

November 2008

What an exciting day it was at South Christian as we hosted Grandparents Day on Friday, October 3. I am just amazed each year at the tremendous number of grandparents who participate in chapel and classes with their grandchildren for the morning. The same level of support is shown at band and choir concerts, dramas, and athletic events. That continued support is what makes South Christian so special. Our students have a tradition of success when they work as a team. The South Christian High School community has also succeeded when they work "Hand in Hand" to achieve their goals. As you give thought to how you can use your gifts to help South Christian this year, we would like you to consider helping in one of the following areas:

- Building and Site Fund - Improvements at our 68th Street Campus
- Tuition Assistance Fund - Helping Individual Families
- Annual Fund - Helping All Families

Building and Site

Your gift to the Building and Site Fund will be used to pay for improvements that were made to the facilities this summer and for work being planned for next summer. It was a very busy summer for our custodial staff and the Building and Grounds committee. The most noticeable improvements as you walk around school are the new kitchen, energy-efficient lighting in the halls and classrooms, new bleachers, a refinished floor and weight room in the gym, along with new stage curtains and stage floor in the auditorium. Our teachers and students are enjoying the data projectors in classrooms, wireless internet service throughout the school and air-conditioned computer classrooms. We also installed new boilers and replaced part of the roof, where needed. The proposed budget for the work performed this summer was estimated at \$1,431,000, but the actual price turned out to be \$1,042,000. That number was reduced by \$434,000 due to discounts and donations by contractors and suppliers. We need to raise approximately \$500,000 to complete payment on these improvements. We are especially grateful to our parents, grandparents, and businesses who volunteered to donate or give discounted pricing on many of the improvements that have been completed this year.

Although we have completed many projects at this point, there is still much to do. We have plans to replace the seats in the auditorium and renovate rest rooms, locker rooms, the main office and other areas as funds become available.

Tuition Assistance

Did you know that the required tuition for a student at South Christian High School is \$6,360, or \$35 per day? Without grants from the Music and Sports Boosters, Parents Guild, Foundation and other programs, the actual cost to educate a student is well over \$7,000. We know that some of our families have made a commitment to send their children to South Christian knowing full well that the cost of tuition exceeds their resources. Your gift to the tuition assistance fund is an answer to their prayers. Already

this year we have awarded over \$70,000, and last year we were able to give over \$90,000 of assistance to 47 families. Your gift of \$35 pays for 1 day, \$175 for 1 week, \$700 for 1 month or \$3,180 for 1 semester.

Annual Fund

The Annual Fund was started three years ago and is used to offset the total cost of operations of our school, which in turn reduces the full cost of tuition for every student. The goal of the Annual Fund is to keep tuition increases from exceeding the consumer price index (CPI) for our area, which helps to keep tuition increases to a minimum. Without the support of the Annual Fund, tuition would have been \$169 more per student for the 2007-2008 school year and \$180 more per student this year.

How Can You Help?

We have had a number of people say, *"I cannot give you any money, but I'm willing to donate my time."* We have many volunteer opportunities that arise each and every day. Your support is very important to us, no matter the form it comes in. If you would prefer to give a gift on a monthly or quarterly basis instead of a lump-sum payment, we can provide you with envelopes. Non-cash gifts of stocks, life insurance policies and property is another way to help. Please call John Pluger in the Development office (455-1675) with any questions or if you would like a tour of our facility.

We ask that you continue to partner with us to provide the resources needed to offer a Christian education in facilities that provide a good learning environment. We recognize the difficulties many families and businesses are experiencing. We are asking for your continued support as we address basic needs, as well as repairs and improvements of our facilities. As in past years, we know that when we work Hand in Hand, we can do so much more than when we work alone. Your prayer support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

John Pluger
Development Director