

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2019-2020

**EDUCATING &
EMPOWERING
INNER-CITY
CHILDREN**

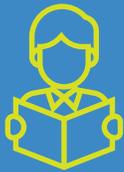


OUR MISSION

The CUES School System is a bold educational initiative providing centralized leadership and governance to three urban elementary schools in Omaha, Nebraska serving a majority of low-income students and families. We combine innovative instructional methods with comprehensive student and family support in a Catholic faith-based environment to create and sustain excellent and measurable outcomes that not only impact the students we serve but also the entire community.

The CUES Fund secures financial support through private donations to fully fund the CUES School System. The school system provides centralized leadership and governance to three urban grade schools: Sacred Heart, All Saints and Holy Name. The CUES Fund is a non-religious, non-profit organization overseen by a Board of Directors.

COMBINED SCHOOL PROFILE



590
students

64% Black, 21% Latino,
7% White, 6% Multiracial,
2% Asian



94%

Require tuition
assistance



92%

Qualify for free &
reduced lunch



Message from

THE CUES SCHOOL SYSTEM & THE CUES FUND

At the close of our fiscal year at CUES, we had much to be thankful for and celebrate. This is because of you, our selfless donors.

You play a vital role in building a strong and vibrant CUES community. Your assistance helps to deliver a quality education in a safe environment as well as provide support services for the entire family. Studies have shown that poverty negatively affects youth brain development. We vow to be part of the solution that lifts our families out of poverty.

The CUES School System embraces the entire family by connecting them to neighborhood community partners who can provide essential resources. This aspect of our mission is by far one of our most unique services and was especially important as we entered into a pandemic, endured school closures and saw financial decline in our neighborhoods.

We are proud of the work that CUES has accomplished, and we are motivated by the challenges ahead. Your financial support has enabled us to address many of our needs, including:

- Engaging in community partnerships that provide support and services for hundreds of families
- Developing online programs that ensure effective remote learning
- Assisting students in securing post-elementary educational opportunities
- Attracting and retaining highly-qualified, engaged teachers

To build upon the strong CUES heritage and move us into the future, CUES welcomed new executive director Bob Glow and chief development director Ruth Henneman. These leaders have more than sixty-five years of combined experience helping connect community, vision, and mission.

Throughout this report you will bear witness to the positive impacts of linking quality education with values-based teaching. Together we are building the heart of our community, transforming lives, and inspiring future leaders.

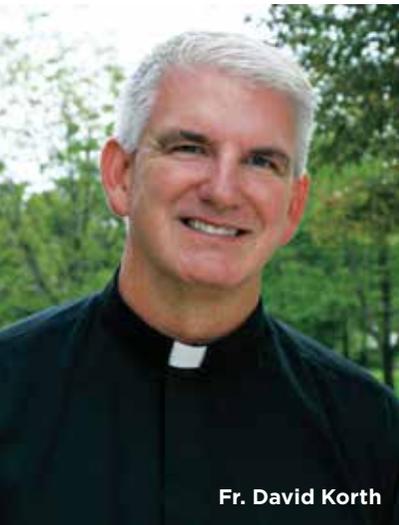
Thank you for your belief in our mission and our students. We are honored by your support.

Tim Kudron
Board Chair

Fr. David Korth
President, CUES School System



Tim Kudron



Fr. David Korth

EDUCATING & EMPOWERING LEADERS



Symone Sanders

Senior Advisor and Chief Spokesperson
for Vice President Kamala Harris

Symone Sanders is a Sacred Heart graduate, a graduate of Mercy High School and Creighton University, where she received a bachelor's degree in business administration.

She worked in the communications department of former Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle and was deputy communications director for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chuck Hassebrook in 2014. Her career includes serving as the national press secretary to Bernie Sanders during the 2016 presidential primary campaign and an analyst and commentator to CNN.

