

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

From the Desk of the Interim President



Dear Cornerstone Families and Friends,

As we progress through the 2023-24 school year, while our sights are set on the future, we pause to reflect on the past. This year marks Cornerstone Christian Academy's 35th year of fulfilling our mission to educate the students of Southwest Philadelphia in an environment that provides the highest standards for academic achievement and spiritual development. We observe this milestone with a mixture of gratitude, pride, and hope for the future.

Our gratitude is extended to every individual, church, foundation, corporation, and organization who has helped us become the amazing school we are today. We give thanks to God for our community partners who welcome and support us as a part of the Southwest Philadelphia community; and for our faculty and staff, present and past, who have faithfully given years of dedicated and inspiring service to our students; and for our families, past and present, who made the decision to entrust Cornerstone with the gift of their children, giving us the privilege to prepare them academically and spiritually for their future; and to our students who fill our halls and classrooms with energy, joy and hope; and to our faithful donors and volunteers who for 35 years have generously offered prayers, service, and financial gifts that are the bedrock of our success.

The pride we feel is hopefully evident in the pages of this Annual Report. As you read this report and see the names and faces of all the constituent groups mentioned above, know that we share these names and stories with a humble sense of pride for all we have accomplished, together. Of course, no accomplishment is greater than the academic and spiritual impact Cornerstone has made on thousands of children's' lives since 1988. That is an accomplishment we have done together. That through the years we have raised the call for support of our mission, and so many have answered—and faithfully continue to do so still today—is what we celebrate in this anniversary year.

It is with all this in mind that we have launched our 35th Anniversary theme: **Together, The Future is in Our Hands**. We say this because it is only through our combined efforts and the continued support from our families and many partners that Cornerstone's mission will thrive and advance into the future. It's not only the school's future however that our theme addresses. We also recognize that the future is in the hands of our students whose hearts, minds, and spirits we are shaping. Cornerstone's educational program affirms our belief that God has a plan for each of our students, so we strive to inspire them to discover their sense of purpose and to become the best versions of themselves to not only succeed in high school but also to make a positive impact in the world around them.

Together, we have made Cornerstone Christian Academy a beacon of hope for students and families in Southwest Philadelphia, and together we will continue to make this school's bright light of hope shine for the glory of God for many years to come. Thank you for your support of our mission yesterday and today. We pray you will continue to bless our students, whose future is in our hands, with your continued support.

Gratefully,

Richard Ollinger
Interim President and CEO
rollinger@cornerstonephiladelphia.com

P.S. Please be aware that this annual report represents contributions made to Cornerstone between July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Once again, thank you for your generous support.



Inside this Issue: We thank our community for 35 years of fulfilling our mission of educating our students.

Financial Report for 2022

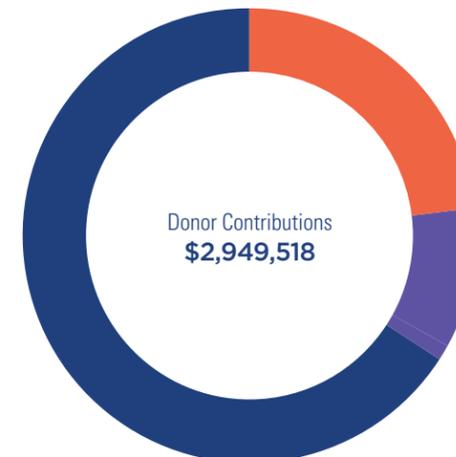
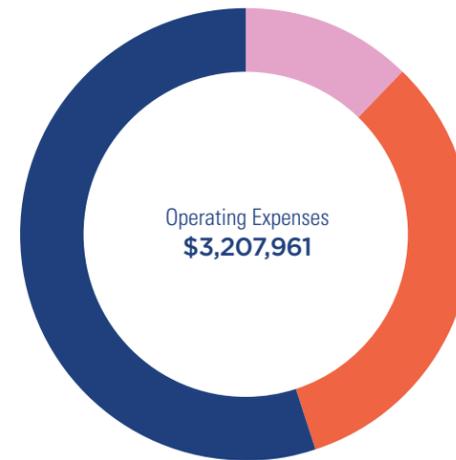
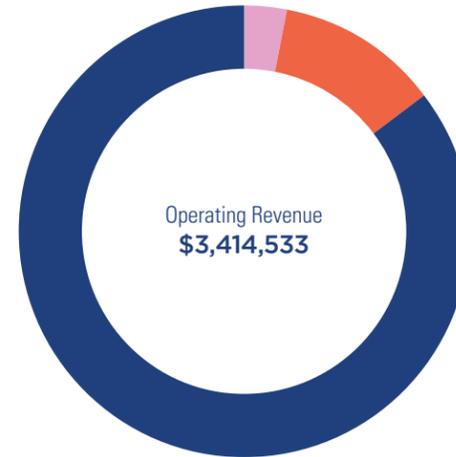


