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**THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION HONORS FACULTY AND STAFF
WITH WORK OF HEART AWARDS DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Awards coincide with week-long celebration commemorating schools' achievements

DALLAS – The Catholic Foundation thanks 27 local teachers and staff for their service and dedication to the Catholic community by presenting each with a Work of Heart Award during this year's Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 25-31. Each recipient receives a \$500 grant for personal use in exchange for their commitment to students, colleagues and their communities.

“Catholic Schools Week is dedicated to celebrating those who make a difference in our communities across the nation by recognizing the invaluable service and contributions teachers make to our schools,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, president of the Catholic Foundation. “The Catholic Foundation would like to take this time to thank and recognize those in our immediate Dallas area with Work of Heart Awards for going above and beyond what is expected of them.”

The Work of Heart Award program was established in 2005 and funded solely by an anonymous Dallas family through the Catholic Foundation. To this day the program has given 528 grants totaling \$463,000 to educators and staff of Catholic lower, middle and high schools located in the Dallas area. This year, The Catholic Foundation has matched the family's contribution to the program.

In addition, the family invites likeminded individuals to join them in recognizing the effort and commitment of the educators and staff in their local Catholic schools. Individual contributions can be made to the Work of Heart Award Fund at the Catholic Foundation.

Work of Heart Award recipients are nominated by students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members. This year, the Foundation has formed a committee, with members of its Advisory Council, to read the nomination letters received each month and decide which teachers and staff members will receive a Work of Heart Award. The nominations are judged based on traditional merit criteria including tenure and leadership, acts of kindness

or charity, Christian example, mentoring and simply going the extra mile for an individual student, family or the community.

The following recipients each received a \$500 Work of Heart Award in recognition of their outstanding service. Each is listed with a comment from the nomination letter submitted on his or her behalf.

All Saints Catholic School

- Claire Dodge, 5th Grade Teacher

“As an educator, Ms. Claire Dodge is teaching multiple interdisciplinary subjects in a creative and organized way. As a Catholic, she strives to interest students in their faith. Ms. Dodge arrives early each morning to ensure she is prepared for the day. She often stays late to continue working and I am confident that she works frequently on the weekends. It is a rare treasure to find such skillful instruction in a teacher in her first year.”

Bishop Dunne Catholic School

- Marcela Garcini, Spanish Teacher and Senior Sponsor

“Ms. Marcela Garcini would win the spirit award for teachers at Dunne if we had that award. She attends every sporting event with great enthusiasm to support her students. I admire Ms. Garcini for the love the students have for her. I am thankful that she is a part of Bishop Dunne and how lucky we are to have her. She has made a huge impact on many students and they would work their hearts off for her.”

- Stephen Guerrero, Middle School Athletic Director, Coach and Health Teacher

“In all my years at Bishop Dunne, I have not seen a person more dedicated to a school and the students than Mr. Stephen Guerrero. Not only does he organize all the middle school sports, he coaches as well. Mr. Guerrero is a joy to work with and when I want to get something accomplished I call him. He definitely goes way beyond the extra mile for our students and community. He loves our school and it shows. He deserves this honor because he truly is a work of heart.”

- Tim McManus, Theology Teacher, Basketball Coach

“Coach Tim McManus has become one of our best (and busiest) teachers. He has also helped to coach golf, basketball and soccer during his time at Dunne. Coach McManus has been a member of the discipline team and also organizes charitable efforts – most recently raising thousands of dollars to help efforts in Sudan.”

John Paul II High School

- Eric Butcher, Newspaper and Journalism Teacher, Football Coach

“Coach Eric Butcher is the yearbook and journalism teacher here at John Paul as well as the varsity football coach. Coach Butcher is a kind man who really cares about his students. In addition to being an excellent teacher, he also listens and cares for his students. Coach Butcher is cool, nice, funny and smart. With a teacher who is ready to help with problems, both inside and outside of school, it is easy to say that Coach Butcher should be given the Work of Heart Award.”

- Eugenia Jameson, History and Government Teacher

“Ms. Eugenia Jameson is one of the hardest working teachers I have ever met. She does not want her students to just have a life of academics, but for them to have a spiritual one as well. Ms. Jameson really knows how to be a caring and helpful teacher. She is an outstanding woman and always thinking of ways to help the needy and the less fortunate.”

