ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

March 2018







Celebrating 125 Years

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NOTES

The Annual Stewardship Report is a publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the accomplishments of the past year, the vision for the coming year, and financial/stewardship information.

Welcome to Eastern Christian School's THIRD ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

It is hard for me to believe that I have been here at EC for more than three years now. It seems, like I just walked into The Foundation office for the first time a few weeks ago. That is a testament to the joy that I feel working here at The Foundation for Eastern Christian School.

Together, over the past three years we have accomplished amazing things. And when I say "we" I mean our team here at The Foundation along with all of you who have supported this ministry in amazing ways, making it possible for Eastern Christian School to advance its mission each and every day.

You and I have been blessed, to touch and change the lives of more than 840 students (yes, enrollment grew again last year) every day.

- Foundation events experienced their highest attendance and raised more dollars than ever before.
- Campaign 125 began quickly and was officially kicked off in December. Today, we are approaching \$2.5 million dollars in funds raised.
- Significant work was completed as part of Campaign 125 on all three campuses focusing on student safety and classroom renovations (read more on the following pages).
- Programs have been expanded and added including WINGS, STEAM, Extended Learning and Service Learning.
- Curriculum continues to be reviewed, expanded, and improved.
- · And the list goes on...

You and I are equipping young men and women to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. The March edition of The Herald tells the stories of just a few of the students and alumni who are transforming the world each day. I can't think of a more important job than preparing our students for this work. What a privilege we have.

In the pages that follow, you will read how our mission is being accomplished across all three campuses. You'll see the 2018-2019 budget that was approved at the Annual Meeting of the Association on February 28, 2018. And finally, you will see a listing of those who joined with you to make it possible for Eastern Christian School to pursue and accomplish its mission.

Thank you, for again making a difference in the lives of our students. What an impact you are making.

David A. Visbeen

Executive Director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian School





Mission Statement

By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents in a global society.

Statement of Belief

As a Reformed educational institution, we believe that God is sovereign over all creation. We make a connection to God's claim in every subject, not just in biblical studies or chapel; in all behavior, including language, dress; and in all attitudes, including those toward others and toward property. The overall purpose of an Eastern Christian education, shaped by this Reformed perspective, is to encourage students to use their heads, hearts and hands for God and to use discernment to create a worldview that is formed through the lens of faith.

The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence and seeks to contribute cooperatively and responsibly to God's mission of renewing all of creation.

A Culture of Value & Values

Eastern Christian School is a unique learning community, differentiated by its culture of value and values, by its pursuit of excellence, and its commitment to service.

At the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Christian School Association members on February 28, we thought about that unique culture in three different ways.

- Firstly, the value proposition the manner in which Eastern Christian has pursued a culture of striving for excellence and creating value for our students, their families, and our entire community.
- Secondly, the values proposition the manner in which Eastern Christian is differentiated from other schools by its values based culture.
- · Lastly, the significant commitment required to sustain a values based culture of excellence.

Eastern Christian's culture of creating value and striving for excellence is based on the pillars of educational excellence and a high standard of care for our students, all provided by trusted professionals who are dedicated to the children and young people entrusted to our care.

Educational excellence is evidenced by Eastern Christian's comprehensive program of services for students in preschool through high school; services ranging from an expanding level of special education services for our youngest elementary students, to Project Acceleration, our college level honors program through which our students are able to earn up to a full year of college credit at Seton Hall University while still enrolled at Eastern Christian High School. That comprehensive program includes not just academics, but also the arts, athletics, and service learning from elementary school through high school.

Educational excellence is evidenced by the exceptional results achieved by our students in their college and career choices, the outstanding colleges into which our students are accepted each year, and the nearly \$7 million in college scholarships awarded to our graduating seniors last year. And these exceptional results are reflected by the growth experienced in our student body over the last several years as more and more Christian families have made the decision to partner with us in the education of their children.

And finally, educational excellence is evidenced by the preparation for transformational lives of service that our students receive - preparation that was chronicled in the most recent issue of **the Herald** with its profile of the exceptional lives of service being lived by our current students and our alumni living around the world.

The value proposition includes an exceptional level of care for the students entrusted to us by their families, from the expanded nursing services provided on all of our campuses and the newly introduced counseling resources on our elementary and middle school campuses, to the major investments made to support student safety and security on all of our campuses. That care extends to major investments made in providing a top quality learning environment - such as the 44 classrooms that received all new classroom furniture, the 39 classrooms that were painted, the 17 classrooms that received new lights and ceilings, and the 50 classrooms that were air conditioned during the last twelve months - the continual investment in

educational technology, and our investment in seven new buses over a four year period to safely transport our students to and from school.

