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**JEREMY MUTUC SELECTED AS RECIPIENT OF 2009 NICHOLAS A. CANNATA  
MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP**

*Fund established in memory of beloved teen*

**DALLAS** – The Catholic Foundation announces Jeremy Mutuc as the recipient of the 2009 Nicholas A. Cannata Memorial Fund Scholarship. Recognized for his community involvement, leadership and academic achievements, Mutuc was presented with the award and a \$500 scholarship during the Coppell High School Senior Award Assembly on May 21.

The scholarship was established by David Cannata in honor of his son Nicholas A. Cannata, who passed away in June 2005 from an accidental drug overdose. The scholarship fund is administered by The Catholic Foundation.

“We established this scholarship to honor Nick for his good natured and giving soul, his kindness and his lovability. While he made a bad decision, as teens do, that cost him his life, he was such a good citizen who would always drop everything to help someone who asked him,” said David Cannata, Nick’s father. “We chose The Catholic Foundation to help us to do this because, at that grievous time, it was the sole organization who expressed a sincere interest to help administer and support our cause.”

Since Nick’s death, the Cannata family has been actively involved in helping other families with teens experimenting with illegal narcotics. In addition to setting up this scholarship in his name, they have also participated in movements initiated by Mayor Tom Leppert in Dallas educating people on the perils of "cheese" heroin. Gina Cannata, Nick’s sister and a senior at Coppell High School, is an active member of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD).

Jeremy will be attending Texas A&M University in the fall where he plans to major in business. During his time at Coppell High School, Jeremy served as Senior Class President and was highly involved in the school’s theatre program in productions of “Footloose” and “The Curious Savage.” In

addition, he was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. Jeremy is also greatly involved in community service, serving weekly as a Life Teen at St. Ann's Catholic Church and in the Senior Leadership Corps. Outside of school, Jeremy's main passion is music. He has played the piano for 12 years and produced music for local artists and dance mixes for the school talent show.

"This passion is why I want to go to school to work in the music industry. Both of my parents grew up in the Philippines so I will be the first in my family to attend college in the United States," said Jeremy. "Everyone overseas and at home is excited to see what I'm going to do and I am very happy to have all of their support. I want to thank the Cannata family for their generosity in helping me to achieve this dream."

Applicants were asked to submit a 500-word essay as to why they feel that they deserve this scholarship, detailing information regarding student exhibiting citizenship, academic success, leadership and desire for continuing education. The winner is chosen based on his or her representation of the topic "What Have I Learned Over The Past Four Years That Will Motivate Me To Work Hard For The Next Four Years", demonstration of a true need of financial assistance and model of Nick's aspirations, especially a passion and talent for the arts and exhibiting creativity.

"The Catholic Foundation is honored to help the Cannata family in honoring their son through a memorial scholarship fund," said Edwin M. Schaffer, Foundation president and CEO. "They have turned their tragedy into a lesson and blessing for others."

The winner is selected by a committee comprised of representatives from the Coppell Board of Education, the Coppell High School Counseling office, and the donors, in conjunction with a representative of The Catholic Foundation. Past recipients of the scholarship include former Coppell students Floria Chan and Ashley Johnson.

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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