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FIFTEEN DALLAS-AREA TEACHERS, FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Catholic Foundation gives thanks for honorees with Work of Heart Awards, \$500 grants

DALLAS – Inspiration, encouragement and devotion are three words that describe 15 teachers and staff members in the Dallas Catholic community who were all found deserving of a Work of Heart Award from The Catholic Foundation. Winners received a \$500 grant for personal use as a thank you for their hard work and dedication to serving students, colleagues, families and their communities.

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 501 grants totaling \$449,500 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. Individual contributions also can be made to the Work of Heart Award Fund at The Catholic Foundation.

“During this time of year it is important to be thankful and to give thanks to others,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, president of the Catholic Foundation. “We are honored to present these educational professionals with a Work of Heart Award for the tireless acts of generosity that they demonstrate year-round. They truly deserve many thanks and this special recognition.”

Work of Heart Award recipients are nominated by students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members. This year, the Foundation 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

- Marty Koss, Liturgy Director

"Ms. Marty Koss has been a devoted servant to our school since 2000. Ms. Koss is dedicated to preserving the sacred dignity of the mass while at the same time inviting and encouraging all to participate to the fullest extent of which they are capable. She is excited about her ministry and it shows in everything she does. Ms. Koss truly puts her whole heart into her work here at All Saints and we are blessed beyond measure to have her."

Christ the King School

- Jill Fallon, 4th Grade Teacher

"Ms. Jill Fallon is dedicated, kind and sensitive to each student. Ms. Fallon is truly an outstanding teacher. Not only does she have her Master's in Education, but she is patient and thoroughly committed to each student."

Holy Trinity Catholic School

- Debbie Martin, Early Childhood Aide

"Ms. Debbie Martin is a very kind person who always has a smile on her face. She has a very strong, outgoing personality and everyone in this community knows and adores her. Ms. Martin is patient and loving every day. At our weekly prayer service, you can find her very active, singing and showing the kids the hand motions. I honestly cannot think of another person who deserves this award more. Ms. Martin is the kind of lady who I hope to be when I am older. She is everything that is great about this school and we are so blessed to have her."

Jesuit College Preparatory School

- Anthony Mattacchione, Assistant Community Service Director/Rugby Coach

"I believe Mr. Anthony Mattacchione has one of the biggest hearts at Jesuit College Prep. His dedication and service to the school, students and families surpass the boundary of being a great Catholic person. It is in giving and caring that drives the personality of Mr. Mattacchione. I believe his personality is magnetic and if we are to exemplify the ideals of a Christian lifestyle, Mr. Mattacchione truly upholds the firm belief of giving his existence for others. He is a coach, mentor, a big brother and a friend."

John Paul II High School

- Paul Philp, History Teacher

"I nominate Mr. Paul Philp for his outstanding effort to help our school at all times. He is extremely dedicated to helping all of his students succeed in not only his class, but in all subjects. He always puts others before himself, even if it means sacrificing time or putting forth great effort. He is also my best teacher because of his teaching techniques."

- Curtis Reuben, Maintenance Staff

"The person that I would like to win the Work of Heart Award is Mr. Curtis Reuben. He has been diagnosed with cancer and is still working. Mr. Reuben should be awarded because he cleans up the messes no one else wants to clean up. I play on the football team and for our first game, he came down to where we were waiting and gave us all high fives. Mr. Reuben is very sweet and generous."

Notre Dame School

- Kay Barry, Development Director

"Ms. Kay Barry has been involved with Notre Dame in various capacities. Throughout the years she stayed involved in our school as a parent, volunteer and now as director of development. Our mission is to offer this unique education to all students, even those who cannot pay full tuition. Ms. Barry works tirelessly to keep our doors open and offer scholarships and financial aid to families who have limited options for their special needs children. I call Ms. Barry our Godmother. She watches over us through her hard work and dedication. We would not be the great school we are without Ms. Barry."

St. Elizabeth of Hungary

- Kathy Price, 3rd Grade Teacher

"Ms. Kathy Price has been a teacher at St. Elizabeth's for six years, with the past five years teaching first grade. This year, Ms. Price decided to broaden her teaching skills and teach third grade and is doing an extraordinary job. At the end of each day, Ms. Price is still smiling. She is a great example of building community at the school, which is part of our mission statement. She is dedicated to her students, profession and the school."

St. Monica Catholic School

- Mary D'Angelo, Technology Coordinator

"Ms. Mary D'Angelo arrives at school by 6 a.m. and leaves about 12 hours later. She is always available and when needed, is at your door quickly to help expedite the technological emergency. Ms. D'Angelo never has a harsh word for anyone. She is a breath of fresh air at St. Monica and I believe she makes an excellent recipient of the Work of Heart Award. Ms. D'Angelo exemplifies what it means to minister to others and she definitely loves her work."

St. Patrick's Catholic School

- Susan Scott, Kindergarten Aide

"As an aide, Ms. Susan Scott goes above and beyond. She helps out and stays late with no complaints and is eager to do more. Ms. Scott is engaged in the students' learning in and out of the classroom. She teaches not only academics, but also the Catholic faith. Her positive attitude and cheerfulness make the classroom warm and inviting to her students. Ms. Scott is a wonderful role model for our children and God has blessed St. Patrick's with a wonderful teacher and mentor for our children."

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School

- Diana Eaker, 6th-8th Grade Science Teacher

"Ms. Diana Eaker was my science teacher from sixth through eighth grade. She is very passionate about science with her main goal being to make it fun for her students. She truly cares about her students and makes a point to have a one-on-one conversation with them if she senses something is wrong. Ms. Eaker has put time and dedication into the St. Paul community for 16 years, serving as an athletic director, a teacher and now the director of the extended day care. She is a great person and acts Christ-like. I could not think of a better candidate than her."

- Susan Sabetti, 5th Grade Teacher

"Ms. Susan Sabetti gives and gives and gives. She works tirelessly to provide a great educational atmosphere to her students and loves each and every one as her own. She concerns herself with each of their best interests and takes to heart their every need. She gives well and above the call of duty with both her students and her peers. Ms. Sabetti is also a great Christian example to all of us. She is always positive and working to promote the best in everyone."

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

- Leslie Avery, 1st Grade Teacher

"Ms. Leslie Avery portrays many of the qualities that the Work of Heart Award seeks to recognize among our educators. She demonstrates a strong passion for teaching which directly contributes to the academic and spiritual growth of the students. Ms. Avery's positive energy and the contagious effect it has with her students can be easily seen. Her commitment towards cultivating the 'personal best' in each of her students and encouraging them will have a lasting impact as they continue to grow and develop in the years to come."

The Highlands School

- Martha Lamberti, Academic Coordinator

"Ms. Martha Lamberti was my English, Literature and History teacher and practically opened up my love for history. Through her kindness, she always seemed to reveal boring Texas history as the most fascinating topic to study. Ms. Lamberti continues to always help the school and is now the academic coordinator for the middle school. She continues to show her affection and openness to both her current and former students and I thank her so much for all she has done for me and for the school."

Ursuline Academy

- Peggy Coleman, Geometry Teacher/Math Lab

"This year my daughter was blessed enough to have Ms. Peggy Coleman for geometry and is inspiring her to achieve her very best every day. I know this caring attention and true excitement and interest is not just reserved for my daughter, but every girl lucky enough to be in her class. She is encouraging my daughter to believe in herself. Ms. Coleman has been so dedicated to the students she has touched for so many years and truly deserves this recognition."

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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