In 2015, "Fusion Magazine" listed Sanders as one of 30 women under 30 who would shape the 2016 election. In 2019, she joined the presidential

campaign of former vice president Joe Biden as senior-advisor. In 2020, she published a memoir, "No, You Shut Up". On November 29, 2020, Sanders was named senior advisor and chief spokesperson for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Symone and her siblings attended Sacred Heart. "Education was and is important to our family and my husband and I chose Sacred Heart because of the excellence of the school in our neighborhood," said her mother Terri Sanders, the publisher of "The Omaha Star" newspaper. "Symone thrived in the Sacred Heart environment and from all her experiences. I believe the most memorable was the mentorship program. At the time she expressed she wanted to be a judge and the school provided her with two female judges as mentors that she still has communications with to this day. I am extremely proud of all of Symone's accomplishments."



A PATH FORWARD

90% of CUES School System graduates
go on to graduate from high school compared
to 62-87% of surrounding neighborhood schools.

National Average: 68% • Statewide Nebraska: 82%



Jabin Moore
UNO Student Body President

Jabin is a Sacred Heart graduate and is now a senior at University of Nebraska - Omaha (UNO). He serves as student body president and focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion, and student engagement. He plans to own his own business after graduation.

“Sacred Heart prepared me for the educational framework that I needed to further my higher education and helped me grow in faith and community stewardship.”

Jacob Idra
Founder of ROSS Leaders

Jacob is a graduate of All Saints and Mount Michael. He is now a junior at Creighton University-Heider College of Business, majoring in marketing. Jacob is the founder of Republic of South Sudan (ROSS) Leaders, a nonprofit whose mission is to unify the South Sudanese community through programs dedicated to education, cultural awareness, and overall health.

“I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to attend All Saints where I learned about community, values, and demanding work. My education prepared me well and taught me that dreams can become a reality.”



SCHOOL PROFILE AND ENROLLMENT



Founded in 1904
2205 Binney Street

Sacred Heart Elementary School



Enrollment: **157**



Student demographics: **89% Black, 6% Multiracial, 3% Latino, 2% White**



Average class size: **16**



95% of families qualify for tuition assistance



100% qualify for free or reduced lunch



9% of students are Catholic



Founded in 1955
1335 S. 10th Street

All Saints Elementary School



Enrollment: **164**



Student demographics: **43% Latino, 42% Black, 7% White, 6% Multiracial, 2% Asian**



Average class size: **14**



94% of families qualify for tuition assistance



88% qualify for free or reduced lunch



77% of students are Catholic



Founded in 1917
2901 Fontenelle
Boulevard

Holy Name Elementary School



Enrollment: **269**



Student demographics: **60% Black, 18% Latino, 12% White, 7% Multiracial, 3% Asian**



Average class size: **16**



92% of families qualify for tuition assistance



87% qualify for free or reduced lunch



43% of students are Catholic

NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER

Where children live can impact the trajectory of their future. To better understand the positive impact of your support, it helps to get to know the people we serve.

93%
are people of color

Household incomes are
42% lower
than Omaha's
median income

20%
of Omaha's immigrants
live in **CUES neighborhoods**

46% of families in CUES neighborhoods are headed by single mothers

1 in 6
households **do not have a vehicle**, making transportation to work or school an issue

