

## Frequently Asked Questions About Annual Giving

*St. James' Episcopal School, a ministry of St. James' Episcopal Church, serves students of diverse economic, ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds through an enriching program of academic rigor within a supportive Christian environment that emphasizes respect for all of God's creation and the value of service to others.*

### 1. What is Annual Giving?

- Like most parish and independent schools, St. James' relies on donations to Annual Giving to balance its annual operating budget.

### 2. Why doesn't the tuition increase include the full amount needed at the School?

- Tuition increases are kept to a minimum in order to preserve economic diversity in our student body. 4% of the tuition increase simply covers increased cost of living; the additional amount is to ensure that we can continue to improve the academic curriculum and facilities that benefit all our students.
- Donations to Annual Giving are tax-deductible whereas tuition is not.

### 3. How are donations to Annual Giving spent?

Donations to Annual Giving help St. James'...

- Bridge the gap between tuition and the cost of educating each student
  - Tuition covers only approx. 85% of this cost
- Keep teachers' salaries competitive so that we can retain the best faculty for our students
- Provide ongoing professional training for our faculty and staff
- Enable special programs and assemblies for the children
- Continue to offer 4 hours of before- and after-school care daily at no additional cost
- Update our technology constantly to prepare our students for middle school and later life

In the 2007-2008 school year, Annual Giving donations also improved the School by:

- Adding an additional Spanish teacher
- Creating a music room
- Extending free after-school care until 6:00 p.m.
- Increasing the number of playground staff
- Adding two new associate teachers
- Upgrading all 22 computers in the technology lab

### 4. Does Annual Giving pay for Tuition Assistance?

- Some income from Annual Giving may go to Tuition Assistance if money from foundations and endowment income is insufficient in this school year. 17% of our students currently receive some form of Tuition Assistance. Tuition Assistance ensures that we maintain diversity in the student body. It also acts as a type of insurance policy for families who undergo sudden or unexpected changes in their financial situation.

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## **5. Who gives to Annual Giving?**

- In the past two years, we've had 100% participation from trustees, faculty, and staff, and approx. 80% participation from current parents. Alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, friends, foundations, corporations, and parishioners also give.

## **6. How much do donors give?**

- We ask each family to give generously, according to their means. The range of giving in 2007-2008 was \$5 to \$50,000, reflecting the economic diversity in our community.
- When deciding how much to give, we ask you to consider the following:
  - One of the wonderful things about the St. James' community is the willingness of many parents to give for the sake of children other than their own
  - \$2,300 per child is needed to cover the cost of education
  - Additional amounts are needed to improve technology, provide training, increase teachers' salaries, allow for tuition assistance, and other programs

## **7. When should I give?**

- We ask each family to pledge by December 31, 2008 in order to help us budget for the second half of the academic year. You can make your payment any time up to June 30, 2009. You can also pay monthly over the nine months from October through June and we can bill your credit card directly for monthly payments.

## **8. Why is it important to have 100% participation in Annual Giving?**

- 100% participation from the trustees, faculty, staff, and current parents enables the School to be eligible for additional grants from foundations.

## **9. Our family receives tuition assistance. Are we still expected to participate?**

- Yes. We ask that all families participate in Annual Giving at whatever level they are able.

## **10. I put in many hours per year volunteering at the School. Does this count as a contribution to Annual Giving?**

- No, because foundations and the CAIS don't count volunteer hours in the same way that they count cash donations. We ask that all families participate in Annual Giving at whatever level they are able.

## **11. Why do we need Annual Giving if the School now has an endowment?**

- Annual Giving funds are needed to cover the day-to-day operating costs of the School in the current academic year. The endowment ensures the legacy of our School. Interest from the endowment is restricted mostly for tuition assistance. Like other parish and independent schools, we need to continue to have Annual Giving campaigns while soliciting gifts to increase the endowment.

## **12. Will there be a Spring Event this year?**

- The PSF may organize a Spring Event in 2010. Volunteer parents will sell tickets and aim to cover the costs of the event rather than raise funds for the School. Ticket purchases, sponsorships, and auction donations do not count toward participation in Annual Giving.

*If you have further questions about Annual Giving, please contact Julie Lovelock in the Advancement Office at 213-233-0133 x302 or [jlovelock@sjsla.org](mailto:jlovelock@sjsla.org).*