Perhaps most importantly, all of the elements of educational excellence and care for our students are provided by trusted professionals - from the bus drivers greeting our students in the morning, to our custodians and maintenance team, teachers, nurses, administrators - fellow believers who dedicate their lives to the education of the children of this Christian community. Make no mistake about it, the people children spend their time with at school make a difference. As Rev. John Westerhoff observed at a conference on Christian education.

"By the time children are twelve years of age, they have spent more time in school than they have with their families and religious communities combined. Indeed, it would take seventy-five years of attending church and church school regularly to equal the school's influence in the first twelve years of a person's life."

The people who our children spend their time with at school are not only people of Christian character, they are also people of great professional competence, certified teachers and professionals, many with advanced degrees in their fields, who undergo rigorous continuing education to remain at the cutting edge of their profession.

They are also people who truly love their work. People who overwhelming tell us in our employee satisfaction surveys that their work is meaningful and gives them a sense of satisfaction. People who voted Eastern Christian School as the only educational institution to be named as one of the 2017 Best Places to Work in New Jersey by the North Jersey Media Group, publisher of **the Record**.

Now some people may agree that Eastern Christian may be creating value and striving for excellence. But so what? There are lots of good schools in Northern New Jersey.

The things that really set us apart from the others are our values, our shared beliefs, our commitment to a set of institutional core values, and our absolute dedication to the mission of preparing the next generation of Christian leaders.

As you walk through our school buildings, you will see placards in every single classroom reminding us of our mission - of the relationship between parents, churches, and our school, each playing a critical role





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in empowering our students to act as Christ's transforming agents. In each of our schools you will see references to our tagline - "Engaging the Mind - Nurturing the Spirit - Transforming the World." And in each of our schools you will hear discussion of the ways in which our programs help us to achieve the goal stated in our graduate profile - preparing our students to become men and women of Christian vision and influence.

In each of our school buildings, indeed in every single classroom, you will hear and see repeated reminders of our shared school values - "In pursuing the character of Christ, we will seek truth, serve others, embrace community, exhibit compassion, develop responsibility, and strive for excellence."

And in each of our school buildings you will see tangible evidence of an educational program that is designed to build character and competence, to prepare the next generation of Christian leaders to make a difference. That is why Eastern Christian School has been named one of a very small number of National School Districts of Character and why an accreditation team of educators from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools wrote that,

"Eastern Christian School is an institution where caring, risking, dreaming, and expecting are captured in the culture of the school and in its plan for the future."

Eastern Christian School is truly differentiated by a deeply infused, values-based Christian culture.

So what will it take to sustain this culture of values based excellence? In a word - commitment!

It takes the sort of long term vision that King David talked about in Psalm 145 - a vision measured not in years, but in generations. It requires a vision to educate the children of the children currently sitting in our classrooms.

Sustaining our culture requires a strategic plan for the future - a plan to grow enrollment, ensure our financial integrity and sustainability, provide high quality facilities to support excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics, and to attract, retain and equip the absolutely best teachers possible to serve our students.

Sustaining our culture also requires financial support. Financial support to enable program development, financial support by way of our very significant non-tuition support from our donors, our endowment, and our supporting businesses. And financial support to help maintain the affordability of an Eastern Christian School education for all of our

Eastern Christian School... a learning community creating value for its students and their families, striving for excellence, differentiated by its unique values based culture, in the service of the King!

Thomas G. DykhouseExecutive Director and Head of School

families.

Preschool & Elementary School

Eastern Christian Preschool and Elementary School experienced another year of increased enrollment and welcomed 260 students at the start of the 2017-2018 school year. Our preschool expanded with the opening of a satellite campus in Faith Community Church in Wyckoff where 13 students attend our multi-age class. We started a Mommy & Me Music class at the satellite campus where parents enjoy making music with their children ages 0 to 5. We increased our flexible kindergarten offerings so parents can choose full-day, half-day or a combination of full and half days.