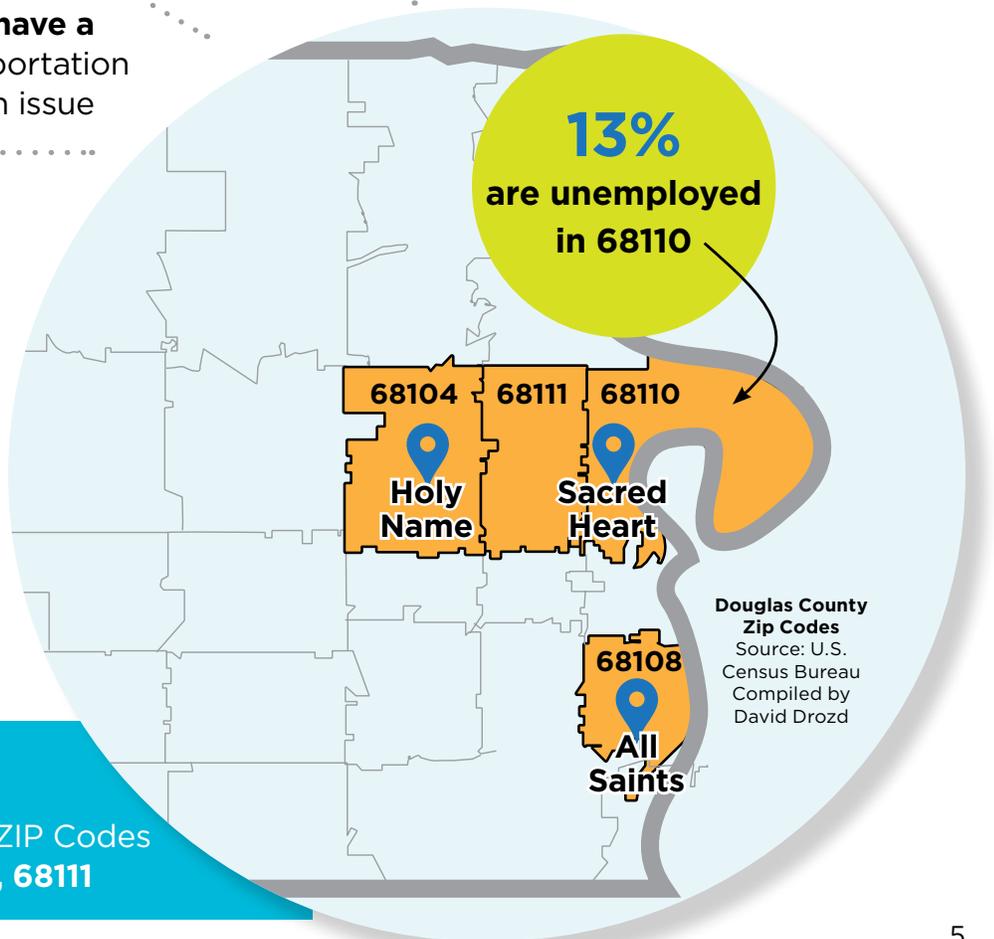
14-48%
speak another
language

(8.8%)
Unemployment double
vs Douglas County (4.2%)

Children living in poverty have a
30%
chance of
social-emotional incompetency

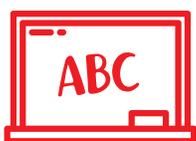
Nearly 30%
of the children
do not have access to broadband Internet

65%
of CUES students live in ZIP Codes
68104, 68108, 68110, 68111



COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

We provide quality education from preschool through 8th grade with individualized student and family support services that connect families with community resources.



English is the second language for
24%
of our students



56%
of our graduating class
showed above average
growth in math



42%
of our graduating class
showed above average
growth in reading





66%

of teaching staff hold a master's degree or are working toward one



100%

of our teachers are trained to support social and emotional learning



93%

of families are engaged in parent-teacher conferences

Influence

Teachers are the engine that drive social and emotional learning (SEL) programs and practices in schools and classrooms. Research shows that SEL not only improves achievement by an average of 11 percentile points, but it also increases prosocial behaviors (such as kindness, sharing, and empathy), improves student attitudes toward school, and reduces depression and stress among students.



Strong Curriculum



Students receive a well-rounded education with curriculum that incorporates a strong reading and math emphasis.

- Preschool through 8th grade students are individually challenged based on their academic development
- The Guided Reading Program helps students develop reading strategies to advance their reading level
- Special teachers for music, technology, Spanish, health, and physical education

Impact

We test for learning comprehension through computer-adaptive testing. This methodology tests for current grade comprehension and measures any gaps or excelled achievement. The data is utilized to guide instruction and develop individual plans for each child.

- 43% of all grades tested showed growth in reading
- 38% of all grades tested showed growth in math
- 38% of CUES graduates participated in a mentorship and tutoring program for college entry

CONNECTING TO RESOURCES

CUES Schools System helps to improve each family’s circumstances and positively affects home life for students. Our community partnerships help supply families with necessary resources such as food, behavioral health, dental, transportation, utility, and rent assistance. Community partners also support families outside the classroom, with a majority of our students attending an after-school program. Below are some examples of our partnerships.

Acute & Behavioral Health	Arts	Basic Needs
Classroom Volunteers	Continued Education	Out-of-School Programs

Additionally, we initiated an Emergency Family Empowerment Fund to address urgent barriers which prevent families from being economically sufficient.



