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THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION HONORS THREE AT THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL WITH THE *WORK OF HEART AWARD*

(Irving, Texas.-February 1, 2010) – The Catholic Foundation recently presented two teachers and an administrative assistant from The Highlands School with the *Work of Heart Award*. The 2009-2010 school year marks the fifth year of the program, which honors Catholic educators for their dedication and service to their schools, students, and communities. All three employees received a certificate and a \$500.00 grant for their personal use.

Zelma McCarty, who has now taught language arts to the fourth and fifth grade boys for almost four years at The Highlands, was tearful as she received her award. McCarty strives to impress upon the boys both the need and the desire to perform well. Libby Bray, who teaches the fourth and fifth grade girls, said, “As a fellow faculty member, I can tell you that nothing escapes her watchful eye. A mother of grown boys herself, Ms. McCarty is so vigilant where these boys are concerned. I never cease to be amazed at her loving care for our entire student body, and her high expectations make me so thankful that my own son has had the privilege of being her student. She is a champion!”

Currently in his sixth year of teaching middle school history at The Highlands, Robert “Bob” Brassil always has a smile on his face. Like all the other conferees of the *Work of Heart Award*, he does not know who nominated him, nor does he know the precise reasons why. But he suspects that the clue can be found in one of his favorite insights on education by a wise Irishman named W.B. Yeats, “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” His son Andre, a senior at The Highlands, hears that and says, “Great, Dad. So, tell your colleagues to lighten the pails of homework and to fuel the flames of inquiry into something more fun.” “You see, this generation, with all the facilitating bells and whistles of technology, is demanding more from teachers than ever before,” says Mr. Brassil, “but we are ready and able to take on the challenge as long as we keep putting our hearts into it.”

Debbie Hurley, the registrar and administrative assistant to the principal, has now received this prestigious award for the second time in three years. Administration, teachers, staff, and students recognize her as an invaluable asset to the school. Dr. Paul Sullivan, principal says, “Debbie Hurley has been a stalwart supporter and tireless worker at The Highlands School for almost ten years. She constantly goes above and beyond her job description by assisting the college counselor, the Boys’ Formation Director, and the Academic Coordinators. This is all done with a smile and an attitude of giving. Without a doubt, she wears many hats and we are

very appreciative of her skills, her dedication, and her pleasant demeanor. In response to her award, Debbie acknowledged, "It is gratifying and humbling to know that people think that highly of me."

Established in 2005, The Catholic Foundation renewed The Work of Heart Program for the 2009-2010 school terms by a generous anonymous Dallas family. The benefactors are looking for "the unsung heroes" who are recognized for going the "extra mile" in serving our educational community and its members. The criteria for the award include: additional merit including tenure and leadership, enthusiastic instruction, individual unexpected acts of kindness or charity, Christian example, mentoring, and going the extra mile for an individual student, family or the community.

All nominations should be no more than one page and submitted in writing to The Catholic Foundation. The nominations should be addressed to "Work of Heart" and sent to The Catholic Foundation, 5310 Harvest Hill, Suite 248, Dallas, Texas, 75230; or you can fax to 972/661-0140 or email workofheart@catholicfoundation.com. Nominations can be submitted on an on-going basis; all nominations will be retained for consideration throughout the 2007-2008 school year.

About The Highlands School

Established in 1986, The Highlands School is a Catholic college-preparatory school. Offering grades Pre-K through 12th, the mission of The Highlands School is to provide the highest quality education and integral formation of the student as a well-rounded mature youth of character and integrity. Personalized attention from faculty, staff, and religious provides each student with the maximum opportunity for growth.

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For additional information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Mr. John Borley, please call Cris Hannis, Director of Development, at 972-438-8218 ext. 261 or e-mail Cris at channis@thehighlandsschool.org.