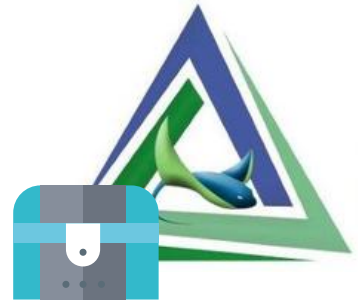


***“This is the treasure we need today – helping the child
become independent of us and make his way by
himself, receiving in return his gifts of hope and light”***

-Maria Montessori



July 2020

Dear Sterling Families,

As Sterling Montessori enters its twenty-third year of quality Montessori education, we face a number of new challenges, and new opportunities. These last six-months have been unprecedented for us all. As a school, we are challenged with adjustments to comply with federal and state recommendations, which may include potential effects to our enrollment to the Academy. We are also expecting a 5-10% reduction of charter funds due to the current times. Any of these modifications have a direct impact on our income and subsequent plans for growth in the 2020-21 school year, as well as covering all salaries, materials and mortgage costs. Sterling Montessori only charges tuition to the Academy (3 & 4 yo's) while the Charter School receives most of our funding through federal, state and local government, and most importantly through fundraising. ***That's where you can help!***

This year, we are introducing Sterling's first annual fundraising appeal, named the ***Annual Treasure Chest Fund***. All of our students are bright and shining gems and all funds raised will go directly to supporting Sterling programs, facilities and community events that help these gems shine. New this year, all development funds will be under one umbrella, which includes our valued and indispensable PFA (Parent-Faculty Association) whose volunteers bring the spirit of community to Sterling.

Even with Distance Learning, our goal is still to create an environment that is conducive to learning! The **Treasure Chest Fund** will go towards subsidizing some exciting projects that will benefit all students, faculty and parents. Here is just a sample:

Shade Sails on the Field and Playgrounds



Shade is a precious commodity for our students on the fields where our MS students hang out at recess and on the playgrounds for our elementary kids. We need to replace some that broke and others that show the wear and tear of weather. Our goal is to put up weather-resistant sails this time! During the warmer months, it would be great to shade spots for students and parents to gather, eat and play games.

Community Events & Professional Development

With students on or off campus, our focus is still the key that unlocks the beauty of our community in as many ways possible. In today's environment, we have to modify our materials, our resources and all the ways we can support our faculty and families. We will still need funds to provide these experiences to all.



Security Upgrade



Sterling would welcome the opportunity to upgrade our entrance security with cameras and keyless card entry. This will help protect our valuable Montessori assets that hold great value, as well as ensuring an enhanced safe and secured environment for our most invaluable assets, our students.



Our goal for Sterling is to **raise \$50,000 this school year!** That may seem like a lot at this time, but this includes all aspects of fundraising, with the ***Annual Treasure Chest Fund*** being just a part. We will continue to offer fundraising opportunities through community/**PFA** activities as well, as permitted by federal and state restrictions. How amazing would it be, in this time and space, to have **100% participation** from all families, faculty and staff? We start the school year with donations from the **entire LHU Board!** Please know that ***no donation is too small***, and all contributions are acknowledged with the grace and courtesy that Dr. Maria Montessori instilled. A great participation accomplishment would show the world our commitment to Montessori education, and to Sterling specifically.

The recent CARES Act should also be incentive for you to give. Even if you do not itemize your taxes, the new CARES Act allows you to claim charitable deductions up to \$300 for 2020. As Sterling Charter School is a 501(c)(3) organization, we qualify for exactly that type of charitable deduction.

As we look ahead to the new school year, we eagerly look forward to educating your children in person, in exploring new ways of learning and celebrating the wonderful community we are. We thank you for your loyalty and support of this excellent school. We are committed to continued responsible stewardship as we build on the school's unparalleled legacy and bright future.



With gratitude,

Stephanie Deming
Communications & Development Director
Sterling Montessori Academy & Charter School



Ways You Can Give Sterling Montessori Academy & Charter School

Sterling offers a variety of options for charitable giving depending on your personal circumstances. All gifts - no matter how large or small - are highly valued and appreciated. If needed, we encourage you to consult with your financial advisors to determine which option would serve them best.



The Gift of Your Time

Volunteers are the key to our community at Sterling. Through the years, the PFA has been integral in bringing to our student's wonderful events like the International Festival, Movie Nights, Garden Days, Teacher Appreciation and many others. We are grateful for parents and adults who give their time and talents whether in the classroom or for larger school events. This year, PFA will assist with our overall development efforts. We are still in the process of planning what we can offer based on our new guidelines. We are confident there will be a role for anyone who wants to be involved!

The Annual Treasure Chest Fund



There are many ways you can be a valuable gem in our Treasure Chest!

Gifts of Cash/Credit

The easiest way to contribute to our Treasure Box is through the DONATE button on our website (www.sterlingmontessori.org/giving). Remember, *all levels of donations are deeply valued and every dollar counts.* Look for a new donation page on our site that should make the process simple. We also welcome SUSTAINERS who can donate monthly to our annual fund – even \$5/month will make a difference! If learn more, please contact Stephanie Deming (sdeming@sterlingmontessori.org).

Annual Pledge

You may choose to pledge an amount to our Treasure Chest for the fiscal year, which runs July 1 – June 30 and all Pledges made before November 30 enable the LHU Board to establish the budget for the following academic year.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of securities are often tax-wise options. Depending upon advice from your financial advisor, you may receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the donated stock, while avoiding capital gains on the contributed shares.

Business Matching

Please check with your employer to see if they offer matching gifts to your personal charitable organizations – some even match 100%! We know there are very generous companies throughout the Triangle and many times, ***it's just an Ask away.***

With grace, courtesy and gratitude, we thank you for your consideration in all ways of giving.