



**SAINT SEBASTIAN SPORTS PROJECT**



# Supporting Catholic Schools Through Sports



## In the Beginning...

The idea for the Saint Sebastian Sports Project was born on the bleachers of the American Martyrs School gym in 2007. Jim and Clare Gurbach, whose three children were enrolled at American Martyrs, had spent countless hours in the stands watching their children's teams compete in the CYO archdiocese league games. The Gurbachs couldn't help but notice the obvious. The kids on many of the opposing teams that hailed from less privileged areas were loaded with ability, but they lacked effective coaching, team uniforms, and even basic sports equipment like balls, nets and shin guards. In fact, school zip codes seemed a better predictor of a game's outcome than the actual talent on the benches.

The Gurbachs decided to do something to level the playing fields. With the support of family and friends, they started raising money to fund and support team sports in under-resourced archdiocesan schools. They called their effort the Saint Sebastian Sports Project (SSSP), after the patron saint of athletes.



Beginning with a handful of schools in 2009, the Saint Sebastian Sports Project now supports sports programs in 34 Catholic schools in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. We do more than help supply coaches' stipends, equipment and uniforms; we also hold clinics to enhance coaching skills and put on

tournaments for those teams that would ordinarily never qualify for post-season play. To expose students to college opportunities, we have a growing partnership with Loyola Marymount University (LMU). Together, we sponsor fun-packed sports days in which kids receive a personalized tour of the campus, watch some inter-collegiate play, and enjoy a meet-and-greet with some of LMU's Division I athletes.



One of the highlights of 2014 was the dedication of the remodeled St. Albert's School gym in Compton, a project we helped fund. The Lew Yocum Memorial Gymnasium was home to our first annual Christmas Classic Basketball tournament. Today, young athletes from some twenty neighboring inner-city Catholic schools use the beautiful new facility for league basketball and volleyball games.

Over the past six years, thanks to the support of our generous donors, thousands of Catholic school students across Los Angeles have had the opportunity to experience the fun—and the life lessons—that abound from being a member of a sports team. We believe, with your help, we are changing lives, one game at a time.



# Our Story Over Time



**2007**  
St. Sebastian Project  
Concept is conceived



**Spring 2010**  
First Arrow Award Winner  
George Beltran, St. Thomas the Apostle



**August 2011**  
First Patty Dodd  
Volleyball Clinic



**April 2013**  
First St. Sebastian  
Cup - North Soccer



**May 2014**  
First St. Sebastian  
Cup - South Soccer



**September 2014**  
Dedication of Dr. Lew Yocum Gym



**Fall 2008**  
First Board Meeting Held at  
Uncle Bill's Pancake House



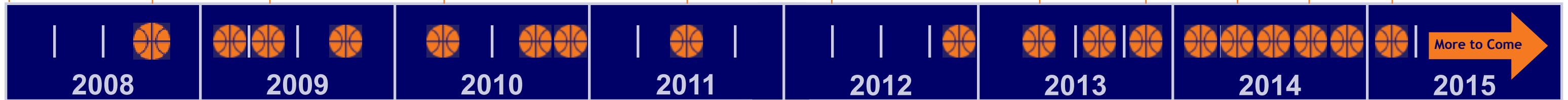
**Spring 2009**  
First School Dispersement



