panel Available
Snack Bar Signage	50,000	
Baseball Scoreboard Ad	100,000	(1) Panel Available
Family Benches (multiple locations available)	15,000	
Softball Scoreboard Ad	100,000	(1) Panel Available

Your name will be published in publications and visible in the complex entrance as well. Check back for more naming opportunities as they become available. Naming opportunities are subject to approval by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

## *Wish List*

*Donate today for one of these causes:*

Additional bleachers for the stadium\*  
 CCTV Doorbells (10)  
 Financial Aid for a family in need

MacBooks for our faculty (45)  
 Commercial Air Conditioning Unit

\*With room to expand, we need additional bleachers to accommodate our fans.  
 We sold out our home football games last year.

# With deep appreciation, we thank our donors!

## PHS Honor Roll of Donors

*Making a difference with every gift!*

This list reflects gifts made or received during our fiscal year: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.  
In reports of this nature, mistakes may happen. If your gift was omitted or missed, please accept our apologies.  
If you notice an error, please notify the Advancement Office at (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.

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*Generously*

# History Channel Your Inner Spirit

**If you attended Paraclete in the 70s, chances are Sister Beatrice taught you a thing or two. She managed a class well and shared her passion for Home Economics (for guys, the class was called “Bachelor Living”) with her students. She also taught religion classes, including Marriage & Family Prep, and Applied Arts.**

*Sister Beatrice Pieper, CSC passed away last year, just shy of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. God bless her soul and the many Spirits she taught in the years 1971 to 1979.*

*Sister Beatrice Pieper, CSC (Sister Mary Bonaventure)*

*July 1, 1933 – March 17, 2023*

*The following words were lovingly prepared and written by Sister Maryanne O'Neill, CSC, who read them at Sister Beatrice's funeral on March 23, 2023.*



“Ours was the last group to be received into the Congregation in the original Church of Our Lady of Loretto before it was razed and replaced by this beautiful structure we are in today. We are the Marian Band received in the Marian year, and thus it was on August 5, 1954, that Beatrice Pieper heard Bishop Pursley declare to her, 'Henceforth you will be known as Sister Mary Bonaventure.' It was a big, strong name for a big-boned, tall and stately, gentle young woman! And to us, her bandmates, she was very quickly dubbed 'Bonny Bea' - a delightful combination of her religious and baptismal names, which suited her to a T because Bea was always even-tempered and friendly. Bea came from a solid, down-to-earth Midwestern family. Her parents raised their three sons and two daughters on a farm near Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where they were the principal teachers of their Catholic faith and where they taught their children to revere the beauty of the Earth and the responsibility of caring for it. During World War II, when their farm hands were in the armed forces, Mr. and Mrs. Pieper gave a few extra chores to their children. Each one had the responsibility for three cows and

had to milk them every morning and every evening. Bea also had charge of the new chicks every year, and everyone worked in the sugar beet fields! One can see why Bea loved the outdoors and the beauties of nature throughout her life. That farm is still owned and worked by a younger generation of the Pieper family.

“After high school, Bea struck out for Omaha and the College of St. Mary intending to further the expertise in sewing and cooking learned from her mother, aiming to become a home economics teacher. However, it was during those two years that she felt a call to the religious life. She knew no religious sisters, so she did some research. I cannot remember the details anymore of what she told me about that research. I just remember being so impressed at her ingenuity when she told me about spreading all her booklets and brochures on her bed to study them well, knowing that it was time to come to a decision and somehow being struck by what she saw in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. And as the saying goes, the rest is history.

“And here, after our three years of formation, our paths diverged for the better part of 50 years. We met only occasionally and briefly until ten or so years ago. I have depended on others who lived and worked with her to confirm my memories of Bea's friendliness, devotion, and dignity.

Sister Madeleine Marie (Clayton), CSC, as a fifth grader, knew Sister Bonaventure not as her teacher but as a friendly playground supervisor who was always interested in listening to what the girls who crowded around her had to say. Sister Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, was never in Sister Bonaventure's classes either but as a high school student knew her to be ever friendly and pleasant to everyone. Sister Dolores Jean Bray, CSC, referred to Sister Bonaventure as a 'gentle giant,' that sentiment echoed by Sister Doreen Marie Vignassa, CSC, who saw her as always, always, a hospitable presence seeing to the comfort of others. Sister Mary Mulligan, CSC, said that Bea even had boys in her home economics classes in Paraclete High School in Lancaster, California. I'd be willing to wager that some of those boys might have thought this would be a few easy credits, but they soon learned otherwise because Bea let them know right

off the bat, 'If you are in my class you WILL learn to cook and you WILL learn to sew!' Lastly, another Nebraskan Cornhusker, Sister M. Emily (Demuth), CSC, told me that she and Bea would sometimes commiserate about the Nebraska football teams. Frankly, I find it hard to envision those conversations!