This summer, through Campaign 125, we continued to upgrade our facilities. Our chalkboards were replaced with whiteboards, old tables and chairs were replaced with new furniture. Flexible seating options like ball chairs, accordion chairs and standing desks are available to students who learn best through the use of non-traditional furniture. These upgrades, in addition to past renovations from our 2012 Capital Campaign, allowed for a complete transformation of our preschool and elementary school including new windows, carpeting and paint in the media center (2015), new doors, windows, floors, boilers, clocks, intercom and paint in classrooms and hallways (2014), student and staff bathroom renovations (2013) and renovation of the Primary Program Wing (2012).

Thanks to the generous support of our Preschool and Elementary School PTO, we were able to update our technology and purchase Promethean Boards for every elementary classroom. The Promethean Boards, in addition to our iPads, computers, document cameras and Apple TVs, allow teachers to integrate technology into their curriculum on a daily basis.

Our After School program added several new clubs this year including coding, baking, jump roping, drawing, drama, Airplane Pilots and Rhythm Reach. We continue to offer individual music lessons for piano, guitar and violin.

Sandra Bottge

Principal, Eastern Christian Elementary School









Middle School

The 2017-2018 school year started of with a lot of excitement and anticipation as our building received the next major phase of its renewal. Every classroom was repainted with a fresh coat of paint, including one accent wall in each room - that's 17 classrooms, plus the media center and main lobby! In August, we also received a 45-foot trailer with our new classroom furniture - outfitting 9 classrooms with brand new desks and chairs, which complimented the 5 classrooms that were updated the previous year. Two classrooms received

significant technology upgrades, matching those classrooms with the rest of those in the middle school. This is not to mention the addition of air conditioning in each of our learning spaces, which was installed in the late spring 2017. These changes meant that our teachers and students walked into a building that looked brand new - ready for all of the activity that was to follow!

What was not seen were several of the security upgrades that were completed during the spring



and summer. New cameras were installed, with plans to add an additional 9 cameras during this school year. Protective coating was adhered to all of our entrances, and pieces were put in motion to upgrade the access to the middle school building, including ID badge access for staff and a new doorbell monitoring system.

This year as we opened our doors in August, we welcomed 200 students! This was a very positive sign for our growth, not only to hit the 200 mark,

m Mr Bautista

but also because the distribution of students was almost equal across all grade levels. In fact, our 6th grade grew large enough to add a third section of classes - a mark that has not been there for the past 10 years! God has been faithful once again to send us many new families to add to the amazing community that is ECMS.

Of course, all of these changes and updates would be in vain if it were not for the distinctly Christian education that happens each day within the building. Christian school offers our students that which is most needed in their lives - the opportunity to experience redemption personally through the restoration of their relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is in the context of that reconciling relationship that our teachers bring meaning to the content that our students learn, to the relationships that they build with one another, and to their development emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Middle school is an incredibly difficult time for many students, and it is through the education that Eastern Christian provides that our students recognize their value and worth as individuals created in the Image of God.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to be a part of the work God is doing in the lives of our students. God is using Eastern Christian to prepare future generations for faithful service in His kingdom

by allowing us to build into our students a passion for service and a love for others.

Daniel LazorPrincipal
Eastern Christian Middle School

NAMED ONE OF THE **TOP 50** CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

High School

The 125th year of Eastern Christian School has been a busy one at the high school!

With a new principal and ten new teachers, there was a lot of learning and sharing about our school's history. It was the perfect year for our school theme of Remember, Reflect, Respond. As we engage the mind and nurture the spirit, we reflect on God's faithfulness through the generations and respond by living out our enduring mission to be Christ's transforming agents in a global society. It is a distinct pleasure to be part of a school that is able to remain true to its past while being innovative and confidently navigating the rapidly changing world of education.

We started the year reaping the benefits of Campaign 125. Students returned from their summer break to find upgraded classrooms, technology improvements, enhanced security, and perhaps most importantly to them, air conditioning. The work (and fundraising!) of Campaign 125 continues, and even as I write this letter our beloved maintenance staff is wiring the school for more security cameras. With all of these upgrades and the planned athletic field improvements, we will continue to see the benefits of Campaign 125 for years to come.

Our high school is now in its seventh consecutive year of growth, and it is a very exciting time as we see programing expand and improve. Our STEAM program continues to grow, and its students are completing some truly remarkable projects. Our

WINGS program expanded exponentially, from a pilot with one student last year to a 15-student program this year. Our Honors Choir students performed in Carnegie Hall in December, and our girls basketball team won their division championship. We've also refined our approach to service learning, formed a Curriculum Council to more intentionally approach our PS-12th grade curriculum, and continued our work on building character and global competence in our students.

