



Dear Parents,

2020-2021

As members of the C.A.R.E. team, we would like to take this opportunity to explain the C.A.R.E. program and its many benefits. Some of us have been involved with C.A.R.E. for a few years and have fulfilled nearly all of our service hours with our various roles in the program. This year the only difference in the program is we are not selling cards after Mass for the time being. It will resume at some point.

The C.A.R.E. program is a fundraising effort for the church and school where Cards Are Rewards for Education. 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 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 C.A.R.E. program makes is then donated to numerous groups/projects/events at the church and school. These are some of our past donations:

- Donation of \$500 to school for covid preparations
- Donation of \$2,500 to Pave the Way
- Donation of \$950 towards bottle filling drinking fountains for the school
- Donation of \$5,000 to purchase new gym lights for the school
- Donation of \$1,400 for the Reading Early Intervention Program
- 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 to the school for mimeo components
- Donation of \$1,000 every year to the Thanksgiving dinners
- Funding of two \$1,000 scholarships to 8th graders attending a Catholic high school
- Donations to Fun Lunches, which raised money for the accelerated reader program
- Donations to Teen Faith for meals
- And the list goes on...

So how can you get involved? You can buy gift cards! They are sold online or you can send an order to the school office. Orders sent to school during the week are filled on Friday mornings and sent home with your child that afternoon. You can also encourage your family and friends to purchase cards. We can all use C.A.R.E. gift cards—there are hundreds of vendors participating. From grocery, gas and clothing stores to specialty shops and restaurants, C.A.R.E. has you covered. By purchasing gift cards you earn rewards that can be used towards your St. Columbkille tuition, RE fees, or Catholic high school tuition. Your reward is calculated as 1% of your total sales up to \$1,000 and 2% of total sales over \$1,000 over an entire year, April to March. There are many school families that purchase \$5,000 or more in gift cards each year (remember that Family Fare, Hy-Vee, Fareway, Target and Walmart are part of our program) and therefore they receive a C.A.R.E. reward of \$100 or more each spring. Last year the top earned reward was over \$300.

Being involved with the C.A.R.E. program can also help you meet people in the school and parish and help you acquire your service hours each year. This year being the exception, but this will be an option again when we sell cards at Mass again. An easy way to get one service hour is to sell C.A.R.E. gift cards after Mass on the weekend. We would like to have a few families from each class be card sellers. If you are interested in selling C.A.R.E. gift cards after weekend Masses, when we allow it, please contact Jackie Wozniak at [StCCareCards@gmail.com](mailto:StCCareCards@gmail.com). There are other non-selling opportunities to be involved with the CA.R.E. program.

If you have any questions about the C.A.R.E. program please feel free to contact Jackie Wozniak at our email address: [StCCareCards@gmail.com](mailto:StCCareCards@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Your C.A.R.E. team