



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## GCSS BOARD 2017-2018

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### **GCSS ADMINISTRATION**

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KERRE CONERLY, CA REGISTRAR & LIBRARIAN

MELANIE ENGLE, AWS/CAMS REGISTRAR

We are a Seventh-day Adventist school established to grow (educate, equip and inspire) students to be critical thinkers who serve others and reflect Christ's character. I have inserted the word *grow* into our mission statement because it is what we are all about at the GCSS. Growing children from the Early Childhood Education Center all the way through grade 12.

Recently I was laying out the school pictures of my four girls from kindergarten to 12th grade—missing teeth, hair changes, varying smiles, loss of round cheeks—and all of this brought a smile to my face. But then I realized that their characters have developed just as noticeably. I have seen growth in their relationships with peers, teachers and mentors. But most importantly, growth in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Collegedale Academy Student Association officers have t-shirts showing a tree with the roots visibly growing out of the Bible and the word *thrive* at its base. This Bible verse is written: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8. This clearly shows our students thriving, growing spiritually ... bearing fruit.

Parents, alumni, and church members, thank you for continuing to support our efforts to keep GCSS growing and thriving! Whether it is by your financial support to grow our endowment or support to our Sandy Erickson Race for Christian Education or donations to our Worthy Student Fund, we appreciate your contributions. Support from our volunteers is invaluable—board members, classroom chaplains, hot lunch cooks, field trip drivers, room parents, Home & School members, pastors giving Bible studies, prayer warriors—thank you for helping us grow! I am grateful for the exceptional teachers and staff, for their dedication in teaching our students to grow educationally and spiritually. May we all seek God's guidance in growing our next generation.



# Chief Financial Officer STEVE BLACKBURN

# **GROW [GRŌ]:** TO INCREASE BY NATURAL DEVELOPMENT; INCREASE IN SIZE OR SUBSTANCE

As I reflect on the most recent fiscal year, 2017-2018, and the subject of this annual report, I am compelled to define the state of our school in the terms of the definition above. At this time in its history, you can be assured that the GCSS is by philosophy and action, growing.

While it is the inevitable condition of a successful organization to experience natural development, to be able to experience increase as a result is the truest blessing. And we're talking about increase of a much more significant level than simply financial. The latest fiscal report shows a growing institution for sure ... net income, endowment balances and financial aid are all growing, as well as working capital and other balance sheet indicators. These critical aspects of fiscal management are encouraging for our constituents and business partners alike and provide lift for the many initiatives on the horizon.

But the increase is so much more. It is increase in substance, fueled by a strong financial condition. Families are moving to the Collegedale area to experience Adventist Christian education in the unique way our community provides. These students, while not only increasing the size of the student body at the GCSS, are improving the substance of our "family" in considerable ways.

Their passion for mission and service grows with every community event, disaster-relief initiative and mission trip. Spirituality grows with every student-led Week of Prayer, chapel talk and inter-class and inter-school ministry partnership. Coordinated academics among all GCSS campuses grow scholars that excel in critical thinking, test scores and college admissions.

Music and athletics, afterschool enrichment activities and weekend programming continue to stretch the very limits of family and school calendars, and all of these point to the circular nature of growth. For as we grow in spirit; as we grow in quality; as we grow in our commitment to fulfilling our highest calling, that they shall be taught of God, we will experience more students committed to achieving their education here. Their investment in Adventist education can then secure a financial future that provides an outstanding experience for the generation that will attend next. And as they come, the cycle repeats and repeats and repeats.

Thank you for being a part of that cycle. Your investment in our growth shows. As you walk the halls with us, and commit your time and resources to this special ministry, you notice the good things happening at the GCSS. Together, we will continue our quest ... to grow!

# 35TH CAD4HOPE

GREATER COLLEGEDALE SCHOOL SYSTEM SUPPORTS THE SAMARITAN CENTER

BY: ANGI HOWELL

CAD4HOPE all started with a beloved, former, Collegedale Academy Bible teacher, the late Richard Cadavero — Cad. Cad had the vision of Collegedale Academy students making a positive impact on the community. And, that they have!

For the past 35 years, Collegedale Academy has served the area community with their annual CAD4HOPE food drive. In those three decades, 500,000 food items and \$75,000 for more food items have been collected to supply a large portion of the Samaritan Center's food pantry for a twelve-month span.

"This has become an event the students and surrounding community anticipate and appreciate. Community service is part of our curriculum at CA. CAD4HOPE is one of several ways our students participate in community service," says Chris Massengill, Collegedale Academy chaplain and CAD4HOPE coordinator. "Our students, administration, teachers and parents all participate in the food collection drive. We realize this type of teaching has just as much impact as our daily academics."

Massengill has worked with CA student leaders to coordinate more than 60 volunteer drivers to shuttle all 300+ students to area neighborhoods. In early Novemeber, students dropped off 8,000 paper bags with a request letter of items the Samaritan Center needs. One week later, the drivers drove the students back to the same neighborhoods to pick up the non-perishable goods. "Elder's Ace Hardware partner with us by graciously donating thousands of bags each year," notes Massengill.

