

The Saint's Fund Annual Giving Campaign Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



Q. What is The Saint's Fund?

A. The Saint's Fund is Saint Stephen's annual giving campaign. The mission of The Saint's Fund is to provide the critical margin of excellence that enables Saint Stephen's Episcopal School to offer the exceptional experiences that help our students reach their full potential. National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) standards recommend annual campaigns raise 10% of a school's budget revenue.

Q. Why does the school ask for a contribution in addition to my tuition payment?

A. An independent school education is an investment and an opportunity to be fully involved in your student's campus experience. Saint Stephen's strives to make tuition competitive but also affordable. Because tuition does not cover the full cost of a Saint Stephen's education, the school relies on contributions from a variety of donors. The size of these gifts may vary, but all gifts are important.

Although tuition is not tax-deductible, contributions to The Saint's Fund may be eligible for deduction from your taxes.

Q. Why doesn't Saint Stephen's raise tuition to cover all operating expenses?

A. Tuition must be competitive with comparable area schools. Raising tuition significantly above that competitive level may discourage qualified students from applying, which hurts the whole community. Saint Stephen's has the responsibility to seek additional revenue from donations and other sources such as corporate gifts and foundation grants in order to maintain a reasonable tuition structure.

Q. Why does the school want 100% participation in The Saint's Fund?

A. Each year, 100% of the faculty/staff and Board of Trustees make a gift to The Saint's Fund. When 100% of parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends of Saint Stephen's also make a gift to The Saint's Fund, it affirms their commitment to the school and the importance they place on investing in each student's education.



100% participation in The Saint's Fund also helps Saint Stephen's procure grant funding. One of the critical measures for receiving grant funding is the participation rate in the school's annual giving campaign; strong participation strengthens our position to receive the grant award.



Q. What is the “Family of Funds” and how is it different from The Saint’s Fund?

A. The new *Family of Funds* is a subset of The Saint’s Fund. We believe you want to know exactly what your gifts accomplish and how they will be directed to the school’s expenses. The *Family of Funds* provides the opportunity to match your personal philanthropic preferences to Saint Stephen’s operating budget.

When you make a gift to The Saint’s Fund, you will have the opportunity to direct that gift to one of six funds in the *Family of Funds*:

- Academic Programs Fund
- Physical Education & Athletics Fund
- Faculty Fund
- Fine Arts Fund
- Technology Fund
- Area of Most Need Fund

Q. Can I designate the specific item I want my money to cover when I donate to The Saint’s Fund?

A. The *Family of Funds* was created so you can direct your investment to a specific *area* of need. The dollars within these funds will be used for budget items/programs identified by the school’s administration.

*If you would like to fund a specific project, please contact the Development Office to discuss the possibilities.

Q. Why does the school include the disclaimer, “The fund areas above support Saint Stephen’s Episcopal School’s operating budget. The Board of Trustees retains the discretion to use the funds to support the school’s general operating expenses should contributions received for a particular fund exceed the expenditure limits approved by the board for each area”?

A. Saint Stephen’s honors donor intent. We do not, however, want to create a situation where one program is “over-funded” and another does not have the funds to operate successfully. The Board of Trustees is responsible for financial governance of the school, and will make necessary adjustments, should the situation arise, to ensure that all general operations and program areas are covered properly.

The Saint’s Fund
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