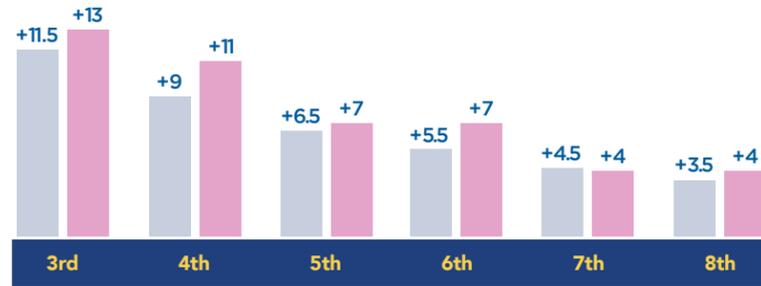
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Growth Trends

Cornerstone uses both MAP and PSSA testing—administered throughout each school year starting in the Fall and continuing through the Spring—to measure academic growth in Language Arts, Reading, and Math.

■ Grade-Level Norms Projected Growth
■ Observed Growth

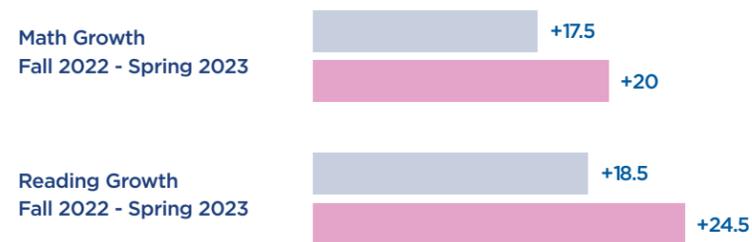


Language Arts (Language Use) Growth by Grade
Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

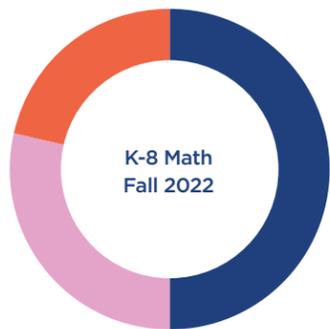
Kindergarten Preparedness

Cornerstone's Summer Academy programming for all incoming Kindergarten students prepares them for their first experience of in-classroom learning. Kindergarten growth has reflected this preparation.

