

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Photos submitted by LAUREN VENEGAS

TCA students Morgan De Paoli of Far North Dallas (back, from left) Kathryn Carter of Plano and Hannah Pavey of Plano gave school supplies to kids in the Amazon during their spring break.

Spreading the word and lending a hand

By LAUREN VENEGAS
Contributor

Seventy people from Trinity Christian Academy, including students, parents, faculty and staff, went on a mission trip to the Amazon over spring break. They provided medical and dental care; vacation Bible school; spoke with men and women about what it means to be a good/godly husband, wife or parent; gave out reading glasses to those in need; provided school supplies to different village schools and shared the gospel with hundreds of people each day via door-to-door evangelism and



TCA students led a worship service with families in the Amazon during their trip over spring break.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Farmers Branch teacher honored



Kassi Vander Heiden

Kassi Vander Heiden, a sixth-grade teacher at Mary Immaculate Catholic School in Farmers Branch, was recently honored with a Work of Heart Award from The Catholic Foundation.

Vander Heiden was among six other Dallas-area Catholic school teachers honored by the organization for their passion and commitment to Catholic education after nominations by peers, school administrators, parents, grandparents and students. Each honoree received \$500 for personal use.

"We are pleased to honor these outstanding individuals with a Work of Heart Award," said Edwin M. Schaffler, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. "The nominations we received for these recipients are a testament to their faith, dedication and commitment to serving the needs of the Catholic community."

Vander Heiden, a first-year teacher at Mary Immaculate, said the best part of her job is the students.

"It brings me joy knowing that I can help make a difference in their lives and let them know that they can succeed," she said. "It reinforces that this is what I have been called to do: teach and help others."

The Work of Heart award program was established in 2005 to honor Catholic educators and staff in the Diocese of Dallas, funded solely by an anonymous Dallas family through The Catholic Foundation.

Today, the foundation continues the program through the use of unrestricted funds and welcomes donations from those interested in honoring Catholic school educators. As of the 2010-11 school year, the organization presented more than 750 Work of Heart Awards totaling \$489,500 to individuals who serve children in 37 area schools.

To nominate a candidate for the award, visit catholicfoundation.com/serving.

Lauren Dugger contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of The Catholic Foundation.

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UNT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

University of North Texas Project COPE Helping Grandparent Caregivers

Project COPE (Caring for Others as a Positive Experience) is being conducted beginning this Spring by Dr. Bert Hayslip at the University of North Texas. This project will compare different ways of helping grandmothers who are raising a grandchild between ages of 4 to 12 in the absence of the grandchild's birth parents. Participation will involve being interviewed and attending 10 weekly helping group meetings with other grandmother caregivers. Grandparents will be paid for each interview, and will receive information about how to cope with raising a grandchild as well as information about parenting a grandchild. All information gathered will be held in the strictest confidence. Please call Dr. Hayslip at 940-565-2675 or email him at hayslipb@unt.edu to find out more about the study or to enroll.