



400 E Monroe Street | Phoenix, AZ 85004

Contact: Brigitte Dayton, Vice President
of Marketing & Program Development
602.354.2402 | bdayton@ccfphx.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$240,000 IN SERVICE-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED FOR 30 EIGHTH GRADERS– JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

Phoenix, AZ – December 15, 2011 – The Catholic Community Foundation announced today that \$240,000 in scholarships will be awarded– just in time for Christmas.

On December 13, 2011 the Foundation’s volunteer Christian Service Awards committee, chaired by president and CEO of National Bank of Arizona, Keith Maio, met to select 30 students who will each receive an \$8,000 award to Catholic high school. Maio comments, *“These are very unique awards, weighted heavily on the student’s commitment to living a service-based life. These kids demonstrate selfless giving of themselves to benefit others, with no expectation of recognition, reward, or acknowledgement. We had a very difficult decision to make as a committee. All of the applicants are deserving of these awards and we are so grateful to the benefactors that make them possible.”*

On Saturday, December 10, 2011 the 12 committee volunteers conducted 143 personal interviews with eighth grade Catholic students from all over Phoenix, who each have the same dream of attending one of the Valley’s six Catholic high schools. The members of the committee had previously reviewed the three other required components submitted by applicants back in November including: three reference letters, a 500 word essay and a record log of volunteer hours served throughout their parish, school and community.

Maio further states, *“We couldn’t ask for a better gift this year than the gift of being able to award these scholarships and having the opportunity to help 7 more families than we were able to last year. It warms the heart to learn of the extraordinary service of these eighth graders in our communities. Their intelligence, maturity, humility, and leadership ability provide great hope for a strong and vibrant future and their contributions are most deserving of recognition.”*

An awards ceremony will be held in March 2012 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center for the 30 recipients selected.

ABOUT THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Catholic Community Foundation was created in 1983 and serves families and individuals and promotes charitable giving in support of the mission of the Roman Catholic Church.

Today, the Foundation manages over 300 different funds and make grants to schools, parishes, organizations that feed the poor, aid retired priests, fund seminarian education, deliver the TV Mass and radio rosary to shut-ins, clothe and house women and children and aid families in taking the necessary steps to become self-sufficient. For more on the Catholic Community Foundation, visit www.ccfphx.org.

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