

Gifts That Keep On Giving

Frequently “UNasked” Questions: Why independent schools need both tuition and donations.

Q: My family is already paying tuition . . . What does my child get when we make financial contributions to Green Hedges?

A: Your financial contributions to the Annual Fund and Auction support the people and programs that make Green Hedges the great school that it is: talented teachers, small classes, library and instructional resources, up-to-date technology, enriching arts and athletics programs. Your child’s education is financed by both your tuition and Annual Fund gift as well as Auction proceedings. Each year, about 5–10% of the operating budget comes from Annual Fund gifts and Auction revenue and directly supports every aspect of life at Green Hedges. Charitable gifts are a necessary part of every independent school’s healthy financial profile.

Q: If independent schools were run more like big business, couldn’t they charge the full cost and avoid having to ask for gifts?

A: Green Hedges School is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit institution. Unlike a for-profit business, which aims to make money, Green Hedges aims to provide our students with the very best education. By nature, high-quality schools are labor-intensive and people-oriented. In order to provide the best programs and competitive compensation to our outstanding faculty and staff, we continually evaluate and assess tuition increases, auxiliary programs like camp,

and effective fundraising initiatives. And unlike tuition, contributions the Annual Fund and Campaign for Green Hedges’ Future are fully tax-deductible and allow each family to give at a meaningful level to which they are able.

Correspondingly, it’s up to you as a parent of today to help ensure the school continues to thrive for the children 10, 20, and 30 years from now. Financing the enhancements of tomorrow will build the school’s long-term reputation, which will always benefit your child as an adult.

Q: My family is international and therefore does not receive a tax benefit. Why should I give?

A: Approximately 30% of Green Hedges’ families are either non-US citizens or multinational. We rely on every family’s participation in the Annual Fund and annual Gala~Auction to reach our operating budget goals and to provide a high quality education for every child.

There are many reasons to give beyond the potential tax benefits. Giving to the Annual Fund is an investment in and commitment to your child’s education here and now. Annual Fund and Auction revenue makes a difference in the everyday life of your child at Green Hedges.

Q: How much should I give to the Annual Fund and how much of a difference can my gift really make?

A: Ideally, current parents identify Green Hedges as one of their top philanthropic priorities and recognize that their contributions make a significant impact. Annual Fund gifts range from \$10 to over \$25,000. We encourage families to consider giving at the Leadership Gift level (Green Hedges Society) of \$1,000 or more, if they are able. Leadership gifts ensure that we raise the necessary additional funds for our students above and beyond what tuition covers to support our program, faculty, and facilities.

Our small school has fewer supporters than larger independent schools or universities, and therefore it is even more critical to have a higher percentage of supporters. Your gift, when added to those of hundreds of other supporters, can have a large impact on our School. Your participation encourages others to give and sends a message to our community that Green Hedges does make a difference. Every gift counts!

Q: When should I make my Annual Fund gift or pledge?

A: The earlier we receive your gift, the earlier we can put it to work for all our students. We encourage all families to make their pledges by December 31, though payments are accepted until June 30.

Q: Will I be asked to make additional gifts to Green Hedges?

A: While there are other giving opportunities at Green Hedges, each benefiting the school in various ways, we expect current parents to make a contribution to the Annual Fund, the Campaign for Green Hedges' Future, and to make donations to the Gala~Auction. Optional fundraisers include supporting PTO initiatives, the library, and the eighth grade class gift to the school.

Q: Is Green Hedges eligible for Employer Matching Gifts?

A: Yes! Please ask your employer about Matching Gift Programs that support K–12 schools. This is a great way to double and sometimes triple your gift to GHS.

Green Hedges School is also an accepted “write-in” agency for the United Way of the National Capital Area.

Q: Should I give if I receive Financial Aid?

A: Even though many families make financial sacrifices to pay their tuition, it is still important for every member of our community to participate in our Annual Fund at some level.

Q: Green Hedges is in the midst of a capital campaign. Why should I give for new buildings and programs the school won't be able to offer until after my child graduates?

A: In any school that is more than 10–15 years old, parents of previous generations of students gave money to fund the resources your child enjoys today—the Rice Art Center, the Montessori wing, and classroom renovations—to open the doors wider for the next generation of Green Hedges' students.

Q: How can I help?

A: First, as a parent and ambassador for the School, your positive endorsement of the program to the broader community helps attract and retain mission-appropriate students.

Second, encourage others, such as grandparents, who want to support the School and its mission, to contribute to the Annual Fund, Campaign, and/or Auction.

Third, the success of our Annual Fund is dependent upon parent volunteers. We invite all parents to join us. Please contact our Director of Development, Cathy Voeks, to learn more about how to become involved.