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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mount Mary Updates Scholarship Program to Increase College Opportunities**

**MILWAUKEE** (Oct. 16, 2012) – Mount Mary College has renewed its commitment to providing college opportunities for women who have good academic performance and need financial assistance. Formerly called the Midtown Program, the revitalized program, which has been renamed the Grace Scholars Program, is now housed solely on Mount Mary College's campus and offers more financial and academic support to help students succeed in college completion. A six-week Summer Bridge Program prior to the first semester helps with the transition to college life and gives students the opportunity to earn up to five credits toward their undergraduate degree. Scholarship recipients also receive enhanced access to support services that include tutoring, mentoring and advising.

The Midtown Program was originally funded by Richard Burke, founder of Trek Bikes, and administered through the Trinity Foundation. Upon Mr. Burke's death in 2008, his family continued the funding. In 2012, under the newly-formed Burke Foundation, improvements were made to the program, including the new name. Now, each year, 30 students are selected to receive the scholarship. Awardees receive funding that covers 85% of yearly tuition at Mount Mary. The scholarships are renewable each year—for a maximum of 8 semesters. Grace Scholars are encouraged, but not required, to live on campus in Caroline Hall. Those who decide to live in the residence hall receive a generous residential grant.

Hundreds of young women have participated and graduated from Mount Mary since the program began in 2004. Applicants for the Grace Scholars Program must be Milwaukee area high school graduates who have not attended another college, are between the ages of 18 and 21, demonstrate financial need, and meet Mount Mary's admission requirements. Since Mount Mary's mission is to prepare women for leadership roles in their families, communities, and professions, another important consideration in the application process is a student's potential for leadership development.

Edna Ruiz is a freshman Grace Scholar and is double majoring in accounting and Spanish. According to Ruiz, “The Grace Scholars Program is a community that supports my development in becoming a strong woman and a strong leader. The directors have given me so much support and encouragement, and that motivates me to do well, both academically and personally.”

Mount Mary College is located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee and offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women. Interested candidates should contact the Mount Mary Admissions Office at (414) 256-1219 or [mmc-admiss@mtmary.edu](mailto:mmc-admiss@mtmary.edu). Additional information on the Grace Scholars Program, including how to apply, can be found at <http://www.mtmary.edu/grace/index.htm>.

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Mount Mary College, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin’s first four-year, degree-granting Catholic college for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the College offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women and eight graduate programs for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its nearly 1900 students enjoy small class sizes (average 14) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through classroom instruction and community service, Mount Mary develops women to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at [www.mtmary.edu](http://www.mtmary.edu).

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