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Press Release

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Saint Mary's Hall Kindergarten Students Donate Teddy Bears to San Antonio Fire Department

(San Antonio, Texas) – On October 14, Saint Mary's Hall Kindergarten students presented Lieutenant Dan Dickerson ("Fireman Dan") and other members of the San Antonio Fire Department with a donation of 60 teddy bears for children who fall victim to emergencies. Kindergarten students completed chores at home to earn money to purchase the teddy bears that they donated. Michelle Cardenas, one of the students involved, earned money by helping her parents prepare dinner and set the table, do laundry, and take care of her younger sister. She said, "It felt really good to help, because if we didn't do this, kids would be really sad."

Community service is an integral part of the Saint Mary's Hall student experience. Teddy bear donations are one of the first community service initiatives undertaken by students at Saint Mary's Hall. Kindergarteners have been participating in this project since 2009. The annual teddy bear donation project teaches some of the youngest students on campus the importance of serving those in the community who are in need. Saint Mary's Hall Assistant Head of Lower School Nur Mangalji said, "We're developing strong character through this service project (and) making our children realize ... they are part of a bigger community."

Lieutenant Dickerson (a Saint Mary's Hall parent) expressed his appreciation for the students' generosity, and said, "This project allows us to have something to give ... comfort in that time of tremendous turmoil."

Following the donation and a presentation on emergency situations and fire safety (including a demonstration by one of the firefighters on suiting up for a fire in less than two minutes), students were invited to tour the fire trucks and ambulance on campus. They also got a chance to see life-saving tools and equipment and ask questions.

Since 1879, Saint Mary's Hall has set the standard for college preparatory education in San Antonio by providing a wide-range of exceptional opportunities in academics, athletics, fine arts, and character education to create well-rounded students that are successful in college and life. Saint Mary's Hall offers exceptional opportunities for children ages 3 through grade 12.