

# Annual Giving Campaign 2024

## Grow our Mulberry Waldorf School Tree and Reach for the Sun!



*I have roots growing down to the water,  
I have leaves growing up to the sunshine  
And the fruit that I bear is the sign of the life in me.  
I am shade from the hot summer sundown  
I am nest for the birds of the heavens...*

**Tree Song ~ Ken Medema**

Dear Mulberry Waldorf School Community,

From now until December 20th, 2024, we invite you to join our Annual Giving Campaign to help us Grow our Mulberry Waldorf School Tree and Reach for the Sun!

Why do we Give? For three very important reasons:

**Our Students; Our Staff; Our School Building and Grounds.**

Did you Know? Since our independent school opened in 1996, we have strived to keep tuition fees as accessible as possible, as well as offer sibling discounts and tuition adjustment. As a result, tuition revenues fund only 80% of our operating expenses. The remaining 20% of funds required to meet our operating budget depends on donations. This annual giving campaign plays an integral role in meeting our budget year to year.

We are a growing school full of life and aspirations for our current families and future generations. In order to thrive, all parts of our Mulberry Waldorf School Tree need nourishing:

### **Roots and Shade: Maintaining our School Building and Grounds**

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful home for our school--it is beautiful, historic, and built to last. And, we now own it in full! Our school features large windows, high ceilings, hardwood floors and marble door sills. Students learn in bright, airy, naturally lit classrooms and play in multiple yards, including two depaved yard spaces.

Just like any home, our building and grounds need continuous care and upgrading. For example, we need to supply new mulch and replace worn out toy resources (such as horse reins and basketballs), replace our aging windows, refinish our aging floors, pay for boiler maintenance, and continue to improve our indoor air quality.

## **Leaves: Retaining Well Qualified, Experienced Teachers and Staff**

Mulberry Waldorf School Staff are dedicated, hard-working and incredibly well qualified. We encourage you to look at the staff page on our website! Their work is a calling. In addition to their teaching, parent work, and administrative responsibilities, they provide collegial support, help with school governance, and contribute to the life of the community. Yet, Mulberry staff make 50-60% of public sector counterparts. Through our 2023 AGC, we were able to improve the delivery of health benefits to our staff, but we still have a long way to go to make our salaries reflect the merit of their work. Help us to make it possible to retain our valued, experienced teachers and staff and attract new teachers and staff!

## **Fruit: Supporting Holistic Education**

Our school offers a developmentally appropriate, experiential, and academically rigorous approach to education. We offer warm, supportive, and inspiring family programming for birth to three years. We integrate the arts in all academic disciplines for children from preschool through eighth grade to enhance and enrich learning. Waldorf education aims to inspire life-long learning in all students and to enable them to fully develop their unique capacities. We are deeply invested in each of our students. Our curriculum and methodology are supported and enhanced by having financial resources to provide things like: recorders and ukuleles, sturdy wooden desks and chairs, books that reflect our current place and time, field trips to enhance classroom learning or participate in team sports, and specialized training to help teachers support and challenge our diversity of students.

## **Nest: Extending the Possibility of Waldorf Education to other Families**

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Waldorf Education was accessible to every family in Kingston that wanted it? Making a contribution to our Tuition Adjustment program makes it possible for more families to choose Mulberry Waldorf School for their child and promotes diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in our community.

***I'm becoming what the Maker of Trees has meant me to be...  
A strong young tree.***

With heartfelt appreciation for being a part of our Annual Giving Campaign to help us Grow our Mulberry Waldorf School Tree and Reach for the Sun!

Lori Rand (Board Co-Chair), Eric Chalfant (Board Vice-Chair), Henry Schneider (Treasurer), Peelu Hira (Administrative Head), and Jenny Taylor (Pedagogical Director)

## **How to Donate:**

**Donations are gratefully accepted via Preauthorized Debit, E-Transfer, Cheque or Cash. As well, this year, Mulberry Waldorf School has initiated a [Donation Platform option](#) through the Canadian company, Stratly, as we recognize that this may make donating easier for some. There is a 3% fee to the school, which you may opt to cover upon checkout. This value will be added to your charitable tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more.**