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**THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
FIRST "WORK OF HEART" AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2010**

***The Catholic Foundation begins the year honoring Catholic school educators, staff***

**DALLAS** – Twelve deserving, Dallas-area educators began 2010 on a high note when they received a Work of Heart Award and a \$500 grant for personal use, courtesy of The Catholic Foundation. The 2009-2010 school year marks the fifth year of the Work of Heart Award program, which honors Catholic educators for their dedication and service to their schools, students and communities.

"At the beginning of 2010, The Catholic Foundation is honored to recognize those whose dedication is invaluable to the success of our next generation," said Edwin M. Schaffler, CEO and President of The Catholic Foundation. "It is through the unconditional commitment and dedication of educators such as these that today's youth will advance and succeed in this new decade."

Recipients of the Work of Heart Awards were selected from nominations written by students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members. 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.

The Work of Heart Award program was established in 2005 and funded solely by an anonymous Dallas family through the Catholic Foundation. The Catholic Foundation continues the program, providing funding for the grants from its Work of Heart Fund. In addition, individual contributions can be made to the Work of Heart Award Fund at the Catholic Foundation.

The following recipients each received a Work of Heart Award and \$500 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**

- Ellen Hollister, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher  
*"Everyday, my daughter comes home excited about something she has in learned in Mrs. Hollister's class. She wakes up everyday looking forward to school and I know it is because of her outstanding teacher. Even as a parent you can feel the love she has for each and every one of her students. I can truly say Ellen Hollister has been a blessing to our family and an asset to All Saints Catholic School."*

### **Cistercian Preparatory School**

- Timothy Parker, Biology Teacher  
*"Our school is very competitive and we often forget that even the guy with the lowest grades is still very smart and capable. Mr. Parker is one of the few teachers who reminded us of this reality. He reached out to us in a way that most other teachers are unable to do. This meant a lot to me because I am one of those Cistercian students who struggles academically. He made me believe in myself..."*

### **The Highlands School**

- Robert Brassil, Middle School Teacher  
*"Mr. Brassil is an outstanding example to his students of what it means to live the Catholic faith on a daily basis. His generosity of spirit overflows in the classroom and is evidenced by his willingness to stay late after school for ANY student. Although his innumerable acts of kindness may not change the world, they do mean the world to those kids...He is a humble, generous and sincere servant to all he meets – and keeps smiling though it all."*
- Debbie Hurley, Registrar/Administrative Assistant  
*"Debbie is officially listed as the school Registrar, but she also serves as our Principal's assistant, coordinates sick leave and personal days for faculty and staff, trains and provides substitute teachers and helps to answer the phone. Despite her extremely busy and often stressful schedule, Debbie always finds time to be helpful and the energy to be cheerful. It's hard to imagine our school functioning without her."*

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

- Manual Negrete, Maintenance  
*"He is a maintenance person; and does his job with good manners every day. He never complains even though he needs to work some extra hours for our students. He always has a smiling face when he works. I believe he works very hard to keep our school neat and clean. He is always there for us."*

### **St. Monica Catholic School**

- Kathleen Foley, Kindergarten Teacher  
*"Ms. Kathleen Foley is one of God's most amazing gifts to St. Monica Catholic School. It is difficult to put into words the gifts Ms. Foley has given freely to all who enter her room – that includes parents, friends, students, grandparents and colleagues."  
"It goes without saying that Ms. Foley goes above and beyond in her teaching of her Kindergarten class at St. Monica."  
"As I encountered Kathleen while volunteering in the classroom and at other times, I was constantly blessed beyond measure. She overflows with love towards all the children and everyone she meets."*

- compiled from several parent nominations

### **St. Patrick Catholic School**

- Lisa Bruechel, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher  
*"If I were to list all the special things she did, I could go on for pages, but I just want to say how special she is in answering my questions and curiosity. No matter how silly my email might sound, she takes time in answering it right away... So, in short, I think we are blessed to have someone who is so sweet and dedicated as Mrs. Bruechel as [my son's] homeroom teacher for this year."*
- Rosanne Dworaczyk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher  
*"She is a wonderful teacher, kind and helpful, and a true teacher of our Catholic faith. She teaches this faith, not only by instruction, but by her actions. She is always there and ready for anything her students need, especially an understanding ear."*

### **St. Pius X Catholic School**

- Stephanie Bertrand, P.E. Teacher  
*"She is loved and I mean loved by all the children in this school. They respect her as a teacher and as a friend. They definitely see eye to eye with her, literally. She has every child's best interest at heart, cares for them as they were her own. I think she really deserves this award..."*

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

- Coleen Gorman, P.E. Teacher/Specialty Classes  
*"Coleen makes her gym classes fun and challenging for the students. Most of all, I feel Mrs. Gorman also leads our students mentally and physically to be better Christians. She speaks to students in a loving and firm manner, so they understand what is expected of them."*

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

- Melissa Dolen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher  
*"Mrs. Dolen is my son's teacher. He is a great child and learns differently than others. Mrs. Dolen went above and beyond helping us. She has met with me and together with the OM teacher has created a wonderful, positive learning environment for my child. I am so pleased and relieved to know that he is in good hands."*
- David Laffiteau, Math Teacher  
*"I cannot begin to express what a wonderful influence this man has been in our son's life and how he has impacted our lives with his kindness and thoughtfulness toward our son. I'm afraid that by saying this, I'm minimizing the wonderful gift that we've been given by knowing David Laffiteau."*

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. 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 54 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 \$24 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.**