63%

of our students attend after-school programming



58

Community partners



100%

of students receive some level of healthcare services through our community partners

COMMITTED TO FAMILIES



Gatien Meba moved to Omaha from Togo, West Africa in 2004 to seek higher education. He met his wife, Monica, in Omaha, and they have four sons - Joel, Deklan, Philemon, and Aybel.

The Mebas have been sending their children to Holy Name since 2013 after a neighbor introduced them to the school. Joel is a sixth grader, Deklan a fourth grader and Philemon a second grader. The Meba's three-year old, Aybel, will attend preschool next year.

When asked what the Mebas appreciate most about CUES, Gatien said,

“The teaching and excellent communication between teachers and parents are amazing and the school’s support services help my family plan for the future.

There is no other school system like this!”

Gatien attended the “Getting Ahead” program that Jim Swanson, director of student and family support services, recommended as a path forward. The 10-week course helps build resources for a better life. Gatien started a college savings fund for his four children but lost his ability to pay into it when COVID-19 began to affect his ability to work. His hours were reduced to 30 hours per week and there were weeks when there was no work.

Although finances are tight, the Mebas hope the boys will attend college. CUES is connecting the family to scholarship opportunities for Joel. “Mr. Swanson never stops introducing me to resources and opportunities,” said Gatien. “Without CUES support my boys would not be able to attend Holy Name and I would not be connected to community resources which help our family’s future. We are so blessed, and we pray for all those who are working hard to support us.”



WE INSPIRE GREATNESS



In 2019, T'Kaia Butler earned the prestigious Thelma M. Landstrom scholarship, which is awarded annually to one student in the Omaha Archdiocese who demonstrates academic achievement, a compassion for helping others, and the strong desire to succeed. This needs-based grant covers all expenses for the recipient during her entire four years at Marian High School.

A Sacred Heart graduate, T'Kaia credits the CUES system with her passion for learning. “I love Sacred Heart because it feels like one big family,” she said. “I still reach out to my former teachers for help, and I am grateful for all of my teachers and how much they care about academics and how we are doing at home. I’m proud to be an alumna. I wouldn’t trade it for anywhere else.” Now a sophomore at Marian, T'Kaia participates in Upward Bound, a program that focuses on helping students develop their academic skills and achieve the personal growth necessary to succeed in high school and college. She plans to study psychology at Creighton University after graduating from Marian in 2023.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION SUCCESS

Brothers Nathan and Christopher Mitchell graduated from Holy Name well prepared for the rigors of higher education and the work force. “Holy Name allowed our boys to receive a quality education, which prepared them for their futures. Both boys require a different style of learning, and we feel fortunate that CUES provides individual instruction. And more than anything else, that it lives by its values – love, kindness, and caring.” said their mother, Annie.



After graduating from Holy Name in 2014, Nathan completed the Madonna School’s Transition program, which helps students advance through academics, independent living, career training, community mobility, and recreation. Nathan now works as a general assistant at St. Bernard Catholic Church.

Christopher graduated from Roncalli High School in 2019 and is a sophomore in the music education department at the University of Nebraska Omaha, where he was awarded a Regents scholarship. Armed with a strong work ethic, Christopher teaches piano lessons and runs an after-school music program at Roncalli. He plans to graduate debt-free.

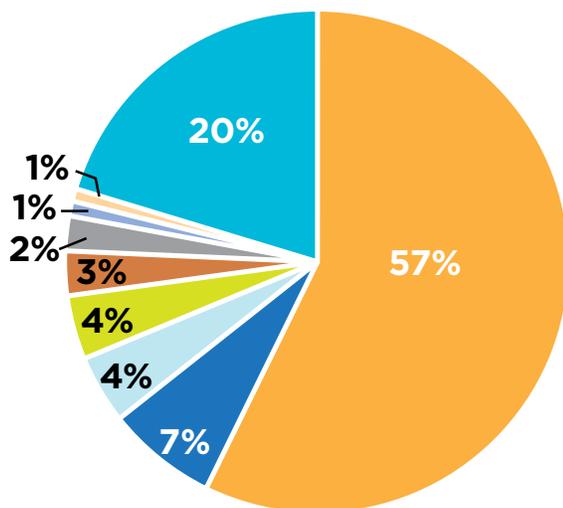
FINANCES AT A GLANCE

The CUES School System works as a team to coordinate centralized services including building and grounds, finances, marketing, operations, student enrollment, teacher recruitment, and technology. Our goal is to remove any obstacle that affects learning, allowing our teachers to focus on instructional leadership. The CUES Fund exists to raise the necessary funds to support school operations. The year ended with \$2,196,943 in net revenue and \$7,438,904 in total assets. The CUES Fund received a one-time revenue payment from the "Payroll Protection Program" to ensure employment for CUES Fund and School System staff. We also received capital funds from the Archdiocese of Omaha.