■ Grade-Level Norms Projected Growth
■ Observed Growth



Grade Level Starting Point



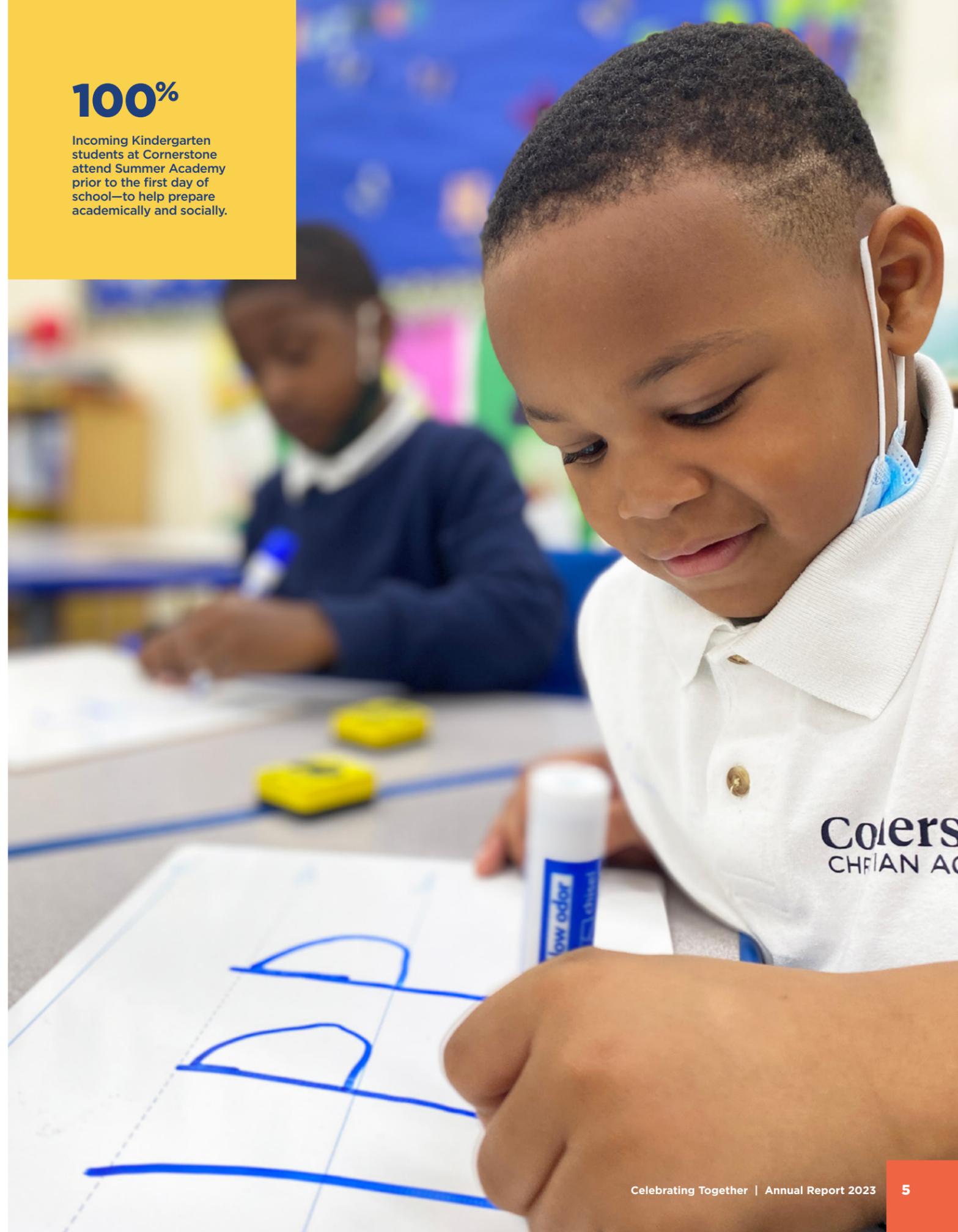
21.6% Low (< 21%)
28.4% LA (21-40%)
50% At or Above Mean



14.5% Low (< 21%)
21.4% LA (21-40%)
64.1% At or Above Mean

100%

Incoming Kindergarten students at Cornerstone attend Summer Academy prior to the first day of school—to help prepare academically and socially.



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If you or your organization are interested in becoming a Cornerstone volunteer, or wish to stay informed of all upcoming Day of Service opportunities, contact Cornerstone's Community Engagement Manager Gayle Gaskin at ggaskin@cornerstonephiladelphia.com.



Recognizing Cornerstone's "Faithful Givers"

For 35 years, Cornerstone has been unique in the independent school space in that the generosity of our donors accounts for **over 80% of our operations, including student scholarship**. We are especially grateful for those who have made our mission to educate the students of Southwest Philadelphia a part of their philanthropy since our inception. Below, we recognize our "Faithful Givers", those who have given generously for 20 or more years. We are humbled by their consistency and thankful for their unwavering support and dedication to our students.

