

**A Note from the Director of Development,  
Lou Ellen Stansell**



# Annual Report 2020-2021

Dear Friends,

The story of how we managed the 2020-21 school year as a community is ultimately a hopeful one. When we began our journey back to campus in the summer of 2020, we had mixed feelings of fear and uncertainty, but we prevailed. We knew, in order to achieve our mission, and serve our families, we need to open our doors and prepare for whatever the pandemic would bring. Our experience, day-by-day, became manageable. We knew that all aspects of school life would not be the same, but our precious students and our brilliant and devoted teachers and staff worked alongside each other to inspire new learning and face this challenge together. As I reflect on this past year, and the gifts and donors listed on the following pages, I can attest to this fact: **your generosity carried us through this difficult time.** We remain profoundly grateful for your willingness to support our efforts with your gifts.



## **2020-2021 Annual Fund**

We could never have faced the challenges of the 2020-21 Annual Fund without the leadership of **Allison Pritchett and Clint Doerr**. They recruited a dedicated group of class representatives, and worked hard to raise \$453,844 during a condensed and shortened campaign. We are proud to have, once again, reached 100% participation among the Board of Trustees and the faculty and staff. We reached a fantastic 86% participation among St. Mark's parents. All donors to the Annual Fund last year appear on the following pages. These crucial gifts made an impact on our ability to serve our community last year.

## **2021 UnGala Tailgating**

The list of volunteers and supporters for last year's UnGala tailgate at St. Mark's appears on these pages as well. Many of our peer schools chose to cancel events, or host virtual auctions in 2021,

understandably. We are so grateful for the many hands that supported this unique event. In the spirit of COVID innovation, we endeavored to have an outdoor only and limited attendance event with two seatings to spread out participants. Our families responded with their usual generosity and enthusiasm, and that evening was a bright spot for many as we gathered on campus for the first time in months.

## **Parent Guild & Volunteers**

So much of the St. Mark's experience is shaped by our Parent Guild and our dedicated volunteers. Hindered by COVID restrictions, and the inability to gather on campus, our parents persevered and catered to the needs of our school. We are extremely grateful for the leadership of our Parent Guild officers: **Emily Amelio, Rista Ackermann, Lindsay Parmer, and Pam Klein**. They created new traditions, pivoted, and brought joy to staff and students.

Your choice to support our community makes us better. Your time as a volunteer, or your generous financial contributions are an investment in us. The cumulative effect of our community's investment makes so much possible. As we embraced our mission in new ways in 2020-21, we celebrate you, our supporters who made it possible.

Sincerely,

Lou Ellen Stansell  
Director of Development