**2012**  
Website is launched

**November 2013**  
First LMU Day for  
Volleyball and  
School Tour

**February 2015**  
First Soccer  
Coaches Clinic



**Spring 2009**  
First Mulligan



**Fall 2009**  
First Volleyball Clinic



**December 2010**  
The St. Sebastian Sports  
Project becomes a 501(c)(3)

**Fall 2010**  
First St. Sebastian  
Cup - Volleyball

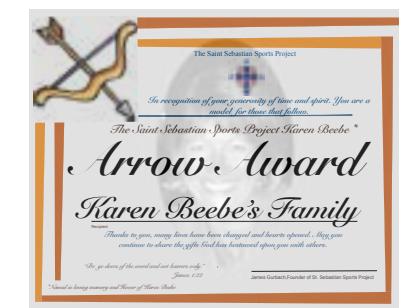


**November 2012**  
First Jamal Adams  
Basketball Clinic



**August 2013**  
Board is Expanded

**March 2014**  
Re-Dedication to Karen  
Beebe Arrow Award



**August 2014**  
First Football  
Coaches Clinic

**December 2014**  
First Christmas Classic  
Basketball Tournament at  
St. Albert the Great



# Schools We Support

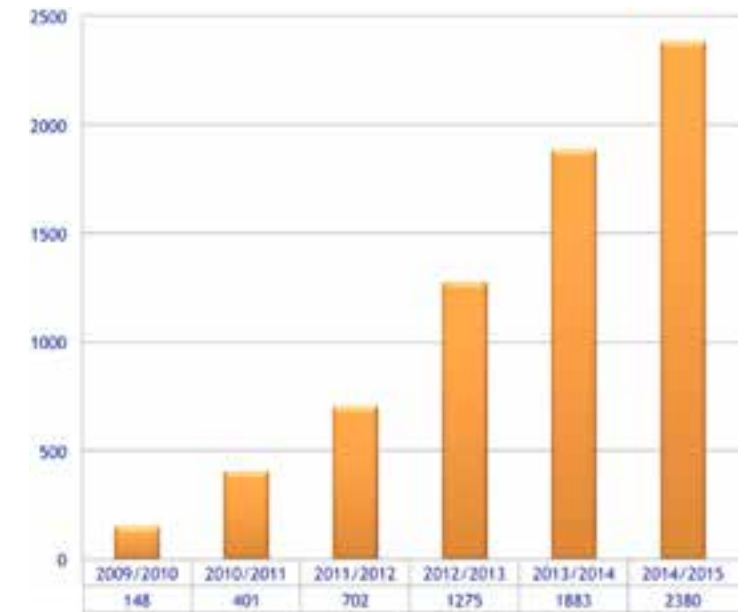
School	Principal	Liason
St. Columbkille	Anna Maria Rios	Clare Gurbach
St. Patrick's	Dr. Joan Shoff	Jamie Wagenbach
Divine Saviour	Nora Ceballos	Jennifer Lovoy
St. Bernards	Meg Samaniego	Jennifer Lovoy
Nativity	Antonio Felix	Lisa Guidone
Santa Isabel	Hilda Orozco	Lisa Chu
St. Helens	Michael Browning	Chris Turkmany
Holy Name of Jesus	Marva Belisle	Jaime Wagenbach
St. Agnes	Kevin Dempsey	Paul White
St. Thomas the Apostle	Raymond Soborio	Karin Muff
St. Raphael	Barbara Curtis	Donna Shalvoy
St. Anne	Michael Browning	Donna Shalvoy
St. Elisabeth	Sr. Marita Olango	Lindsey Kidder
Epiphany	Gabby Negrete	Terry Trumbull
Ascension	Marina De La Rosa	Gretchen Corbell
St. Michaels	Anabel Rodriguez	Jennifer Lovoy
St. Odilia	Sima Saravia-Perez	Clare Gurbach
St. Ignatius of Loyola	Jane McFarren	John DeLuca
St. Eugene	Leonna Sorrell	Karen Farrell
St. John Chrysostom	Jae Kim	Tim Lovoy
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Dr. Julio Tellez	Jim Gurbach
St. Francis of Assisi	Leslie DeLeonardis	Jennifer Lovoy
St. Frances Cabrini	Carmen O'Hart	Rick Smith
St. Mary	Sr. Anna Bui	Jim Gurbach
San Miguel	Maryann Reynoso	Jack Hook
Resurrection School	Angelica Figueroa	Jeff Beland
St. Albert the Great	Tina Johnson	Beth Yocum
St. Lawrence Brindisi	Paula Anderson	Karin Muff
St. Gertrude the Great	Mary Flock	David Allen
Maria Regina	Lynette Lino	Patty Gordon
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary	Sr. Maria de los Medios	Valerie & Paul McAndrews
Our Lady of Guadalupe—LA	Maria Villareal	Lindsey & Mark McFarlane
St. Vincents	Erika Avila	Steve Turner
St. Malachy	Rosio Orozco	Shellie & Mike Schmitt