“Bea's last public ministry was at the cathedral parish in Orange, California. It might have been her longest stretch in any one place, and she was greatly loved and deeply revered by everyone she encountered. But she had a special love for the elderly — visiting, calling, writing notes. She helped many in those difficult times of bereavement. However, when she began to notice signs of forgetfulness and memory loss, that down-to-earth sensibility that so characterized her life held her in good stead. She set about training others to assume her responsibilities so the ministries would carry on, and she gracefully retired to Saint Catherine by the Sea in Ventura, California. Though those memory issues persisted, she never lost her sense of graciousness and hospitality.



“Ultimately, not wanting to overburden the staff or the sisters at Saint Catherine's, she returned here to Saint Mary's. And as time went on, it was more and more difficult for her to form words. But as Leslie, one of her care partners told me, she remained sensitive to others' moods. When someone became distraught, Bea became distraught. When she could no longer form words, if Bea thought someone needed attention she would catch the care partner's eye, put a finger to her own eye, and then point to the one in need. When we met again, she could no longer greet me with that cheery 'Here's my bandmate,' her standard greeting when she could no longer pull my name from memory, but the smile was still there. Indeed, these last two years took away Bea's cheery words — all words in fact, so only she knew what she recognized and understood of the love her family, friends, and sisters gave her. But you do understand it all now, Bonny Bea, so rest in peace, and we WILL all meet again.”

### **Memories shared on social media of Sister Beatrice...**

“In '77 she changed the name of the course to "Bachelor Living" to get more guys in the class. It worked - I took it. Glad I did.” (Mark Ellis)

“Loved her classes. Still can't sew a straight line but not her fault.” (Anne Redmond Wilson)

“Oh yes, Sister Beatrice gave good instructions. I enjoyed when she had one home ec. class prepare a complete meal for the other class. A real life lesson. Thanks Sister Beatrice.” (Helen O'Shea Gordon)

“I loved Sister Beatrice's class and with her guidance I became a very good seamstress. I wish I could say the same about cooking. After I graduated, I would go and visit her at the convent in Lancaster. She was the best!” (Janet Waldron Chapman)

“I had Sister Beatrice for Home Ec back in '75 I guess. I think it was when they first required boys to take the class. She was pretty stern, but I always got along well with her. I did sew up a pretty nice shirt that I actually wore around.” (Robert Glancy)

“Sister Beatrice was one of my favorite teachers!” (Janet Boyd Pemberton)

“Home Ec classes were great. It is a class that ALL young people should be required to take. Too many of our young do not know how to cook, budget, invest, save, organize, etc. ...I still remember making desserts in class. Thank you, Sister Beatrice, for teaching us life lessons that are still used.” (Gina Nottoli)

“I remember my brother Tommy took her class, learned to use a sewing machine, and made a beautiful suit. He also learned to bake delicious pies. I was really impressed.” (Angela Cifarelli Ryckebosch)

“Oh yes, many things I learned in Home EC. SEWING, COOKING, BUYING GOOD MEAT. It was fun and challenging at times. Loved eating what we made too.” (Annamarie Barbagallo Landolt)

“I remember making popovers in her Home Ec class...never had heard of them before and they turned out pretty good!” (Linda Baker)

# Staying Connected

**1973 Mary Field Swisher** enjoyed the Class of 1973's reunion. She shared that she is a retired clinical lab scientist. Mary keeps busy by singing with St. Leo's Choir and the Sonoma Valley Chorale, teaching water aerobics, and volunteering at an equestrian therapy center and a couple of charitable food banks.

**1973 Susan (Maldonado) and Joe Harter** attended their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in October and shared that they have two kids, six grandchildren – five girls and one boy with the oldest being 23 years old and the youngest is 16. They keep busy as farms and trees developers.

**1978 Suzanne Orr McGuire** Suzanne and her siblings recently reunited for the interment of their parents, Terry and Kathy Orr. After the service Rick (Suzanne's husband) brought them over to see the John Shea Athletic Complex at Paraclete and the paver that is dedicated to their parents. It was a beautiful day and they all had nothing but praise for the way Paraclete moved forward with the plans. For her sister Beth (class of '82) this was the first time back at Paraclete since her youngest sister Erin (class of '85) graduated. The photo captures this reunion in Leona Valley where they grew up together. *From left to right in the picture: Erin class of '85, Beth class of '82, Tony class of '80, Suzanne class of '78, and Maria class of '76*



**1985 Konrad Kono** visited Paraclete in March and entertained the student body with his keyboard... with no printed music! Konrad's fabulous musical talent and inspirational words were well received by the Spirits. After his performance, he welcomed students to chat with him... in a short time he was surrounded by enthusiastic fans. Thank you, Konrad! We look forward to your next concert at Paraclete!

