



PRESSRELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jeanne Wells, (515) 237-5010

Catholic Tuition Organization raises record dollars to help students in need

The Catholic Tuition Organization (CTO) in the Diocese of Des Moines is pleased to announce the results of its annual fundraising campaign ending Dec. 31, 2009. CTO raised \$1,829,000 in tuition assistance funds, an increase of nearly \$500,000 over 2008. In addition, there was almost a 40% increase in the number of contributors in 2009 who donated to CTO.

"The success of 2009 campaign for the Catholic Tuition Organization is a tribute to our donors who recognize the increased need by our families for tuition assistance given the economic conditions we all experienced this past year," said Jeanne Wells, executive director of the CTO. "I am grateful for each and every donor."

The Catholic Tuition Organization provides tuition assistance to families in need who desire their children to receive a Catholic education. Last year, CTO helped 1,193 students receive a Catholic education by providing a total of \$1,265,929 in tuition assistance.

"Without the help from the Catholic Tuition Organization, my child's Catholic education would not be possible," said Stephanie Turner. "The CTO has made it possible for me to fulfill one of my life long dreams of providing my son with a Catholic education. I have to applaud CTO. This organization is one that I rave about continuously. I have said it many times,

(more)

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without CTO, I know that it would not be possible for my son to go to a Catholic school.”

Students attending Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines are receiving top academic training in a faith-based environment. Catholic school students are consistently receiving higher test scores on ITBS and ITED tests in all areas (reading, math, science) than the state and nation. The high school graduation rate for 2008-2009 graduates was 100% and an average of 97% of graduates attended post-secondary education. In addition, Des Moines diocesan Catholic high schools scored higher than state averages in all areas of the ACT exam with a composite score of 23.5 for the diocesan high schools versus 22.4 for high schools in Iowa in 2009.

For more information about the Catholic Tuition Organization, please visit www.ctodsmdiocese.org or contact Jeanne Wells at jwells@dmdiocese.org.

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