

St. Philomena School - "Bringing faith to life and life to faith."

St. Philomena School is committed to "bringing faith to life and life to faith." The school's goal is to provide a high-quality education for all students, as well as to guide students during their moral formation to the light of Christ. Faculty and staff work together to ensure that students graduating from St. Philomena are well-rounded leaders with the ability to take on whatever challenge is laid out before them. Students are given daily opportunities to become better students, learn important soft skills, interact with other students in a safe environment and grow in their relationship with Jesus.



For over **10 years**, the students and families of St. Philomena School and St. Philomena Church have held a massive food drive to benefit the Phoenix Community Development Services (Phoenix) food pantry. Under the leadership of the St. Philomena student council, students and their families collect between 6,000 and 7,000 non-perishable food items and deliver them to Phoenix's New Hope Apartments every November. Members of the student council, the seventh grade class, and parents help load all of the donations into several school and family vehicles. Student council members, faculty advisers and parent volunteers then caravan to New Hope Apartments where the donations were unloaded and stocked onto the food pantry shelves. While at the facility, students also have a chance to visit with Phoenix staff and the New Hope residents and learn more about the agency's work and the issue of homelessness.

New Hope Apartments provides permanent housing for 84 single adults with one or more disabling conditions who were all homeless prior to moving in. It is an extremely low income population that frequently struggles with food insecurity issues. The volume of the food contributed by the students of St. Philomena every year is enough to keep the food pantry stocked for most of the year! Since the students began their food drive over 10 years ago, **thousands** of Phoenix residents have benefitted from the food in the pantry. Because of the support of these caring students, the Phoenix residents are healthier and have access to a balanced, more nutritious diet. For this reason alone, it is our honor and pleasure to nominate the very deserving Students of St. Philomena School for the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award - Ages 5-17!

