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Cathedral Fund Dinner Keynote Address 2013
Language Support Program Alumna

I'd like to thank the organizers of the Cathedral Fund Dinner for giving me the opportunity to share my Cathedral story. My story like, many of yours starts with your parent's so I'd like to take a moment and recognize mine. Jim and Jeanne Malone, who wisely sent their eldest child to Cathedral and therefore my two younger brother's Jimmy ('06) and JT ('14) Malone followed suit. I'd also like to recognize my mother-in-law, Diane Hum, who happens to be in town from Little Rock, Arkansas. And my husband, Houston, who would have loved to have been here tonight, but is honoring our commitment to coach the Cadet A girls basketball team at Saint Thomas Aquinas. There was no getting out of practice tonight with our first game on Saturday.

I'd like to frame my remarks tonight with a familiar and timeless song that many of us know. I believe it perfectly outlines my thoughts on the importance of our purpose here tonight and allows me to share my experience at Cathedral.

Dear Old Cathedral, here's to you.....

Here's to your courageous founders that installed your bold mission of educating through opportunities for spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth through service and academic excellence. Here's to your valiant faculty, staff and administrator's that tirelessly carry forward your mission and vision to be a model for all high school as they shape the way students think, serve, and lead. Here's to your proud alumni, donors and parent's who thoughtfully and prayerfully give of their time and treasures.

Here's to your student's, your beloved student's, who spend some of the most formative years walking your halls and filling your classrooms – little do they know now how much they will cherish their time with you.

Here's to your colors Gold and Blue....

Many of us are here tonight because the gold and blue touched our lives, or the lives of a loved one, and lives forever on in our hearts.

I'm here tonight as proud alumni and donor to share my Cathedral story. But as I stand before you I'd like to remind you that my story is wonderfully ordinary here at Cathedral. My experience, like thousands of others, benefited from donors who saw the value of investing in Cathedral.

If you asked the 14-year-old Julie Malone from Saint Thomas Aquinas why she was going to Cathedral I would have had a simple answer for you. They have the best Language Support Program and Girls Basketball Program in the state. I thought I had it all figured out....little did I know I'd walk away from Cathedral having gained much more than a world-class education and a 3A State Basketball Title.

We'll cheer you onward everyone, whether the battle is lost or won....

Part of life is relating to both ends of the battle, defeat and victory
A private lifelong battle of mine has been with the learning disability, dyslexia. Diagnosed in the first grade, my parents and teacher's diligently worked with me using the Orton-Gillingham Method. This



method harnesses the high IQ of dyslexic children into creative multisensory learning approaches. Once at Cathedral High School their Language Support Program propelled me further down the path to success over dyslexia. With the help over the years from my parents, grade school educators, summer tutors and the Language Support Program I learned that I could conquer any academic challenge, I just needed to break down the material in a way my brain could absorb. I'll never forget the quiet sense of accomplishment I felt as I sat down in my first semester English Class at Saint Mary's College realizing this was the first English class I had ever taken that wasn't designated for students with learning disabilities. The Language Support Program taught me innovative strategies for learning new material, which I used throughout college to earn my degree in Biology and eventually my Ph.D. in Cellular Physiology. I now bring that creative spirit and innate curiosity to my current job as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Medical and Molecular Genetics department at the IUSM, researching kidney disease.

As is the case for many Cathedral students, I was fortunate to have many victories during my high school days. I was a captain of the basketball team, served as a peer mentor, and was a group leader in the Promise to Keep program, but these opportunities in my Junior and Senior Years wouldn't have been sought out had it not been for a challenge issued to me at the end of my sophomore year. Two of my language support teachers asked to meet with me after class, immediately my heart sank. In a serious tone, they challenged me to run for Junior Class Officer. They thought I'd be up to the task and had leadership qualities I hadn't seen in myself. Because of course they were my teachers, I reluctantly accepted the challenge and dreaded the election. Still a wallflower, worried more about blending in, my studies and basketball practice, the thought of giving a campaign speech, and creating a platform to run on terrified me. After explaining my predicament to my teammates and friends, they surprisingly embraced the teacher's challenge and started brainstorming campaign slogans with me. I was fortunate to be elected and worked hard on fundraising and planning prom. I had so much fun and I decided to run again next year and ended up with the most votes, making me the Senior Class President.

Through all these experiences the athletic dyslexic wallflower that entered these halls had somehow wound up a confident leader poised to take on my next stages of life.

I know as we look around Cathedral and her classrooms today there might be aspects that we don't recognize from our days here, for instance the Student Life Center, Smart Boards, Flat panel TV's and iPads, however I think Blessed Father Basil Meurou, founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, captured the essence of a Cathedral and Holy Cross education by saying, "How we educate the mind will change with the times; how we cultivate the heart is and will remain timeless."

I credit those teachers, Mrs. Marsha Reynolds and Mrs. Barbara Potts for helping uncover part of my heart, a heart that longed to be a servant leader.

Here's to your son's your fighting team, let your banners stream....

Team, there are many teams at Cathedral, which are responsible for the numerous banners that are hung in our gym. But there are many other Cathedral teams that don't battle on a field or court. A team puts on first-rate theatre performances, a team of musicians play our fight song, a speech team develops great orators, a team of student's builds a house with habitat for humanity, a team of faculty, staff and administrators work together to keep the mission of Cathedral in the forefront of every student's experience here and it is you a team of donor's that helps ensure all of Cathedral's teams will have success in the future.

For we will proudly wave them to the sky as we cheer for Cathedral High...



Proudly cheer, while I long for my days back at Cathedral, today I am a proud alum and donor charged with praising Cathedral in a different manner. While I can't go out and win another basketball game for the ol gold and blue, I can still proudly cheer.

Through each of your contributions to the Cathedral Fund we each proudly cheer,
Cheer for our beloved Old Cathedral,

Cheer that other students may be just as fortunate to attend Cathedral,

Cheer that the same compassionate educators that touched our lives, both hearts and minds, will have the opportunity to impact Cathedral students for years to come,

And Cheer that next generation of Cathedral graduates will go out and change our world

Thank you
Go IRISH