

William H. Hannon Foundation Supports New Parish & Performing Arts Center at St. Genevieve Parish

February 22, 2016/Santa Monica, CA: The late philanthropist William H. Hannon, when developing communities across the Southland after World War II, believed that a lynchpin of a community's success was having churches and parochial schools. The importance of having these community institutions was driven home by his mentor in real estate, the late Fritz B. Burns. Both gentlemen later founded their own respective foundations that bear their names. This focus on building strong communities was exemplified in Panorama City with the founding of St. Genevieve Parish in 1950, then their parish school in 1951, followed by their high school in 1959.

Today, Panorama City is a community that struggles economically with 21% of the population living at or below the federal poverty level with unemployment at 11%. At St. Genevieve the majority of parishioners are first generation immigrants.

"My uncle deeply believed in St. Genevieve Parish and schools. They have gone through decades of ups and downs. Today, they're on the rise and we're pleased to support their efforts to build a new parish and performing arts center," said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation. The William H. Hannon Foundation has made a \$300,000 pledge in support of the new 35,745 square foot performing arts center and 25,717 square foot parish education and fellowship center.

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