



NEWS RELEASE

CTODP TAX-REDIRECT CAMPAIGN MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

PHOENIX (September 4, 2009) The Catholic Tuition Organization of the Diocese of Phoenix (CTODP) announced on August 20, 2009, the suspension of a recently developed but never launched “donor recommended” grants program called Catholic Education Fund. The program will be undergoing further review based on new and growing concerns about how such a mechanism of giving may affect the charitable tax-status of CTODP and also of contributions from donors who recommend individual students by name. However CTODP’s 12-year old needs-based scholarship program will continue.

CTODP, the Catholic school tuition organization (STO) that uses a private education tax-credit to enable tax-paying individuals and corporations to redirect their Arizona tax dollars to support students’ scholarships, earlier reported that nearly 60 percent of the total student population at Diocese of Phoenix elementary and secondary schools receives tuition assistance from CTODP. Most of these children could not attend Catholic schools without tuition assistance, and over three-quarters of recipients come from households with adjusted gross income levels under \$50,000. This simple tax-redirect program effectively costs Arizona taxpayers nothing out-of-pocket since the contributor is redirecting monies that would otherwise be collected by the State, yet surprisingly, fewer than 1 in 5 taxpaying households in the diocese are currently redirecting their tax dollars to support our low-income/high-need families.

Given the suspension of the Catholic Education Fund, CTODP asks for all parish and school communities and families to give their strongest possible support to CTODP’s 2009 End of Year Campaign, especially given the challenge of the economy which will no doubt make the choice of a Catholic education more difficult for our lower-income families.

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