



Cornerstone
Christian Academy

Knowledge is a Gift



Annual Report 2025



From the Desk of the Head of School



Dear Cornerstone Community,

Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report, a recounting of the amazing strides we have taken in the previous year and a time to reflect on the gratitude we have for our incredible community of support that has made this growth possible.

Whether through time, talent, or treasure, each act of generosity from our volunteers, donors, and advocates plays a vital role in shaping the future of our students. That generosity also fosters a sense of commitment and confidence in the faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to provide care, guidance, and academic and spiritual development to our students each and every day.

This school year has begun with an unmistakable sense of promise. Our classrooms are alive with energy and curiosity as students take on new challenges, strengthen their faith, and discover their unique gifts. They are learning not only to think critically, but also to lead with compassion and integrity—qualities that reflect the heart of Cornerstone’s mission. These opportunities for growth and transformation are made possible by the work we do, and the steadfast support of organizations and individuals like you.

Every contribution to Cornerstone—especially through our Annual Fund—drives this mission. Your efforts and generosity are directly responsible for the resources, programs, and opportunities that allow our students to thrive. From staffing, to classroom essentials, to extracurricular programs, and experiential learning opportunities, the Annual Fund is where generosity most directly meets impact. Your giving allows Cornerstone students to reach the standards we expect from them—standards they consistently outperform through self-confidence and determination.

That self-confidence is apparent to anyone who visits our campus for the first time. Visiting supporters and prospective parents alike will often marvel at how mature, respectful, and motivated our students are. This is because being a Cornerstone student imbues a sense of pride that is written on the faces and actions of every child from Kindergarten to 8th grade. That is what your support is building within these walls. It’s academic excellence, spiritual guidance, creativity, interpersonal skills, and a sense of self-determination.

The numbers you will read in the following pages only tell part of the story, and the deep heart of Cornerstone’s supporters is so much more than a list of names. It’s what is behind those names that inspires us. There are stories of dedication, like our Faithful Givers who have supported Cornerstone’s mission for decades; stories of personal revelation from Teammates who built real, lasting relationships as they helped shepherd their partner students through their Middle School years; stories of hope and resilience for donors who give to honor those who have come before them, and have passed their love of our school and our students to the next generation.

As you continue to write your story, I thank you for walking alongside us. On behalf of the greater Cornerstone community, thank you for believing in our mission, and for investing in our students’ future. Together, we are building a foundation of faith, knowledge, and opportunity that will carry our students forward for years to come.

Sincerely,

Brandon McNeice
Head of School and CEO
bmcneice@cornerstonephiladelphia.com

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The Future is Bright!

Below: Students smile on the first day of the 2025-26 school year.

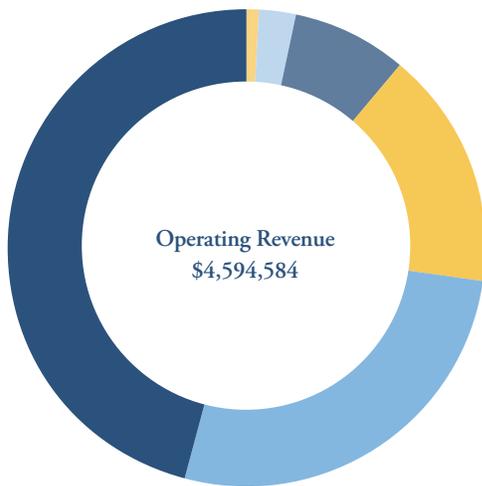


Your Support in Action

Every gift to Cornerstone's Annual Fund directly supports our students with classroom essentials, staffing, program support, technology services, and anything else that provides the confidence they need to thrive.



Financial Overview FY2025



46%

Capital Gifts
\$2,107,500

27%

EITC and OSTC
\$1,261,135

16%

Annual Fund
\$718,094

7.7%

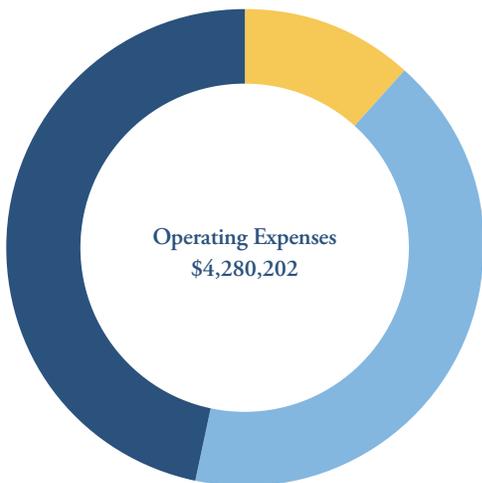
Tuition and Fees
\$353,422

2.6%

Other Scholarships
\$120,333

0.7%

Designated Gifts
\$34,100



46.7%

Programs and
Activities
\$1,998,237

41.7%

Administration
and Operations
\$1,785,204

11.6%

Maintenance and
Management
\$496,761

Note: All financial figures are unaudited.