- Hailey Drescher, Speech Teacher

“Ms. Hailey Drescher is an extremely outgoing speech teacher that knows exactly how to teach her students effectively. I fully believe that she deserves this award because of how she has shown me to empower myself through speech and body language. She has inspired me to be more outgoing and to use my ability of public speaking to express what’s on my mind. Ms. Drescher shows more genuine care for her students than I have seen with any other teacher.”

- Lindsay Moore, English Teacher

“Ms. Lindsay Moore goes above and beyond what is required and is an all around great person. She is tremendously friendly and helpful and is a true example of what it means to do work of the heart. Her class is fun but she gets serious with frequent reading quizzes to make sure everyone is learning, preparing us for college and our futures ahead.”

- Rosey Restani, Math Teacher

“Ms. Rosey Restani is one of the best math teachers I have ever had. She was always there when I needed her in the mornings for tutoring. Ms. Restani is committed to her job as well as her students. She is not only a great teacher, but also a great person to go to when you need help. Knowing that she cared made me smile. I could not have asked for a better math teacher.”

- Soriya Nelson, Spanish Teacher

“Students throughout the school go to Ms. Soriya Nelson for her guidance on certain Spanish misunderstandings regardless if they have her as a teacher or not. She is constantly available for tutoring during all hours of the morning and night. Ms. Nelson has touched an overwhelming amount of people with her career and an award to recognize her profession for the past decade is the least acknowledgement acceptable.”

Mount St. Michael Catholic School

- Doreen Dillier, Administrative Assistant

“Ms. Doreen Dillier stays at work almost every day until at least 8 p.m. She is one of, if not the hardest working persons in the building on a regular basis. Her amazing dedication ensures that the school runs smoothly. The principal, teachers, staff, parents and students count on her to be there for them, and she always is. To say that Ms. Dillier goes the extra mile is an understatement at the very least. Ms. Dillier is simply ‘the stuff of legends.’”

- Karen Thomas, 4th Grade Teacher

“Ms. Karen Thomas is an outstanding teacher. She is always well prepared for her lessons and goes the extra mile to keep all students challenged. She has high expectations of her students and requires them to reach their potential. Ms. Thomas herself is always excited to learn new things and her love of learning is contagious to her students. She is a wonderful example of piety at prayer, perseverance in her work and kindness to others.”

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

- Tamara Tamez, 7th Grade Teacher

“Ms. Tamara Tamez has gone above the call of duty to ensure that students are given every opportunity to receive the educational chances they deserve. Ms. Tamez often stays late tutoring students who are struggling with a particularly hard subject. She is an excellent Catholic educator who recognizes the need to produce intellectual, productive Christian citizens in our world. I applaud Ms. Tamez for her dedication to Catholic education.”

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School

- Christina Clem, Principal

“Ms. Christina Clem is a true Christian example at our school and goes the extra mile to help families and students with unexpected acts of kindness. As school principal, she is always encouraging our children to help the less fortunate. Ms. Clem has a great heart and is always in tune with the personal necessities of our teachers. She is a true woman of great faith.”

- Marta Martinez, Kindergarten Aide

“Ms. Marta Martinez is an amazing kindergarten aide. She is hired part time; however she comes to school almost every day to help the class. She comes because she loves the children and really wants them to succeed. With her help, half the class is already able to decode and read words. In her free time, Ms. Martinez also coaches many sport teams and is the head of our booster club. What a different place the world would be with more people like Ms. Martinez.”

St. Mark’s Catholic School

- Patricia Orchowski, English Teacher

“Ms. Patricia Orchowski is an outstanding seventh and eighth grade English teacher. Her style of teaching makes students’ understanding of the subject matter both easy and enjoyable. She is always ready to offer help to those students having trouble. Ms. Orchowski deserves to be placed on the center stage and receive this award. She deserves this bold acknowledgement because she has done so much for her students.”

St. Mary of Carmel Catholic School

- Thom Suhy, Principal

“Mr. Thom Suhy has literally brought new life to the school and into our students. This year, Mr. Suhy has raised the expectations for our students beginning with their appearance and continuing with the curriculum. He has raised the bar for teachers as well, expecting professionalism and above and beyond their call of duty. He should be commended for his vision and leadership. I truly believe that God has called him to serve St. Mary’s and he has taken on this challenge with love.”

- Cherie Tatum, Middle School Teacher

“Ms. Cherie Tatum is a dedicated teacher whose work with the students of St. Mary of Carmel School has been amazing. Since the beginning of school, I have seen her students flourish. Each day I see them working hard to meet her expectations while also enjoying themselves. She is patient and respectful to them, even when correcting them. St. Mary is fortunate to have Ms. Tatum as part of our team.”

