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Gala success means major benefits for CCHS

Teacher grants, tuition assistance and special awards for outstanding service are all things made possible because of another highly successful Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation Gala. The fundraiser held in March at the Fillmore in uptown Charlotte netted nearly \$150,000.

"Once again, a lot of generous people stepped up to the plate," said CCHS Foundation President Norm George. "Their support allows us, to among other things, bring new technologies to the classroom and reward educators who make a difference in our students' lives."

The CCHS Foundation announced the creation of the Sister Paulette Williams, RSM Awards for Outstanding Service at the Gala this year. Sister Paulette was a long-time principal at Charlotte Catholic High School. She is credited with helping build the foundation for Catholic education in our community. Her leadership, dedication and guidance moved a tiny school from what is now Holy Trinity to the existing Charlotte Catholic High School campus. The Outstanding Service Award named in her honor recognizes five educators who excel as mentors and help our students grow academically as well as spiritually. Each honoree receives \$5000 as a thank-you.

Enough money was raised at the Gala to fully fund the award this year and to begin the process of funding it for years to come.

The Sister Paulette Williams, RSM Award winners announced at this year's graduation:

- Kevin Christmas
- Karen Grauman
- Linda Horvath
- Shawn Panther
- Joanne Winters

"We asked students, parents and co-workers to make the nominations for this award," said George. "We were blown away by the response. We got more than 50 nominations. It just shows how much of an impact our teachers are having and we are thrilled to be able to honor them."

The CCHS Foundation also awarded five classroom grants totaling more than \$11,000 at its May meeting. The grants will be used to purchase specialized photography equipment and robotic arms. Grants will also fund a college application boot camp and a school-wide initiative focusing on character development. Teachers will be able to apply for additional grants when school reopens in the fall.

Earlier in the year, the CCHS Foundation committed to purchasing software for a language lab benefiting all students. The creation of a S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) platform is also in the works in collaboration with Principal Kurt Telford.

During this past school year, \$23,700 in tuition assistance was also provided through Kara Kloiber Memorial Scholarship Fund. Another \$3,800 was distributed as part of a new tuition assistance program created to help teachers with students in the MACS system and \$4,500 was made available to families facing unexpected financial hardships.

The rest of the proceeds from Gala will be invested for future initiatives at Charlotte Catholic High School.

"It has been an outstanding year at Charlotte Catholic and the CCHS Foundation is honored to continue to play a role in its success," said George. "We are already looking forward to the 2016-17 school year."

The Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation is 501(c)3 non-profit. You can learn more by visiting www.cchsfoundation.org