Tax Credit Scholarships Conversation Script

I would love to talk about how you can get a credit for your state taxes while providing scholarship aid for students in need. First, I want to make sure I am giving you the right information about this program. Do you have income or another source of revenue subject to Illinois state taxes, such as a retirement disbursement?

If so, I would like to share a few key information points for taking advantage of this opportunity before the impending deadline.

1. **Today we have an unprecedented opportunity for more children in Illinois to attend a private school of their choice thanks to the new tax credit scholarship program – Invest in Kids.** 
   * Invest in Kids awards needs-based scholarships to students from low-income households to attend a non-public school, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools in Cook and Lake Counties.
   * Scholarships can cover up to 100 percent of tuition, providing an exciting opportunity for more children to receive a quality Catholic school education.
   * This program is funded through donations made by individuals and corporations.
2. **Demand for tax credit scholarships has been overwhelming and currently outweighs the supply of available funds, which is why we need your help.** 
   * This year 44,000 students applied for a tax credit scholarship, including many new and current Catholic school students.
   * Four out of every five of these students will not receive a scholarship due to lack of available scholarship funds.
   * Donations for tax credit scholarships are still being accepted, and your investment will ensure that our doors are open to more students who deserve an equal opportunity to receive a Catholic education.
3. **This exciting program is mutually beneficial to students and donors because it allows donors to** **take advantage of state income tax credits while also directly impacting families through student scholarships.** 
   * Those who donate to this program will receive a 75 percent state tax credit.
   * Donations will help fund Catholic school education for thousands of students who otherwise would not have access to the lifelong benefits it provides.
   * Potential donors take four easy steps to donate and can learn more by visiting our website at [www.archchicago.org/tcs](http://www.archchicago.org/tcs).
4. **A group of generous donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago, up to $5 million total.**
   * For every dollar designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at $100,000 per school.
   * The program will end when all matching funds have been depleted or on February 28, 2019, whichever comes first.
   * After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.
   * Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2018 taxes should begin the process prior to December 14, 2018 to ensure that they have enough time to make their gift by December 31, 2018.
   * Potential donors can learn more by visiting our website at www.archchicago.org/tcs