Dear Friends of Liguori,

Over many years teaching in a traditional school brought me great joy in helping students achieve their goals. Yet, something was missing. I knew the joy of learning and success belonged to the students – not just me. I knew other educators felt the same way and that it was time to create opportunities for all young people to experience the joy of learning. Armed with nothing more than boundless enthusiasm, energy and the support of like-minded educators and good friends we asked ourselves over and over, “Why Liguori?” - The answer was always, “Because We Must!”

More than ever, we believe we are called to share our God-given talents, skills, values, and resources in the spirit of boundless love. As teachers, counselors, community, civic, business, and philanthropic leaders we embrace the answer to Why Liguori? – Because We Must!

Please take the time to read our Community Impact Report. Since the question was first raised and answered in 2010 we have established a clear vision and overcome many obstacles, shed tears of frustration and joy, celebrated graduations and are settling into our new, permanent school facility. We give thanks to all who have joined in and supported our mission and invite all who are yet to join us in answering the call of Why Liguori? – Because We Must!

With boundless gratitude,

Michael Marrone
Founder and President
With great pride and boundless love, on Friday, June 12th, faculty, family, and friends saluted 15 members of the class of 2020. That perfect sun-filled day, with a borrowed parking lot as our arena, faculty and family came to cheer and support our victorious graduates.

Among our many success stories, graduate Naadiyah Allen-Vereen was honored with the Crimson Award for academic excellence. Because of Liguori, Naadiyah earned an opportunity to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she plans to study criminal justice.

Before Liguori, Naadiyah struggled finding a school that felt safe and could keep her motivated. When you ask Naadiyah how she came to find Liguori, she’ll tell you that in many ways “Liguori found me.”

To Naadiyah, Liguori became her home away from home. She enjoyed the family-oriented environment and how the faculty were always there to help her, not only for academic reasons, but personal struggles as well. “Liguori listens and wants to hear the full story before making any assumptions. They always give you opportunities to redeem yourself, allowing us to mature and learn.”

“I would like to say thank you to everyone at Liguori Academy. You were with me and my classmates every step of the way. You all are very appreciated.” And her advice for future graduates? “Be yourself and don’t try to follow after people. Take every opportunity Liguori has to offer and learn from it.”

Spring 2020: When the COVID-19 global pandemic hit, we were challenged in a way we never expected. While virtual learning was prioritized across the nation, our school already mastered using technology to instruct, allowing us to focus on maintaining our uniqueness and personal connection to our students. When our families fell into times of need, our staff was there to help. Whether it was providing daily check-ins or sending groceries home, there was no limit to what we would do to help. Despite the pandemic, we stayed true to our mission, and had a great school year. We graduated our and unlocked the doors to our new home.

Fall 2020: With many students back on campus and socially distanced, and others learning remotely, our care and support for each student is fully in place. We hope to welcome them all back to our new campus soon.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE
THE LIGUORI WAY!

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GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT
NAADIYAH ALLEN-VEREEN | CLASS OF 2020

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WHY LIGUORI COUNTS? ➤➤ ➤
because it matters!

WHY LIGUORI?

ACADEMIC IMPACT—LOOKING BACK

SINCE OPENING OUR DOORS IN 2016

145 educators, corporate, civic, and community leaders shared their perspectives, experiences, and resources as members of the Board of Directors, newly formed Impact Advisory Council and volunteers providing valuable guidance and support in the creation and growth of Liguori Academy.

240 lives impacted by Liguori Academy.

150 of which were provided opportunities through the Fortis program created and funded in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia.

41 total graduates in 2020 going on to college, trade schools or military.

25 faculty and staff have shared in the life of Liguori for the benefit of our students.

31 Service projects completed through Liguori’s Interact Club

47 Internship experiences completed in the 2019-2020 school year
45 (AND CountING) STUDENTS
set to learn and benefit from our new Construction Training Center made possible by building industry partners, and their gift in kind to create the space, equipment and supplies for this new program.

$20,000 SECURED
from the Home Depot Foundation to offer Pre-Apprenticeship Certification Training (PACT) curriculum.

200 STUDENTS
set to benefit from the special and unique opportunity of an integrated on-campus counseling and support center made possible through the generosity of Drs. Nick and Tammy Tenaglia.

