

Vancouver Waldorf School ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN Q & A

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN?

The Annual Giving Campaign is a direct appeal to parents, grandparents and other relatives, faculty, staff, Trustees, alumni families, friends and acquaintances, for financial contributions in support of the school's operating budget.

WHY IS ANNUAL GIVING NECESSARY?

Tuition, fees and government grants cover about 90% of the annual operating expenses of the school. The purpose of the Annual Giving Campaign is to help bridge this gap.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOOL'S OPERATING BUDGET?

About 68% of our operating budget funds salaries for teachers and staff, 14% supports facilities and 3% capital improvements, furniture and equipment. The balance (15%) funds other expenses such as programs, trips, professional development, mentoring, concerts and festivals, community development and outreach.

WHY NOT RAISE TUITION?

There would be a significant increase in tuition if the VWS were to cover its outstanding expenses this way. No independent school can charge the full cost of educating its students without pricing itself out of the market. That is why every independent school has an Annual Giving Campaign. In addition, tuition is a non-tax-deductible contracted contribution to the school, while gifts to the Annual Giving Campaign are fully tax-deductible.

ARE THERE OTHER FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AT THE VWS BESIDES THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN?

Yes. In addition to asking everyone in the school to participate in Annual Giving, we have ongoing projects each year that also raise funds, such as the Christmas Fair and other events.

DO CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN?

Corporations typically contribute to independent schools by offering matching gifts to their employees' contributions. Please inquire at your place of work if there is an employer's matching gift program.

HOW IMPORTANT IS ANNUAL GIVING TO THE VWS?

Very important... without our donation income and the positive support generated by volunteers and donors, we would be forced to make difficult decisions regarding reductions in programs and activities. Your participation creates enthusiasm and encourages others to join you in supporting the school, and it is an important indicator to foundation and major donors that we have consistent support from our community.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

You are the only one who knows how much you are able to give, and we ask only that you give to the best of your ability. The act of giving is more than the monetary result. What ever you decide to donate will make a difference.