

# The Flame

Development Newsletter—December 2006

...fan into flame the gift of God. 2 Timothy 1:6



## MISSION:

TRINITY'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROVIDES STABILITY FOR THE SCHOOL BY SECURING PRIVATE, PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAMS. OUR MISSION IS TO FULLY DEVELOP TRINITY'S FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES TO ENABLE EACH STUDENT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHY GOD CREATED THEM .

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## Give "Miracle Gro" for Christmas?

In the parable of the sower, Jesus said that without root, seed springs up, but only lasts a short time. We want young people to be rooted and built up in Christ as we are exhorted in Colossians 2:7. Such rooting and growth will not occur unless we obey the next verse, which says "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

This can be accomplished by providing our children with a Christian education centered in the authority of the scriptures and the person of Jesus Christ, where every subject is taught with an awareness of God's power and love and every learning experience aims to enable students to reach their full potential in Christ. Your support of Trinity helps fulfill the directive that our children are to be "surrounded by God's word day and night" and helps them develop deep roots in

good soil. Please consider giving the gift of Christian education this year through your support of Trinity and its programs. It is better than giving "Miracle Gro" because the seeds you help plant will bear fruit for generations to come!

### *Year-end Tips for Charitable Giving*

Maximize your tax situation with an immediate deduction while benefiting charity by considering the following tips:

Carefully select the best property to give.

Cash is convenient and provides you an income tax deduction when itemized on your income tax return.

Donate appreciated stock held for more than one year and derive an additional tax benefit: avoidance of capital gain. Consider choosing appreciated stock with the greatest capital gain to take maximum advantage of this unique tax benefit.

Give some, keep some. If you are not prepared to donate all of your shares of

stock in a particular company, donate the amount of shares that will offset or reduce the gain when you sell the remainder of shares and keep the proceeds.

Sell stock that has lost value and donate the proceeds. You can deduct the loss in value (cost basis less current value) and derive an income tax charitable deduction for the current market value.

Donate disposable income generated from an IRA account and offset income taxes with a charitable deduction. Be careful here: premature withdrawals, or withdrawals and direct transfers that exceed the minimum distribution amount may incur penalties.

Donate an insurance policy that you no longer find useful, and receive a charitable deduction for the cash value of the policy.

Match your gift with your employer's contribution. Many companies have matching-gift programs for charitable donations by simply enclosing the company form along with your donation, and Trinity's Development staff will take care of the rest.

## ***Capital Campaign: Development Update***

We are in the midst of a \$10 million Capital Campaign. We have to raise this much or more to repay the \$9,060,000 in tax-exempt bonds used to pay for our new building. Our annual payment is approximately \$630,000-\$650,000 (depending on interest rates). Payments began last month. These payments include monthly and quarterly payments as well as a lump sum payment at the end of the year (November 2007) so the exact amount due changes. But ultimately, we need to bring in \$650,000 (\$55,000 per month) to service the bond. The thought of this alone is overwhelming and I find myself in constant prayer to *Jehovah-Jireh* - The Lord our Provider, to help us meet this daunting task. The world will tell you that what we are trying to accomplish at Trinity is impossible. But.....

### ***With God All Things are Possible. Matthew 19:26***

This is His school. These are His students. We are His disciples and we are striving to develop more disciples so that He can use us and our children to reach a world that needs Him! This is why we do what we do. This is why the community needs our school. This is why we need your prayers and we need your support.

In October, we brought in \$11,802. in Capital gifts. In November we brought in \$19,862. We anticipate a significant increase in December's gifts based on the contacts we have made and the proposals we have out for consideration. December also experiences increased giving because of the end of the tax year. While there are many reasons to give to Trinity, your contributions to our Capital Campaign are tax-deductible, an additional benefit for donors. While we trust in God to provide, we ask that you will keep the school in your prayers. This is the best type of support you can give us and it

is the one thing that EVERYONE can do! And as you pray for God to provide, prayerfully consider how He wants you to participate in our Campaign. As a body, God can use all of us to accomplish amazing things.

We know that we have a challenging goal set before us as we move forward in this campaign. But as the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:24 "*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*" Our goal is to "*press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.*" Philippians 3:14. We have high expectations and are planning for success. No business has ever been successful while being built on plans for mediocrity. We are looking for people who will rise to the challenge and partner with us to achieve success.

We are asking God to do some amazing things to enable us to meet our goals and commitments. Stay tuned for reports of amazing things. But I am reminded each time that I round that corner driving up the hill and see our school building—God has already done amazing things for us! I am reminded each time I step into the classroom, attend a special event such as the Veteran's Day Program, go to a game, see projects at the Science Fair or simply watch the kids frolic in the hallways...God has already done amazing things. Let us not forget what He has already done. Yes, the task at hand is large and we need everyone's help! Just remember—"Nothing is impossible with God!" Luke 1:37 "*Let us not grow weary in doing good. For at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up.*" Galatians 6:9

Be a part of our vision by partnering with us through your prayers, financial support and advocacy. I look forward to reporting the amazing results of your support to you in the New Year.

***Keep your eyes on the LORD,  
for HE will do amazing  
things! Joshua 3: 5***

## ***Plan Ahead***

*Enjoy the Benefits of*



PLANNED GIVING

### **SENIORS CAN MAKE DONATIONS DIRECTLY OUT OF IRA'S PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006**

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can now arrange to contribute otherwise taxable amounts pulled out of a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA directly to tax-exempt charities. These "qualified charitable distributions" are federal-income-tax-free to you. Since tax-free treatment equates to a 100% write-off, you don't get to claim any itemized deduction for a qualified charitable distribution (that would be double counting). A qualified charitable distribution means a payment by your IRA trustee directly to a qualified public charity (certain donor-advised funds are excluded). The money cannot pass through your hands. The new rule applies for 2006 and 2007, but you cannot donate more than \$100,000 in either of those years. Please consult your financial advisor for additional information.