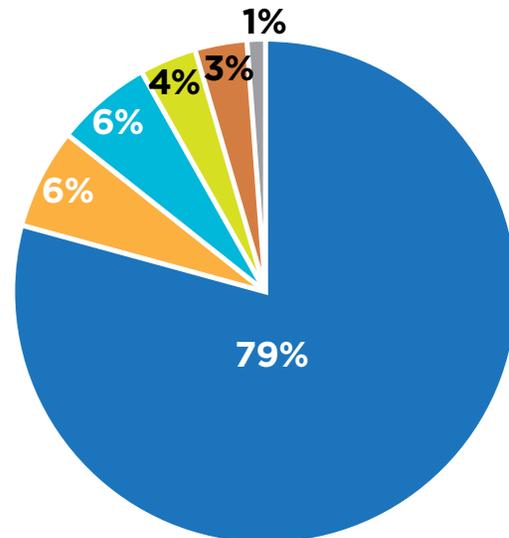
July 1, 2019 - June 20, 2020

OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Revenues



Expenses



Appeals, Gifts & Events	57%	\$ 4,814,787
Scholarships	7%	\$ 594,934
Government/Nutrition	4%	\$ 369,024
Grants	4%	\$ 345,420
Archdiocese of Omaha	3%	\$ 240,000
Tuition and Fees	2%	\$ 187,589
Other	1%	\$ 79,791
Parish	1%	\$ 67,616
One-time Revenue	20%	\$ 1,708,275

Payroll & Benefits	79%	\$ 4,921,753
Administrative Services & Supplies	6%	\$ 399,656
School Expenses	6%	\$ 381,661
CUES Fund Development Expenses	4%	\$ 227,194
Activities	3%	\$ 206,915
Capital Outlay	1%	\$ 73,314

OPERATING REVENUES 100% \$ 8,407,436

OPERATING EXPENSES 100% \$ 6,210,493

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Archbishop George Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha

Fr. David Korth
President, CUES Schools System

Rick Bettger
CUES Fund Board of Directors Representative

Dr. Laura Hickman, Ed.D.
Principal, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart

Dr. Carin Appleget, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Education, Creighton University

Dr. Jean Hearn, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor and Early Childhood Program Director,
Creighton University

Mike Mansour
Math Dual Language Program Teacher,
Norris Middle School

Dr. Lynn Olson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Director of Elementary Education,
Creighton University

PRINCIPALS

Mike Jensen
Principal, Sacred Heart School

Terri Bush
Principal, All Saints School

Tanya Murray
Principal, Holy Name School

STAFF

Mary McGuire
Chief Academic Officer

Jim Swanson
Director, Student and Family Support Services

Ed Butler
Director, Technology

CUES FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOUNDER John Kenefick (1921-2011)

CHAIR Tim Kudron
Senior Vice President, Tenaska, Inc.

