



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Edwin M. Schaffler, President

972.661.9792

**THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION SURPRISES 11 DALLAS EDUCATORS  
WITH WORK OF HEART AWARDS, EXTRA CASH FOR HOLIDAYS**

***Local Catholic school faculty and staff receive special honor  
based on nominations from students, parents, administration or peers***

DALLAS – Eleven Dallas educators received a surprise Christmas gift this year, courtesy of The Catholic Foundation. The Foundation honored the selected faculty and staff of local Catholic schools with a Work of Heart Award and \$500 grant for personal use.

Recipients of the Work of Heart Awards were selected from nominations written by students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members. The Foundation has formed a committee, with members from 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 criteria is based on traditional merit 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.

“During this season of celebration, The Catholic Foundation is honored to recognize 11 angels in our own community who serve our children with such commitment and compassion,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, president of The Catholic Foundation. “The nomination letters written on behalf of the Work of Heart Award recipients illustrate how important one person can be in a school community, and we are thankful for the award winners’ service and example.”

The Work of Heart Award program was established in 2005 by an anonymous Dallas family through The Catholic Foundation to honor educators and staff of Catholic lower, middle and high schools located in the Dallas area. The program is now supported by grants awarded from The Catholic Foundation Board of Trustees to the Work of Heart Award Fund at The Catholic Foundation. Individuals also can make personal contributions to the Work of Heart Award Fund.

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**

- Pamela Wessling, Third Grade Teacher

*“I would like to honor Mrs. Wessling at All Saints Catholic School. She was my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and the best teacher I’ve had. She is funny, always caring, an amazing community helper, and most of all, a good teacher. That is why she is one of my best role models. When I grow up I wish I could have as much of a heart as she does. I hope you choose her because I want her to know how special she is to the world.”*

**Bishop Dunne Catholic School**

- Michael Kistner, Math Teacher and Coach

*“I know I have been at school early in the morning and he is already there and I know he stays very late, especially during volleyball season. He also spends many days in the summer running camps, leagues and practices for volleyball. Another time I was at the school for a meeting during lunch, and Mr. Kistner was having his lunch*

tutoring a group of students to prepare for their AP exam. This is a person who is dedicated, responsible and shows a real love and concern for the students. I also must add that he always has a smile on his face. He is a wonderful role model for the children.”

### **Bishop Lynch High School**

- Kristin Mannari, Director of Communications and Volleyball Coach

“Never before have both our internal and external communications been so well organized and executed. Her tenure at Bishop Lynch was completed with style and grace. Her dedication to her alma mater is amazing. Kristin’s dedication to service is also a hallmark of her success. She is available to serve the community (both BL and the larger Dallas community) in whatever way possible. She works a full day and then coaches in our championship volleyball program. However, Kristin approaches it with a smile on her face and joy in her heart.”

- Jaynie Poff, Director of Finance

“Jaynie is the backbone of our business department at Bishop Lynch High School, and kept it intact and running smoothly through the various staffing changes over the past few years. She does this for the good of the community rather than for personal glory or recognition. She has a track record of consistently contributing to the school in a variety of ways, from coaching the athletes to helping teachers understand the budget and financial health of the school. Jaynie does nothing half-rate; rather, she puts 110% of herself into every aspect of involvement at Bishop Lynch. She embodies the concept of faith through works, and is fervent in her commitment to the betterment of any community in which she resides.”

### **The Highlands School**

- Zelma McCarty, Fourth Grade Teacher

“She is an excellent teacher and knows how to help the boys spiritually and encourage them academically in a fun way. My son has transformed into a very mature and responsible person with her help. I strongly recommend her for this award.”

