



GRACE

A Guide to Giving



Founded in 1894, Grace is a downtown school that reflects both the vibrance and longevity of the East Village neighborhood in which we are located. We believe that two things can be true at the same time: academic excellence and joyful learning. In fact, they are reliant on each other. As a community we know that each of us, and most importantly our students, are unique and inherently valuable individuals.



We ask everyone in the Grace community—parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, and friends of the school—to join together in supporting our fundraising initiatives.

These efforts include The Grace Fund, the Auction Benefit, and from time to time, campaigns and other special initiatives.

Gifts to Grace build community, strengthen the institution, and enhance the experience of every student.



Giving to Grace at a Glance

What it is	Frequency	What it funds	Equivalent
The Grace Fund	Every year	Covers the gap between tuition and the true cost of a GCS education, supporting day-to-day operational needs, enhancing current offerings, and funding special opportunities as they arise. Donors have the option to give an unrestricted gift to support areas of greatest need or designate their contribution to Financial Assistance or Faculty Development.	A checking account for real-time needs
Auction Benefit	Every year	Financial Aid at Grace.	Earmarked funds for a special occasion
Campaigns	Periodically	Campus additions and renovations; large-scale, long-lasting programmatic initiatives; and builds endowment to ensure sustainability of school priorities.	A home addition or renovation or investment in a special initiative
Endowment	Periodically	Generates a perpetual stream of revenue that helps ensure long-term financial stability.	An investment account that produces dividends or interest
Special Initiatives	Donor motivated	Special school priorities including programs and facilities.	Earmarked funds for a special occasion
Planned Giving	Once in a lifetime	Area of donor's choice that will help sustain Grace's financial future.	Retirement plan

New the 2026–27 Academic School Year:

The Grace Fund

Beginning this fall, we are pleased to roll-out our newly named Annual Giving program, The Grace Fund. The Grace Fund allows donors to make an unrestricted gift supporting areas of greatest need or designate their support to financial assistance or faculty development.

Launched each fall, The Grace Fund makes up part of Grace's annual operating budget, directly funding day-to-day operations. Each year we strive for 100% parent participation. Gifts range in size from \$5 to \$100,000 and all are truly valued and appreciated. While a family at Grace, we ask that you make The Grace Fund your highest priority. Participating in The Grace Fund demonstrates our shared commitment to Grace's mission and values. The Grace Fund closes on June 30.



The Grace Fund – Unrestricted, for Greatest Need

The Grace Fund supports every aspect of a Grace education. As the school's unrestricted annual fund, it helps close the gap between tuition and the full cost of educating each student while giving the school the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

That flexibility is what allows Grace to live out its mission: the kindergartner who discovers the joy of reading; the fourth grader who discovers a gift for poetry; the middle school student who finds confidence on the volleyball court; and the shy high schooler who finds a voice on the debate team. Gifts to The Grace Fund sustain it all—academics, athletics, the arts, and the countless moments of discovery that shape a student's life at Grace.

The Grace Fund – Designated for Financial Assistance

A gift to The Grace Fund designated for Financial Assistance helps ensure that every student, regardless of financial circumstances, can participate fully in the life of the school. It supports not only tuition assistance but also the opportunities that make a Grace education complete.

Gifts help cover expenses such as books and course materials, school trips, athletics equipment and uniforms, and—when the time comes—college visits, ensuring that every student can take full advantage of all that Grace has to offer.

The Grace Fund – Designated for Faculty Development

A gift to The Grace Fund designated for Faculty Development invests in the people who make a Grace education possible. It also supports professional growth, enabling our teachers to refine their practice, learn from colleagues, and continue growing in their craft throughout their careers.

Whether through graduate study, conferences, instructional coaching, or collaborative work with colleagues, these opportunities strengthen teaching, enrich student learning, and ensure that Grace remains a place where great teachers never stop learning.

Auction Benefit & Capital Campaigns



The Auction Benefit

Grace's Auction Benefit, the School's only fundraising event, takes place every March with all proceeds supporting Financial Aid. The event brings the entire adult community together for a fun and purposeful evening. It is a volunteer-driven-and-powered event.



Campaigns

Campaigns are launched as needed to fund major initiatives and projects outside of regular operations. They are multi-year fundraising efforts that often involve major facilities improvements or endowment-building. Past campaigns have renovated sizable portions of our Grade School Campus at 86 Fourth Avenue, adding classrooms and a gymnasium; launched the High School Division at 46 Cooper Square; grown funds for student support; and have grown our endowment.



Endowed Funds & Planned Giving



Endowed Funds

A gift to the Grace Church School endowment provides ongoing support to school priorities such as financial aid, faculty salaries and professional development, academic programs, community life, and the performing arts. Donors have the option to restrict their gift to an existing project or endowed fund, unrestricted endowed funds, or create a fund of their own. The threshold to endow a new fund is \$250,000. Gifts of all sizes to the endowment are welcome.



Planned Giving

Members of the Grace community who choose to remember the school when making their estate plans become members of the James Morris Helfenstein Society, named for Grace's first Head of School. Including Grace in your legacy planning is a thoughtful way to use assets to support the school's future finances.



The Grace Fund Giving Levels



The 1894 Society

The 1894 Society, named for our founding year, celebrates the generosity of the Grace community and includes six giving levels.

The 1894 Society

\$75,000+: Head of School's Circle

\$50,000-\$74,999: Founder

\$25,000-\$49,999: Benefactor

\$10,000-\$24,999: Champion

\$5,000-\$9,999: Steward

\$1,894-\$4,999: Advocate

Please note: All gifts up to \$1,893.99: Supporter



If you have any questions or want to learn more about ways to get involved as a volunteer for the Advancement Office, please reach out anytime!

Lele LeVay, Director of Advancement
Leah Rosenbaum, Director of Annual Giving

