

Dear SMNS Community,

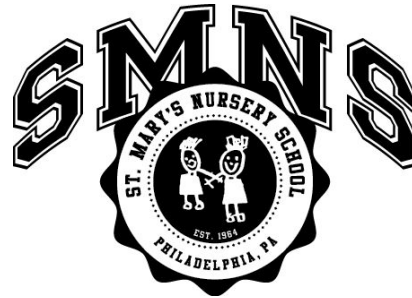
Greetings once again! I am excited to share that St. Mary's Nursery School parents have contributed \$25,000 to date for the SMNS COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Thank you for sharing how much you care about sustaining your SMNS community in this way.

I also wanted to include a letter from Cecily Harwitt, which shares her family's story as well as their invitation for you to join them in giving to the SMNS Emergency Fund, helping ensure the future of St. Mary's Nursery School.



Cecily's SMNS Story

My name is Cecily, and I am a parent to Gideon in the Chickadee class. I hope everyone is doing as well as possible under the painful circumstances.



I know we are all worrying about, among many other things, the future of Saint Mary's and the well-being of its beloved staff, who care for our children every day and even during this crisis.

Our worry is for good reason-- SMNS is almost entirely dependent on private tuition. Traci is working her butt off to understand complex and quickly-changing COVID-19 government stimulus support programs, to advocate on behalf of the whole early childcare field, to keep families informed and to help ensure that our St. Mary's community (staff, teachers, and families) remains sustainable during and after this health and economic crisis.

Teachers are sending us videos and meeting with our kiddos most mornings, and the admin staff is making endless calls to vendors to figure out how to negotiate monthly bills. As parents, **we are needed in this moment too. That's why I'm writing to share why my family has decided to donate our full tuition.**

Yes! I want to help sustain St. Mary's Nursery School.

DONATE

My family is extremely fortunate in that our income has not changed as a result of the pandemic. As scary and challenging as things are right now, we don't have to worry about being able to afford food or basic bills during this time. This is a position of extreme privilege that is not the case for all SMNS families and that could end up not being the case for staff very soon.

By giving as we are able, we are helping take care of the incredible teachers and staff that care for our son. At the same time, we are helping ensure for families that are struggling that there is childcare for them to return to (whenever that happens). If you are able, please join me in donating the full tuition you planned to pay this month or a donation that is within your means here: <https://www.stmarysnursery.org/smns-covid-19-emergency-fund/>.

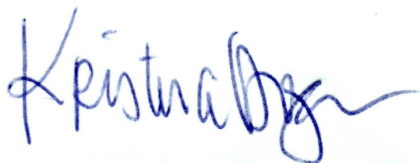
If you can give more, give more. And, if your circumstances have changed, please know that the rest of the community is coming together in solidarity.

Again, on behalf of the entire board of St. Mary's Nursery School, thank you for your sustaining support of your SMNS community.

With warm regards,



Tracy Buchanan, Board President



Kristina Dugan, Governance Chair

on behalf of the SMNS Board of Directors:

Mike Agnew

Tracy Buchanan

May Chang

Collin Cordoza

Kristina Dugan

Carolyn Johnson

Mark Karsz

Ning Li

Holly Mack-War

Bob Miller

Benn Roe

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