



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ANNUAL FUND

### **Why is the Annual Fund so important?**

The Annual Fund represents the most critical dollars for the school's financial health. It provides unrestricted support so that the school can put these dollars where they are most needed.

Annual giving helps fund essentials within the operating budget, including professional development, curriculum development, technology, field trips, student activities, and facilities. These unrestricted gifts are applied wherever the need is greatest, and they are essential to the school's excellence and financial strength.

### **Doesn't tuition cover those expenses?**

Tuition provides about 81 percent of the school's operating budget. The Christ the King Parish helps to make up the difference with a \$150,000 annual investment in the school and with income averaging \$100,000 from the Endowment Trust Fund. CKS relies on annual unrestricted giving to cover the remaining Gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating each student, which in this year's operating budget is about \$950. Tuition increases are inevitable, but can be controlled through the budget-relieving support that the Annual Fund provides.

### **How much should I give?**

Parents are asked to help fill the Gap between what it costs to educate your child(ren) and the tuition you pay. The school depends on parents to give what you can.

### **If I can only make a small gift, does it really make an impact on CKS?**

Absolutely! Your gift, combined with those from other parents, provides substantial support for the ongoing needs of the school. *Every gift is an expression of support for CKS and every gift matters!*

### **Why does my participation matter?**

Participation matters because many foundations fund only schools that demonstrate wide support by their own parents. Your gift is a demonstration of your commitment to the school and a sign of Christ the King School's strength of community. Our goal is 100% participation from our CKS families and staff.

### **What period of time does the Annual Fund cover?**

The Annual Fund drive runs from August through January 31 of the current school year. The funds are applied to the current year's operating budget, which runs from July 1 through June 30, so it is important that commitments are honored by January 31.

### **If I make a commitment now, by what date do I have to honor my commitment?**

We ask that commitments be made by October 1, and fulfilled by January 31 to be available for use in the current school year. It is helpful to CKS if you make your commitment early, even if you don't pay until later. It is important for the administration and School Advisory Council to know the approximate total of the projected commitments when they meet in the fall for the budget planning process for the next school year.

### **Can I add the amount of my commitment to my tuition payment?**

No. Tuition is a payment for services and your Annual Fund commitment is a contribution. There is a tax benefit for Annual Fund contributions, while none exists for tuition payments, so it is important that we keep them separate.

### **How do I honor my commitment?**

Commitments may be honored in full or in installments by cash, check or online payment.