



*Unique, Inspiring, Grounded In Faith... Since 1956*

# ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

*Every gift matters...  
Every gift helps a child*

Dear Friends of Morning Star School,

Your support of our Annual Fund helps us bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate a child with learning and intellectual differences. Our special education school has a unique model, an average 12 to 1 student ratio, so tuition alone only covers about 80% of the actual cost of educating a student. Our smaller enrollment numbers allow us to be the exception, but also creates a difficult financial model.

## **The ongoing pandemic is preventing us from having our annual gala for a second year in a row.**

The COVID19 pandemic is still affecting our school in many ways - including financially. Our expenses have increased due to the ongoing CDC health protocols changing and purchasing necessary products in order to continue keeping our students and staff safe while at school.

On top of this, we have had to cancel our annual gala for a second year in a row. In years past our Gala has brought in nearly \$60,000 which goes to various operating costs. In addition to the usual operating budget items we strive to provide the most up-to-date and specialized curriculum to our students. This means we have found ourselves needing to replace many programs at once, costing nearly \$90,000. **If you normally attend our gala and participate in the auction or purchase a sponsorship, please consider donating the amount you would spend at our event in order to help Morning Star School get through these tough times.**

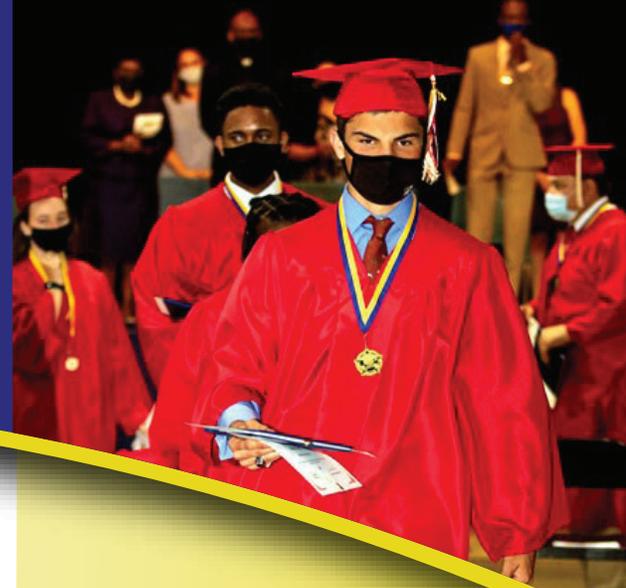
## **Our annual fund drive runs through June 30, 2022**

Many of our students must receive funding in the form of scholarships in order to attend our school. Unfortunately, most of these only cover a portion of the tuition, leaving a balance to be paid by the families. We are asking for your help as our school and families continue to get through these difficult times. Many employers will even match your donation! To find out if yours does, contact your human resources department.

Sincerely,

Elaine Shott, Principal

Abbie Johnson, Director of Development



## *Why Become a Friend of Morning Star School?*

- ✦ Students are empowered to become active members of their community
- ✦ Students develop and, more readily, share their talents when they have a higher self-confidence
- ✦ A variety of accommodations are made for each student based on their needs
- ✦ Safe, nurturing, and engaging environment
- ✦ Students are seen as a unique child of God and grounded in faith
- ✦ Our teachers always go above and beyond for our students but still fall short in funding needed





## BECOME A FRIEND

### *How will your gift help?*

#### **Visionary Friends**

- Tuition assistance program

#### **Sisters of St. Joseph Friends**

- Keep our curriculum up-to-date

#### **Archbishop Hurley Friends**

- Maintain classroom technology that aids with instruction

#### **Winged Lion Friends**

- Provide classroom and physical education equipment

#### **Shining Star Friends**

- Support for educational and diagnostic testing

#### **Inspiring Friends**

- Allow for upkeep of our playgrounds and outdoor equipment

#### **Blue & Gold Friends**

- Help purchase items from our school wish list

At the request of Archbishop Hurley, the Sisters of St. Joseph founded Morning Star School in 1956. It has since grown to become such a wonderful place for students with learning differences to grow and learn in a supportive environment, giving them the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

**Becoming a Friend of Morning Star**, allows for you to support our school in a variety of ways that works for your budget. In addition to assisting families with tuition, the Annual Fund also gives donors a way to provide gifts, which benefit our facilities, purchase up-to-date curriculum programs, upgrade technology for classroom and student use, and much more.

Gifts in the following categories include membership to our Morning Star Friends Community. All Friend levels include recognition in our newsletter and an invitation to our annual open house during Catholic Schools Week. Those who reach the Visionary Friend level become part of our Morning Star Circle of Friends and will receive all the above benefits as well as an annual report. Those who reach this level in a single fiscal year will also receive a special gift showing our appreciation.

### *Become a Friend of Morning Star*

<b>Visionary Friends</b>	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>
<b>Sisters of St. Joseph Friends</b>	<b>\$25,000 to \$49,999</b>
<b>Archbishop Hurley Friends</b>	<b>\$10,000 to \$24,999</b>
<b>Winged Lion Friends</b>	<b>\$5,000 to \$9,999</b>
<b>Shining Star Friends</b>	<b>\$1,500 to \$4,999</b>
<b>Inspiring Friends</b>	<b>\$500 to \$1499</b>
<b>Blue &amp; Gold Friends</b>	<b>\$25 to \$499</b>

All donations are tax deductible.  
Morning Star School is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization.  
Our federal identification number is 59-0860468.

Please donate by returning the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.morningstar-jax.org/annual-fund](http://www.morningstar-jax.org/annual-fund).

On behalf of our students, teachers, staff, and Board of Directors. Thank you for generously supporting Morning Star School!

*“For it is in giving that we receive.”*

*St. Francis of Assisi*

