

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did we want to build this addition and renovate our building?

- This project was driven by our desire to provide enriched and enhanced educational programs for our children. Our commitment to education in fine arts, performing arts (music and drama), and athletics, as well as our desire to create a strong student support services program necessitates building the facilities to house these programs.

What is the total cost of the project?

- We worked with an overall construction budget of \$2,300,000. In order to stay within this budget, we struggled with difficult decisions about what we could afford to include. Our guiding question was, "How does this impact the children?" Therefore, we deleted items like stone siding on the exterior in order to maintain the programmatic enhancements that we desire.

How much are we raising through the Capital Campaign?

- The total goal for ***Our School, Our Future – The Capital Campaign for Oak Meadow Montessori School*** is \$1,000,000.

How much of our goal has already been raised?

- As of October 2009, we have raised more than \$800,000 in contributions and pledges.

What can my family do to help?

- The Development and Advancement Committee of the Board of Trustees offers each family an opportunity to make a pledge to this campaign. It is our hope that every Oak Meadow family will stretch to make the most generous pledge that they can. Pledges may extend over a three year time period. For instance, a family might pledge \$15,000, with \$5000 to be paid this year and \$5000 in each of the following two years.

What are "Naming Opportunities?"

- Through a named gift, donors are recognized for their generosity. The form of recognition will allow permanent inscription and be prominently displayed. A typical commemorative plaque might read, "The Learning Center was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Smith family." Each donor will be provided with a list of possible naming opportunities.

What is the length of the campaign?

- We are asking each family to commit to a gift over a three year time period.

Are contributions to this campaign tax deductible?

- Yes, Oak Meadow is a not-for-profit corporation so contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. You should consult your tax advisor about possible tax benefits.

What happens if we don't raise the full one million dollars?

- I am confident that Oak Meadow's families are committed to providing excellent educations for their children and will each do what they can to make this dream a reality. Failure is not an option.

Where is the rest of the money coming from?

- Oak Meadow refinanced its existing mortgage and borrowed an additional \$1,300,000 through tax-free bond financing.

Will this project impact the cost of tuition?

- The building project has no effect on the cost of tuition. Our Director of Finance and Operations worked with MassDevelopment and Northern Bank & Trust to secure favorable financing of our loans. Our monthly mortgage payment has actually gone down slightly because the life of the loan has been extended.

How does the Capital Campaign differ from the Annual Fund?

- The Capital Campaign provides funds for a specific project that is outside of our annual operating budget – in this case it provides funds for the construction and renovation of our educational facilities. The Annual Fund provides dollars each year directly to our operating budget. Annual Fund contributions make it possible for us to provide additional services or materials for our children's educations, over and above what tuition revenue would allow. It is important to our annual budget that the Annual Fund remains strong throughout the Capital Campaign. Therefore, we are asking each family to contribute to the Capital Campaign while maintaining their Annual Fund support.