WOODINVILLE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

With community being at the heart of Montessori -- every year, we appreciate that the WMS community comes together to reach our annual giving goal through generous donations from parents, grandparents, community members, matching donations, faculty, staff, parents of alumni, alumni and even students.

When we all give together, in a way that is meaningful for each family, our sense of community grows, ensuring the best possible learning environment for the whole child and WMS community. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and have a tremendous impact on the degree to which our community can thrive. Gifts can be given as a one-time donation between now and December 3rd or as a pledge that is fulfilled throughout the school year via monthly or quarterly contributions.

Please join us in celebrating our commitment to WMS by participating in the WMS Annual Giving Campaign between November 5th and December 3rd, 2019.

What does Annual Giving make possible?

In past years Annual Giving has not only helped to finance the percentage of a student’s education that is not covered by tuition but has led to the creation of new learning opportunities and experiences for our students.

Just a few items Annual Giving has allowed for throughout the years . . .

- Establishment of both the Toddler and Secondary programs. Secondary now consists of both Middle and High School programs.

- Continued additions and support for the Innovation and Design Lab, which was created in 2016 from funds raised at the annual WMS Gala and Auction.

- A Learning Specialist program – providing one-on-one and small group learning assistance to students in need of extra support both academically and developmentally.

- The purchase of new, innovative materials for the libraries, PE, art, and music programs.

- Yearly professional development opportunities for our teachers and staff (conferences, summer programs, workshops, additional certifications).

- Field trips including the Nutcracker ballet for Kindergarteners, overnight stays at the aquarium for Elementary, outdoor education opportunities, student retreats, and overnight trips to Naturebridge on the Olympic Peninsula, New York and Washington DC, Colorado, and Atlanta, Georgia.
• Growth of the Mary Jean Schneider Tuition Assistance program, allowing all children the opportunity to benefit from a Montessori education, regardless of means.

• Improvements to both campuses outdoor spaces and playgrounds. Early Childhood playgrounds at both campuses have been enhanced with the addition of new equipment, green space, safety updates, and even a rock garden that welcomes visitors to the Woodinville campus.

For more information, please see FAQs below:

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Annual Giving Campaign?
Annual Giving is a month-long campaign where we ask all our board members, staff, parents, alumni, and community friends to make a voluntary and 100% tax-deductible financial contribution to our school. The gifts received during the campaign will support WMS in the education of the whole child. Donations may also qualify for matching employer donations.

What fraction of the school’s operating expenses are paid for by charitable giving?
Contributions to the Annual Giving Fund make an immediate, positive impact on the students, teachers and programs that make us a great Montessori school. As with any non-profit, tuition covers most, but not all annual operation costs. At Woodinville Montessori School, the yearly percentage not covered is 5%.

Does Annual Giving have benefits to the school other than the amount of money raised?

Broad community support of WMS through financial giving helps beyond the actual dollar amount. The level of participation in Annual Giving is considered as part of the school’s accreditation process. It also is a part of the credit worthiness of the school, which has helped in negotiating terms with banks for credit when we purchased the North Creek property. 100% participation also sends a message to the foundations, organizations, and government agencies to whom we apply for grants. The more we show the WMS community is invested in our school, the more likely we are to receive grants that will enhance our students’ learning experience.

Most importantly, families who participate in Annual Giving are the families who will continue to support WMS in the future and we hope they feel they are contributing to a wonderful community.

What is the Annual Giving goal?

This year, our goal is to reach 100% in participation, along with raising $140,000 in donations. During the four-week drive from November 5th through December 3rd (#GivingTuesday), we invite all families to consider a gift that is meaningful to them and participate to the best of their ability.

In 2018, we were able to raise over $132,000 with an inspiring 79% all school participation rate.
To help get us to 100% of our community to contribute, all classrooms who reach 100% participation will be treated to a Menchie’s frozen yogurt party prior to the winter break. The party will occur during the school day and in past years was a coveted prize only offered to the first classroom to reach 100% participation.

How much should I give?

5% of the WMS budgeted income comes from charitable giving. Donation levels vary from a few dollars to thousands of dollars. We know that families cannot all give at the same level, so gifts of all sizes matter, and together will get us to our financial goal.

We hope each family at WMS will find a level of giving they can feel good about.

How do I make my gift?

Bring a donation (cash/check if making a cash/check donation) to the Annual Giving Kickoff on Tuesday, November 5th at 20 Corners Brewing – families donating before or at the Kickoff are eligible for exciting raffle prizes! RSVP for dinner here.

Deposit a check (marked for Annual Giving) in any WMS Tuition Box.

Give online at www.woodinvillemontessori.org/contribute/annual-giving

Through an employer payroll deduction program – don’t forget to ask for a giving match! Please notify WMS about these gifts so we can credit the appropriate classroom with participation – employer program gifts often take months to actually get to WMS.

Through a gift of stock securities. Please see Director of Development Laureen Ng for specific instructions. This is great way to avoid paying capital gains taxes on appreciated securities.

If making a one-time pledge, we hope to receive the gifts before the end of 2019. Recurring gift pledges are also welcome.

All donations are tax deductible for individuals that itemize their tax returns.

Do you accept matching gifts from my employer, and how will my gift be recognized?

Yes! WMS accepts matching gifts from many employers. Matching gifts accounted for over $30,000 in additional contributions to WMS last year. Donors will be recognized for the total of their personal gift plus the matching gift combined. Local companies who offer matching programs include, but are not limited to, the following (if your company is not included below, simply check with your HR representative to find out more about their matching gift program):

- Adobe Systems Inc.
- Aetna
- Alaska Airlines
- Apple Inc.
- AT&T
- Bank of America
- BECU
We already pay tuition, so why are we being asked to pay more?

WMS is a non-profit organization – it is our responsibility as a non-profit to solicit charitable donations in support of our mission and to give supporters an opportunity to contribute.

Can I make a 'restricted gift'?

Annual Giving is meant to focus on unrestricted gifts, but some “restricted” gifts are categorically accepted. For example, Tuition Assistance gifts are always accepted for the Mary Schneider Tuition Assistance Fund. Other restricted gifts may or may not be accepted, depending on the restriction. Please communicate with Laureen Ng to ask about particular circumstances.

The Auction event in the Spring (“The Gala”) has many more opportunities for targeted giving.

How are donors recognized?

All Annual Giving donors are appreciated and recognized in the Woodinville Montessori School Annual Report. Leadership Circle donors and above are also recognized at a special reception held each spring.

When you make a gift, you will receive a tax receipt along with a letter of appreciation. Anonymous gifts, or gifts with requests that the donor not be acknowledged, are also accepted.

Giving levels

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Leadership Circle</td>
<td>$1,500-$2,499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friend of WMS</td>
<td>$1-$499</td>
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Additional questions may be directed to Laureen Ng at lng@woodinvillemontessori.org or 425-420-9725.