# Stats

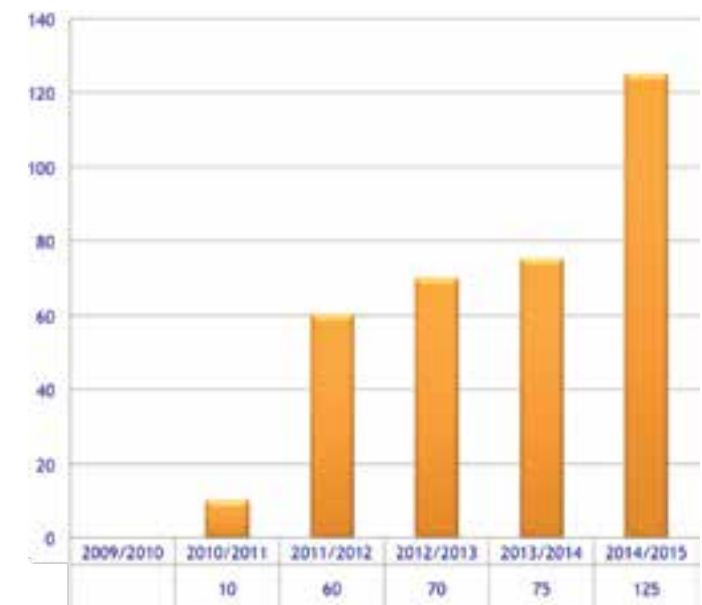
Number of Schools Served by SSSP



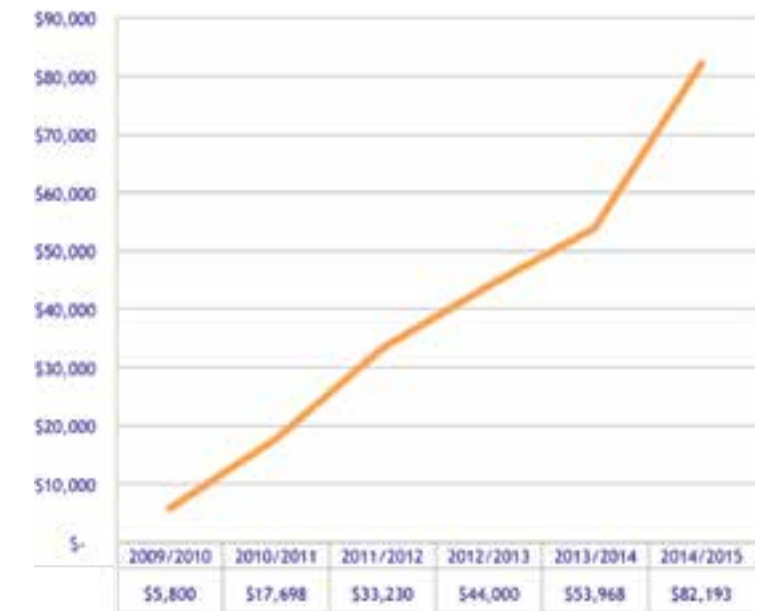
Students Served at SSSP Schools



Number of Coaches Attending SSSP Clinics



Grants & Equipment Provided to SSSP Schools



# We Organize and Sponsor Tournaments

The Saint Sebastian Sports Project works hard to help build community. One way we do that is through our traveling cup tournaments which we put on throughout the year to give student athletes at the schools we support increased opportunities to compete in a fun and healthy environment.

## SSSP Cup Soccer South—South Saint Frances Cabrini

The SSSP Cup Soccer South Tournament was held for the first time in Spring 2014. Marc Maye, the athletic director of St. Lawrence of Brindisi and the 2015 Karen Beebe Arrow Award recipient, organized the boys tournament at St. Frances Cabrini's beautiful new soccer field. We plan to grow this event by adding a girls tournament in 2015!



