

February 4, 2010

Suzanne Mead Feldmann  
Executive Director  
Goldsbury Foundation  
5121 Broadway  
San Antonio, TX 78209

Dear Ms. Feldmann,

*Claudia* lives in a part of San Antonio that tells her she should be a mother by 16, drop out of school to raise her child alone, and depend on social services for her family's most basic needs. The odds are culturally and economically against her. *Claudia* is like 32 percent of Providence Catholic School students who live in high-risk San Antonio ZIP codes. Yet she is on a path to graduate near the top 10 percent of her class, attend a prestigious college *on scholarship*, and return with the skills, leadership and strength of character to make manifold contributions within her community.

The impact of support from a family that intentionally chooses to sacrifice and provide this opportunity for their child cannot be denied. Credit must also go to her daily school environment, Providence, and the single-gender, nurturing and challenging program the school has been offering since 1951.

Why do parents choose Catholic schools for their children? Surveys say they desire the faith formation, high academic standards, values-added education, and safe school environment -- those same protective factors that have been proven to facilitate graduation from high school, and success beyond.

Because high school is simply not enough, of course. Providence has a 100-percent college acceptance rate, and in 2009, approximately \$5 million in academic scholarships and grants was offered to the graduating class. Providence boasts of two graduates who were recipients of The Gates Millennium Scholars Program providing scholarship money through doctoral studies.

#### **About Providence**

Since 1951, when Providence was founded by the Congregation of Divine Providence, we have encouraged our students to develop their intellectual curiosity, deepen their faith, practice integrity and seek justice, nurturing their strengths as young women along the way.

A Providence Catholic School education is available to all students who meet our rigorous academic requirements. The student population is a wonderful reflection of the City's diverse socio-economic and ethnic background as well as religious affiliations. We value this diversity for the sake of our students' personal growth.

Providence provides students an academically challenging curriculum, a spiritually enriching environment, and the tools they need to become successful adults, charitable citizens and effective leaders. This mission drives us to create specific programming components that help us identify/assist struggling students, offer student mentoring/support, provide educational enrichment and service opportunities, parental involvement and college preparation/scholarships – all programming components of the Goldsbury Foundation *Healthy Future Funding Domain*.

As we approach our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are proud to say Providence remains a destination school for girls from Bexar County and the surrounding areas.

**Basis for need**

When it comes to budgetary challenges, Providence is not unlike other schools of its kind. Since enrollment in Catholic schools everywhere peaked in the 1960s, both enrollment and the number of schools have dropped by more than half. The loss is continuing to be felt in San Antonio.

At Providence, approximately 32 percent of students reside in ZIP codes with traditionally higher drop-out and teen pregnancy rates, and 27 percent of our students' parents report a family income of equal to or less than the national median household income of \$45,000. A Providence education represents a huge opportunity for these families and an investment in our community that will pay dividends for years to come.

**Current Enrollment**

- Providence Prep (grades 6-8) 110
- Providence High School (grades 9-12) 211

**Annual Student Tuition** \$7,388

**Actual Annual Cost per Student** \$8,530

The difference between the tuition revenue and the actual cost, which is nearly \$300,000, comes directly from the annual operating budget through our fund-raising efforts. In fact, two-thirds of the money we raise from gifts and fund-raising is committed to supporting our students through scholarships and financial aid, leaving little-to-nothing for financing the capital improvements necessary to maintain an aging campus. We work very hard at raising the \$500,000 non-tuition revenue needed to balance the budget each year.

We also rely on the support of local organizations like the Goldsbury Foundation that understand the pressures San Antonio faces in establishing economically sustainable communities that strengthen families and support educational attainment and self sufficiency. With the support of many, Providence has been a quiet yet effective partner in achieving these goals in our city for almost 60 years.

A grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Goldsbury Foundation would allow us to provide \$1,000 in tuition assistance to 10 students in the 2010-11 school year. This aid also helps to bridge the gap between the cost of grade-school level tuition and that of high school, and allows more families like *Claudia's* the economic opportunity they need to pursue a college-readiness education.

When you provide educational opportunity to a girl, you provide educational opportunity for her family. We feel strongly that our program aligns with the Goldsbury Foundation logic model, and invite you to site-visit Providence, see firsthand the specific programming components that fit your funding strategy, and meet with us to gather the information needed to provide your support.

Sincerely yours,  
Anne Bristol  
President