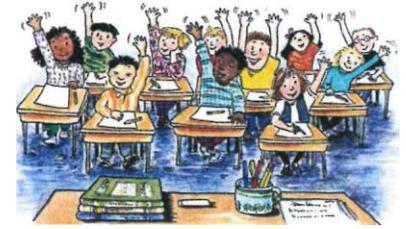


# Fr. Connors Endowment Trust Fund



## The Newsletter for the Endowment Trust Fund

Volume 21 Number 1

March 2021

### LARGEST DONATION TO DATE

#### *Gratitude from the Principal*

We are very grateful for your gift of \$45,000! With this donation, we are looking to have our school painted to match the LOPES de Paul Center. With the remaining funds, we hope to purchase a 60" Smart TV and cain for each classroom to ensure productivity in the classroom..

We have had quite a successful school year despite the ongoing pandemic. We recently shared our state of the school, which provided families with a snapshot into what our school year has looked like during a pandemic, our accomplishments, goals, and a window into the next school year.

Although we have remained a closed campus, we have found ways to model our Vincentian spirit locally, regionally, and nationally. Through our monthly free dress for a cause, we have donated over \$2000 to non-profits.

This spring, we are hopeful to lay the groundwork for our stepping-stone rosaly and our virtue tree mural. These projects will provide students with a place of reflection and meditation. Other projects that we are working towards include replacing our two poriables and adding a third one for a STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, & Math) room.

As we continue with our 2021-2022 enrollment, we are planning for a full return to in-person learning. We are grateful for The Father Connors Endowment Trust Fund as well as the Daughters of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, Diocesan SEEDS program, and our Angel Donors. These resources have allowed us to provide scholarships for families in need this year.

At the conclusion of this school year, both Mrs. Paiva and Mrs. Poveda will be retiring. As a parent, I always waited with bated breath, praying that my sons' teachers would remain in place for the following year: some years this happened, some it did not. Now, I deal with those same emotions as a principal. This year marks Mrs. Paiva's 28<sup>th</sup> year and Mrs. Poveda's 26<sup>th</sup> year, and what an unprecedented year it is! I join many in thankfulness for the many sacrifices, late lessons, and support they have both shown our students over the years. We thank them for their dedication to educating our students and wish them the best as they start their next chapter: retirement.

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#### *Annual Distribution to SHCS*

The trustees of the FCETF meet quarterly to discuss the assets held. Last fall, they voted to distribute \$45,000 to Sacred Heart Catholic School, the largest distribution since the inception of the fund in 2000. According to the charter, only the income earned from the balance on hand can be distributed annually. Congratulations to all the supporters for their donations over the years, and to the trustees for overseeing the monies with a keen eye.

#### *From the Student Body President*

*Dear Supporters,*

*It is my honor to be writing to you on behalf of the student body of Sacred Heart Catholic School. Without your support helping us bring back in-person learning, we wouldn't have made it back to school.*

*Thank you for the privilege to be back; we recognize the honor it is. It's a lot of fun getting to be back with all my classmates.*

*We are all extremely grateful. The impact of being back in-person learning on academics is that I feel that it is easier to work and pay attention in class. When I was online, I found it hard to pay attention. I would get distracted, and wouldn't be able to focus, and at times it was hard to understand what we were learning. I feel that those were my major challenges during remote learning.*

*Sacred Heart's students thank you for all the support, especially through the pandemic.*

*Sincerely,*

***Sonya***

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*Send Requests for*

*Memorial Donations or Tributes to:*

P.O. Box 1174, Patterson, CA 95363

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#### *From Father Jim Oendorf, CM*

Endowment Funds are group commitments to support the present but they are especially focused on supporting and ensuring the future. In the case of the Fr. Connors Endowment Trust Fund, it is about planning for the future of our children, realizing that having a future generation that is educated, well-informed, well-rounded in their awareness of themselves and the world around them, will better secure a vibrant future for everyone. To achieve this goal we have to think long-term and that is what an endowment fund is all about; we see some of the benefits now but most of the benefits will be realized in the future.

When we were developing the Endowment Fund, I thought a lot about the purpose and goals of education. As I saw it Catholic education at Sacred Heart School was more than the basics of academics. In Catholic education we are interested in the growth of the whole student: the development of mind, body, emotions, and spirit. But it seemed to me that Catholic education encompassed something even more. It includes being in relationship with others, being in relationship with God, being in relationship with nature, and being in good relationship with ourselves. We are a people who strive to live out the gospel in wholesome, authentic, and healing relationships. Don't we all feel better inside when we are in good relationship with others? In the end I thought that we not only wanted our kids to be intelligent but also to be wise.

And that is what I saw happening in those who graduated from Sacred Heart and entered high school. There was something special about these students: they were good, well-rounded, caring, relational, and open to the Divine mystery in their lives. Maybe that wouldn't be appreciated at the time, but I believe in later years it will be. Better lives for our children and their families; better lives for those in our neighborhood, our city, our county. I do believe that these are wonderful goals, goals worth working towards and supporting. Thank you for all your support of the Fr. Connors Endowment Trust Fund, past, present and future!!

*-Fr. Jim was pastor and founding trustee of FCETF*