



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ANONYMOUS FAMILY COMMITS TO THIRD YEAR OF WORK OF HEART AWARDS, BRINGING EXPECTED TOTAL OF \$390,000 IN AWARDS SINCE 2005**

***Catholic Foundation announces call for nominations of exceptional teachers, faculty and staff of Dallas-area Catholic schools***

DALLAS – The Catholic Foundation has announced that an anonymous Dallas family will continue to fund the Work of Heart Awards for Dallas-area teachers, faculty and staff for the third year in a row. The Catholic Foundation has issued a call for nominations of outstanding educators and staff of Catholic lower, middle and high schools located in the Diocese of Dallas.

At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, it is estimated that more than \$390,000 will have been awarded to Work of Heart Awards winners since 2005.

An anonymous family has solely funded the Work of Heart Awards for the past three years and is now inviting like-minded individuals to join them. The family has offered to match individual donations to The Catholic Foundation for the Work of Heart Awards fund up to an undetermined amount, in an effort to permanently endow the program.

“The Catholic Foundation is thankful that a Dallas family has pledged once again to honor the individuals who teach and care for our children in our local Catholic schools,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, Foundation president and CEO. “Now in its third year, we believe the Work of Heart Awards are unlike any other awards in the United States, and we are proud to continue shining a spotlight on the individuals who play such a huge role in shaping the next generation.”

Since 2005, the Catholic Foundation has presented 321 grants totaling \$223,500 to individuals who serve children in 36 area schools. Past winners have included principals, teachers, administrative staff, cafeteria employees and maintenance workers – all individuals who have made an impact on the schools in which they serve.

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Approximately 180 awards are expected to be given during the 2007-2008 school year, with recipients receiving \$500 each. Up to eight Work of Heart Awards winners will be honored with a Grand Award – a gift of \$5,000. Recipients of the \$5,000 Grand Awards and the \$500 awards are selected from written nominations submitted to the Catholic Foundation and 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.

Students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members can nominate anyone serving as a full- or part-time employee in a Catholic school located in the Diocese of Dallas. Recipients may receive only one award during the school year.

To nominate a candidate for a “Work of Heart” Award, please contact the Foundation’s Web site at **[www.catholicfoundation.com](http://www.catholicfoundation.com)** for instructions on the nomination process.

Incorporated 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 50 years, this independent, non-profit corporation has dedicated its resources to compassionate charitable giving through grants provided by benefactors’ gifts through the many planned giving programs of The Catholic Foundation. For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, call 972.661.9792.

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## Work of Heart Award Nominations

Below please find examples of letters written by students nominating a staff member or teacher for the Catholic Foundation Work of Heart Awards. Teachers, parents, students and fellow staff send in nominations. One nominee who was retiring that year had more than 130 students sign a letter supporting her nomination.

For more information, please contact Lauren Dugger at [ldugger@sunwestpr.com](mailto:ldugger@sunwestpr.com) or 214/373-1601.

Dear Work of Heart Committee,  
Gonzalo Segoviano

One person in our school that is so nice to every student is Gonzalo. He always has a big, nice smile on. He's also a very hard worker. I can't describe how much he loves the school, the teachers, and the students. If any of the students has had a bad day he will high five them and make them feel better. I think Gonzalo is a hard worker and should get the Work of Heart Award.

To Whom It May Concern

I want to nominate Ms. Tinsley. She is very nice and awesome with kids. I see that she prays a lot. She is the best teacher in the world. If some of us have trouble on a math problem she doesn't just tell us the answer, she helps us with it. She is the BEST!