## SSSP Cup Girls & Boys Soccer Tournament - Oxnard

This tournament is held in Oxnard and was developed in partnership with the Santa Clara High School Athletic Department and its girls and boys soccer teams. El Super supermarkets sponsored the 2014 competition, providing shirts and delicious food for the event. The community has truly embraced the Saint Sebastian Sports Project. We all look forward to the third annual tournament in April 2015.



## SSSP Cup Girls Volleyball Tournament—St. Thomas the Apostle

The SSSP Cup Girls Volleyball tournament held at St. Thomas the Apostle was the very first tournament we ever hosted. This annual event could not have had a more fitting home; the first recipient of our Arrow Award was Coach Jorge Beltran, and two collegiate players—Jennifer Beltran (Un. Of Illinois) and Kristen Castellanos (LMU)—were student athletes at St. Thomas. From a handful of schools our first year, the Cup has grown to a 12 team competition. All league schools are welcome and each is guaranteed to play at least five matches. We expect that more than 16 schools will help celebrate the fifth anniversary of this event in the Fall of 2015.



## SSSP Basketball Christmas Classic—St. Albert the Great

The first annual SSSP Basketball Christmas Classic debuted in December of 2014. The tournament, organized by Vince DiLeva, Derek Sanford and Jennifer Lovoy, was held in the beautifully refurbished Dr. Lewis Albert Yocum Memorial Gym at St. Albert the Great (see page x for more on this wonderful story) The net proceeds from the eight-team SSSP Christmas Classic will be used to help maintain the gym. We hope to double the size of this tournament in 2015.



# We Teach and Guide

Good coaching is core to a great athletic experience, but skill levels can vary greatly from school to school. So, hosting coaching clinics is an important element of the services we offer. In 2014, we held four free coaching clinics which were open to all CYO schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We are thankful to both the CYO and Dr. Kevin Baxter, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, for helping us promote these clinics.

## Patty Dodd Girls Volleyball Clinic

Our girls volleyball clinic is the original—the very first coaching clinic we ever held. In 2014, more than 30 coaches attended the five year old event, named after the inimitable volleyball coach Patty Dodd.

Like all of our clinics, the Patty Dodd is a hands-on learning experience that inevitably pays dividends. In 2013, one former attendee coach Lydia, the librarian from St. Ignatius, reached the Elite 8 in the CYO league volleyball finals.



## Jamal Adams Boys and Girls Basketball Clinic

We have hosted the Jamal Adams Boys and Girls Basketball Clinic since 2012. This popular clinic, held at Loyola High School, attracted over 40 coaches in 2014. Each year, Toby Bailey from Brentwood School and Russell Wilson from Crespi High School have participated in the clinic with help from representatives from the Positive Coaches Alliance and Hoopmasters. We are always thankful to the members of the Loyola High basketball team who demonstrate the drills taught at the clinic.

Most are "starting lines up" of speakers.



## First Annual Boys Flag Football Clinic

Vince DiLeva and Rob Lucenti are two of the finest flag football coaches in the CYO, often competing head to head in the CYO playoffs. (In 2014, Rob led his team to the championship while Vince's team finished third.) These two archrivals teamed up to lead the first ever SSSP flag football coaches clinic in 2014 at Salesian High School where they shared their coaching wisdom with over 30 coaches.



## Boys and Girls Soccer Clinic at St. Frances Cabrini Field

Coach Mark Hodson, President of the premier coaches training company Evolution Soccer, Founder of the Darfur United All-Star Refugee Soccer Team, and Director of Youth Development for Beach Futbol Soccer Club, generously donated his time to lead the first annual boys and girls soccer clinic on February 19 at St. Francis Cabrini's new soccer field. We are already looking forward to next year's event!



## Student Assistant Coaches

Part of our program includes kids giving back to kids. Boys and girls from various high schools donate their time and talent to help these programs succeed...leading by example.



