



November 20, 2020



*Here I am in 1996!*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kirrene,

Do you believe in miracles? I do. My name is Amber and I am a member of Christian Brothers High School Class of 1996.

I'd like to share my story with you, and explain why I believe that you and I create miracles for students each time we support tuition assistance.

I grew up in a single-parent household without much oversight, and without many good influences. I was as rough as my circumstances demanded. After I began public high school, and headed quickly down a bad path, my mom decided to switch me to CB. I found myself there for second semester of freshman year in January 1993. I had entered to learn.

It was then that the little miracles started. The first miracle had been getting accepted into CB. The second was that even though it was far, *far* out of reach financially for my mom, the school offered us tuition assistance.

More miracles followed.

Some appeared in the form of teachers. Teachers who taught more than academics and modeled a different way of being. Teachers like Mr. English who expected students to be responsible, and whose wit kept us actively engaged and inspired. Through teachers like him, I learned to be organized, rise to challenges and gain confidence in myself and my abilities.



*Mr. English*

Miracles came through those I met in cheerleading and yearbook. On one hand they taught me choreography, how to lay out pages and sell ad space. On the other, I learned teamwork and communication. Have you ever seen a cheerleading pyramid? Or had the fun of flipping through your yearbook? Both require trust, diligence and coordination, with each safely performed stunt and each year's hardbound memories the results of planning, action and perseverance. Each achievement was a miracle of persistence.

My journey wasn't always smooth. There were a few bumps along the road, some resulting with me in Mr. Witry's detention hall. But by sophomore year, I'd figured it out (wisdom – another miracle).

CB provided stability and structure. Within its framework I could envision and prepare for a different future than the one I'd seen in front of me before. It was a future that included my attending UOP, heading on to a master's at



*Mr. Witry*



Golden Gate University and from there a rewarding career in Human Resources. A fulfilled life and meaningful career, more everyday miracles.

But the greatest miracle I experienced at CB, I didn't recognize for many years. I'd received a letter (much like this) signed by my classmate Jake Hunley, now a teacher and coach at CB. In it, he reminded us of what is taught to students at our school: "**Leave to Serve.**" It was such a simple, straightforward reminder of what had been instilled in me during my years as a student. I had entered to learn. And, now, I had an opportunity to serve.

**I realized the miracle of generosity, of compassionate philanthropy, that had graced my life had been come through alumni like you, and like me.** People offered me - someone they didn't even know - the chance of a lifetime. Their generosity changed my life, broadened my horizons and has blessed me and my family ever since.

Tuition assistance made it all possible. And, it was people who contributed to CB that made it all happen for me. I'm not sure that they ever realized the impact their donations made, but I write today to tell you **it made THE difference.**

These days, this year, we might all be looking for miracles around us. We can BE the miracle for someone else. When you donate, you create opportunity, hope and connection for students at Christian Brothers High School. **Your generosity literally changes lives. It changed mine.** And when I look at my family each day, when I look at the people I work with, and the community I live in, I experience the miracle that my CB education brought to my life.

We each have the opportunity of changing lives for students today. I've made my contribution. I hope you join me. What miracles will come out of our gifts?

Live Jesus In Our Hearts. Forever.

*Amber*  
Amber Ramos '96



*Here I am today!*

**Help create miracles for students. Make a gift today.**

CB leads the region in providing tuition assistance, keeping this Catholic, Lasallian education within reach for more families.

450 students, that's 39 % of our student body, receive tuition assistance. 7% of our students are from families living below federal poverty level.

Donate at [www.cbhs-sacramento.org/support](http://www.cbhs-sacramento.org/support) or by mailing your contribution in the enclosed envelope.

*"Miracles happen by touching hearts"*  
St. John Baptist de La Salle





# Amber Ramos '96

## GIVING BACK

Growing up in poverty and a single-parent household, Amber Ramos '96 knows what it is like to not have much. Christian Brothers gave her the opportunity to be a thriving student, who was not only prepared for college, but for life. With the help of tuition assistance, Ramos was able to obtain a Lasallian Catholic education and experience CB's mission.

As a CB student, Ramos was a cheerleader and involved in the yearbook class. She fondly remembers Mr. English, who gave her a love for architecture, and Mr. Kirrene, who challenged his students to grow in their weaker areas of study.

After high school, Ramos went on to attend University of the Pacific where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. However, her professional plan led her a different way, ending up in human resources, a field she has since been in for 18 years. "My career path was very accidental," says Ramos. As a college student, she worked at UOP's Career Resource Center where she met a recruiter at an employer recruitment event. She was asked if she ever thought about working in human resources due to her people skills. From there, she decided to give it a try, earning her master's degree in human resources from Golden Gate University, and has enjoyed the work ever since.

Ramos currently resides in the Silicon Valley and is a human resources professional for Atlassian, an international software company. With CB's lasting positive influence on her life, she takes advantage of her company's charitable match program to double the impact in helping deserving young women and young men receive tuition assistance to attend Christian Brothers, just like she did.

"I feel compelled to give back because CB changed my life. The teachers taught me life skills through quality education," says Ramos. "I learned how to organize and accomplish things and gain the confidence to pursue something great. I knew how challenging it was and I could feel the reward of what I was working for." She credits much of her success to her CB teachers who believed in her and pushed her to be better and to continue pursuing challenging goals.



---

"I feel compelled to give back because CB changed my life. The teachers taught me life skills through quality education."

---

Thanks to the generous support and dedication of alumni, donors and friends, Ramos was able to attend Christian Brothers and become the successful, career-driven woman that she is today. "The school creates high-achieving, successful students who go on to be successful adults, but the school does it in a way that's not pretentious," explains Ramos. "The Lasallian mission permeates how the school operates." Ramos is proof that being a CB Falcon can be a reality for anyone, no matter where they come from.