**1996 Farrah Renner Pitsor** sent in her update with her new contact information: "I received a master's degree at Grand Canyon University and currently work in Wraparound [a planning process to help children and their families] as a facilitator with foster children. I have two children."

**1991 Brent Geisler's** bio in his senior yearbook shows he won a Paraclete lip sync contest and served as the Grim Reaper (a short-lived Spirit mascot) at football games and the like. It is no surprise to find out he has been keeping busy in the world of entertainment as a director and assistant director in various productions including High School Musical: The Musical: The Series, The Giver, Zombies 3, among others. Brent was a part of the 2006 massive hit High School Musical since the beginning and remembers it was "special from the very beginning." He worked as a production assistant and fifteen years later became the director – a worthwhile journey.



Brent calls Utah his home, which was where filming took place for High School Musical (the series). He has two sons, Carsen and Brenden, who enjoyed their time on the set with their dad when they were young.

Brent's passion for his chosen profession comes out in an in-depth article in The Salt Lake Tribune – check it out as well as IMDb (source for movie and television industry information) for additional details. He hopes to return to Paraclete someday soon and meet with students about careers in film making. He could join us in the audience at a Paraclete high school musical!

**1994 Conrad Engelhardt**, his wife Jenn, and their children visited the Paraclete campus coming from their home in London, England in July. Conrad's parents, Conrad (the III) and Loxi also enjoyed the tour, especially the new Athletic Complex. The Englehardt Family's generous donations are deeply appreciated and resulted in several naming opportunities including the Engelhardt Track and Field, Sandra Acciani Pathway, Andy Gavel Way, and Spirit Drive (west driveway into athletic complex parking lot). Thank you Engelhardt Family!



**2009 Joseph Ciufu** graduated with honors, Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts, English degree from California State University Northridge in May, having attended college while working full time. "We are so very proud of him," his mother Sheri Ciufu shared. Congrats Joey!



**2004 Brian Wilson and 2004 Donny Thompson** enjoyed Spirit Football back in the day and now their sons play together in youth football! Life is good and then it gets better!

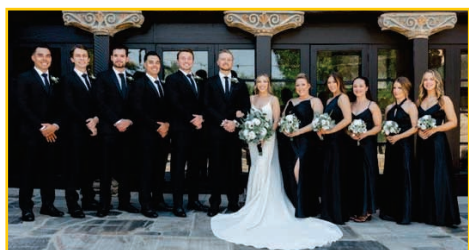
Speaking of better, or should we say best? Brian's daughter, Lillian set the record with her discus throw of 141' 11" for the CIF Southern Section Division IV in May at the Masters Meet... as a freshman! Way to go young Spirit! Her performance won her a spot in the CIF State Championships.



Lillian Wilson

**2014 Cody Gibson and 2014 Rachel Goddard** married on September 9, 2023! Although just friends while attending Paraclete, they reconnected upon graduating college and began dating. While in Maui in 2022, Cody proposed to Rachel.

They now live in Austin, Texas with their puppy Whiskey! The wedding party included the following Paraclete alumni: **2012 Lauran (Goddard) Beltran, 2016 Tanner Gibson, 2014 Adam Mendiola, and 2014 Matt Mendiola.**



**2022 D'Shonna Lewis** shared this noteworthy news about a team she joined to help others:

"The team is a professional soccer team for LAFC [Los Angeles Football Club] that has partnered with Special Olympics to give the chance for people with and without disabilities to come together and play soccer. On the team there are 16 players, 8 athletes and 8 unified players and we will be going against other Special Olympics Unified MLS [Major League Soccer] teams. I am considered a unified player, helping those who are athletes (special needs) train and play for the team. This is the first year that LAFC has partnered with Special Olympics to make the team, so I am honored to be part of the team." D'Shonna is inspired to serve!



**2018 Alina Alcares** is the Assistant Coach for Wide Receivers for College of the Canyons, began her third season as a member of the Cougars football coaching staff in 2023, after three years as a student-assistant with the program. She originally joined the program as a student-assistant in 2018 and served in the same role for the 2019 season. Alcares then officially joined the coaching staff in the months leading up to the 2021 season.

A longtime fan and student of the game, Alina served as a football team manager for Paraclete for Coach Dean Herrington. Best wishes for continued success for Alina!

**2020 Alan Rennie's** mother shared the following: "Alan is thriving, he got two degrees from Riverside City College and is now attending Cal Poly Pomona. His major is mechanical engineering. He is still throwing shot & discus at CPP. He added hammer [throw – track & field event]."