### **Mary Immaculate Catholic School**

- Karen Saldana, Librarian

“Karen is well into her third decade here at Mary Immaculate managing our library and media resource center, and plays an important role in the education and development of every student. She has always helped out in any way possible, and in such a friendly and timely manner that I often forget there are dozens of other teachers who are also calling on her for help. Karen’s loyalty far exceeds the parameters of her job as Karen entrusted the education of her own children to Mary Immaculate School. Another thing stands out at this time of year and that is Karen’s efforts to raise money to improve and enrich our library. Book Fair is an exciting event for everyone, and Karen makes it so. We at MIS are lucky to have a librarian like Karen Saldana whose kindness and dedication to all of us, teachers and students alike, make Mary Immaculate School a great place to learn.”

### **St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School**

- Michelle Grandinetti, Assistant/Receptionist

“Michelle works tirelessly and enthusiastically as our school and office continues to undergo changes. She accepts each new challenge with a positive, can-do attitude and a fantastic sense of humor. She is a wonderful example of service to others. I could continue for pages trying to keep up with all she does. She now operates our clinic in addition to all her other responsibilities. It is amazing; she is amazing. Michelle’s contributions to our school family are a wonderful example of the qualities evident when one’s work truly comes from the heart.”

### **St. Cecilia Catholic School**

- Candice Barbosa, Principal

“Ms. Barbosa is a very, very good principal, and everybody here loves her. Plus, she really cares about our school, and tries to do everything to keep it running smoothly. Ms. Barbosa is an awesome principal!”

“One time when I needed help on my homework and she helped me with it. When someone needs help she helps them. Our church had burned down recently and she has been working so hard to fix it so we can have a new church.”

“What I like about Ms. Barbosa is her smile. It always brings joy.”

“She is the best principal in the whole wide world.”

--compiled from several student nominations

### **St. Mark Catholic School**

- Ann Berard, Nurse

*“Our school nurse, Mrs. Berard, is what I like to call the coolest employee at St. Mark. She is not only someone I respect but someone I call a friend because she is always there for me. Every morning, a few of my friends and I stop by her room before our classes. We talk to her and she is always open to listen to what we have to say. Nurse Berard is super funny and always laughs with us which is what makes her so awesome! She teaches me good values and is a wonderful example to me. She will be in my heart long after I leave St. Mark.”*

### **St. Rita Catholic School**

- Alane Donahue, Math Teacher

*“Alane is an outstanding, caring teacher. She is available to help children before school every morning. Since math is one of the tougher subjects, she always has several children who are needing help. She does this with a smile and a great attitude and without any extra compensation. Alane works closely with our Dads’ Club Math Tutors program, providing guidance and materials for them to help the children who attend their sessions. You will also see her smiling face in the stands at basketball or football games. Given that St. Rita has several teams at each grade level, Alane’s attendance at these games is definitely going above and beyond the call of duty. Giving up her precious free time on evenings or weekends is just another way in which she demonstrates she works from the heart.”*

### **St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School**

- Lauren Roberts, Assistant Principal

*“Lauren Roberts, the Assistant Principal of the St. Thomas Aquinas Lower School, is a shining star. Every morning she meets each child at the carpool drop off and extends her hand for a big high five. Pepper music blares from the CD player she has put outside. (During a past kindergarten graduation speech,) Ms. Roberts said that she feels it is an honor and a privilege to be such a huge part of our children’s lives. My husband and I feel blessed that Ms. Roberts is a leader at this exemplary school.”*

To nominate a candidate for the Work of Heart Award, please visit the Foundation’s Web site at [www.catholicfoundation.com](http://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.

Chartered in 1955 by a group of dedicated Catholic laymen, The Catholic Foundation is a donor-focused community foundation that guides benefactors in compassionate charitable giving endeavors, utilizing extensive expertise to carry out the various philanthropic goals of its donors. The Foundation’s planned giving programs connects donors directly with organizations they wish to support within the Diocese of Dallas and elsewhere, whether that is a home parish, Catholic school or a community-based charity. Thanks to the generosity of donors both past and present, The Foundation has provided approximately \$22 million to local organizations through hundreds of grants over the past 53 years, and donor-advised funds maintained at the Foundation have accounted for even more grants amounting to millions of dollars. For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, call 972.661.9792.

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