# Partnerships Make Dreams Reality

During 2014 we were blessed with a deepening of our relationship with two great organizations—Leonard Green and Partners, and Loyola Marymount University. 2014 also marked the beginning of our collaboration with St. Albert the Great Elementary School.

## SSSP Relationship with Leonard Green & Partners

Leonard Green & Partners, a leading private equity firm, has been there for us and the schools we support from the very beginning. Not only have these loyal benefactors made personal donations to SSSP; they have also made corporate arrangements that have enabled us to supply each school with up to a dozen quality sports balls each year. Coaches tell us it makes a world of difference!



## Loyola Marymount University

We held our first LMU sports day in November of 2013, partnering with the LMU women's volleyball team to introduce SSSP student athletes to the idea of attending a Catholic University. SSSP arranged for transportation to LMU where the students were treated to a tour of the campus, a pizza lunch and premier seats at the women's varsity volleyball match. Afterwards, players met the students and signed autographs. For many of the 80 plus girls who participated, the event was a game changer; they saw for the first time that a college education was a real possibility for them. The sports day was so powerful that we did it again in April 2014—this time in partnership with the women's soccer team. Student participation had almost doubled for our third LMU sports day, held in November of 2014 in collaboration with members of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). We are so grateful to LMU's scholar-athletes who have been true role models for our SSSP students. The next LMU sports day is scheduled for this spring.



## Knights of Columbus

Members of the Knights of Columbus—Queen of Martyrs Council 4567, have acted as guardian angels to the Saint Sebastian Sports Project from our earliest days. The Knights allowed us to hold our Mulligans in their beautiful hall at a discounted rate—until we eventually ran out of space and had to move to a larger venue. But they continue to bartend at all of our events. And they continue to generously donate proceeds from their Swing of Charity golf event and Casino Knight to the SSSP cause. We are proud to say that Grand Knight Jeff Beland sits on our advisory board and acts as a liaison to Resurrection School.



## St. Albert the Great Elementary School and The Lew Yocum Memorial Gym

Dr. Lewis Yocum, team physician to the Los Angeles Angels for over 35 years, was a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon who saved the dreams and careers of countless professional athletes. Dr. Yocum was also passionate about assisting disadvantaged youth, frequently donating his time to help inner-city athletes. Yocum family members established the Lew Yocum Memorial Fund after his death in 2013 as a way for major league baseball teams, colleagues and friends to honor his memory. The family named the Saint Sebastian Sports Project as the recipient of the funds. In October 2013, the SSSP board, which now included Lew's wife Beth, decided to use the Lew Yocum Memorial Fund for the remodeling of the gym at St. Albert the Great. SSSP partnered with J.F. Shea & Co. to underwrite the complete project. The result is the beautiful, completely refurbished facility, which was completed in June 2014 and officially dedicated as the Lew Yocum Memorial Gym in September 2014. Beth Yocum and the Saint Sebastian Sports Project thanks the Shea family and members of the Los Angeles Angels organization for their generous support.



# The Mulligan

The Mulligan is the SSSP's annual fundraising dinner at which we raise the majority of the funds we distribute to fund sports programs at the schools we support. The Mulligan is held each year during Lent. For Catholics, Lent is the forty day period before Easter--a time of self-reflection through prayer, repentance and self-denial. One common form of Lenten self-denial is abstinence from alcohol. Being practical, we at the SSSP have obtained dispensation for anyone whose annual Lenten observance includes staying off the sauce. In short, we give you a "Mulligan" to have one or two while you support our mission to increase sporting opportunities for some of the most resource-challenged Catholic elementary schools in and around the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.



