



Release: April 6, 2017

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**Dr. Sheilah Lynch and Tom Hogan Co Chaired Gala
for Catholic Coalition for Special Education**

(Kensington, Maryland) – Several hundred supporters gathered in the atrium of the Embassy of Italy on March 24 for the sold out, signature fundraising event for the Catholic Coalition for Special Education.

CCSE raised \$220,000 at the gala with some donations still being tallied. This annual benefit supports the volunteer work of CCSE to engage and encourage Catholic schools and archdioceses to educate children with disabilities in inclusive classrooms alongside their peers.

Highlights of the evening included the presentation of CCSE's first Outstanding Service Award to Dot Shetterly for her ceaseless generosity of time and talent. And Shetterly's grandson, Scottie, made several appearances throughout the evening escorting his grandmother to the stage and introducing the gala co-chairs who are family friends.

The gala co-chairs this year were Dr. Sheilah Lynch and Mr. Tom Hogan.

Dr. Lynch, a Chevy Chase Plastic Surgeon, appreciates the outpouring of support for the Gala and says, "Sharing in the journey to help children with disabilities and their families, is a community effort that we all must join and support."

Dr. Lynch's husband and co-chair Attorney Tom Hogan, a Principal of F/S Capitol Consulting, of Providence and Washington, DC, has faith in the future for those with disabilities living in the community.

"The programs at CCSE strive to unlock individual potential. And my family, along with the determination of many others, shows what great changes can result from a robust community effort. That is what the Gala is about, and Sheilah and I are appreciative to be associated with such a fine organization," said Mr. Hogan.

Mr. Hogan emphasizes that donations are always welcome and may be given through the website at <http://bit.ly/give2ccse>.

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.

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.

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