



## Cassata Catholic High School

*Dream Achieve Serve*

Cassata Catholic High School is a private, nonprofit outreach school that provides an innovative, nontraditional educational experience for young people who need to complete their high school education. Most of Cassata's students live in poverty and face serious obstacles to completing their education. Many of our graduates are the first in their family to earn a high school diploma. Cassata has a demonstrated legacy of success at transforming struggling youth, some who are former dropouts, into high school graduates. In fact, 94% of 2014/15 graduates are progressing to 2 or 4-year colleges, the military, or trade school.

We invite you to be a part of Cassata Catholic High School. Come take a tour of our building located just south of downtown. Make an appointment to meet our President, Trinetta Robichaux, and see how your agency or business can join us in increasing the high school graduation rate in Fort Worth.



## Collaborations and Partnerships

*With Catholic Charities Fort Worth*

### Vocations @ Cassata

In 2016 we are set to launch a new and innovative partnership with CCFW, *Vocations @ Cassata*.

**We are actively looking for funders** for this proven program giving Cassata graduates support to complete their post high school education. With intense case management, tuition assistance and emergency funds to cover unexpected expenses, select Cassata graduates will attend TCC to earn an associate's degree or certifications toward a trade for up to three years with assistance obtaining local employment in a living wage job in a viable market. CCFW has already tested this program and brings it to Cassata to further support our students living in poverty to reach their full potential and move toward self-sufficiency.

### Money School

CCFW brought their personal financial management school 'Money School' to our students with a revamped curriculum geared to teens. We followed up with a field trip to EECU to learn about personal banking, careers in banking and actually had some students sign up for their first bank account.

### CCFW Teens Attend Cassata

Good outcomes can come from tragedy. CCFW's Assessment Center (*a 24 hour, 40-bed facility providing a safe, nurturing, and temporary home for children (ages 0-17) placed in the care of CPS*), sends resident teens to various public high schools. Shawn, 15, was bullied and tormented at a huge local high school. He ran away from the ACT on the day I attended his 16th birthday party. He returned to CPS jurisdiction and did not come back. We 'lost' Shawn but from this tragedy the partnership with Cassata was born. Rachel is our first teen from ACT. She was struggling with all the tragedy in her life but once she came to Cassata, her life turned around. She is thriving. With her new foster care placement, she was able to continue attending Cassata. Cassata is now the go-to high school choice for teens who are placed at ACT.

### Other CCFW Referrals to Cassata

CCFW's Refugee Services considers Cassata for some of their youth coming from around the world who need to complete their high school education. Cassata's flexible schedule and open enrollment offer better options for the refugee youth.

CCFW's new Padua Pilot Program pairs intense case management with a controlled group of clients to guide them out of poverty and into a living wage job and being self-sufficient. Cassata is the educational component for Padua when clients need to complete their high school education.



*With Tarrant Area Food Bank - TAFB*

### Snack Pantry

Many of Cassata's students live in poverty and food scarcity is a continuing problem in their families. We are in the final stages of setting up a Snack Pantry that will be accessible to Cassata students every day as they enter and leave the school. Hungry students cannot concentrate on their studies. With the nonperishable food from TAFB, students can help themselves to a breakfast bar as they walk into school or take snack items with them as they leave when they are uncertain of their next meal.

### Fresh Market

Cassata hosted the second Fresh Market on our parking lot in late September. TAFB delivers 2,000 pounds of fresh produce on pallets, and Cassata students set up the food on tables opening up the market to students, Cassata families and residents living near Cassata who are struggling with food scarcity. The Free Fresh Market is hugely successful with all food being distributed within 90 minutes! We plan to continue the markets once a month. **We are actively looking for cold storage options for our Snack Pantry.**

### Food Pantry

Plans are in the works for a full fledged Food Pantry at Cassata offering nonperishable food items for Cassata families and neighbors who struggle to provide meals to their families. We hope to have this up and running before the end of the year and expand it to include perishable food.

**We are also actively looking for cold storage options for our Food Pantry.**



*With SafeHaven Tarrant County*

### SHTC Clients to attend Cassata

SHTC clients in the Transitional Housing Program who need to complete their high school diploma have an alternative to the GED by attending Cassata. Cassata has open enrollment, flexible scheduling and self-paced studies allowing women who work or have other scheduling issues to attend and work at their pace to complete their diploma. New GED requirements make the high school diploma a better option for most adults and Cassata's innovative approach to education makes this possible.

## *Corporate Partnerships*



Goldman Sachs hosts career counseling focusing on interview skills, resume writing, personal finance, and social media safety. In 2016 students will participate in job shadowing and internship programs as well as visit certification and job training programs in our community.



BNSF provides support in terms of mock interviews, resume building, presentation in the workplace, and other soft skills and teaches Junior Achievement courses, and a train safety.