- | | | |
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Tax Credit Program

Find out how easy it is for your tax liability to support our students.

If you are a resident of Pennsylvania and you expect to owe at least \$500 in state tax, giving to Cornerstone couldn't be easier. By taking advantage of these programs, you can use your PA tax liability to directly support our students' scholarship.

You are now eligible to participate in Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC tax programs with a state tax liability of only \$500 or more.



There is no easier way to support our amazing students than by taking advantage of this tax credit opportunity, all while receiving a 90% credit!

And the best part is, this program is open to businesses or individuals who expect to owe a PA tax liability of only \$500!

"Participating in this program allows our family to support Cornerstone above and beyond what we typically give because we can maintain our normal charitable contribution and supplement that with the amount we would otherwise be paying in taxes to the state."

- Gregory Esterhai, Cornerstone Board of Trustees

Getting started is easy! Find out how you can support our students by using money that would otherwise go to state tax payments.

Email EITC-OSTC@cornerstonephiladelphia.com or visit wearecornerstone.com/tax to get started today.



Did You Know?

87%

Of our scholarship donations in 2022-23 was provided through these PA tax programs.

The EITC and OSTC tax credit programs are a vital source of scholarship support for Cornerstone students.

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Cornerstone Christian Academy Orchestra warms up for a season of strings

After many years of partnership, this year Cornerstone is proud to welcome stringed instrument instructors Dr. Joseph Kauffman and Elena Kauffman as full-time Cornerstone staff. Cornerstone students from 1st through 8th grade have the opportunity to receive weekly one-on-one string lessons as part of a new musical offering for the school.

Each week, students receive individual instruction from Dr. Joe or Elena ("Nellie" to her students) for 25 minutes. School administration works with the musicians and their teachers to accommodate lesson time into their daily academic schedules—an approach that ensures maximum impact for each student.

"What we're able to do here is great," shares Dr. Joe, outlining why Cornerstone's offering is unique. "It's a different setup than most schools because we're giving students something similar to private lessons. In most schools, there are often 8-10 students or more per class—but private instruction is the best way to learn an instrument."

Learning is at the core of the Kauffman's approach. "With things like reading or math, you use certain parts of the brain," Dr. Joe explains. "When you're playing music you're engaging all the parts of your brain. It goes so far beyond just learning to play music, it's an exercise that works your entire mind, body, and emotional center."

"What I've been enjoying at Cornerstone is how the culture is already in line with our approach. [Principal Richell Manigault and the Cornerstone faculty] are focused on teaching the whole child. That means it's more than just what grade you get on a test. We tailor our instruction and assessment to our students' individual learning styles, so I think the string program is a natural fit for this school."



After-school practice for the Cornerstone Christian Academy Orchestra.

“Our goal is to inspire our students to unlock their musical voice. They can learn to love music from seeing how passionate we are about it.”

Individual instruction is not the only aspect of the Cornerstone String Program. For live performances throughout the school year, roughly twenty students will join the Advanced Orchestra. This collective meets weekly after school, rehearsing as a group and preparing for upcoming performances, including Cornerstone's upcoming annual Christmas Program. The Kauffman's will also be leading a beginner orchestra group for younger students, that will focus on the basics of playing together as a collective.

"An art form like music has to be passed down from generation to generation, you can't really learn it in a textbook," says Joe, highlighting the importance of practicing together and receiving instruction in person. "The skills and techniques we're using go back hundreds of years—it's similar to how the bible was passed down orally for generations."

Still, in an academic setting there is a way to track progress and guide these young musicians' learning. "Cornerstone Orchestra is on Google Classroom, so that we can communicate with parents," explains Nellie. "Students are given assignments each week, and our program is based off of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) which provides a grading rubric for assessing students' performance."

"Our primary goal is to inspire our students to unlock the musical voice that's inside of them," says Dr. Joe. "That means not just teaching the technical skills, but also teaching them to love music. And we know they can learn that love that from seeing how passionate [we] are about it."

