



Our Lady Academy raises nearly \$60,000 for Tuition Assistance

Bay St. Louis, MS -- The alumnae, parents, teachers and friends of Our Lady Academy (OLA) in Bay St. Louis are keeping the dream alive for so many struggling area parents by raising funds for tuition assistance. Despite these tough economic times, the school's 4th Annual Hooray for OLA!, held in November was the most successful one ever, raising \$58,055.80 for tuition assistance.

"Our OLA community came out in full force for this fundraiser and despite their own struggles, they opened their hearts to help us which is a beautiful gesture of their commitment to Catholic education," said Sr. Jackie Howard, President of OLA.

OLA has the distinction of being Mississippi's only all girls' high school. More and more parents are seeking financial assistance to keep their daughters enrolled at OLA. Requests for tuition assistance have tripled in the last two years from about \$60,000 to nearly \$200,000. The school chose to earmark funds from this year's annual fundraiser to help with tuition assistance. OLA was only able to support about \$40,000 of these requests this year, but due to the success of Hooray, the school will be able to provide much more needed support to their families next year.

"Our little school is doing a great job and we are finally beginning to market our successes," said Sr. Jackie, "Hooray has gotten folks talking about OLA again. We had three inquiries the first week after the event from families interested in transferring their daughters to OLA."

The school prides itself on not only academic excellence and extracurricular strength but for the faith filled education and family environment the school has to offer. "People send their daughters to us as young, nervous girls and they leave here as accomplished, educated, faith-centered women, ready to face the world and make a positive difference in the lives of others," said OLA veteran teacher and 1977 graduate of OLA, Julie Martinolich Cranford, who is celebrating her 25th year as a teacher at OLA.

OLA unveiled their new promotional video at the event which can be found on the website www.ourladyacademy.com. “The video really expresses the spirit of OLA and clearly conveys the message of why people make the financial sacrifice to send their daughters here and why our students feel like OLA is so much more than a school – it’s their family, it’s their home,” said Sr. Jackie.

Photos from the event can also be found on the OLA website. For more information on getting involved with the 5th Annual Hooray for OLA!, please contact Regina Gleber in the OLA Development Office at 228-467-7048, extension 16. For more information on admission policies, entrance test dates and general information, please contact OLA at 228-467-7048, Sue.Goggins@ourladyacademy.com or just stop by the school for a visit.



Photo tagline:

Myrt Haas (center) was the 2009 Hooray honoree for her many years of support to Our Lady Academy including being a founding mother and writing the school’s alma mater 25 years ago. She is pictured here with long-time friends and fellow founding mothers Shirley Schmidt (left) and Bobbye Ruth Maggio (right).