

Indianapolis Media Contact: Angela Knezevich Phone: (317) 464-8268 Email: <u>aknezevich@christelhouse.org</u>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2015

<u>Christel House International receives anonymous \$210,000 gift to create stipend</u> <u>fund for female graduates</u>

INDIANAPOLIS — Christel House International has received an anonymous \$210,000 donation, to create an endowment that will provide stipends for Christel House India-Bangalore female graduates while they are pursuing college and careers. The fund has been named Vidya Maanini-Kannada for 'young girl full of knowledge.'

Christel House is a tuition-free school for children who are born into extreme poverty. To help ensure success, Christel House provides every student with a high-quality education, food, medical services, uniforms, transportation and college and career counseling.

Christel House India-Bangalore was established in 2001 and currently serves more than 1,000 students. Less than 10 percent of students in India graduate from high school, whereas 85 percent of Christel House India-Bangalore graduates are on track to graduate from college. Christel House graduates have moved onto careers with employers including Deutsche Bank, Infosys, Oracle and Shankar Eye Hospital.

Christel House is expressing much gratitude to an anonymous donor for creating the Vidya Maanini-Kannada legacy fund to benefit Christel House India girl students. "Our donor is passionate about providing opportunities and empowerment for our female students in India for many years to come. We say a heartfelt thank you," said Christel DeHaan, Founder and CEO.

For more information about Christel House, please visit <u>http://www.christelhouse.org</u>.

-30-

About Christel House International

The mission of Christel House is to transform the lives of impoverished children around the world breaking the cycle of poverty and building self-sufficient, contributing members of society. A focus on academic excellence through a robust K–12 curriculum is combined with a strong character development program and holistic human development to give students the skills and competencies necessary to compete successfully in complex 21st Century society.

Much more than a school, Christel House was established in 1998 by Founder and CEO Christel DeHaan, and currently serves more than 4,100 impoverished children through seven learning centers located in India, Mexico, South Africa and the U.S.A. Christel House maintains a 96% high school graduation rate, and the majority of its graduates go on to pursue higher education. They become productive citizens, and many secure employment with top multinational corporations. Christel House graduates are confident, hardworking, responsible and ethical, with a passion for giving back to their communities and caring for their families. For more information, please visit <u>www.christelhouse.org</u>.