A Parent’s Guide to Giving & Getting Involved at USN 2019-2020
University School of Nashville models the best educational practices. In an environment that represents the cultural and ethnic composition of greater Nashville, USN fosters each student’s intellectual, artistic, and athletic potential, valuing and inspiring integrity, creative expression, a love of learning, and the pursuit of excellence.
There are numerous ways to get involved at USN; the volunteer opportunities are as diverse as our school community. How do you choose what is best for your family? University School of Nashville Association is a great place to start. USNA is a vibrant service and fundraising association involving parents, students, faculty, and staff. The mission of these volunteers is to enhance the educational experiences of our students by fostering a spirit of community and by supporting the school with needed services and resources. Visit usn.org/usna to learn more and sign up. Or drop in or call the USNA Office at 615-321-8019.

“I am constantly amazed by the dedication and enthusiasm of our USN parents. Their willingness to give their valuable time and incredible talents for tasks, both big and small, to benefit USN is beyond inspiring.” – Tonia Klein, Annual Fund Co-Chair, USNA Immediate Past President, and parent of Ellie ’25 and Alex ’28

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Department Assistants</th>
<th>Hospitality</th>
<th>Fall Book Frenzy*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring and Concern</td>
<td>Library Volunteers</td>
<td>Fall Fest*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dads’ Alliance</td>
<td>Lower School Room Parents</td>
<td>Artclectic*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff Appreciation</td>
<td>Middle School Advisory Parents</td>
<td>Evening Classes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents &amp; Special</td>
<td>Parent Social Hosts</td>
<td>Music Night*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends’ Day</td>
<td>Tiger Arts Patrons</td>
<td>Bonus Bucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping Hands</td>
<td>Tiger Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calendar of events on page 9
USN’s operating budget, like most independent schools, relies on revenue from tuition, our endowment contribution, the Annual Fund, and ancillary program income. Because tuition alone covers only 89.5% of expenses, USN relies on philanthropic support from our generous community to recruit and retain outstanding faculty, to provide tuition assistance for students with demonstrated need, and to invest in our programs and facilities.
WHY GIVE?
Philanthropic support is essential to provide the exceptional education received at University School of Nashville. Gifts to USN support the faculty, students, and unique programming which led you to choose this school for your student. These critical resources accomplish what tuition alone cannot.

Participation is a high priority for charitable giving at USN. Last year, nearly 2,200 donors including 100% of the Board of Trustees, nearly 1,000 alumni, and 93% of parents made a gift to the Annual Fund at a level financially comfortable to them.

Strong parent participation in philanthropy at USN shows our community the confidence and commitment our families have for their children’s education. We ask all parents to make USN a priority in their charitable giving.

“From the very first time we walked through the doors of USN for the kindergarten open house, we have been struck by what a special place this school is. USN’s spirit of inquiry, commitment to academic excellence, diverse and welcoming community, dedicated and loving faculty and staff—all of that (and more) makes USN special. We feel lucky and grateful to be a part of this wonderful family, and that’s why we have been happy to support the school by volunteering with the Annual Fund. It is a labor of love.”

- Amanda & Chris Mixon, parents of Eleanor ’27 and Andrew ’30
THE ANNUAL FUND
The Annual Fund includes unrestricted gifts that can be spent where the school believes its need is greatest. The 2019-2020 Annual Fund goal is $1.65 million. All USN students and faculty see fantastic benefits from the Annual Fund. Having a robust Annual Fund means we can say “yes” to exciting opportunities for our students every day: for our curriculum and innovative programs, for excellence in arts and athletics, for technology and facility upgrades, and for other essential elements of USN’s student-centered education.

TIGER GIVE BACK CHALLENGE
On March 26, 2020, hundreds of PDS/USN alumni, parents, grandparents, parents of alumni, and friends across the country will get involved in the Tiger Give Back Challenge, our annual giving day. Last year, the USN community raised more than $180,000 in 24 hours to support the Annual Fund. Fun activities occur throughout the day, including several matching gifts and challenge grants. Students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and friends coming together to support our school makes a powerful statement.

ENDOWMENT
Endowment gifts make the most significant and lasting impact. Held in perpetuity, these funds generate support for need-based financial aid, faculty excellence, educational programs, and facility enhancements and maintenance. Our endowment is USN’s permanent savings account, prudently invested to grow over time. Although the endowment is modest compared to our national peer schools, we are committed to increasing it to secure the school’s sustainability. Already USN’s endowment permits three endowed chairs for superlative teachers and increases our need-based financial aid opportunities.

“I love the Annual Fund because it helps every USN student and teacher. I don’t know a more direct way for every family – whether they’re giving $5 or $5,000 – to support our school.”
- Leonora Williamson, parent of Louise ’26 & Anne ’28
I already pay tuition. Why should I give to the Annual Fund?
Tuition covers only 89.5% of the cost of student-centered education at USN. Gifts to the Annual Fund are tax deductible and support everything that sets a USN education apart, including talented and dedicated faculty, small classes, exceptional offerings in academics, the arts, and athletics. Like every other independent school, USN relies on fundraising.