$100,000 GRANT
awarded from the Uncommon Individual Foundation to develop Technology Lab.

1.2 MILLION = 100% OF STUDENTS
provided partial or full tuition assistance to attend Liguori Academy primarily through 50 Corporations and private businesses providing over $1.2 million through the state EITC/OSTC tax credit program.

OVER 250 INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE DONORS
providing philanthropic support through the Fund for Liguori, our annual Boundless Celebration, and other funding opportunities.

$440,000 SECURED
of $1 million Level Up campaign goal to prepare the new permanent home facility for Liguori realized through 9/1/2020.
Liguori Academy’s workforce development program prepares our students for success in the workplace. Our program consists of career readiness curriculum, internships, and paid work experiences. Our career readiness workshops prepare students with essential skills that they need to thrive in the workplace. The core values of this program are communication, honesty, professionalism, teamwork, and time management. By introducing and helping our students develop these skills, we ensure that they can succeed in any workplace. Our workshops also use Naviance, a curriculum focused on career and college readiness. This platform allows us to tailor lessons to each student’s career interest. After students have completed a number of career readiness workshops, they qualify to participate in internships and paid work experiences with our corporate partners.

Internships are short-term, non-paid job shadowing opportunities. They allow students to get a more in-depth understanding of a career’s components and have the opportunity to connect with professionals in their desired industry. This is especially helpful for our students who have demonstrated interest in multiple career paths. Through this program, they can learn more about each path and know which they would like to pursue. Paid work experiences are 6-month placements in which students work with one of our corporate partners. Students have a direct supervisor from their placement who assigns their workload and provides regular feedback on assigned tasks. These paid work experiences allow students to earn an hourly wage, build their resume, and develop connections with professionals in their desired industry.

Our internship program has continued despite the effects of the pandemic. Nine of our students completed a virtual internship program with The HOW Group this summer. Students were placed on teams and worked with staff at The HOW Group to develop a business plan for a product they invented. Austin Dill, a member of our senior class who completed the program said, “I would recommend participating in this program to a future student so that he or she can learn career skills and gain experience what I’ve experienced.
GOING BEYOND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

By Michael Phipp, Guidance & Post-Secondary Counselor

Since its inception, counseling services have been a vital part of Liguori Academy. From the initial partnership with Progressions Behavioral Health (now Malvern Behavioral Health), Liguori administration sought to provide students with a holistic education centering around building and maintaining physical, mental, and spiritual health. As the school has grown, we have found additional resources and partnerships to support our students and families. CORA Services provides us with two dedicated counselors working with students four days a week. Our ELECT counselor supports our students who are pregnant and/or parenting, providing material resources and programming as they seek to earn their high school diploma. Many schools open with the intent to support the whole student, developing elaborate programs and structures that often become bogged down in layers of paperwork and red tape. A major reason the counseling services at Liguori continue to provide top-level student support is the fact that no heady cluster of systems slows or inhibits the process. Counseling services at Liguori Academy, like so many aspects of the school, functions out of our motto, Alphonsus Liguori’s credo “Boundless Love”, ever seeking to better understand our students in an effort to cultivate their human dignity.

Countless articles and researchers and clinicians speak of the ways in which counselors assist young people over the course of their time in school. I have found, working at Liguori, that the statistics and charts and data show only a fraction of the picture. Even the faces I see in class or on my screen each day carry challenges I know nothing about. At the end of the day, when I am home at my desk writing notes to chronicle my work, it is the student that informs my practice, consistently challenging me to be better in my support of their dreams. So many of our young people have been disregarded by the world, faced with navigating mental health, poverty, racism, educational inequity, and a host of challenges I hope never to experience. They feel unheard, forgotten, and, indeed, unloved. In a world upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation, and a general uncertainty, counseling services for students and young people has never been more needed. Of greater import, Alphonsus Liguori’s “Boundless Love” carries a transcendent message of hope for all society.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Our Fortis students’ educational paths have had a few more twists and turns than many of their peers. We recognize that at larger, traditional schools, many students slip through the cracks and get lost among a sea of faces. The result? Students disengaged from their education.

