Cornerstone Annual Fund Q & A

"How will Cornerstone use the monetary donations collected for the Cornerstone Annual Fund?"
Approximately 93% of the school operating budget is met through Cornerstone's very reasonable tuition. The average gap per student amounts to $1,609. The amount strictly needed from fundraising efforts equals approximately $606 per student. Annual Fund contributions enhance the educational opportunities available to our students through enrichment programs, such as music, art, foreign language and physical education. The Annual Fund helps fund salaries, purchase equipment for the school, provide additional student programs, and assists in keeping yearly tuition fees low.

"How many major school fundraisers will occur this year?"
The Cornerstone Annual Fund is the major fundraising initiative to help fill the gap (the 7% not covered by tuition) for the operating budget. Any proceeds from special events are used for special projects and capital improvements.

"How is the Annual Fund different than periodic Capital Campaign drives?"
The Annual Fund, along with other sources of income, helps fund the operational gap between tuition and the cost it takes to educate a student. The Capital Campaign dollars fund capital enhancements (i.e. purchase the property, update buildings).

"Why is 100% participation from the Cornerstone community so important?"
One-hundred percent Cornerstone family and faculty participation in the Annual Fund demonstrates a tangible commitment to the school's mission, both inside our walls and in the surrounding community. Also, foundations and other friends of Cornerstone look first at the voluntary support provided by the families and faculty in our school. This is a key factor in their decision to provide their own financial support through grant and foundations' monies.

"Is my/our contribution to the Cornerstone Annual Fund tax deductible?"
Yes, your contribution is 100% tax deductible. Contributions dated and mailed by December 31, 2026, are tax deductible for this year. Contributions made in 2027 are deductible in the 2027 tax year.

"What is an appropriate contribution to the Cornerstone Annual Fund?"
Any contribution, regardless of the amount, will be greatly appreciated. Cornerstone has been blessed to receive family contributions in amounts less than one-hundred dollars, while other families have contributed several thousands of dollars. We would encourage you to prayerfully consider the amount of your contribution to select your contribution level. **The total amount requested per student is $606 or per family is $951. Last year's average gifts were $569 per student or $855 per family.**

"What are corporate matching funds?"
Corporate matching is a way to double your contribution to the Cornerstone Annual Fund. Not all companies offer this program; however, many mid to large size employers match an employee's charitable donation dollar for dollar. Please note that most companies have a maximum level of matching. If your company has a program in place, then please note this on your pledge commitment card and complete the matching process required by them; if your company does not have a formal plan, please ask them!

"Who else can contribute to the Cornerstone Annual Fund?"
Anyone can contribute to the Cornerstone Annual Fund. Our first priority is to look within Cornerstone and obtain 100% participation from our families and faculty. However, there are many possible ways to receive contributions to the Annual Fund such as corporate matching programs, alumni, friends and relatives of Cornerstone families, and business partners/associates.

"Is contributing to the Cornerstone Annual Fund the same as contributing to the Georgia GOAL program?"
No. Giving to the Cornerstone Annual Fund is a sacrificial gift whereas contributing to the Georgia GOAL program is a non-sacrificial gift. Georgia GOAL merely redirects one's state taxes that would be paid anyway to benefit Cornerstone. Please visit our website and click on the Georgia GOAL button for more information.

"How long does the Cornerstone Annual Fund campaign last?"
The Annual Fund campaign lasts until June 30, 2027. However, all pledge commitment cards should be returned to Cornerstone by November 20, 2026 with payment requested by April 30, 2027. If you have not returned a pledge commitment by November 20, 2026, then a member of the Cornerstone Annual Fund committee will contact you to discuss a contribution to this year's Cornerstone Annual Fund.