

# Questions and Answers about the Annual Fund

## **What is the Annual Fund?**

The Haleakalā Waldorf School Annual Fund is made up of gifts from generous parents, alums, teachers, staff, former staff, grandparents, and friends in support for some of our most precious projects. Your Annual Fund donation makes an immediate impact on the quality of the school and directly benefits your child and other students.

## **Why does the Haleakalā Waldorf School have an Annual Fund?**

Tuition alone does not cover the costs of an independent school education. Like other schools and colleges, the Haleakalā Waldorf School relies on gifts to help meet annual expenses and provide funding for critical projects. Historically, the gap between tuition income and expenses is around 20% of the budget. Your generous donation helps us bridge this gap.

## **What does the Annual Fund do for the students and teachers of the Waldorf School?**

The Annual Fund provides resources for our operating budget in support of all aspects of the school, from the nuts-and-bolts of maintaining the building to larger mission-driven work, and financial assistance for 1/3rd of our families.

Why not raise tuition instead of asking me to give a donation?

The Board of Trustees tries to keep tuition as low as possible so as many families as possible will be able to afford a Waldorf Education. Raising tuition would restrict even further the number of families who could attend the school. At the same time, we must maintain the authenticity of our programs. Charitable contributions help us achieve both goals.

## **I pay tuition. Why are you asking me to do more?**

By helping to cover the gap between what it actually costs to educate each student at the school each year and tuition, your gift to the Annual Fund directly influences the educational experience students have at the Haleakalā Waldorf School. The availability of more resources equals access to enhancing our very special learning environment. Also, contributions to the Haleakalā Waldorf School are tax-deductible, whereas tuition payments are not. When you donate to the Annual Fund you help keep tuition payments lower and your gift entitles you to a tax benefit.

### **How much am I expected to give?**

We hope that every participant will be as generous as possible. We want you to give what you can to support our school and community with joy! Gifts of all sizes are needed and welcome. Every dollar makes a difference, and every student benefits.

### **What if I can't make a big donation?**

While we rely on the generosity of leadership gifts, please realize that every gift—no matter the size—is needed and important. We truly value participation in the Annual Fund. The percentage of parent support is important in the eyes of foundations and major donors. It is considered a sign of institutional strength when donors see broad-based giving from our community. When you give joyfully to your own school, foundations and other donors notice!

### **What if I can't give right now?**

There are ways we all can help. You can pledge now and defer your payment until later or pay in installments via your FACTS account. All pledge payments must be received by the close of the Annual Fund, which is June 30, 2019.

Can I make a monthly donation?

Yes! A monthly donation is an excellent way to support the Haleakalā Waldorf School. You may also make a monthly donation by using your credit card or you can have it rolled into your bill via FACTS. A \$25 monthly donation adds up to a significant \$300 yearly gift!

### **Will my company match my gift?**

When you make a gift to HWS, you can double or triple its impact by checking with your employer to see if they participate in a matching gift program. Many companies and foundations match the value of charitable gifts made by employees and their spouses, board members, and retirees.

### **Who else is asked to give joyfully?**

Everyone in the Waldorf community! If you'd like to pass along more information about the Annual Fund to your parents, friends, or family we will send an e-mail for you to share. We hope you'll share our request widely with your network.