

THE THAYER SOCIETY of ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

2020–2021 IMPACT REPORT

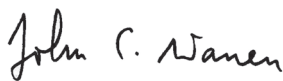
Dear Thayer Society Donors,

Thank you for your commitment to St. Mark's students and faculty as a member of our Thayer Society. Together, philanthropic support from this vital group accounted for \$2,144,257, which represents more than two-thirds of our total Annual Fund revenue. I am especially grateful to the newest members of our Thayer Society who responded to the \$250,000 matching challenge and helped us raise a total of \$532,543.

The flexibility of your unrestricted gifts helped our School pursue innovative opportunities in academics, faculty development, arts, athletics, student programs, and more. During the past year, your support of the "A Safe St. Mark's COVID Relief Fund" also provided the critical resources needed to underwrite the substantial expenses associated with operating the School during a global pandemic.

Your leadership as a donor has been vital during this pivotal time for our School and continues to set a powerful example of philanthropy for others. I am deeply grateful for your commitment to our School, and for your belief in the value and importance of a St. Mark's education.

With sincere gratitude,



John C. Warren '74, Ed.D.
Head of School



THE THAYER SOCIETY FUNDS FOR EXCELLENCE

support targeted areas of the St. Mark's educational program that profoundly influence our daily work of preparing students to lead lives of consequence. Gifts from Thayer Society donors have made an important impact on each of the vital areas highlighted in this report.

154 THAYER SOCIETY DONORS CONTRIBUTED
\$2,144,257
TO THE 2020–2021 ANNUAL FUND

A SAFE ST. MARK'S COVID RELIEF FUND

25 DONORS MEET THE \$250,000 THAYER SOCIETY CHALLENGE

St. Mark's continued to incur additional expenses in its effort to provide a safe, healthy, and engaging experience for students, faculty, and staff. From tents to testing to air filters to engineering and safety consultants, St. Mark's spent approximately \$3.1 million in the 2020–2021 school year on COVID-19 related costs.

The COVID-19 Expense Recovery Task Force, spearheaded by Co-Chairs of the Parents' Association Michelle and Tom Davis P'21 and joined by School staff, alumni, and other parents, was created to communicate the School's challenges and the need for additional funds. An anonymous couple offered to contribute \$10,000 for every donor who made or pledged a Thayer level Annual Fund gift, or who elevated their FY21 gift commitment to the Thayer level. As a result of the extraordinary efforts of the task force and overwhelming support for this Thayer Society fundraising challenge, more than 25 new members joined the Thayer Society and St. Mark's received \$532,543, which included \$250,000 in matching gifts.

"We are so appreciative of the overwhelming support among the St. Mark's community who directed their Annual Fund support to 'A Safe St. Mark's COVID Relief.' These funds were especially vital this past year to offset extra expenses to ensure the St. Mark's campus remained safe, while at the same time implementing key technology that would fully engage all remote learners," said Michelle and Tom Davis P'21, COVID-19 Expense Recovery Task Force chairs, 2019–2021 co-chairs of the Parents' Association, and Board of Trustees members.

TEACHING INNOVATION FUND FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

While the pandemic prevented in-person professional development in the 2020–2021 school year, faculty still took advantage of online workshops, conferences, and curriculum development opportunities.

Virtual conference opportunities included a world religions teachers online event, a global curriculum summit, a poetry translation and adaptation workshop, and workshops for foreign language teachers. St. Mark's faculty also had the opportunity to participate in professional development training through the Stanley H. King Institute, which provides counseling and listening skills to teachers and advisors, and the Gardner Carney Leadership Institute (GCLI), which helps teachers develop leadership skills in their students.

Administrators are also working with faculty through a professional growth and learning process, where faculty are supported as they align their goals with the School's. Support for this Fund allows St. Mark's to successfully continue its professional development initiatives and create a diverse and thoughtful educational atmosphere for both teachers and students.

69.6%

OF THE ANNUAL FUND TOTAL WAS CONTRIBUTED BY THAYER SOCIETY DONORS



FINANCIAL AID IMPACT FUND

108

 STUDENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID IN 2020–2021

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, financial aid remained steady in the 2020–2021 school year compared to the previous year, with about 30 percent of students attending St. Mark's receiving financial aid. Financial aid grants averaged \$54,701 per boarding student and \$25,885 per day student, allowing St. Mark's to provide the highest average of grants among its peer schools. These funds are vital to helping the School provide an exemplary residential educational landscape that welcomes all students to participate in every facet of a St. Mark's education, whether in groundbreaking scientific research, global citizenship travel, or competitive sports.

"Financial aid allows us to select our most excellent and accomplished candidates who otherwise could not afford St. Mark's, vastly enriching the diversity, quality, and character of our student community." David J. Lubick P'10, '12, Director of Financial Aid

22.7%

 INCREASE IN THE TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN BY THAYER SOCIETY DONORS

HEAD'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thayer Society members' unrestricted contributions to the Head's Discretionary Fund helped alleviate the financial burden brought on by COVID-19. In addition, St. Mark's made significant progress on its 2020–2023 Antiracism Action Plan, and its commitment to creating an environment that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion. Efforts included training for faculty, staff, and students, updating handbooks to support antiracist principles, developing student courses focused on social justice and identity, and hiring diversity, equity, and inclusion consultants to assess the School's current challenges and evaluate progress on its antiracist action plan.

64

 NEW THAYER SOCIETY MEMBERS

ATHLETIC FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

20

 SPRING GAMES ON NEW ST. MARK'S ATHLETICS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Thanks to support from Thayer Society donors, the Athletic Department expanded their livestream capabilities with a PlaySite mobile camera that can record and livestream games on any of the School's athletic fields. Each gameday during the Spring 2021 season featured a different team including lacrosse, baseball, and softball. This provided fans with the ability to watch live athletic contests away from the sidelines and allowed coaches and athletes to review individual and team performances after the game. Athletes also had access to the films and could create highlight videos to share with college recruiters and coaches. All game recordings are posted to the new SM Athletics YouTube Channel: www.stmarksschool.org/athleticsyoutube.