Through the Fortis Program, we help students get back on track to earn their high school diploma, within a maximum time frame of just 2.5 years. We use a holistic method of engagement, with a strong emphasis on socio-emotional learning and an eye towards the future. Our disciplinary practices are restorative, rather than punitive, with the goal of our students understanding how their actions affect others. Students have consistent one-on-one check ins with all branches of the faculty to encourage the habit of using their voice and asking for assistance. We develop individual post-secondary plans for our students, whether they want to go to college or directly into the work force. By taking this holistic method, we engage our students and give them options they would not have known about otherwise.

Take Zion for example. He came to us because his previous school was not working for him and he had fallen behind. He was loud, sometimes quick to anger, and would give up on his studies easily. Through working with our team, Zion learned how to control his emotions, focused on earning his diploma, and worked with our counselor to come up with a post-secondary plan. Zion secured his Commercial Driver License and a full-time job driving with UPS. He is just one of our earliest success stories, and as we expand our program, we look forward to many more.
Liguori Academy came to life and today impacts the lives of its students and the entire Kensington/Port Richmond area community. From the beginning, hundreds of individuals, businesses, and community organizations have generously offered thousands of hours of wisdom and insight in shaping our future. Furthermore, they have provided millions of dollars in financial support for the mission and important work of Liguori. When asked WHY they do and WHY Liguori is now a philanthropic priority for them, the answer is simple - BECAUSE WE BELIEVE!

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The Emerald Foundation  
The HOW Group  
The Jahri Evans Foundation  
The Uncommon Individual Foundation  
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Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young  
Larry Stuardi  
Drs. Nicholas & Tammy Tenaglia  
The Block Church  
Univest  
Matthew & Linda Warren  
Mike Wojewodka  
Stan Woodland
Our Level Up Campaign launched this summer in an effort to raise money for the renovations of our new home at 2343 E. Tucker Street. This new space will accommodate our planned growth and enable us to take our education program to the next level.

With our new space, comes the implementation of our career cohorts. Our cohort program offers specialized courses and work experiences within the following industries: The Arts, Technology and Construction. The cohorts were developed based on workforce trends and will give students the ability to develop skills for future career paths. Whether their post-secondary plans include college or going directly into the workforce, students will have a strong foundation to build upon, putting them one step ahead of their peers.

While our new home was previously a school, we still needed to undergo extensive improvements to the HVAC systems, technology, safety measures, and updating the overall appearance. Currently, Liguori has secured over $440,000 of the $1,000,000 goal. Each floor of the building is designated for a particular use, with the fourth floor being a particularly special project.

In 1896, the fourth floor of our building opened up as the premier entertainment venue for the local community. The auditorium seated up to 1,400 guests and was known for its beautiful brass chandeliers. In 1931 the auditorium was transformed into a business school, with walls covering the stage and a drop ceiling hiding the balcony.

Our vision is to bring this historic space back to life as our Empowerment Zone. The Empowerment Zone will serve as multi-purpose space to benefit our students and the local community. We are excited about the opportunities this unique space will bring to our students and community members alike.

NAMED RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

In recognition of gifts at appropriate levels, opportunities to exclusive naming rights to key components of the facility are available.

THE “EMPOWERMENT ZONE” 4TH FLOOR: $500,000
COHORT SPONSOR: $250,000
CLASSROOM SPONSOR: $50,000

Committed gifts outside of these levels will be recognized on our Recognition Wall, which will be displayed within a prominent area of our school.

We are grateful to the those who have committed their support for the Level Up Campaign

Steve Collis
Raymond Mirra
Lawrence Stuardi
Drs. Nicholas & Tammy Tenaglia
The Uncommon Individual Foundation

To learn more about the Level Up Campaign, contact Shannon Donohoe at sdonohoe@liguoriacademy.org
LIGUORI’S VIRTUAL HOUSE PARTY
UNLOCKING THE NEXT CHAPTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Join us for a live streamed house party! Get an exclusive tour of our new building, enjoy special appearances by Philly favorites and local celebrities, musical performances, raffles and more!

Visit liguoriacademy.org for more information.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS SAYING

“We are thrilled to welcome Liguori Academy to the community. Liguori understands the importance of nurturing and supporting our region’s future leaders in support of a vibrant economy and workforce. Better yet, they are providing such opportunities for students that have traditionally been overlooked.”

-Marc Collazzo, Executive Director
Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement District (BID)