



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Director of Communications

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Announces \$5 Million Transformational Gift from the Kinder Foundation

Gift is directed at the Inner City Catholic Schools Cooperative to help economically disadvantaged children achieve an exemplary education

HOUSTON (JANUARY 12, 2012) – The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston is pleased to announce a transformational gift of \$5 million from the Kinder Foundation to the Catholic Schools Cooperative. The Cooperative is a pilot program that launched in August 2011 to enhance the quality and viability of education in the Archdiocese’s Inner City schools.

The five PK3 – 8 grade schools in the Catholic School Cooperative are Resurrection School, St. Augustine School, St. Francis of Assisi School, St. Peter the Apostle School and St. Pius V School.

The Kinder Foundation gift will address: classroom resources, including instruction and technology; teacher pay; professional development; tuition assistance; and improvement at Cooperative facilities, some of which are more than 50 years old.

“Our urban schools are very successful but have many challenges,” said Sister Kevina Keating, CCVI, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese. “We are very excited about our first Catholic Schools Cooperative and extremely grateful to Rich and Nancy Kinder for this immensely generous gift and their confidence and support of our Inner City Catholic Schools and each student.”

The Archdiocese educates more than 2,000 students through its 13 Inner City Catholic Schools, which have a long and successful tradition of providing quality Catholic education to all students. As recently as spring 2011, the schools of the Archdiocese were given national recognition by the College Board for increasing diversity in their student bodies while maintaining or increasing students’ college readiness.

The effectiveness of Catholic Schools in teaching urban youth is well-documented in national research and studies, but the Archdiocese’s ability to continue providing quality education to Inner City students has many challenges, including demographic shifts, rising costs, aging facilities and diminishing financial resources.

The gift by the Kinder Foundation provides the Cooperative with the financial support for these five schools that will allow the Kinder Foundation and the Cooperative to determine the effectiveness and success of this focused and innovative approach on a much faster timeline than originally planned and lead to an expansion of this model to all Inner City schools.

“Nancy and I recognize the strong emphasis on education and character building that the Archdiocese fosters in their school curriculum,” said Rich Kinder, of the Kinder Foundation. “The Inner City Catholic

schools are an underutilized asset that, with some investment, can boost the availability of quality education and have a resounding impact on the surrounding community.”

According to *The Philanthropy Roundtable*, “Catholic schools have offered generations of Americans a superb education at minimal cost. These schools, renowned for their insistence on academic excellence and moral formation, have long been committed to helping every child achieve his or her God-given potential. While the Catholic population in the United States has grown considerably, Catholic schools from coast to coast are closing. [It is a ray of hope that] across America, donors of all religious backgrounds — or no religious background at all — are working to help save inner city Catholic schools.”

Quick stats:*

- Locally, 100 percent of Inner City Catholic School students in the Archdiocese go to high school; half attend Catholic high schools.
- Locally, the population of the 13 Inner City Catholic Schools in Houston, Galveston and Galena Park is 62 percent Hispanic and 24 percent African American.

**Source: Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

Through this gift, the Kinder Foundation hopes to encourage further support for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s Catholic Schools, as well as enrollment by children of any faith and socio-economic standing. Any student can attend a Catholic school and scholarships are available to qualifying families. For more information about the Inner City Catholic School Cooperative, please visit www.archgh.org.

About the Archdiocese

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston serves 1.3 million Catholics in 10 counties. It is the largest Roman Catholic diocese in Texas and the 12th largest in the United States. For more information about the Archdiocese, visit www.archgh.org.

About the Kinder Foundation

The Kinder Foundation is a family foundation established by Rich and Nancy Kinder. It is the mission of the Foundation to enrich the lives of people in the Houston area through transformational grants that impact urban green space, education and quality of life. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.kinderfoundation.org.