List of Donors 2024 – 2025

Stakeholders (\$25,000+)

Anonymous
David and Caroline* Dalrymple
Gregory* and Melissa Esterhai
Kenneth* and Andréa Frazier
Walter G. French
Kevin Gallagher
Wayne* and Lynn Geisser
Susan Ludeman
Travis and Julianne Martin
Richard and Christine Oliver
Daniel and Susana Rohrer
James and Barbara Summers
Timothy J. Zaro

Pacesetters (\$10,000–24,999)

Anonymous
Gregory and Anita* Bell
Donald L. Born
Johnson and Sarah Chen
Nancy B. Davis
Gary and Susan DiLella
Clay and Claire Hardon
Tom and Gail Infield
Sharon S. Riley
William* and Beth Simon
James and Susan Tiede

Champions (\$5,000–9,999)

Alyce G Andrews
Anonymous
Margaret** and Scott Born
Lauri Cunningham
Clyde and Carol Diehl

Thomas and Laura Evans, Jr.
Thomas S. and Valerie J. Foley
James and Jennifer Galasso
Richard B. Gwathmey, Jr.
Thomas and Nancy Higgins
Howard Holden
Thomas and Janet O'Reilly
Charles* and Stephanie Olson
David and Kimberly Panichi
Robert and Debbie Perkins
Darlene A. Saks
Andrew G. Street
William Z. Suplee, IV and Mary Suplee
James and Joyce Sweet
Douglas and Jeanne Swope
Timothy and Rebecca Wainwright
Michael and Elizabeth Walton
Paul and Nathalie Wilson

Partners (\$2,500–4,999)

Edward H. Bohn, IV
Edward H. and Luanne H. Bohn
Ronald* and Sonja Bond
Ron and Lisa Cocco
Warren and Janet Eberlein
Paula and Randall Frey
Janice Frohner
David* and Kimberly Ishmael
Evelyn Ishmael
LeRoy and Kimberly* L. Jones
Mark and Darlene Keller
Linda Kurtz
Lauren* and James Maloney
Brandon McNeice**
Frank H. and Margaret B. McPherson
Christopher and Judy Mileto
Barbara N. Reed
The Honorable Rosalyn K. Robinson
Marlin R. Taylor

Friends (\$1,000–2,499)

James H. and Janet Averill
Pamela Baldwin**
Don and Nancy Ball
Brad Banken*
Gerald Baron
Whit and Julie Beverly
Jason Brown
Lauriston and Valerie Castleman
Terry Lynn Clopper-Chaves
John C. Crosby, Jr. and Courtney P. Crosby
Gene and Marossa A. Davis
Casey* and Barbara Dunn
Kermit and Earline Eck
Matthew** and Lisa Erdely
John L. and Carol K. Esterhai
Ronald B. and Elizabeth M. Evans
Richard P. and Julayne Kaye Frost
Christopher and Bonnie Gleeson
Charles and Karen Golden
Helen M. and Harry O. Hahn
Greta** and Kelvin Jones
Sharon P. Lachette
Theodore and Kristin Laws
John and Kristy Luke
Mario* and Nicole Martinez
Geraldene Morey
Chris O'Brien
Rosemary Oliver
Peter and Jennifer Paradiso
Craig Stock and Rosalie Phipps
Charles Redpath
James and Phyllis Rohn
James and Delores Rush
Vincent and Myra* Lynn Rutland
John and Anne Sly
Carl and Linda Teets
Jeffrey S. and Lisa L. Thomas
Jeffrey W. and Nancy Vecere
Russell Walters
Stephen and Teri Weed
John and Susanne Wherry

Contributors (up to \$999)

