



An Exemplary Recognition School ~ Mission, Community, and Climate

St. Monica School Annual Fund Basics

What is the Annual Fund?

The St. Monica School Annual Fund is a yearly fundraising campaign administered by the Development Office with the assistance of the Annual Fund Committee. The goal for each school year's Annual Fund campaign is based upon need as determined by that school year's operating budget. **Our Annual Fund goal for the 2009-2010 school year is \$170,000.** Dollars raised in excess of the campaign goal are used to address School Board Committee priority list items for the school; in recent years, such dollars have helped fund major salary adjustments for teachers; new playground and computer equipment; and the science lab and art classroom renovations.

Why should I contribute?

We need your support of the Annual Fund for several very important reasons!

- The Annual Fund provides dollars needed for the school's operating budget, typically amounting to about 8% of the budget for the school year.
- By serving as one piece of the "budgetary puzzle," the Annual Fund makes a St. Monica School education more affordable for all school families. In short, ***it effectively reduces tuition expense by nearly \$500 per student!***
- The Annual Fund plays an important role in minimizing the annual increase in tuition – and allowing the tuition that our 240+ school families pay to remain nearly half the cost of educating a child at St. Monica School.
- In providing dollars for the school's operating budget, of which the largest expense is teacher salaries, the Annual Fund plays a vital role in compensating the school's outstanding staff.
- The Annual Fund offers you a voluntary, ***tax-deductible*** way to invest in the mission of St. Monica School!

What is the average gift amount to the Annual Fund campaign?

Over the past 10 years, the average gift amount to the Annual Fund has increased to about \$500 (per donor), reflecting the generosity of our many school community investors. The range of gift amounts runs from \$25 up to \$15,000. *We are grateful for ALL gifts; each and every gift adds up to make a tremendous difference for SMS!*

When does the Annual Fund campaign take place?

Officially, the Annual Fund campaign runs the length of the school's fiscal year, July 1st through June 30th.

Supporters of the school can make a contribution to the Annual Fund at any point during this timeframe.

Many investors contribute prior to calendar year-end (December 31st) so as to take advantage of the tax benefits of their gift. However, you are free to offer a pledge or make a gift at any point in time during the school year.

How can I contribute?

You can make a tax-deductible contribute in a variety of ways. This includes:

- You can contribute in one payment, or you may offer a pledge and fulfill that pledge in several payments.
- You can offer gifts of stock.
- You can double your contribution – at no additional cost to you – through your employer's gift matching program (many employers offer this; it only requires a moment to submit the form). If you are uncertain as to whether or not your employer offers a gift-match program, you can contact your Human Resources department. Or, if you prefer, simply visit our school website via the following link, where you will find a detailed listing of employers nationwide with some type of gift-match program in place:
http://www.st-monicaschool.org/support/gift_matching/
- You can give online on our school website with your credit card and take advantage of airline mile or cash back programs! To take advantage of the benefits of online giving, simply visit the "*Online Giving*" page (found as an option under "Support SMS") on our school website via the following link:
<http://www.st-monicaschool.org/support/donate/>