



An Archdiocesan Co-ed Catholic High School in the Traditions of the Notre Dame Sisters and the Christian Brothers

NEWS RELEASE

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Roncalli Catholic High School receives \$545,000 from Lied Foundation *Capital improvements begin immediately*

July 2, 2010 (OMAHA, NE) – Roncalli Catholic High School received a \$545,000 grant from the Lied Foundation, the largest donation thus far to the school's current capital campaign. The grant came after the Rev. Lloyd Gnirk, the school's president emeritus, and Douglas County Treasurer John Ewing, a member of the school's capital campaign leadership team, met with Lied Foundation trustee Christina Hixson to discuss Roncalli's plans for the future. Hixson agreed to help underwrite the school's capital improvement plans.

"The Roncalli family is grateful for the generosity of Christina Hixson and the Lied Foundation," Gnirk said. "The grant will allow Roncalli to offer students a state-of-the-art learning environment." Hixson, the Clarinda, Iowa, native, through the Las Vegas-based Lied trust, has given more than \$300 million to projects and programs in Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, California and Washington. Her gift to Roncalli in the mid-1990's allowed the school to remodel the top floor of its building. Gnirk said the Lied grant will be used for five principle areas of capital improvement: classroom renovations, restroom facilities, parking lot resurfacing, an auditorium lightboard and the installation of an electronic sign at the school's Sorensen Parkway main entrance. Work on the parking lot surface will begin immediately, Gnirk said.

Roncalli Catholic High School's \$2.75 million capital campaign got underway last fall. Gnirk, then the president and principal of the north Omaha school, and Vicki Sempek of Catholic Development, LLC, led the charge, along with a team of committed alumni, school parents, donors and friends of the school. The campaign has received nearly \$2.2 million in pledges.

(more)



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Gnirk was replaced this month by Jeffrey Dempsey as Roncalli's president. Dempsey said he knows of only one way to show his appreciation to the Lied Foundation and other donors to the north Omaha school. "The administration, teachers and staff must continue to graduate intelligent, conscientious young men and women of faith who are willing to make a contribution to their community," Dempsey said. "If we do that, the entire community benefits, because when you invest in Roncalli Catholic High School, you are investing in the city's future."

Efforts continue to raise the approximately \$500,000 needed to meet the campaign's total goal. To contribute to the campaign for Roncalli Catholic High School, go to www.roncallicatholic.org.

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About Roncalli Catholic High School

Roncalli Catholic High School is part of the Archdiocese of Omaha, providing a comprehensive, co-ed college preparatory education. In a structured and faith-centered environment, Roncalli offers an outstanding educational opportunity to all students regardless of income. Roncalli's roots are found in the Notre Dame Academy, an all-girls school founded in 1926 by the Notre Dame Sisters, and Archbishop Rummel High School, an all-boys school founded by the De LaSalle Christian Brothers in 1964. The schools merged in 1974 to become Roncalli, named after Pope John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli). Today the school continues its educational mission in the tradition of these two religious communities. Contact us at 6401 Sorensen Parkway, Omaha, NE 68152, Phone 402.571.7670, www.roncallicatholic.org.