



Contact:
Kori Baker, Communications Director
kbaker@lifeteen.com
404-252-8815

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Life Teen Supporters Rally Online to Raise \$129,000 in Tough Economic Times

Mesa, AZ (December 2008) - Arizona-based Life Teen raised a staggering \$129,000 through a 30-day online appeal from donors around the globe. The success comes as a surprise to many amidst the uncertain economic times.

Steve Allgeyer, VP Development for the Catholic youth ministry explained: "Some people stop giving during a slow economy. But for many others, tough economic conditions remind them of what matters most in life--and it only seems right to dig deeper to support organizations who make a difference."

Online giving has proven successful for a diversity of causes. President-elect Barack Obama gained record-breaking financial contributions from his online community of supporters. Wikipedia, the community-driven free encyclopedia, is on track to raise six million dollars by the close of the year. The Internet affords a unique opportunity to unite people across geographical barriers for a common cause.

Matt Smith, Life Teen's Director of Internet Ministry, offered caution: "People won't donate just because you put together a website and add a Donate button. Your organization needs to resound with their core values." Smith adds, "For some people, all they can do is pray for your cause. Others will volunteer time. Others will donate money. Some people do all three."

Although Life Teen's primary website--lifeteen.com--is tremendously popular with young people, it is Life Teen's parish-based youth programs that formed the primary network for support. There are currently 1100 Catholic parishes in 25 countries that use the Life Teen model for youth ministry. Many of these churches attended regional Life Teen events and conferences. 2008 marked a record year for Life Teen's summer camps with 2100 teenagers attending.

Most of Life Teen's financial support came from teenagers who came through Life Teen in high school. Kaitlyn from North Carolina added a note with her donation:

"I participated in Life Teen at St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro, NC when I was in high school (2002-2006). I am now a junior at Duke University and I very involved with the Catholic community

here. Even though I am no longer a teen, I still visit lifeteen.com every day and I credit the Life Teen program for helping lay the basis of my faith. Thank you for everything you do, Life Teen! I hope my little donation can help."

This is the second large-scale online project hosted by Life Teen this year. In October, Life Teen asked each of their Life Teen programs to gather unused clothes at their parish. Teenagers snapped photos of themselves and then submitted them to lifeteen.com. Visitors of the website were able to view 100s of photos of happy teens lugging bulky bags of clothes through their church doors. In the end, the nationwide clothing drive yielded 450,000 pounds. The clothing was donated to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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