

April 29, 2010

News Release: Immediate

From: The Austin Catholic Schools
Contact: Mary Holtorf, Director of Schools
507.433.8859

Re: *Securing Our Future* capital campaign

The Austin Catholic Schools announce campaign leadership and a \$750,000 matching grant from The Hormel Foundation

Following the feasibility study report that was presented to the Austin Catholic Schools in February 2010, the School Trustees, School Council, and Foundation Board voted unanimously to move ahead on a \$3.5 million capital campaign to enhance educational, cultural, and vocational education; review student and teacher enrichment opportunities; address facility improvements; and increase its endowment. This campaign lays the groundwork for the long-range planning which will secure parochial education as an educational alternative for the Austin community well into the future.

Steve Holtorf, Chairman, United Catholic Schools Foundation stated, “ The feasibility study was very extensive. There were seven informational meetings held and over 115 individuals were personally interviewed. Of those interviewed, 82% indicated a willingness to make a financial commitment to the *Securing Our Future* funding initiative. The study presented the following five recommendations as priorities.”

1. Providing scholarship funds to ensure that the Austin Catholic Schools remain an affordable option for all
2. Improving teacher compensation in order to retain good teachers
3. Providing upgrades in technology including technical support
4. Modernizing and upgrading the science labs, library, and media center
5. Addressing facility upgrades including HVAC to improve energy efficiency

In announcing the leadership for the campaign, Randy Kramer, Senior Financial Advisor, Davis, Thoen, Kramer, and Associates - Ameriprise Financial, and a member of the United Catholic Schools Foundation Board, commented that the depth of leadership for this project is unprecedented. Serving as Honorary Chairperson is Bishop John M. Quinn, Winona Diocese.

Serving as the Endorsement Committee for the *Securing Our Future* capital campaign are leaders who believe this initiative will strengthen the choice of education that Austin offers and will firmly establish Austin’s emphasis on the importance of high standards in education. They are:

David and Barbara Agerter
Todd Hepler
Larry and Teri Pfeil
Richard and Belita Schindler

Rolf and Faye Bollingberg
Randy and Wendy Kramer
Gary and Pat Ray
Jim and Jeanne Sheehan

Co-Chairpersons for the campaign are:

Walt and Jan Baldus
Tim and Jaci Brennan
Neil and Peggy Drees
Richard and Anita Fischer
Michael and Kitty Gary
Steve and Mary Holtorf
Larry and Linda Keenan
Steve and Lisa Kocer
Jake and Sarah Nelsen
Fr. Dale Tupper
Marty and Christi Wolesky

William Bodensteiner
Arlo and Beth Drees
Martin and Pat Feist
Fr. Joe Fogal
James and Joan Hayden
Rick and Michele Johnson
Steve and Michelle King
Jim and Janice Mino
David and Linda Scherer
Jerry and Mary Anne Wolesky

In addition to the Endorsement Committee and Co-Chairpersons, the *Securing Our Future* campaign has enlisted 47 community leaders to serve on an Executive Council that will assist with the community-wide phase of the campaign.

During the press conference, it was announced that The Hormel Foundation has committed a \$750,000 matching grant in support of the Austin Catholic Schools' *Securing Our Future* funding program. In making the announcement, Mr. Kramer read a statement from Dick Knowlton, President of The Hormel Foundation. "The Hormel Foundation believes that supporting education is one of the best ways to invest in a community. We are pleased to assist the Austin Catholic Schools on their capital campaign." Mr. Kramer believes this grant points out the importance that The Hormel Foundation places on education, and the significance of having a strong educational system to prepare students to pursue careers and vocations of their choosing.

Fr. Dale Tupper, member of the Austin Catholic Schools Trustees remarked, "the Hormel Foundation grant is the largest gift the Austin Catholic Schools has ever received. He further stated that this grant challenges the greater Austin community and the Pacelli alumni to support the *Securing Our Future* capital campaign which will enhance the educational opportunities that our community offers."

The Austin Catholic Schools are planning a special event to launch the *Securing Our Future* campaign on Wednesday, May 19 at St. Edward Catholic Church. Bishop John M. Quinn, Honorary Chairperson for the campaign, will attend the event that will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a reception followed by a brief program.

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