We have also focused on student health and wellbeing. Through a viewing and discussion of the documentary ANGST, we began a conversation about anxiety and how we can best support each other as a community. Our art students, led by teachers Donna Aceino and Jesse Wright, also began the Open Up Project. This project started in the fall and was designed to address the national epidemic of school shootings. The project provides a healthy forum for students to discuss and process through some of the difficult challenges teens face in our culture.

As we continue to grow and live out our mission, it is truly exciting to see God's

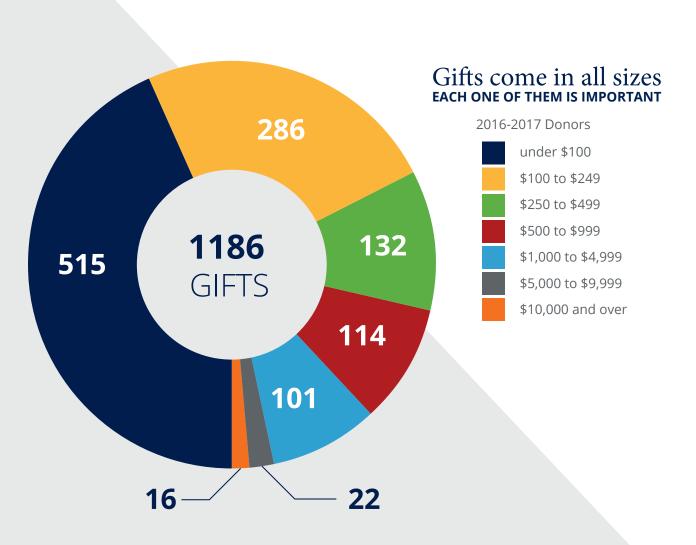
faithfulness and the passion and ingenuity of our students and teachers.

David IntlekoferPrincipal, Eastern Christian High School





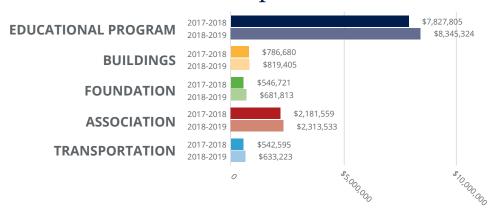
a look at THE**NUMBERS**



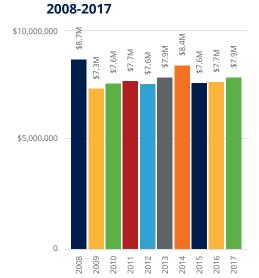
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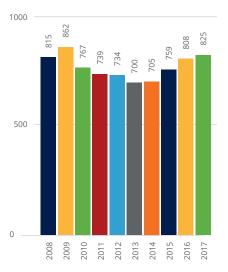


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www.easternchristian.org/giving

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING



The Annual Fund

Every year, each member of our community -- current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty/staff, and others -- are asked to participate in The Annual Fund. These gifts are crucial to Eastern Christian School's operating budget, helping to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of education.

Scholarship

Gifts are raised each year to fund Variable Tuition, helping more families have access to an academically excellent, Christ-centered education.

The Angel Fund

When student families are in crisis, The Angel Fund makes it possible for students to remain in school without additional financial pressure to the family. The Angel Fund is used in the event of a death, major illness, loss of employment or other crisis.

The Endowment Fund

Each year, The Endowment Fund of Eastern Christian School makes a significant contribution to the operating budget.

- Memorials: Many gifts are received in memory of family members and friends. These gifts are generally applied to the Endowment Fund.
- Honorariums: Friends and family often mark special events in the lives of loved ones by making a gift in their honor. These gifts are generally applied to the Endowment Fund.
- Bequests: The most significant contributions to The Endowment Fund have been through the estates of past supporters.

The Foundation for Eastern Christian School is able to assist you with any of these giving opportunities.

For more information, call 973-427-9294.

Capital Campaigns and Major Gifts

We routinely have needs that cannot be met through the operating budget. When these needs arise, Capital Campaigns and Major Gift solicitations are organized to fund those expenses.

