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**Two Austin Schools To Be Honored In New York City  
for 2009 Service Project**

***National Recognition for School-based Philanthropy Project Sponsored  
by Austin-based A Legacy of Giving and The LEAGUE***

**AUSTIN, Texas - February 11, 2010** – Students and school representatives from Akins High School and St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic School will travel to New York City this weekend to be recognized for their philanthropic achievements earned in 2009 during “The Drive,” a nationwide school-based service event coordinated by A Legacy of Giving and The LEAGUE. The students were selected for their superior results generated during a three-week local service project in November, aimed at addressing and alleviating the issues of poverty and hunger in Greater Austin.

During the campaign, 20 participating Austin-area schools collected more than 30,000 pounds of food for the Capital Area Food Bank and over 2,000 coats for the Austin Coats for Kids campaign. St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic School and Akins High School, a three-time winner, earned enough points during their food and clothing drives to rank among the top 10 schools participating nationally in The LEAGUE service event. Five Austin schools ranked among the top 20 nationwide.

“We are so proud of the enthusiasm and tremendous work provided by the students, teachers and their communities to achieve these results,” said Linda Brucker, executive director for A Legacy of Giving. “Our programs prove that students are embracing philanthropy as part of their curriculum and we’re excited to see how much they want to make a difference.”

On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, students from Akins High School and St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic School will join other students from schools around the nation rewarded for their

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contributions to The Drive service event at the Kateri Residence Retirement Community in New York City in another philanthropic project titled “Will You Be My Valentine?” Travelling outside of the state of Texas will be a first for some Austin students. When Akins High School student David Mancha was asked when he realized he had become a philanthropist, he said, “In Mrs. San Miguel’s Community Solutions class, during an event where we were giving out food to those in need, I recognized people from my school were getting the food. That’s when it sunk in that people really close to me need help.”

Akins High School and St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic School students are part of A Legacy of Giving, a philanthropy education program now in its third year that includes 20 Austin area public, private and parochial schools. All 20 schools participate in A Legacy of Giving’s youth service projects throughout the school year. Legacy asks students to give their time, talent and treasure through various activities that educate, engage and empower students through service-learning. Legacy, in partnership with The LEAGUE, trains teachers to use the service-learning curriculum and programming of The LEAGUE, a national not-for-profit organization that encourages young people to make a positive difference in their communities.

**About Legacy of Giving:**

Founded in 2007 under the umbrella of the Austin Community Foundation, A Legacy of Giving is advancing its mission to empower children through philanthropy education to become more engaged in improving their communities and world. A Legacy of Giving believes that if children learn to be compassionate at the earliest ages, they will continue to be engaged in their communities and offer their gifts of time, talent and treasure as adults. A Legacy of Giving empowers students to take action in their communities by offering them well-planned, hands-on, real-life projects. The vision of A Legacy of Giving is to grow a generation of givers. For more information, please visit [www.alegacyofgiving.org](http://www.alegacyofgiving.org).

**About The LEAGUE:**

Created by a consortium of business, education, government, media, non-profit leaders and youth, The LEAGUE is open to every student and school nationwide. Joining The LEAGUE is simple – everything a school needs to get started is available at [www.theleague.org](http://www.theleague.org). There, The LEAGUE provides step-by-step instructions on how to register, plan events, track points, reward team members and much more. It also provides access to more than 1,400 lessons on giving, service and civic engagement, state approved for use in K-12 classrooms nationwide.

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