That passion stems from early in life for the Kauffmans. Both Dr. Joe and Nellie come from musical families, and are active, performing musicians playing regularly in the Philadelphia region, and in Dr. Joe's case, globally. "I was inspired by my high school orchestra teacher," shares Nellie, "I don't know if I would have gone to college to study music if not for [him]."

"There are so many studies done about not only success in school, but later in life," says Dr. Joe. "We want to be able to give that to our students, because it's been so helpful in our lives."

Dr. Joe Kauffman is an adjunct professor at Temple teaching violin. He performs with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Ballet, The Philadelphia Opera, Princeton Symphony, Reading Symphony, and Ocean City Pops. Elena "Nellie" Kauffman received her degree in cello performance from Temple University, and performs and tours nationally with the Filament Trio.



Instagram Spotlight

Follow us at @ccaphilly

ccaphilly Who inspires you? This was the question Cornerstone's very own Mrs. Jones asked in Chapel today.



Together, the future is in our hands: Celebrating 35 years of fulfilling our mission



This year, we are inviting all of our constituent groups to join us in celebrating 35 years of Cornerstone's mission to educate the students of Southwest Philadelphia. We are bringing together students, alumni, faculty, staff, community members, and donors to join us in Celebrating Together.

Our year-long celebration will culminate in a 35th Anniversary event, recognizing our history of success while keeping an eye on the future of our school community.



Join our celebration by making a gift of support for our goal to raise \$350,000 by June, 2024.

Visit wearecornerstone.com/donate to pledge your support, and keep us going for another 35 years and beyond!



Volunteers join with staff and families to make an impact during Cornerstone's Days of Service



Some of the proudest days on our Cornerstone events calendar are always our tri-annual Days of Service. On three Saturdays in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, Cornerstone's campus comes alive with the spirit of service as volunteers join faculty, staff, students, and families to perform maintenance, construction, and administrative tasks.

Community Engagement Manager Gayle Gaskin oversees groups of volunteers, including groups from church partners like Wayne Presbyterian, Paoli Presbyterian, and Lenape Valley Church, as they join together for fellowship and service tasks.

If you or your group are interested in attending one of our upcoming Days of Service in 2024, you can email Gayle at ggaskin@cornerstonephiladelphia.com to join one of the dates listed below.

2024 Cornerstone Days of Service:

MLK Day of Service
Saturday, January 13, 2024

Spring Day of Service
Saturday, April 20, 2024



Ways to give to Cornerstone

Your generous financial contributions are essential to our continued growth. See below for all ways to support Cornerstone, including online at wearecornerstone.com/donate.

CHECKS AND ONLINE GIFTS

The most direct way to give:

Cornerstone Christian Academy,
P.O. Box 5520
Philadelphia, PA 19143.

You can also give online via credit card or electronic fund transfers (EFT).

RECURRING GIFTS

When making an online gift, you also have the option to set up a recurring gift on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

TAX CREDITS

Through the PA-EITC and PA-OSTC programs, individuals and businesses can direct your state taxes to support scholarships at Cornerstone.

GIFTS OF STOCK & SECURITIES

Contact your broker to make a gift of stock or securities to Cornerstone.

PLANNED GIFTS

Bequests, charitable gift annuities, cash and other planned gifts can be directed to Cornerstone. The benefits of a planned gift can include sizable income and estate tax deductions, favorable capital gains tax, income and a lasting impact at Cornerstone.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR IRA

As a qualified charity under the IRS, Cornerstone is eligible for an individual to donate up to a maximum of \$100,000 of your required minimum distribution from your IRA without paying income tax.

EMPLOYEE GIVING PROGRAMS

If your employer matches charitable contributions, you can increase your impact by directing their match to Cornerstone.

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Our Mission

The mission of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to educate children, including those from underserved families, in an environment that provides the highest standards for academic achievement and spiritual development.

Our Vision

It is our vision to be a model urban Christian school where students are grounded in faith, shaped with Christ-like character, and equipped with knowledge and skills to excel in high school, college, and throughout life.

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We're excited to celebrate 35 years of fulfilling our mission.



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