

Weaver donates \$250K to Jacksonville special education school

Now, she's challenging the community to help the school finish its capital campaign

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Delores Barr Weaver

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Just in time for the holidays, Delores Barr Weaver is making a major donation to a Jacksonville school for students with learning differences – and she's challenging the community to chip in, too.

On Friday, Morning Star School announced that Weaver has pledged \$250,000 toward its campaign to fund the construction of a new high school. Weaver's donation brings the campaign to \$1.5 million of its \$1.6 million goal, and she's offered to match up to \$50,000 in donations to raise the rest of the money.

"Morning Star School has demonstrated the need for and the community investment in the Building a Brighter Future capital campaign as it has progressed," Weaver said. "By issuing a challenge grant, I hope to inspire others to join me in supporting a successful finish to this worthwhile campaign."

In 2016, Morning Star School began a five-year, \$1.6 million campaign to expand beyond 8th grade and build a high school. The new building nearly doubles the size of the existing campus, adding two wings with eight classrooms and a state-of-the-art media and learning center. To date, the campaign had raised \$1.25 million, but the Media and Learning Center had not yet received a naming donation.

"We used savings and a loan to build our new high school so completing the campaign on time was crucial for future success," said Maria Johnson, the school's director of development. "To receive a call from The Community Foundation saying Mrs. Weaver wanted to help was thrilling."

Located on Mickler Road in Arlington, Morning Star School serves K-12 students from Northeast Florida with learning and intellectual differences, attention deficit disorders and autism spectrum disorders. To learn more or to donate, visit the school's website at <http://morningstar-jax.org>.