

Annual Fund Information for Gifft Hill School Families and Faculty

What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is Gifft Hill School's annual gift-giving campaign. It is an essential component of the GHS operating budget and vital to the continued growth and achievement of the school. Each year, we look to the community at large—including trustees, faculty, parents, past parents, grandparents, alumni, students, and friends—to provide the funds needed above tuition to uphold our level of excellence in education. The entire GHS community is asked to support the Annual Fund each year.

When does the Annual Fund take place?

The Annual Fund runs the length of the school's fiscal year, July 1st through June 30th. The official "launch" of the Annual Fund drive takes place on November 1st; from that time through the end of the school year, parents, faculty and other supporters of GHS can expect to hear about the Annual Fund through school newsletters, emails, local media, and direct mailings. Supporters of the school can make a contribution to the Annual Fund at any point during the fiscal year. Many donors contribute prior to the end of the calendar year (December 31st) to take advantage of the tax benefits of their gift for that year. However, you are free to offer a pledge or make a gift at any point in time during the year. In the past, generous donors have offered to match gifts to the Annual Fund at rates from 1 to 1 up to 9 to 1; in those cases, a deadline of 12/31 or 1/31 usually applies. When that happens, members of the school community can expect more frequent mention of the Annual Fund drive in school newsletters, emails, and direct mailings.

Why should I contribute?

Your support of the Annual Fund is necessary for several reasons, including:

- Simply put, without the donations received during the Annual Fund drive, Gifft Hill School could not survive. The Annual Fund supports the school's yearly operating budget and helps to close the gap between the cost to provide a GHS education and what tuition covers.
- The Annual Fund plays an important role in minimizing the annual increase in tuition, and allowing the tuition to remain much lower than the actual cost of educating a child at GHS. *Even those families who pay "full" tuition for their children are benefiting from tuition assistance because of this difference between tuition fees and actual cost to educate each child.*
- The Annual Fund offers you a tax-deductible way to invest in the mission of Gifft Hill School—and in your children's education.

Why is 100% parent and faculty participation in the Annual Fund important?

Through participation in school events, volunteerism, and commitment to the Annual Fund, our school community demonstrates to its students and faculty the high value it places on a GHS education. Above and beyond the obvious economic benefit to GHS, full participation is an important criterion that foundations, corporations, and charitable organizations use when allocating donations.

How can I contribute?

You can make a gift online through the school's website: www.giffthillschool.org. Click on the "Support" page and follow the steps. You may also pay by cash, check, or credit card by calling, stopping by, or mailing to the Development Office:

**Gifft Hill School
P.O. Box 1657
St. John VI 00831**

Thank you so much for taking time to learn more about the Annual Fund. Your support is important to the school and to each and every student and faculty member.

This information has been prepared for you by the Development Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Jones or Molly Murrill at 340-776-1730 or bethjones@giffthillschool.org or mollymurrill@giffthillschool.org.