News about Alan from Cal Poly Bronco's website: "Cal Poly Pomona men's track and field student-athlete, Alan Rennie, has been named a 2024 National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) All-American. This award recognizes Rennie's athletic accomplishments and his dedication to strength and conditioning. Nominated by CPP Head Strength and Conditioning Coach, Mike Senyo, Rennie's determination to improve in athletics while maintaining academic prominence is a great model for all student-athletes at Cal Poly Pomona. Rennie was one of 38 track and field student-athletes (men or women) recognized by the NSCA this year."

**2022 Yitzel Serna** attends Wellesley College in Massachusetts (Media Arts and Sciences major), plays basketball for the Wellesley Blue, and still found the time to create a photographic album entitled, *Non Ministrari* (after her school motto: *non ministrari, sed ministrare*, meaning: not to be ministered to, but to minister). Her book captures the beauty of the college and Boston area including historic architecture and beautiful scenery. You can find her book online in hardback or paperback. Yitzel dedicated her book to her Paraclete photography teacher, Ms. Amber Fowler!

During her time at Paraclete, Yitzel created a video with classmates to help raise funds for the Paraclete athletic complex capital campaign. The video was extremely helpful and led to the launching of our "Once a SPIRIT, Always a SPIRIT" campaign. Best wishes for Yitzel's continued success!

# Reunions

The **Class of 1973** held its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion during October's Homecoming Weekend. Thank you to Janet Waldron Chapman and Susan Turkal McDonough for making this event happen!



The **Class of 1983** celebrated its reunion. Here's a recap from classmate Steven Steinberg:

“On September 23, 2023, friends from the Class of 1983 gathered at Zelda's 750 in downtown Lancaster for their 40th year class reunion. Due to poor memories, various maladies, and personal hangups, no clear picture of our time at Paraclete emerged. This could've been facilitated by the many fine cocktails served that night. Laura Changaran (Quemada), who almost single-handedly planned and coordinated our reunion, led a champagne toast, which reminded us of our advancing age and honored those classmates who could not attend. She also poignantly remembered those classmates who have passed.



“During our savory chicken and tri-tip dinner, we all shared our medical histories, along with a few accomplishments, awards, and successes. A few of us were reminded of past high school relationships with people not only in our class, but some who did not attend Paraclete at all (though our classmate was sure he did). More reminisced about classmates they dated, and more remembered why they did not date in high school at all.

“In the end, a good time was had by all, and all agreed that there should be one more reunion that does not require accessibility modifications (wheelchair ramps, etc.). So, another one will be planned in five years because 10 years might be too long. In the meantime, the class of 83 is indebted to Laura and the rest of the planning group for the embarrassing name tags and other efforts to make the evening special. And thanks to Yvonne Ochoa (Photias, class of '82) for the spirited cookies!”



The **Class of 1984** celebrated its reunion in early August. We look forward to sharing photos from the event.

For upcoming reunion details go to [www.paracletehs.org/alumni/important-dates-events](http://www.paracletehs.org/alumni/important-dates-events). Share your reunion plans and photos and news of your events with Paraclete at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) or call (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.



## Annual Alumni Soccer Game

PHS Boys Soccer Coach Ryan Carper invited alumni for a soccer game in December 2023. It was well attended, and everyone had a great time on a beautiful day in December at Paraclete's Calandri Stadium. December 2024 game date coming soon.





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PHS news is published by Paraclete High School. Its contents are made possible by members of PHS staff, faculty, alumni students and parents. Any comments about this newsletter, or if you need to update your address information, or if you would like to submit articles, please contact: Janet (Godde) Bower [jbower@paracletehs.org](mailto:jbower@paracletehs.org)

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## Upcoming Events:

### *Athletic Complex Dedication*

*Look for your invitation in the mail -  
Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 10:00 AM  
RSVP by September 4, 2024*

### *Homecoming*

*Cheer on the Spirits – October 25, 2024, versus St. Paul High School  
at Paraclete*

### *Ongoing Recruitment*

*Recruiting new Spirits! Do you know an 8<sup>th</sup> grader or a high school  
student who would love to be a Spirit?  
Have them contact Evelyn Reyes at [EReyes@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:EReyes@ParacleteHS.org) or  
(661) 943-3255 ext. 123 today!*

*Open House – Saturday, November 2, 2024*

*Open House – Saturday, January 11, 2025*

*Workshop for Entrance Exam – Saturday, January 18, 2025,  
Entrance Exam – Saturday, January 25, 2025*

### *Thanksgiving*

*Thanksgiving Prayer Service - Thursday, November 21, 2024*

*Christmas Advent Celebration - Wednesday, December 11, 2024*

*Catholic Schools Week January 26, 2025 – February 1, 2025*

*Easter Lenten Prayer Service – April 17, 2025*

*Opportunity Raffle Ticket drawing on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 - Good Luck!*

If you enjoy the printed PHSpirit magazine, please let us know! Stay in the loop!  
Please share your email address by contacting Janet (Godde) Bower '74 at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org).