



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DALLAS ISD STUDENTS TURN PENNIES INTO \$875,00 TO HELP LOCAL DALLAS NON-PROFITS**

DALLAS, TEXAS ... (February 28, 2018) - Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) schools teamed up with Common Cents Dallas "Pennies from the Heart" to provide contributions to 28 local non-profits in the Dallas area. Championed by 19 Dallas ISD schools, 200 students across the district turned pennies into dollars which accrue to large dollar amounts over time.

Dallas philanthropist Louise Gartner brought Dallas ISD the idea for the Common Cents program in 1988, with the goal to teach young students how to make a difference in society by giving back to their communities. Gartner's "*Pennies from the Heart*" Campaign focuses on teaching the student community about hands-on philanthropy. Every penny collected goes directly to the students' chosen charity. Since its inception, Dallas ISD students have raised and donated *over \$875,000* through the Common Cents Dallas program.

"You can be any age and raise any amount to be a philanthropist and help others in need," said Gigi Gartner, co-founder of Common Cents, who runs the program, carrying the torch from her mother, Louise. "This program is 100% student driven. They learn philanthropy, fundraising, and leadership skills, which enriches their lives and better prepares them for the future. Step by step, penny by penny these students are helping to change the world. The students are the heroes."

"Common Cents teaches the key fundamentals of philanthropy, enabling students to actively impact their communities," says Dave Scullin, president and CEO of Communities Foundation of Texas, which manages the Common Cents scholarship funds. "The program provides a forum for students to identify community needs, to plan and organize fundraising activities, and finally to fund local nonprofits."

"The student round table wanted to support the Seagoville Animal Shelter for a second time. The students love the idea of helping this no-kill facility and its volunteer organization," Says Sally Anderson, Campus Sponsor from Seagoville North Elementary School. "The Common Cents program allows 8 and 9 year old students try out their leadership skills while exercising their love of helping others in our own community."

The Louise Gartner Scholarship recipient Dexter Law from Skyline High School received a \$3,000 scholarship.

For more information about the Common Cents program, please visit: [www.commoncentsdallas.org](http://www.commoncentsdallas.org)

***The 2018 Dallas ISD participating schools:***

John Quincy Adams ES, Adamson HS, Cesar Chavez LC, Dallas Environmental Science Academy, Lorenzo DeZavala ES, T. C. Gooch ES, M.B. Henderson ES, Robert T. Hill MS, Innovation Design Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA) HS, Stonewall Jackson ES, Kleberg ES, Richard Lagow ES, Sidney Lanier ES, Molina HS, Pleasant Grove ES, Rosemont ES, Seagoville North ES, Skyline HS, Sunset HS

***ABOUT Common Cents***

The Common Cents scholarship was created to encourage and support the educational efforts of students who have participated in the Dallas ISD Common Cents philanthropy program. High School juniors and seniors who have participated in Common Cents Pennies from the Heart are eligible to apply. This meaningful program has become entrenched within the annual Dallas ISD elementary, middle school and high school activities. As such, it impacts the lives of all who live in the Dallas community while it embeds an understanding of community outreach at an impressionable time in a student's life

**2018 RECIPIENT FROM COMMON CENTS DALLAS "PENNIES FROM THE HEART" CAMPAIGN**

Alzheimer's Assoc.  
 American Cancer Society  
 American Red Cross  
 Brighter Tomorrows  
 Children's Medical Center  
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Northeast TX  
 Deaf Action Center  
 Foster Charity, Inc  
 Foster Kids Charity  
 Genesis Women's Shelter  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Healing Hands Ministries  
 Heroes for Children  
 Jonathan's Place  
 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
 Leukemia Foundation  
 Love in Action  
 Make-A-Wish North Texas  
 North Texas Food Bank  
 Not One: Autism Research Foundation  
 Ragan's Hope  
 Seagoville Animal Shelter (STAAR)  
 Soldier's Angels  
 SPCA  
 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Suicide & Crisis Center of North Texas

The Elisa Project

Ultimate Healing Kit