Planned Giving

In addition to current gifts (cash, checks, credit cards), Eastern Christian accepts a variety of other gifts and will work with you to facilitate these gifts:

- A bequest in a will or living trust is a common planned gift. This is a simple way to make what could be your most significant and lasting gift to Eastern Christian School. Bequests usually become part of the Endowment Fund unless otherwise specified.
- Stocks, Bonds, and Securities: Gifting appreciated stocks, bonds, and securities can provide tax advantages for the donor while maximizing the gift to Eastern Christian School.
- IRA's 401K's and Life Insurance: Designate
 Eastern Christian School as the beneficiary of
 your retirement account. Your gift is tax free.
- IRA Charitable Rollover: Recently signed into law, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals over the age of 70½ to donate up to \$100,000.00 directly from their IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income.
- Charitable Remainder Trust: A gift of real estate in a charitable remainder trust will help you avoid capital gains taxes while ensuring that you receive income for the rest of your life.
- Charitable Gift Annuity: A CGA will provide an immediate tax deduction while providing income for the life of the donor(s).
- Named Endowment: Major donors may wish to consider a Named Endowment. Established during your lifetime or through your estate plan. A specific area of interest (i.e. scholarship, sciences, athletics, facilities, etc.) may be selected and an grant is given each year from the fund to that area of interest.

REPORT TO ALUMNI

The Foundation Office seeks to foster a relationship and create opportunities for alumni to engage with Eastern Christian School.

973.427.9294 | alumni@easternchristian.org

ALUMNI EVENTS

HomEComing

This past year was the 3rd Annual HomeComing weekend. Friday evening 75 of our Heritage Alumni gathered for dinner, highlighting the class of 1947 as they celebrated 70 years since their graduation. Saturday activities started with the EC5K in which many alumni participated. Next up was the Alumni Soccer game – where teams separated into two age categories and battled it out. This year youth took the trophy, but left the field with great respect for their older competitors. Sunday afternoon a HomeComing worship and praise service took place, featuring an alumni choir of 30 voices, and former EC Choral directors participating.



Homecoming weekend continues to grow and we look forward to HomeComing 2018!

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 19 - 21

FRIDAY

- Golf Outing at Wallkill Golf Club in Middletown, NY
- Heritage Alumni Dinner at 5:30pm
 All those who have graduated 50+ years are welcome to attend.

Featured classes: 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963

SATURDAY

- EC5K at 9am
- Boys Alumni Soccer Game at 2:30pm

Reunions

The Foundation Office assisted the Class of 1967, 1977 and 2007 in planning their reunion. Several reunions are already planned for 2018. Classes celebrating a milestone reunion are welcome to organize a class reunion during Homecoming weekend, or anytime that works! Contact the Foundation Office – we are happy to help.

Young Alumni Thanksgiving Chapel

The Foundation Office hosted a Thanksgiving Alumni Chapel at ECHS, giving young alumni an opportunity to participate in chapel and enjoy visiting with former classmates and teachers over a bagel and coffee.



SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2018

Alumni Communications

The Foundation Office sent out 49 onesies to alumni who sent us birth announcements.



Emails are sent to classmates notifying them of a class member's prayer request, memorial information, etc. **Update your email address at www.easternchristian.org/alumni/submitnews-update-contact-info/ to stay up to date!**

EVENTS 5



Thank You! In 2017, the Foundation Office received donations from 369 alumni for EC's annual fund totaling \$197,698.

(This does not include donations from alumni-based businesses)

RETURNING ALUMNI DONORS

342

NEW ALUMNI DONORS

27

DECADE WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ALUMNI DONORS

(1) 1950's

(2) **1960's**

DECADE WITH GREATEST GIVING

(1) **1950's**

(2) 1970's



May 21, 2018 Spring Golf Outing Black Bear Golf Club Franklin, NJ

October 19-20, 2018 HomEComing & EC5K

January 30, 2019
Community Beefsteak
The Brownstone
Paterson, N

April 12-20, 2019 EC Netherlands Waterway Cruise

April 25, 2019 Auction Gala Indian Trail Club Franklin Lakes, NJ

May 4, 2019 Touch a Truck EC Middle School Wyckoff, NJ





The Foundation for Eastern Christian School 50 Oakwood Avenue North Haledon, NJ 07508

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Eastern Christian's Mission: To provide an excellent academic education within the context of a Christian world and life view, in a culturally diverse and caring environment for the children of Christian families.

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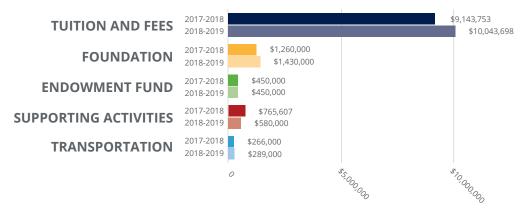


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Revenues



Expenses