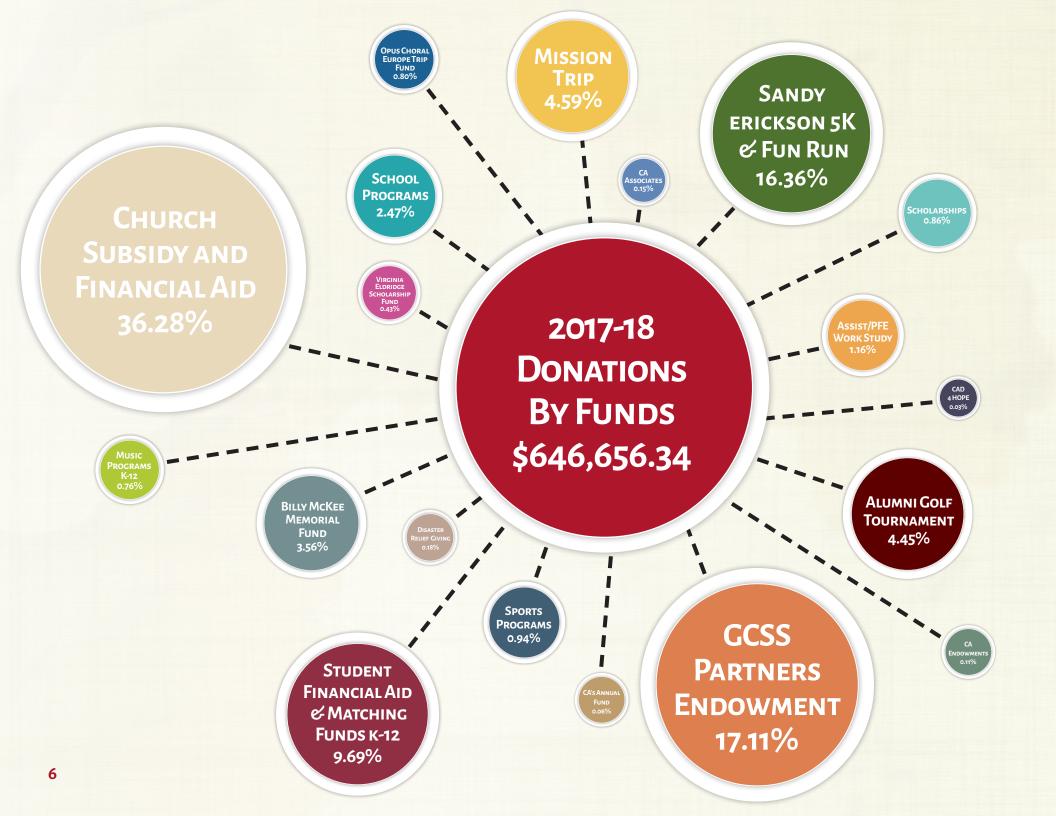
"It amazes me that for so many years our students and this community have supported this event. We have been blessed by the efforts of Collegedale Academy. The CAD4HOPE food drive is the largest source of food for our food pantry, and for nearly ten years has allowed our shelves to be well stocked for our clients," says Tony Dahlberg, Samaritan Center, director.

On pick-up day, the students pick-up, sort and box up the non-perishable items which are then weighed with scales provided by Chattanooga-based Wingfield Scale.

Additionally, the students and families at A.W. Spalding and Collegedale Adventist Middle School also participate in CAD4HOPE with their own school-wide can drive adding to the amount collected.

With the efforts of the GCSS students and the vibrant support of this community, each year an average 16,000 pounds (eight tons) of food is collected. Quite amazing!





# WE DEPENDON YOUR SUPPORT

You are a believer! You do not need to be convinced about the critical importance of Christian education. We know that our youth ministry, here at the GCSS, is possible because of our dedicated parents and donors—people like you—who see that a strong Seventh-day Adventist education will impact our students now and more importantly into eternity.

We desire to offer that life-shaping experience to as many students as possible. For many, that requires the generous financial support of our community—people like you!!

For the 2017-18 school year, we awarded approximately \$311,500 to 163 students. We fundraise after the money is awarded. Our goal is to pre-fund this account and raise \$670,000. Thus far, we have raised \$101,371. Your continued support can make the difference for a young person who couldn't otherwise afford a Christian education.

Support a Specific
Student: Want to assist
a student with the
student's tuition? You
can give directly to their
school bill. While this is
not tax deductible, it can
be a great blessing to
a family in need.

Musician-aries:
A fund benefiting
our musicians and
their ministries.

Billy McKee
Personal Responsibility
Endowment: Recipients will
demonstrate character traits
held by Billy such as honesty,
integrity, compassion, and
respect. This fund will also
include support for student
work initiatives, such as
ASSIT/PFE Programs.

#### **Worthy Student Fund:**

Serving students in the current year with financial aid. Gifts can be designated by campus (AWS, CAMS, and CA).

> Virginia Eldridge Single-Parent Family Student Aid Fund: Assists single parents with tuition dollars.

#### GCSS Partners Endowment:

Serving students now and in the years to come by earning 4% interest.

#### **Annual Fund:**

Enhances our school and allows us to increase the level of excellence in all aspects of our educational programs. While tuition covers most yearly expenses, we believe the Annual Fund will fill in the gap of what tuition does not cover.

# SANDY ERICKSON RACE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The GCSS is dedicated to enriching the lives of families and our community through Christian education. On November 5, 2017, we held our sixth-annual Sandy Erickson Race for Christian Education 5K and Kids Fun Run. Our annual goal is to raise \$340,000 for the Worthy Student Fund (WSF), and the race is key in jump starting our efforts. This year we raised \$71,000. More than 500 students and community members registered to run and participated in the event, and we had 60 sponsors and countless volunteers. Family and community running together for a cause ... what a tremendous event!











# GCSS DONORS

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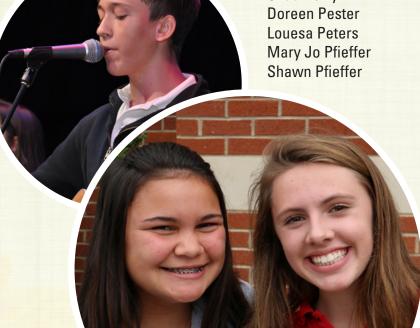
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