



FOR RELEASE: June 17, 2008

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**READING & RADIO RESOURCE, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE PARTNER TO PROVIDE  
AUDIO BOOKS FOR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN DALLAS**

*\$7,600 grant from The Catholic Foundation will fund new alternative reading program*

DALLAS – Reading & Radio Resource, a non-profit volunteer agency dedicated to providing alternatives to reading for those who are visually or physically disabled and/or learning differenced, has partnered with the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) to build a resource library of audio taped books for Catholic schools within the Diocese of Dallas. The program will be solely funded by a \$7,600 grant given to Reading & Radio Resource in fall 2007 from The Catholic Foundation.

“Each spring and fall The Catholic Foundation awards grants to area organizations to help further their ability to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Catholic community,” says Edwin M. Schaffler, CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “This new partnership, a result of the grant given to Reading & Radio Resource, exemplifies the mission of the Foundation to share resources in order to better serve the needs of our community.”

The Catholic Schools Office, an organization that supports local Catholic schools, will house the “seed library” consisting of 100-150 literature and textbooks transcribed into audio format by Reading & Radio Resource. These audio books will provide an alternative learning method to students who have print impairments, special needs or are English Language Learners. Area schools will be able to request books directly from the CSO to meet the specific needs of their students, offering teachers a new instructional tool.

“We are delighted to partner with Catholic schools in the Diocese of Dallas to bring an alternative format to students who struggle with reading each day,” says Betty Hersey, executive director of Reading & Radio Resource. “We feel this project will enable the students to achieve success throughout their academic pursuits and on into adult life.”

According to Reading & Radio Resource, 15 percent of the population has dyslexia or learning disabilities and 35 percent of those students drop out of school. Also, children who struggle with print materials learn to avoid reading and can mask their disabilities up to the third or fourth grades. If a print impairment or disability can be identified, alternative methods and coping mechanisms, such as

auditory learning and audio books, can be introduced successfully. Both teachers and students will benefit from the alternative reading program by discovering new methods of learning and teaching and becoming less frustrated in their efforts.

“We feel very fortunate to be able to collaborate with Reading & Radio Resource to implement this new alternative reading program in the Catholic schools in our Diocese,” says JoAnn Seberger, associate director of Catholic Schools Office. “I was very impressed by the multiple services to the many different groups in the Dallas area that Reading & Radio Resource serves.”

The Catholic Schools Office will purchase books from Reading & Radio Resource until the entire grant from The Catholic Foundation is utilized. Once CSO has received the master recordings of their selected audio books, they will be able to duplicate the tapes and expand the program as needed to ensure each school's request can be fulfilled.

#### About Reading and Radio Resource

Reading & Radio Resource was founded by Henry X. and Edythe Salzberger in 1969 and provides print materials, translated into audio form, to any child or adult with vision impairment or reading disability so they may more fully participate in the community. The Recorded Books Program, begun in 1972, serves more than 70,000 schoolchildren throughout Texas, as well as adjoining states, through distribution of tapes to Educational Service Centers, Independent School Districts, and to individual students. Textbooks are recorded for students who are visually, physically and/or learning impaired. This program also serves the adult community.

#### About The Catholic Foundation

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 more than \$21 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.

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