

November 4, 2019

The Mark D. Pacione Foundation
Ms. Carol Pacione
323 William Street, Suite A
Bel Air, MD 21014

*Hope that your event
was a success! Thank you
so much.
Bill*

Dear Ms. Pacione,

Last year, the Pacione Foundation made a grant of \$2,000 to make it possible for Cristo Rey Jesuit High School's peer ministers to go on a retreat. Specifically, your grant covered a portion of the fee for an offsite, weekend retreat at North Bay, which included food, lodging, and guided activities for students on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It's an honor for me to write you to thank you for your gift and share the impact it has made on our students and our school.

On Friday, September 20, twenty peer ministers boarded a bus to head to the North Bay retreat center where they would spend the weekend. For many students, it was the first time they had the chance to enjoy a rural State Park. Over the next 3 days, students completed team building activities, went on guided adventures including ziplining and kayaking, explored their faith, completed personal reflections, and created a game plan to bring relevant, faith-based programs back to campus.

Matilda Rudolph, who leads the campus ministry program, shared "The opportunity to spend time outside with our students for a full weekend is special enough, but the activities and content we got to explore inside our meeting space as a group far surpassed that. This weekend highlighted the students' passion for bringing change to our school and battling injustices in our communities which never fails to impress and inspire me. Throughout the weekend, we put together five action plans of events and improvements we want to make over the year. Chloe '21 Seaona '22, Leah '22, and Jasmine '22 came up with the idea of a Diversity Day, which would bring awareness to the art, culture and food from each of the different continents, ultimately working towards integrating different friend groups throughout the school. Another group is drafting the plan for a "Service Month" in March, where their goal is to provide for services for those who are experiencing homelessness."

Ty'Ree '21, a junior peer minister, shared his thoughts: "The purpose of the retreat was to strengthen our relationship as a group, strengthen our connection with the Creator, and create a game plan for the school year. On the retreat we did many team bonding and exercises. We got to know each other spiritually. We had fun and enjoyed each other's company. We sang together, ate together, and shared stories with one another. We set a foundation to expand upon for the future."

Seaona '22, a new peer minister, wrote a reflection and shared, "Overall, this retreat was one of the best experiences that I have ever had. It allowed me to express my creativity and dive into the perspective of others which brought about great ideas."

In conclusion, your grant helped students build their faith and their leadership skills, created the opportunity for students to strengthen their sense of community and belonging, and provided a foundation for their continued service to their school and their neighborhoods. Thank you so much for supporting Cristo Rey Jesuit High School students in this incredible way.

If you have any questions about this report or about your impact, you can reach me at 410-727-3255 extension 1001 or Katie Sutton, Grants Manager, at extension 1025 and ksutton@cristoreybalt.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. William L. Heiser
President

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Peer Ministry Retreat - Budget Report
Prepared for the Mark D. Pacione Foundation

Income

Grant from the Mark D. Pacione Foundation \$2,000

Expenses

North Bay Retreat Center Contract \$3,780

Includes lodging, meals, and guided activities for Fri-Sun

A total of 20 students and 4 facilitators attended the Peer Ministry Retreat. The entirety of your grant went toward the retreat center expenses to make it possible for students to attend. Additional funds were drawn from the school's peer ministry budget. While doing an offsite retreat is expensive, our students found the experience immensely rewarding and impactful, so we will continue to seek ways to partner with organizations to make that experience possible for future peer ministers.