

Why Contribute to the Annual Fund?

Money donated to the annual fund is the most useful type of gift to our school. By definition, a donation to this fund is unrestricted (i.e. no strings are attached), which means that the school can use this money to meet its top priorities. Giving to the annual fund allows those who really know the overall needs of the school to allocate funds accordingly. Most of this money goes to support need-based scholarships and faculty salaries, but occasionally unexpected needs arise, and this is the fund most schools rely on for the flexibility to meet those challenges.

A reality that all schools share is that it costs more to educate a child than the school charges in tuition. In the public school realm, this gap is reduced by our tax dollars. However, since private, independent schools do not receive federal funding, most rely on the annual fund to shrink this gap. Currently this gap at St. Richard's is approximately \$2,000 per child. The benefits of making a gift to the annual fund include:

- Gifts are fully tax deductible
- Gifts to the annual fund make an immediate impact by supporting the greatest needs at the School
- Many foundations and other grant-making organizations look favorably on schools that have 100% participation in the annual fund from parents, board members, and staff
- An increase in annual fund giving means there is less of a chance of tuition going up the following year
- The annual fund is the single largest source of funding for scholarships at the School
- The annual fund is seen by many as the barometer of the state of the school, with size of the fund and percent of donor participation as a measure of the school's stature and stability