



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Edwin M. Schaffler, President

972.661.9792

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION KICKS OFF 6TH YEAR OF WORK OF HEART PROGRAM
Eleven Catholic school teachers and staff receive awards, grants during
2010-2011 academic year's first disbursement

DALLAS – The 2010-2011 academic year is underway and off to a successful start, especially for 11 Catholic school educators and staff who have been awarded Work of Heart Awards and \$500 grants in the first award disbursement of awards for this school year. Over the past five years, The Catholic Foundation has granted 675 Work of Heart Awards totaling \$450,000.

“We’re very excited to kick off yet another year of this great program that continues to be successful in highlighting the hard work and positive contributions of our Catholic school teachers and staff,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, CEO and President of The Catholic Foundation. “Through their unique teaching styles, Christian examples and caring hearts, our selected honorees display a passion and commitment in their daily work that never ceases to amaze me, and I look forward to another year of recognizing worthy recipients.”

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 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

Nancy Howard, Retired Teacher

“She made 4th grade an awesome year. When 4th grade gets hard she encourages us to keep going. It never gets boring with Mrs. Howard. She always makes us smile the moment we walk through the doors of our classroom. We are going to miss her very much after she retires. We want to give her a little something to remember her years of teaching at All Saints.”

Bishop Dunne Catholic School

Eleanor Graham, English Teacher

“When [Eleanor] arrived to Bishop Dunne she implemented a scrapbook project. Students were supposed to complete pages, have Eleanor grade the grammar, and in the end, students have a

keepsake for their years here at Bishop Dunne. This project may appear superficial, but it's something that students hold on to for the rest of their lives. If you recall, early this year, one of our alumni was killed in a horrific car wreck. It was a sad moment for our Bishop Dunne family as well as for her own. At the memorial service, next to the guest book, was [the student's] scrapbook project from Eleanor's English class."

"Throughout her life she's gone out of her way to make a difference in the lives of others. Whether it be through classroom teaching, mentoring teachers and students, as a retreat leader, or simply with a smile, Eleanor changes the lives of all those that she comes in contact with each day."

"After taking an advanced English course at my university, I realized the extent to which Mrs. Graham has strengthened my academic ability. The course involved reading fifty pages a night, and four papers a night describing the tone, purpose and audience of the works. Watching my classmates fret at the syllabus's expectations, I smiled at its immense similarity to Mrs. Graham's syllabus. She treats her students with the same dignity and capability of college students, and I cannot thank her enough for the responsibility she placed in me."

- compiled from several colleague and student nominations

Mario Root, Counselor

"After taking the SAT a second time, I was confident in my score. When I informed Mr. Root, he surprised me with his advice and encouraged me to improve my scores, though he made sure to mention I had done well. He did a wonderful job of acknowledging my efforts while encouraging me to push myself. I took his advice and now have a competitive score, up one hundred points. Mr. Root congratulated me on my hard work and let me know I was in a position where I could attend nearly any university. It is difficult to find an advisor who is also a realist, he motivated me when necessary, and then celebrated when I reached a new height."

Christ the King Catholic School

Michael Higgs, Coach

"He is also my mentor. I don't know what I would do without him being at my school. I've only known Coach Higgs for three years, but let me tell you, I have not stopped seeing him doing God's work all the time. He even came up with his own prayer cards for students that need to be reminded of their Catholic faith. Even when I went to the Ministry of Sports program, his name was mentioned more than once. He is very down to earth and never loses his faith."

The Highlands School

Bernice Engel, Teacher

"She does an incredible job of motivating students to do their very best, and sees to it that they find some success, no matter how small, and to keep trying, thus inspiring the motto: Semper Altius, always higher! Her constancy reflects the constant nature of God: giving her all and never changing."

Mary Immaculate Catholic School

Thelma Glasgow, 7th-8th Grade English Teacher

"When our son was in Mrs. Glasgow's class, it became obvious to us that she had an intense passion for teaching and increasing children's intellect and faith. There is no doubt that Mrs. Glasgow goes the extra mile and gives a huge amount of her personal time and energies to be the very best teacher and mentor possible. We feel strongly that she is a major factor in the great success of the Mary Immaculate School, as they continue to turn out well prepared candidates for area Catholic, private, academy and public high schools."

“Thelma Glasgow is the type of teacher you wish your children could have had every year. Since I worked part-time at [Mary Immaculate] I could see Mrs. Glasgow from several perspectives. Her discipline was even and gentle-handed; always fair and impartial. Regardless of what might be happening in the rest of the world, Thelma’s smile was always ‘on’ for students and parents. She never had a bad word to say for any student, regardless of that student’s current situation.”

“She was my English and Literature teacher for those years, and she helped me to become a better writer, as well as a better person. Mrs. Glasgow taught us not only English, but also how to be good Christians by her example. She made sure that we learned not to plagiarize or cheat on tests. She is a very enthusiastic teacher, too. She knows how to make learning fun, which might be one of the reasons why I remember her class so well.”

“She constantly wants the best for her students, and to assist them even further, she goes to many teacher workshops to learn new teaching methods! She even started to learn Spanish to broaden her own abilities! Not only has she fueled my academic career, but she has also served as a role model to me and my peers through her actions – she is attentive, observant and caring. Mrs. Glasgow will always have a huge influence on my studies and who I am.”

- compiled from various student, colleague and parent nominations

Notre Dame Catholic School

Rosi Criswell, Reading Teacher

“With a caring heart and ebullient personality, Rosi is a shining light in the halls of our school. The children adore her and show progress in reading far beyond their parents’ wildest expectations. Besides her commitment to academic excellence, Rosi is knowledgeable about each and every one of her students. Her students respect her as a master teacher and know that they can count on her to help in any situation. Rosi is a blessing to our school.”

Prince of Peace Catholic School

John Anthony, Athletic Director and P.E. Teacher

“John has been an exemplary role model for the students he teaches and coaches. His sense of humor, positive ‘can do’ attitude, and deep concern about the success of each individual are instrumental in directing and encouraging his students to do their best. This year, John is expanding that technique to assist his fellow school staff in becoming a better version of them by organizing a four day Staff Fitness and Wellness Program.”

St. Mark Catholic School

Helen Mercado, 4th Grade Teacher

“It is difficult to describe what makes Mrs. Mercado so special. It seems to be just an overall calmness and sweetness that you feel when you are around her. Her enthusiasm and desire to make learning fun is contagious and the students certainly feel it! Mrs. Mercado even went to one of the girls’ basketball games last fall. The girls were ecstatic to see her there. Taking time out of her personal life to share it with students was above and beyond the call of duty. It was certainly not expected, but definitely appreciated by all.”

St. Patrick Catholic School

Kay Manglesdorf, Nurse

“She always has a smile on her face and will always cheer you up even when you think you are in such a bad mood or something upset you during the day. Every kid knows to go see Nurse Kay when they have the blues or an illness and she will make you feel like a new person. It would really warm my

heart to see the nurse that has helped me get through a lot win this very terrific award!"

Ursuline Academy

Maureen Sullivan, Physics Teacher

"Maureen Sullivan is one of the finest pedagogues I have ever known. She is also a very dedicated teacher, consistent, very organized and totally committed to her students. Countless times her students have told me she is the best teacher they have ever had. The ever-present smile on her face is reassuring to our girls. Maureen is now science chairperson."

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.

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.**

###