

Dear Friend of Brophy:

We are writing to extend an important invitation for your consideration.

The Background Story

One of Brophy's own graduates, Michael Rubenstein ('08), became estranged from his family during his senior year. During this time, members of the Brophy community brought Michael to live with their family, while Brophy faculty and staff shepherded him to graduation. After graduation, Michael knew that without the firm support of the Brophy community, planning for college and his future would be very difficult.

Once again, a Brophy family stepped forward to help him through the summer months and with preparation for college. He knew he also needed help with other aspects of his life including healthcare coverage, getting transportation, furnishings for a dorm room, creating a budget to live on week by week - all of the things often taken for granted by recent graduates. Beyond the generosity of the Brophy community, Michael had few people to turn to for help, until Open Table.

Brophy and Open Table Partner for Michael

Open Table is an organization that works with poverty-stricken individuals and families to restore them to a better life and create a vision for their future. Brophy was introduced to Open Table last year through two Brophy students, Austin Holt and Scott Ferreira, who are active Open Table volunteers. The Administration saw the potential of a partnership with Open Table as an important community service opportunity for students to serve impoverished individuals and families in Phoenix. Discussions were underway to outline the working relationship between Brophy and Open Table when Brophy's Principal, Mr. Ryan, contacted Open Table about creating a Table around Michael.

"Tables" are formed to act as a team of life specialists and supporters, who work with an individual or family over an 8-12 month period to implement a customized plan to achieve self-sufficiency. Brophy has committed to form a Table to assist Michael as he transitions to early adulthood and the challenges of independent living in college.

Our newly forming Brophy Table will be a part of the larger City of Phoenix Initiative to partner with Open Table to launch 10 Tables in Phoenix faith communities this year. In early 2008, the city of Phoenix adopted Open Table as a best practice poverty transformation model because of its innovation and successful results.

The Invitation We Hope You Will Consider

You are invited to attend an information session in Brophy's Black Box Theatre at 6:30pm on Wednesday, August 27th, 2008 to learn more about Open Table and how you might become involved in helping our brother, Michael. Dave Holt, Brophy parent and Open Table Board Member, will serve as the Open Table Mentor for Michael's Table. If you're able to attend this session, we ask that you RSVP with Mrs. Sue Hornbeck in Brophy's Office of Faith and Justice (shornbeck@brophyprep.org.)

With Michael starting college in a few weeks, the goal is to launch his Table as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact either one of us at the information provided below if we can answer any questions you may have about this important service project for one of our own. Together, we will journey with Michael.

Sincerely,

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