VICE CHAIR Chris Wiedenfeld
Omaha President, Great Western Bank

SECRETARY Susana Wiese Lizcano
Senior Director, Shipment Quality, Union Pacific

TREASURER Dan Koraleski
Partner, KPMG

CUES FUND BOARD MEMBERS

Titus Adams*
Entrepreneur

Cathy Banks*
Branch Manager, ACCESS Bank

Rick Bettger
Owner, Omaha Car Care

Gregory Boulay
Owner, Pella Products of Omaha and Lincoln

Edson "Ted" Bridges III
Chief Executive Officer, Bridges Trust

Bob Carlisle
Founder & President, MCL Construction

Terry Connealy
Chief Executive Officer, Mutual of Omaha Mortgage

David Cota
Executive Vice President, First National Bank

Taylor Dieckman
Shareholder, Koley Jessen

Adrian Dowell
AVP/Associate Athletic Director, Creighton University

William Tate Fitzgerald
Chief Information Officer, Centris Federal Credit Union

Seneca Harrison
Owner, Quality Clinical Research

Paul Jeffrey
Principal, BVH Architecture

Fr. David M. Korth
President, CUES School System

Celann LaGreca
President, LaGreca Group

Dan Lindstrom
Senior VP-Wealth Management, The Lindstrom Group-UBS

Molly Schropp
Civic Benefactor

John Schuele
President & Chief Executive Officer, Waitt Company

Ann Schumacher
President, CHI Health Immanuel

James Timmerman
Partner, Timmerman Land & Cattle Co.

Tom Worthington
Partner, McGrath North

Bob Glow
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, CUES Fund

*Sacred Heart School Alumni

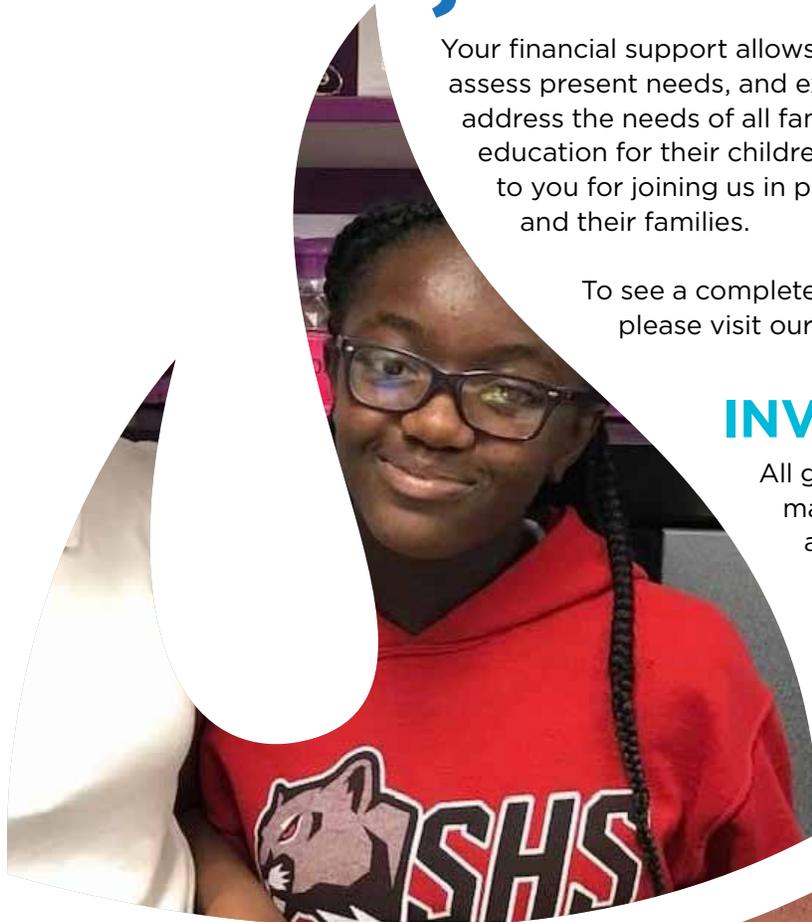
JOIN US

Your financial support allows CUES to build upon past success, assess present needs, and explore future aspirational goals as we address the needs of all families who seek quality values-based education for their children. Please know we are extremely grateful to you for joining us in providing a path forward for our children and their families.

To see a complete list of donors from July 2019–June 2020, please visit our website at CUESchools.org.

INVEST

All gifts make a difference and there are many ways to contribute! Please visit us at CUESchools.org or contact Bob Glow or Ruth Henneman using the information below.



**CONTACT
US**

📍 2207 Wirt Street
Omaha, NE 68110

☎ 402.451.5755
🌐 CUESchools.org

✉ bobg@cuesomaha.org
✉ ruthh@cuesomaha.org

2207 Wirt Street | Omaha, NE 68110
CUESschools.org

CHECK OUT OUR
2019-2020
ANNUAL
REPORT
INSIDE

