



Media Advisory: March 11, 2015

Catholic Coalition for Special Education Holds 10th Anniversary Gala

*Hosted by Gala Chairs Anne and David Kane
Friday, March 13, 2015, 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.*

(Kensington, Maryland) – Dedicated parents and benefactors will gather together Friday evening celebrating the difference that the Catholic Coalition for Special Education (CCSE) has made in the lives of children with intellectual disabilities since its founding ten years ago, when children with special needs rarely had the opportunity to attend Catholic school in an integrated setting.

A private club in Chevy Chase Maryland will be packed with 300 guests ranging from business leaders to students with special needs; all dressed in style and love, from cocktail dresses to Catholic school uniforms. A live and silent auction with a couple well-placed remarks and a brief video will keep the evening moving along.

Many Catholic schools would like to serve all their families and educate all their children, but don't think they have the resources or staff to educate students with developmental or intellectual disabilities. For the past ten years, CCSE, unique in its mission in the United States, has been there to provide professional development, technical assistance, public awareness, family support and to help fill the funding gap at schools, granting nearly **\$750,000 to 24 schools in six Maryland counties**.

Through CCSE's *Believe in Me! Program*, Catholic schools located in Washington, D.C. or Maryland may receive seed grants to expand or create sustainable programs enrolling two or more students with cognitive disabilities. Funding may be used to hire and train special educators, purchase equipment and materials, or provide appropriate accommodations and modifications to the curriculum.

Schools also are encouraged to apply for Technical Assistance Visits or Grants for help in raising disability awareness among staff, establishing a peer mentoring program, guidance in creating new policies on grading or standards, assistance in implementing appropriate modifications, and more.

CCSE also provides scholarships to Catholic school teachers to attend professional development and training classes.

The mission of the [Catholic Coalition for Special Education](#) is to ensure that children with special needs are able to attend and receive an appropriate education in their local Catholic elementary schools and high schools. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI "no child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation." CCSE provides grants and technical assistance to help Catholic schools in Washington, D.C. and Maryland achieve this goal.