St. Monica Catholic School

- Cheryl Sanchez, World and American History Teacher

“I have taught with Ms. Cheryl Sanchez since August 2008 and have been amazed at the diversity of her lesson plans. Ms. Sanchez works diligently to involve the students in the education process and to make history tangible for the students. She loves her job and loves creating new ways for the students to learn about history. Ms. Sanchez maintains a joy-filled attitude and enjoys engaging the students in the learning experience.”

St. Patrick’s Catholic School

- Vanessa Perry, 1st Grade Teacher

“Ms. Vanessa Perry symbolizes what this award represents. She works completely from her heart. I have learned so much from watching her. We all watch what she does and wonder how she does it; she is absolutely amazing. I know God looks down on Ms. Perry and must feel so proud of her strength and service. I know that she is truly a role model for this entire faculty.”

St. Paul the Apostle School

- Ann Cahill, Administrative Assistant

“Ms. Ann Cahill has been a dedicated administrative assistant at St. Paul the Apostle for 15 years. She is one of the most reliable employees, rarely taking a sick day or vacation. Ms. Cahill satisfies the request of 30 plus demanding staff members with patience and understanding. Ms. Cahill is the one true constant that everyone depends upon at St. Paul.”

St. Philip the Apostle School

- Carmelo Ojeda, Custodian

“Mr. Carmelo Ojeda takes care of so many things for our school that his list of duties is too long to name. Mr. Ojeda is also involved in charity work and community activities such as working with his sister’s church to help those in need. Mr. Ojeda tries to help in every way he can, from donating clothes, to finding affordable medical care for those who need it. This generous man deserves this award.”

- Mary Lotspeich, 1st Grade Teacher

“Ms. Mary Lotspeich is an active and lovely person. She helps her students by preparing them for life in both mind and spirit. I would like to recognize and support Ms. Lotspeich’s nomination to receive the Work of Heart Award.”

St. Pius X Catholic School

- Barbara McKissick, 3rd Grade Teacher

“If it wasn’t for Ms. Barbara McKissick’s selflessness and compassion, I do not know where my daughter would be. I can honestly say that Ms. McKissick has treated my daughter as her own. I know how busy she is but she always takes the time to send me little notes to let me know how my daughter is doing that day. Ms. McKissick is such a blessing to us and to St. Pius X.”

St. Thomas Aquinas School

- Sara Casner, 4th Grade Teacher

“It is because of what Ms. Sara Casner did for my daughter that has helped her to become the child she is now. Our teacher’s play such a vital role with our children academically, but it is what Ms. Casner did for my child, mentally and emotionally, that I commend her for.”

- Jenny Perez, Physical Education Teacher

“I am amazed at the creative, loving, fun, energetic and spiritual atmosphere that Ms. Jenny Perez has created for PE. I don’t even know how my words can do her justice. Ms. Perez brings the message of God’s love into every lesson that she teaches. She always goes above and beyond what is expected of her and is a true Christian leader. I am inspired to be a better teacher just by being around her.”

The Highlands School

- Charlie Lindner, Business Manager

“Mr. Charlie Lindner has a very hidden job with the challenge to balance the budget which can be both unpleasant as well as stressful work. Knowing what he has to do, I am edified by his Christian virtue. Mr. Lindner always has a smile and a helping hand to offer to everyone. Everyone likes to be around Mr. Lindner and he really believes in the Catholic education. A Work of Heart Award would mean a lot to recognizing his dedication.”

To nominate a candidate for the Work of Heart Award, please visit the Foundation’s Web site at www.catholicfoundation.com for instructions on the nomination process. Anyone serving as a full- or part-time employee in a Catholic school located in the Diocese of Dallas

may be nominated. In addition to the \$500 awards, The Catholic Foundation will present Grand Awards of \$5,000 throughout the school year.

Chartered in 1955, The Catholic Foundation was founded by a group of dedicated Catholic laymen with a vision that extended far beyond the charitable needs of the moment. For over 50 years, this independent, nonprofit corporation has dedicated its resources to compassionate charitable giving through grants provided by benefactors through its many planned giving programs. The Foundation has been able to provide approximately \$22 million through hundreds of grants to various religious, educational and charitable organizations within the Diocese of Dallas during its 50 plus years of existence. In addition, donor-advised funds maintained at the Foundation have accounted for many more grants amounting to millions of dollars over the years. **For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, call 972.661.9792.**

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