



Dear Parents,

2016-2017

As members of the CARE team, we would like to take this opportunity to explain the CARE program and its many benefits. Many of us have been involved with CARE for several years and have fulfilled nearly all of our service hours with our various roles in the program.

The CARE program is a fundraising effort for the church and school where “Cards Are Rewards for Education – CARE”. The basis of our program is that local and national businesses will sell gift cards to non-profit groups such as ours at a discounted rate. We sell those gift cards to St. Columbkille parishioners, especially school families, at face value. One example of how this supports our fundraising is the sale of Runza gift cards. Runza sells our program a \$10 gift card for \$9, we then sell that \$10 gift card to a family for \$10 and profit \$1. The money the CARE program makes is then donated to numerous groups/projects/events at the church and school. Some of the past donations the CARE program has made are:

- Donation of \$1500 to the ArtReach program
- Donation of \$5,000 to purchase new gym lights for the school
- Donation of \$1,400 for the Reading Early Intervention Program for the school
- Donation of \$4,500 to purchase new security cameras for the school
- Donation of \$7,700 to purchase a stained glass window for the church
- Donation of \$17,000 to purchase projectors for school classrooms
- Donation of \$1,000 every year to the Thanksgiving dinners
- Funding of two \$1,000 scholarships to 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to attend a Catholic high school
- And the list goes on...

So how can you get involved with CARE? You can buy gift cards! They are sold online and after weekend masses or you can send an order via the school office to CARE. Orders sent to school during the week are filled on Friday mornings and sent home with your child that day! You can also encourage your family and friends to purchase cards. We can all use CARE gift cards—there are hundreds of vendors participating. From grocery, gas and clothing stores to specialty shops and restaurants, CARE has you covered. By purchasing CARE gift cards you earn rewards that can be used towards your St. Columbkille tuition or those of area Catholic high schools. Your reward is calculated as 1% of your total sales under \$1,000.00 and 2% of total sales over \$1,000.00 over an entire year. There are many school families that purchase \$5,000 or more in gift cards each year and therefore receive a CARE reward of \$100 or more each spring. The school website has more detailed information on the program.

Being involved with CARE can also help you meet people in the school and parish and help you to acquire your service hours each year. One easy way to get one service hour is to sell CARE gift cards at mass on the weekend. We would like to get a few families from each classroom to be regular CARE gift card sellers at weekend masses. If you are interested in selling CARE gift cards before/after one of the weekend masses please email [StColumbkilleCare@hotmail.com](mailto:StColumbkilleCare@hotmail.com).

If you have any questions about the CARE program please feel free to talk with any of the CARE committee members listed below or contact us at our email address: [StCCareCards@gmail.com](mailto:StCCareCards@gmail.com).

Your CARE team,

*Jackie Wozniak, Marnie Lorenz, Julie Soukup, Marie Sander, Barb Mueller,  
Carrie Krist, Lisa Schraeder, Christine Overcamp, and Jan Pulte*