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NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE FOR A CATHOLIC FOUNDATION WORK OF HEART AWARD

Program honors Catholic school employees for outstanding service at their school, modeling a Christian example, or going above and beyond for a student, family or community

DALLAS (Aug. 2, 2017) – The Catholic Foundation is accepting nominations for Work of Heart Awards as faculty and staff gear up for another school year. The Work of Heart Award program, which was established at The Catholic Foundation in 2005 by a family dedicated to Catholic education, recognizes exceptional teachers, administrators and staff of Catholic lower, middle and high schools in the community with a \$500 cash award.

“These individuals are hard at work inspiring the hearts and minds of children in our community every day,” said Matt Kramer, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “The Work of Heart Award program is a great opportunity to show Catholic school employees how much their dedication is appreciated.”

Catholic school employees can be nominated for outstanding service at their school, modeling a Christian example, or going above and beyond for an individual student, family or community. During the 2016-17 school year, 65 Dallas-area Catholic School employees were honored with a Work of Heart Award:

- Kim Austin, The Highlands School
- Laura Barnett, St. Monica Catholic School
- Eileen Bongiovanni, St. Mark Catholic School
- Libbi Bray, The Highlands School
- Adrian Brewster, Bishop Dunne Catholic School
- Mary Jane Brezette, St. Rita Catholic School
- Troy Brooks, St. Mark Catholic School
- Beth Bureau, Bishop Lynch High School
- Christina Burns, St. Elizabeth of Hungary School
- Theresa Byrd, St. Monica Catholic School
- Fr. Simon Cleary, The Highlands School
- Vicki Crider, St. Mark Catholic School
- Debbie DeLong, Prince of Peace Catholic School
- Debbie Diaz, St. Monica Catholic School
- Cheryl D'Ostroph, St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School
- Malcolm Dotson, Cistercian Preparatory School
- Rachel Dzurilla, St. Elizabeth of Hungary School
- Leticia Escobar Neiser, The Highlands School
- Kristi Flores, Immaculate Conception School
- Humberto Garcia, Prince of Peace Catholic School
- Lori Gonzalez, St. Mary of Carmel Catholic School
- Julia Gray-Lion, Bishop Dunne Catholic School
- Katie Hayes, Ursuline Academy
- Leslie Hever, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School
- Allison Hibbitt, Ursuline Academy
- Claire Holman, St. Thomas Aquinas School
- Suzy Izquierdo, Immaculate Conception School

- Toni Jobes, St. Mark Catholic School
- Elizabeth Kearney, St. Monica Catholic School
- Brian Kendro, Holy Family Catholic Academy
- Michele Longoria, Bishop Lynch High School
- Sandra Loshelder, Mary Immaculate Catholic School
- Jessica Lynch, St. Cecilia Catholic School
- Jamie Martin, Ursuline Academy
- Susan Mastervich, St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School
- Sherry McCord, Mary Immaculate Catholic School
- Erin McCormick, St. Mark Catholic School
- Celeste Mele, St. Rita Catholic School
- Brandon Moats, Bishop Lynch High School
- Nancy Obels-Robinson, Cistercian Preparatory School
- Megan Oliver, St. Mark Catholic School
- Mary Ostrowski, Santa Clara Catholic Academy
- John Parnell, Bishop Lynch High School
- Mary Pecikonis, Prince of Peace Catholic School
- Sarah Peralta, St. Monica Catholic School
- Holly Rice, St. Elizabeth of Hungary School
- Lisa Richard, Cistercian Preparatory School
- Mary Rindone, The Highlands School
- John Ringhauser, All Saints Catholic School
- Fr. Mark Ripperger, Cistercian Preparatory School
- Christine Roman, Cristo Rey Dallas
- Peggy Sanders, Bishop Lynch High School
- Matt Sawyer, John Paul II High School
- Eric Schreiber, Bishop Lynch High School
- Pam Steinkirchner, St. Mark Catholic School
- Pauline Stoffels, Good Shepherd Catholic School
- Beth Storm, Bishop Lynch High School
- Stephanie Todora, St. Thomas Aquinas School
- Lisa Trampe, Prince of Peace Catholic School
- Kristie Wainwright, Bishop Lynch High School
- Amy Wheeler, Bishop Lynch High School
- Cassidy Whidden, St. Elizabeth of Hungary School
- Tammy Williams, St. Mark Catholic School
- Jeremy Wirths, St. Monica Catholic School
- Nancy Wrozek, Christ the King Catholic School

Libbi Bray, a fourth-grade teacher at The Highlands School, is using her Work of Heart Award to purchase a plane ticket to visit her sister, whom she rarely gets to see since they live on opposite sides of the country. In describing the recognition, Libbi says, "I have written many of these award nominations for others, and to receive the award myself was overwhelming! There are so many people involved in Catholic education who are so deserving, and this award is such a tremendous encouragement."

For Michele Longoria, the Work of Heart Award wasn't just a magnificent honor; it was an answer to her prayers. Her oldest son, a 2016 Bishop Lynch graduate, would be graduating from United States Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego in just over a month, and the travel expenses for her and her other children were not in the budget. But then, she received the award: "I am blessed. We are not educators for the fame or glory. To be able to perpetuate the need for faith-based education as a teacher is the clear path God intended me to follow. What an honor!"

Jeremy Wirths, the Director of Music at St. Monica Catholic School, loves working in Catholic education because of the loving, supportive environment it creates through the intersection of faith and academics. Jeremy says, "St. Monica is filled with amazing teachers and staff. I am honored to be chosen out of such a distinguished group."

To nominate a Catholic school employee for a Work of Heart Award, visit catholicfoundation.com. Nominations can be public or anonymous.

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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 approximately \$225 million in assets and houses more than 400 charitable funds and trusts.