## Karen Beebe Arrow Award



The Saint Sebastian Sports Project annually presents the Karen Beebe Arrow Award in memory of American Martyrs School's beloved gym director. The award goes to an individual who, like Karen Beebe, has made exceptional contributions to increasing the opportunities for students to participate in organized sports programs at their Catholic schools in and around the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Arrow Award honorees serve as life-changing mentors and role models for our Catholic youth. Our Arrow Award recipients are:



**2010—Jorge Beltran** was the first recipient of the Arrow Award. Jorge has been a coach at St. Thomas the Apostle for over 15 years and has coached/mentored hundreds of student athletes. St. Thomas the Apostle qualified for the CYO tournament twelve straight years, was a final four finisher eight times, and won the CYO league tournament over 160 competing schools.



**2011—Larry Muno** has committed his life to public service as a teacher, administrator, coach and fire fighter. Larry was a star football player at Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance and a scholarship football player at Rutgers University. As a junior high coach, he took his team to the CYO Football Championship game. He has also successfully rebuilt high school football programs—leading both St. Monica and St. Benard to the CIF playoffs.



**2012—Jamal Adams** left a lucrative 11-year career on Wall Street to teach and coach basketball at his alma mater, Loyola High School. Adams, a scholar-athlete, captained Loyola's varsity basketball team for two years and was salutatorian of his class. He went on to Columbia University where he earned All-Ivy League honors as a power forward. Since his return, this true "Man For Others" has taught economics and African-American history while leading his Cubs to seven league titles and one CIF championship. Adams has twice been named CIF Coach of the Year.



**2013—Vince DiLeva** has coached Holy Trinity's varsity flag football team for the last 13 years, leading his team to the CYO Final Four eleven times. Holy Trinity won the championship title three times and has also played—and won—football games in the Rose Bowl, the Los Angeles Coliseum and Staples Center. Since 2007, when Vince became Holy Trinity's Athletic Director, more than 20 alumni have been inspired to return to Holy Trinity to continue to build the program.



**2014—Peter Scott** does it all. He is Saint Raphael's Vice-Principal, Athletic Director, Jr. High Social Studies Teacher, Sixth Grade Homeroom Teacher, Boys JV and Varsity Football Coach, Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball coach, Musical Director, and Choir Director. And for the past 16 years, Peter Scott has been winning championships and changing lives. Modeling grace in victory or defeat, his focus is on giving back—to God, his family, his school and his young students.



**2015—Marc Maye** has been a shining light at St. Lawrence Brindisi ever since 2006, when fresh out of college, he was hired to teach physical education and work as an assistant coach. Within a year, Marc was promoted to Athletic Director. Today, he coaches every team at St. Lawrence—boys and girls volleyball, basketball, soccer and track. When he is not organizing tournaments and showcasing his athletes' skills at the Staples Center, he is active in the Friends Together program with American Martyrs parish.





# *Executive Board*

James W. Gurbach, Board Chair  
Clare Gurbach, Executive Director  
Donna Foote Shalvoy, Secretary  
Jack Hook, Treasurer  
Tim Lovoy  
Jennifer Lovoy

Barbara Curtis  
Jamie Wagenbach  
Karin Muff  
Chris Turkmany  
Beth Yocum

# *Advisory Board*

Jamal Adams  
David Allen  
Bill Beebe  
Jeff Beland  
Patrick Breen  
Lisa Chu  
Gretchen Corbell  
John DeLuca  
Karen Farrell  
Patty Gordon  
Lisa Guidone

Jan Holtze  
Lindsey Kidder  
Jeffrey Le Sage  
Rob Lucenti  
Lindsey MacFarlane  
Mark MacFarlane  
Paul Mc Andrews  
Valerie Mc Andrews  
Maricel Montano  
Larry Muno  
Megan Pfaff

Shellie Schmitt  
Mike Schmitt  
Rick Smith  
Terry Trumbull  
Stephen Turner  
Paul White

*“Playing sports has become very important today, since it can encourage young people to develop important value such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, sharing and solidarity. Precisely for this reason, in recent years it has continued to grow even more as one of the characteristics phenomena of the modern era, almost a “sign of the times” capable of interpreting humanity’s new needs and new expectations. Sports have spread to every corner of the world, transcending differences between cultures and nations.”*

**-Jubilee of Sports People, Homily of Pope John Paul II, October 29, 2000**

