

# Annual Fund *giving back* FAQ

## Where does my gift actually go?

### How does it actually help students?

- The great thing about Annual Giving is that **your money goes wherever you want it to go!** Were you a part of a life-changing art history class? Did you enjoy participating in athletics? Do you have a favorite teacher? Perfect – you can allocate your gift to Academics, Arts, Athletics, Faculty or Financial Aid or you can make your gift in honor or in memory of someone.

## Is it really important to support the Annual Fund every single year?

- **Yes!** Annual Fund gifts provide vital budget relieving dollars for St. Mark's each year. Annual contributions provide 10% of the operating budget and are spent each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) on the school's greatest need. Whether you decide to give an unrestricted gift to the St. Mark's Annual Fund or Athletics or another program, your gift will make an impact. By making an Annual Fund contribution, you let the School decide how to best put your gifts to use that year in the area you choose.

## Why does SM need more money when we have such a large endowment?

- **Endowed gifts are invested,** and the income earned is used according to the donor's wishes. Often these gifts are restricted for uses such as scholarships, professorships, and academic and research opportunities. Unrestricted funds provided by gifts to the Annual Fund are flexible resources that are spent each year at the discretion of our Head of School, John C. Warren '74, to address emerging needs and ongoing budget priorities.
- Tuition covers approximately 65 percent of the total cost to educate a SM student – that means St. Mark's relies on generous donors to make up the difference. And approximately 30 percent of SM students receive some type of financial aid. Unrestricted gifts made to the St. Mark's Annual Fund help the School meet the growing financial need of our students.

**YOU CAN** *allocate your money to where you would like it to go*



**Tuition covers**  
**65%** *of the total educational cost*



**30%** *of students receive some type of*  
**Financial Aid**

## What is the *Age Quod Agis Society?*

The Age Quod Agis Society is one of the many ways St. Mark's recognizes its valued alumni, parents, and friends for giving consistently to the School. Being a member of the AQA Society is unique because there are no financial requirements other than making a gift every fiscal year. Unable to give at the same financial level year after year? That's ok! It's important to maintain the relationship year after year because every gift counts, and St. Mark's recognizes that.

## Why should I consider a multi-year pledge?

A multi-year pledge can help you keep track of your giving, cut down on annual solicitations, and ensure that you continue to support the Annual Fund each and every fiscal year. In addition, alumni who make multi-year pledges to the Annual Fund will have the entirety of their commitments counted in their classes' reunion gift totals.



## What's a leadership gift?

A leadership-level gift for Young Alumni is tiered based on the number of years since you graduated:

- \$100 (\$9/month) for alumni 0-4 years out of St. Mark's (classes of 2014 to 2017 and current VI Formers)
- \$250 (\$21/month) for alumni 5-6 years out (2012 to 2013)
- \$500 (\$42/month) for alumni 7-9 years out (2009 to 2011)
- \$750 (\$63/month) for alumni 10-12 years out (2006 to 2008)
- \$1,000 (\$84/month) for alumni 13-14 years out (2004 to 2005)
- \$1,500 (\$125/month) for alumni 15 years out of SM and onwards (2003 to 1948)

If you give at these levels, you will be a part of the St. Mark's School Founder's Associates, an exclusive network of elite St. Markers leading lives of consequence!



## Deadline for making a Contribution? **NEVER**

While you can always give to the Annual Fund (there's never a deadline!), giving July 2017–June 2018 will count towards the FY18 fiscal year.

## What is the fiscal year and why is it different than the calendar year?

The calendar year is what we all know and love: January – December of the same numerical year (i.e. January – December 2018). **Think of the fiscal year as a "school" year: July – June.** The Annual Fund operates like the school year. For example, if a donor gave in March 2017, that gift counted for fiscal year 2017, whereas if the donor gave in October 2018, that gift would count for fiscal year 2018.

**GIVE TODAY!** *contact:*  
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