When and how much should I give?
Solicitations are made in the fall, and we encourage gifts or pledges by Dec. 31, 2019. We ask all families, as well as grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends, to participate with a donation that is meaningful to them. Gifts given between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 will be recognized in the “Report on Philanthropy” for the 2019-2020 school year.

May I make a monthly recurring gift or does it have to be all at once?
Monthly recurring gifts are a great way to support USN. Many parents and alumni choose to make a modest gift once a month to have a big impact throughout the year. Starting in September, gifts from $10 a month ($100), $25 a month ($250), $50 a month ($500), $191.50 a month ($1,915) and higher can be arranged at usn.org/giving or by contacting the Development Office at 615-329-4423.

What is considered a leadership gift?
Annual Fund gifts of $1,915 (the year of USN’s founding as Peabody Demonstration School) and above are recognized in our 1915 Leadership Society, on our website, and in our “Report on Philanthropy.” Donors at this level are also invited to a philanthropic leadership dinner with USN Director Vince Durnan and Trustees in the fall the following year.

What is capital giving?
Periodically, USN will undertake a capital/comprehensive campaign for special projects or initiatives outside the annual operating budget that may be supported by philanthropy, such as a construction project, the endowment, or another long-term project to ensure the future stability of the school.

Campaign commitments are generally more substantial and fulfilled over two to five years. While USN is not in a formal capital campaign, our most recent campaign concluded in 2017 and made significant improvements to our school possible. Our Board of Trustees continues to discuss the next phase of potential projects.
There are a variety of ways to make a donation to USN:

**OUTRIGHT GIFTS**
A cash gift is a simple and direct way to give to USN. Donations and pledge payments can be made by cash, check, or credit card. You can also make a monthly recurring gift online. Payments online can be made at usn.org/giving. Annual gifts are due by June 30 of the school year in which the pledge is made.

**GIFTS OF STOCK**
USN welcomes gifts of appreciated securities which can provide significant tax advantages to the donor. Instructions for making a gift of stock are online at usn.org/annualfund. Or you may contact the Development Office at 615-329-4423.

**DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS**
Gifts can also be made in the form of a grant from a donor-advised fund. Many of our donors enjoy the tax benefits associated with giving this way. For more information, please consult your financial or tax advisor.
MATCHING GIFTS
Many companies will match philanthropic contributions made by their employees. This is a great way to maximize your gift, possibly doubling or tripling your impact to USN. To find out if your employer offers a match, see usn.org/annualfund or ask your human resources office.

How it works: Some employers require a completed paper matching gift form, while others have an online system. Others request that employee gifts be confirmed by telephone. Your human resources office can provide more information on next steps for matching gifts. If your company does provide a matching gift form, please complete it and mail it to: University School of Nashville, attn: Natalie Sewell, 2000 Edgehill Ave., Nashville, TN 37212 or scan and email to nsewell@usn.org.

PLANNED GIVING
Planned or deferred gifts provide a way to make a significant gift after your lifetime. A planned gift to USN can take many forms and provides long-term support for our school as well as potential tax benefits for the donor. USN welcomes planned gifts in the form of bequests, IRA and other beneficiary designations, trusts, and life insurance.

Recognition: Donors who have taken this special step of including USN in their estate plans are recognized as members of the Robert K. Zelle Society. For more information, see usn.org/plannedgiving.
Annual Fund Parent Volunteers

Tonia & Jeff Klein  
Annual Fund Chairs  
toniaklein@gmail.com  
wjeffklein@gmail.com

Mimi Bliss & Dwayne Barrett  
1915 Leadership Society Chairs  
mimi@mimibliss.com

Jessie & Brian Adams  
New Parent Chairs  
jessie.m.adams@gmail.com  
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Mary Craven & Burney Dawkins  
Lower School Chairs  
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Middle School Chairs  
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### FALL
- **Thursday, August 22**
  - LS Parents’ Night
- **Thursday, August 29**
  - MS Parents’ Night
- **Thursday, September 5**
  - HS Parents’ Night
- **Friday, September 13**
  - New Parent Breakfast
- **Thursday—Saturday, September 26-28**
  - Fall Book Frenzy
- **Friday, September 27**
  - Fall Fest
- **Thursday—Saturday, October 24-26**
  - Artclectic

### WINTER
- **Monday, November 25**
  - LS Parents’ Day
- **Tuesday, November 26**
  - LS Grandparents & Special Friends’ Day
- **Tuesday, December 31**
  - Tax Year End
- **Tuesday—Friday, January 21-24**
  - Spirit Week & Homecoming
- **January—March, 2020**
  - Evening Classes
- **February TBD**
  - Music Night

### SPRING
- **Thursday, March 26**
  - Tiger Give Back Challenge
- **Sunday, May 24**
  - Commencement
- **Tuesday, June 30**
  - Fiscal Year End

Above are several events where families can invest in University School of Nashville by supporting school fundraisers and showcases of student accomplishments. Visit usn.org for details on times and locations as well as for a full calendar of campus activities.