



2015 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
Our Mother of Consolation Parish School

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For Immediate Release

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Our Mother of Consolation Parish School Awarded Design Grant from Community Design Collaborative for Design of Outdoor Learning and Play Space

Philadelphia, PA (July 15, 2016) – Our Mother of Consolation (OMC) Parish School was recently awarded a Design Grant from the Community Design Collaborative (Collaborative), an organization that provides pro-bono design services to non-profits. OMC submitted a proposal requesting assistance with the conceptual design of an outdoor learning and play space. A team of volunteers – to include landscape architects, a civil engineer and cost estimator – will work with OMC Parish School representatives and a community task force to represent all voices interested in the completion of this project. As a part of a capital campaign begun in 2013 (*Advancing in Faith & Learning*), the creation of an innovative learning and play space has been an ongoing wish for parents, students, faculty and community members alike.

“The creation of this space will support OMC’s goals as set for its 150th anniversary milestone,” stated Ms. Heidi Segall Levy, Director of Design Services with the Collaborative. “The space is intended to enhance learning opportunities and the well being of the students, as well as be a resource and amenity to the surrounding community.”

“The end result of the partnership with the Collaborative will be a technical report that will enable us to move forward toward the implementation of this play space and outdoor classroom. The site and specifics have yet to be worked out, but that is the goal of this collaboration. This is something that we have been hoping to accomplish for many years,” according to Colleen Amuso, Director of Advancement at OMC Parish School. “We are grateful to the Collaborative for agreeing to work together with us, and to help us move forward to reach this goal.”

The Collaborative brings together design professionals to match the needs of a project, and offer their services on a pro-bono basis. The value of the Collaborative services for this project are estimated to be approximately \$25,000. OMC Parish School is expected to bring together community members for input and will then use the final documents to build both community and financial support for implementation.

About Our Mother of Consolation Parish School

Our Mother of Consolation Parish School is a Catholic elementary school (Pre K through Eighth Grade) serving families in Chestnut Hill and the surrounding areas in Northwest Philadelphia and nearby suburbs. With equal focus on Catholic Values and Academic Excellence, OMC is a strong, vibrant, and thriving school characterized by small class sizes, superb administration and faculty, rich diversity, exceptional parent volunteerism, and a genuinely warm and friendly family atmosphere. In September 2015, OMC was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the US Department of Education. Learn more online at <http://school.omcparish.com>

About the Community Design Collaborative

The Community Design Collaborative provides *pro bono* preliminary design services to nonprofit organizations in greater Philadelphia, creates engaging volunteer opportunities for design professionals, and raises awareness about the importance of design in revitalizing communities.

The Collaborative's early design assistance helps nonprofits succeed in the challenging arena of community and economic development. Our skilled volunteers work side by side with communities to put their visions down on paper and advance to the next stage: gaining support, raising funds, and building projects.

The Collaborative gives nonprofits access to preliminary design services by matching them with architects, landscape architects, urban planners, preservationists, engineers, cost estimators, and other volunteer design professionals seeking to serve the community.

Since 1991, our volunteer design professionals have invested 100,000 hours of their time and expertise in communities on over 600 projects. A diverse array of public agencies, private foundations, corporations, and individuals support the Collaborative's mission.

Learn more at <http://www.cdesignc.org>

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