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WORK OF HEART PROGRAM AWARDS GRANTS TO 17 CATHOLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

DALLAS (January 22, 2016) – Outstanding service at a Catholic school, modeling a Christian example, and going above and beyond for an individual student, family or community – these are the characteristics that link 17 Dallas-area Catholic school employees who received a Work of Heart Award from The Catholic Foundation during the first half of the 2015-2016 school year.

The Work of Heart Award Program was created at The Catholic Foundation in 2005 by a family dedicated to Catholic education. The Catholic Foundation created a designated fund using its resources, expertise and creativity to recognize the teachers, administrators and staff of Catholic lower, middle and high schools in the local Catholic community. Work of Heart Award recipients are honored with a certificate and \$500 grant.

“We are very excited to recognize some of the unsung heroes in our local Catholic education community,” said Matt Kramer, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “These individuals have gone the extra mile to serve their schools, and their co-workers. Students and parents are immensely appreciative of their dedication.”

The Work of Heart recipients for the first half of the 2015-2016 school year include:

- **Patty Barton**, nurse at Bishop Lynch High School in East Dallas
- **Joseph Burnham**, teacher at Bishop Lynch High School in East Dallas
- **Amy Chauffe**, teacher assistant at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Plano
- **Billy Clark**, track coach at Bishop Lynch High School in East Dallas
- **Debbie Dubowski**, attendance clerk at John Paul II High School in Plano
- **Christy Edwards**, physics teacher at Ursuline Academy in Dallas
- **Chad Evans**, principal at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Plano
- **Angie Foster**, pre-K3 teacher at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School in Richardson
- **Trina Hairston**, teacher at St. Luke Catholic School in Irving
- **Kathy Kenny**, 3K teacher at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Plano
- **Rosemary Martinez**, director of development and communications at Mary Immaculate Catholic School in Farmers Branch
- **Erin Michalak**, kindergarten assistant at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Plano
- **Susan Noonan**, math teacher at Bishop Lynch High School in East Dallas
- **Jema Osuna**, fourth grade teacher at Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Grand Prairie
- **Judy Porter**, director of community relations at Bishop Dunne High School in Oak Cliff
- **Lisa Stobb**, religion and music teacher at Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Grand Prairie
- **Heather Williams**, reading and computer teacher at Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Grand Prairie

Amy Chauffe, a teacher assistant at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Plano, is one of the 17 honored during the first half of the 2015-2016 school year. Her nomination letter stated:

“She goes above and beyond her duties as a teacher assistant – she is here for everyone! She maintains her faith and speaks of her faith to the students when given the opportunity. She also works for the POP Summer Camp program and is most dedicated to the success of the program, coming in on her days off to ensure there is ample staff coverage and to alleviate stress on her co-workers. Amy volunteers in the church nursery on Sundays, and in spite of being tired from her duties as a single mom of four, looks forward to seeing the children each Sunday she is there.”

Chauffe and her four children moved to Dallas after Hurricane Katrina destroyed her home and all of her belongings. She remained because her son’s doctors had moved from New Orleans and were most familiar with his unique condition and renal issues. Chauffe is currently preparing to donate her kidney to the Paired Donation program so her son may have a kidney transplant. She is not a “match” and is unable to donate her kidney directly to her son, so she will donate her kidney so he may benefit. She realizes the amazing support from the Prince of Peace community and has worked tirelessly for the last 10 years to acknowledge the community for all they have done for her.

Ursuline Academy physics teacher and admissions associate, Christy Edwards, was nominated by a parent that said, “I believe that Christy Edwards embodies all the qualities of this award. She is a model for all teachers and the reason why we spend additional money to educate our kids. She is interested in the hearts and minds. Recognizing and celebrating these qualities encourages others to follow.”

An Ursuline alumnae, Edwards has taught at the school for 12 years and was named 2011 Ursuline Teacher of the Year. She says, “Honestly I cannot imagine not working at a Catholic School. I have had the privilege of attending Catholic schools all the way from kindergarten through graduate school. I know that it has made me who I am and so I think that it is an honor to be able to pay it forward to the students in Catholic Schools today.”

In addition to teaching and working in the admissions department, she coaches cross country and chaperones the Diocesan Mission Trip to Nicaragua with Ursuline students.

“I love watching a girl who has never run before cross the finish line at her last race, running faster than she ever thought she could! I also love going on the mission trip because I honestly think it brings out the best in all of my students as they are forced to take cold showers, dress in work clothes, and learn to rely on their relationships with one another rather than their cell phones. I feel so fortunate that I have the opportunity to work with Ursuline students in so many different capacities that I really treasure getting to know their true personalities,” Edwards said.

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 30 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$100 million in grants to religious, charitable and educational organizations, and today houses more than 370 charitable funds and trusts, and manages more than \$200 million in assets.

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