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## **THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION SHOWS APPRECIATION TO DEDICATED TEACHERS, FACULTY AND STAFF**

### ***Dallas-area educators presented with Work of Heart Awards, \$500***

DALLAS – The Catholic Foundation recognized 11 local teachers and staff for their service and devotion to the Catholic community by presenting each with a Work of Heart Award and \$500 just in time for spring break. Each grant is given for personal use in exchange for their commitment to students, colleagues and their communities.

“The Catholic Foundation would like to express its gratitude to each recipient and recognize those who go above and beyond what is expected of them as professional educators with a Work of Heart Award,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, president of the Catholic Foundation. “This special thank you is a small token of appreciation for all the time and service they dedicate to making our Catholic schools an exceptional place to learn and grow.”

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 552 grants totaling \$484,000 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.

In addition, the family invites likeminded individuals to join them in recognizing the effort and commitment of the educators and staff in their local Catholic schools. Individual contributions can be made to the Work of Heart Award Fund at the Catholic Foundation.

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

### **Bishop Dunne Catholic School**

- Wanda Boesch, Physics and AP Physics Teacher

*“Ms. Boesch works tirelessly to constantly bring new ideas to the kids and challenge them. She is a leader in the classroom and is constantly helping other teachers with ideas for lessons. Whenever she is asked to help with a presentation or in-service, Ms. Boesch steps up with a smile. Ms. Boesch is the type of spirit we need in the Diocese. Her focus is on family, service and education.”*

- Sandy Brooks, Business Office

*“Ms. Brooks dedicated a great amount of time to our Animal Rescue Group. The unconditional love and acceptance that the animals provided helped in ways that people could not.”*

- Lillian Sunday, Front Office

*“Ms. Sunday is an energizer bunny. As busy as the front desk can be, she always has a cool head and a calm demeanor. Ms. Sunday is constantly teaching the students the importance of good manners. As the students walk through the front office, every one of them always greets her.”*

### **Christ the King Catholic School**

- Amanda Bresie, 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> English Teacher

*“Ms. Bresie is a consummate professional and the type of teacher that any school would be blessed to have. She takes the time to connect with each and every student and is the teacher every student feels comfortable going to with confidence that he or she will be treated with love and respect. As I read the criteria for the award, I am struck by the thought that this encompasses all that Ms. Bresie represents as an educator.”*

### **John Paul II High School**

- Beth Riley, Theology Teacher

*“Ms. Riley is so caring about her students and other staff members. She is very involved in her faith as a Catholic and shares her knowledge of the faith in her teachings. Ms. Riley is unselfish in giving her time, often neglecting her own time for the benefit of John Paul II High School. She is one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever seen.”*

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School**

- Mary Quill, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and Middle School Literature Teacher

*“Ms. Quill is an extraordinary individual. She teaches first grade, middle school literature and substitutes when needed, doing this all with a smile. Ms. Quill has brought so many wonderful ideas to the school that really have benefitted our children. She loves her job and her students and that is what makes a good teacher.”*

### **St. Luke Catholic School**

- Kathy Carruth, Assistant Principal/Language Art Teacher/Athletic Director

*“Ms. Carruth has displayed a very warm and caring personality to her junior high school students at St. Luke Catholic School. She helps with tutoring the students either before or after school. Ms. Carruth truly goes the ‘extra mile’ for her students.”*

### **St. Philip the Apostle School**

- Vicki Russell, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science/Literature/Religion Teacher

*“Ms. Russell is a very outstanding teacher. She never fails to nurture the minds of her students. Every time she teaches a class, she always seems to put a smile on every student. Ms. Russell is also willing to give her time to tutor children after school. She tutors any grade and is happy to do so.”*

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

- Judy Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

*“Ms. Hall goes above and beyond the call of duty with everything she does and is very dedicated and very loyal to all of the children in the class. She has never received this award and she would be so grateful for it. Ms. Hall is loved and cherished by many.”*

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

- Lisa Schrakamp, Counselor

*“Ms. Schrakamp is very, very supportive of our student body. Her door is always open and she always returns phone calls and e-mails promptly. She is never judgmental but always very positive and thoughtful. She is fair and kind. Ms. Schrakamp is like the warm hand on the shoulder of our school and she embodies the best of what it means to be a devoted, excellent Catholic educator.”*

- Marilyn Wright, Art Teacher

*“Ms. Wright does a magnificent job incorporating Catholic values into her art classes. She is always flexible and willing to help others. She coaches for our academic meets, stays late to finish a school project that may have nothing to do with her classes and is always available to provide decorations for any parent project that requires her help. Ms. Wright performs all her duties and those above and beyond her regular duties with a smile.”*

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 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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