

Tuition assistance for more than 1,100 families

There were more than 1,100 families who benefited by receiving tuition assistance through the Catholic Tuition Organization (CTO) this school year.

Tuition assistance through the CTO is possible as a result of the Educational Opportunities Act. The 2006 legislation allows nonpublic schools to create school tuition organizations, like the CTO, and give tax credits to donors.

On average, each student received \$1,072 toward 2008-09 tuition at one of the 16 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines. The total for the donations received for CTO tuition assistance for the 2008-09 academic year exceeded \$1.1 million.

While the monetary figures are remarkable, the effect of the generosity on the part of those contributing to the CTO is immeasurable in the life of a student who might not otherwise be able to choose education at a Catholic school.

“I learned of one family with four boys in one of the diocesan Catholic schools that was eligible for \$7,500 in tuition assistance,” said Jeanne Wells, program manager for the CTO. “Those children may not have been able to attend that Catholic school without the tuition assistance.”

As the amount of funds available for tuition assistance awards has grown each year since the program began in 2006, the number of students in the Diocese of Des Moines who have been helped with Catholic school tuition through CTO contributions has increased as well.

Donations are currently being accepted for 2008.

To donate to the CTO, go to www.ctodsmdiocese.org or call Wells at 515 237-5010.