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**WORK OF HEART AWARD PROGRAM HONORS
30 EXCEPTIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**

DALLAS (March 29, 2017) – During the first half of the 2016-17 school year, 30 Dallas-area Catholic school employees received a Work of Heart Award from The Catholic Foundation for outstanding service at their school, modeling a Christian example, or going above and beyond for an individual student, family or community.

Created at The Catholic Foundation in 2005 by a family dedicated to Catholic education, the Work of Heart Award Program recognizes exceptional teachers, administrators and staff of Catholic lower, middle and high schools in the community with a \$500 grant.

“The teachers and staff at our local Catholic schools are paramount in shaping the educational foundation of the children in our community,” said Matt Kramer, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “We are grateful for the dedication of these individuals to their students, colleagues and schools and hope that their efforts inspire others to go the extra mile.”

The Work of Heart recipients for the first half of the 2016-2017 school year include:

- **Eileen Bongiovanni**, first-grade teacher at St. Mark Catholic School
- **Troy Brooks**, P.E. teacher at St. Mark Catholic School
- **Beth Burau**, German teacher, Bishop Lynch High School
- **Christina Burns**, kindergarten aide at St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- **Theresa Byrd**, kindergarten aide at St. Monica Catholic School
- **Fr. Simon Cleary**, formation teacher at The Highlands School
- **Vicki Crider**, second-grade teacher at St. Mark’s Catholic School
- **Debbie Diaz**, business manager at St. Monica Catholic School
- **Cheryl D'Ostroph**, pre-K teacher at St. Bernard of Clairvaux School
- **Humberto Garcia**, maintenance at Prince of Peace Catholic School
- **Allison Hibbitt**, English teacher at Ursuline Academy
- **Toni Jobs**, early childhood coordinator at St. Mark Catholic School
- **Brian Kendro**, seventh-grade teacher at Holy Family Catholic Academy
- **Jamie Martin**, athletic trainer/teacher at Ursuline Academy

- **Susan Mastervich**, second-grade teacher at St. Bernard Catholic School
- **Sherry McCord**, third-grade teacher at Mary Immaculate Catholic School
- **Nancy Obels-Robinson**, French teacher at Cistercian Preparatory School
- **Mary Ostrowski**, English/Spanish teacher at Santa Clara Catholic Academy
- **Mary Pecikonis**, sixth-grade English teacher at Prince of Peace Catholic Academy
- **Holly Rice**, science teacher at St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- **Lisa Richard**, registrar/administrative assistant at Cistercian Preparatory School
- **Mary Rindone**, third-grade teacher at The Highlands School
- **John Ringhauser**, honors math teacher at All Saints Catholic School
- **Fr. Mark Ripperger**, science teacher/tech support at Cistercian Preparatory School
- **Pam Steinkirchner**, assistant principal at St. Mark Catholic School
- **Beth Storm**, mock trial teacher at Bishop Lynch High School
- **Amy Wheeler**, history department head at Bishop Lynch High School
- **Cassidy Whidden**, ACE teacher at St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- **Tammy Williams**, art teacher/tutor at St. Mark Catholic School
- **Jeremy Wirths**, music director at St. Monica Catholic School

Susan Mastervich, a Work of Heart Award recipient from fall 2016, has been at St. Bernard of Clarivau for 20 years. Her nomination letter stated: "In her classroom, everyone is an expert at something. It is her desire to help each child feel successful in learning and begin to develop their analytical abilities even further, guiding each student to reach their potential and be the very best they can be in all aspects of their life. Her classroom climate is one of trust, caring, mutual respect and responsibility."

In addition to her second-grade classroom, Susan also teaches Faith Formation of Communion and helps manage Mass and Faith Formation at St. Bernard.

In describing her love for teaching at a Catholic school, Susan says, "I believe it's important to not only nurture each child's intelligence, but also their social, emotional and spiritual growth. My goal is to prepare each student for the future by providing them a secure Catholic foundation, which can allow them to make good decisions in their life. Lastly, every child I teach is a child of God and each should be allowed to learn, grow and celebrate in our Catholic faith."

Jamie Martin, an athletic trainer and teacher at Ursuline Academy, is also one of the 13 honored through the Work of Heart Award Program during the fall semester. When a group of Ursuline students were unable to establish a Sports Medicine Club, Jaime supported them by creating and teaching a new athletic training class as well as connecting the girls to the student trainer program at Jesuit. She also offered an after-school yoga session to all students to provide a healthy way to handle stress prior to finals.

Expressing her appreciation for the recognition, she says, "The individuals from Ursuline who have received this award in the past are people I admire greatly. It is humbling to be considered the same caliber of human being as the people you consider to be your inspiration. This award really belongs to

my family, my friends and the Ursuline community. They have all played influential roles in helping me to pursue my passion of educating and mentoring young women.”

Her nomination form, completed by a parent of a student, states, “Her job is to deal with and prevent physical injuries, but the care and concern she shows goes so far beyond that. She genuinely cares about the emotional and mental well-being of all the girls at Ursuline. She has been a priceless addition to the Ursuline community.”

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About the Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation is a trusted giving vehicle for the Catholic community. Chartered in 1955, the Foundation was founded by a group of dedicated Catholic laymen with a vision that extended far beyond the charitable needs of the moment. The Foundation has spent decades building a strong community, helping donors fulfill their charitable goals, and preserving the founders’ vision and philanthropic legacy. Over the past 55 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$126 million in grants to religious, charitable and educational organizations. Today, it manages more than \$219 million in assets and houses more than 400 charitable funds and trusts.