Diane Anderson
Anonymous
Tara Stoppa and Eli Andrus
Joseph Apicella
Thomas, Jr. and Cynthia Atkins
Calvin and Anastasia* M. Austin
Jaret R. Barron
Alexis and Martha Barron
Jane Beatty
Dawn Blackwell**
John M. and Linda H. Bomberger
Lisa Bond
Andrew and Kaitlyn Born
Melvin and Aminta Breaux
Jay and Susan Brodish
Ethel Brown
Edward S. and Diane A. Caso
John and Gay Channell
Joan Childs
Graham and Kristin Christensen
Gerald and Mary* Clampet
Mrs. Harris' 7th Grade Class
Linda Clay
Alexia Coleman-Smith
Narda Cooper**
Roxann Covington
Fronefield Crawford
Anna Louise Detweiler
Lise Detwiler**
Shaun Diaz
Gail Dovalovsky
Thomas and Louise Duff
Ruth Ann Erb
Sally Fehrs
David and Judith Feick
Tameka Ferebee**
Bertha Field
Mark and Lauren Fine
James Fitzgerald
William Floyd
Robert and Diane Freer
Robert and Cynthia Gagnon
Joseph and Bernice C. Gallagher
Scott and Rebecca Gamble
Gayle Gaskin**
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William and Judith A. Geoghegan
Matt Giel
William and Deborah Gillespie
Richard and Barbara Goss
Donna Gosse**
Stephen M. and Sherrie Gould
Natasha Grant**
Dr. Mary Jo Gunning
John G. Bell and Gertrude M. Hackney
Tracey Harris**
Cynthia Henry
Jack Herzig
Paul and Michelle Hirschboeck
Mark Hollingsworth
Vija Hosp
James A. and Doris A. Hoxie
Henry W. and Sally G. Hudson
Lee Ann Hunkler-Dennis
Joann Huntington
Clifford Lord, III and Deborah Iacovone
Robert and Barbara M. Jara
Pamela Jensen
Linda Jolly
Buck and Janet Jones
William Owen Daggett, Jr
William G. and Patricia French, Jr.
Stuart Kaplan
Elena Kauffman**
Joseph Kauffman**
William A. Keefe
Susan Kephart
Harold J. and Judith R. Killinger
Charles D. Kinney
Cynthia and Thomas Knotts
Thomas Kozempel
John and Sue Ellen Larkin
Richard and Constance Layman
Deborah** and Martin Lee
Jordan Lee**
Allyn and Barbara Lehman
Arthur R. and Lois S. Lewis
Tanya Y. Lewis
Dr. Ashley Leyba
Richard and Bonnie Lyon
Carol Malone
Richell and Anthony Manigault
Tom and Lindsay Mantzouranis
Dylan McAuliffe and Nancy Widjaja
Robert C. and Kathleen A. McConnell
Anne McCrary
Anne Brooke McInnes
Margaret L. McKinley
Dontae** and Tranise** McNeal
Jerome C. McVeigh
Robert Mee
Gail and Alex Middendorf
David and Dorothy Mink
Stephen and Denise Mitnick
Thomas E. and Cindra A. Morris
Donald and Cheryl Nederostek
Stacy Niemkiewicz*
Herbert and Judith Noack
James Nolan
Terence and Sandra O'Hara
Daniel and Elizabeth Van Ostenbridge
Neil E. Jordan and Amy A. Patsch
Earl and Deborah Lee Pearson
Gretchen and Michael Petersen
Jacqueline Peurifoy
William and Cynthia Rafferty
Patricia Reid**
Ann Richards-Krill
Rhonda Roberts**
Nancy Robertson
Robert K. and Carol E. Robinson
J. Angelo and Megan Saucedo
Debra Day Savini
Brian Scanlon
Marie G. Schilling
Heatly Sebring
Jon P. and Charlotte Slaughter
Karson Shliser
Robert and Dorothy Spencer
John Szyfer
Suzanne Talley
David and Rebecca Taylor
Geoff and Nancy Thomas
Sharon Thompson
Bonnie Vance
Lakia Walker**
Steven and Tina Wallster
Catharine Whittaker
Laura Marie Van Wickle
Estelle Wilson**
Temwa Wright
Thomas and Nancy Wynn
Patricia Zimmermann

Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

Ace American Insurance
The Andréa W. and Kenneth C. Frazier Family Foundation
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Blackney Hayes Architects
Bond Perfect Pool Solutions
Box Tops For Education
Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS)
Children First America Delaware County
Children's Jubilee Scholarship Fund
Children's Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia
Office of Corporate Responsibility, Merck and Company, Inc.
Eli Lilly and Company
Estate of Helen H. Ford
Lake Waynwood Religious Activities Committee
Martin Stone Quarries
The Merck Foundation
Narberth Presbyterian Church Christian Preschool
Penngift Foundation, Inc.
The Philadelphia Foundation
Paoli Malvern Berwyn Rotary Club
Philadelphia Insurance Company
Verizon
WM (formerly Waste Management)
WSFS Bank

Church Partners

Grace Presbyterian Church
Lake Waynwood Religious Activities Committee
Lenape Valley Church
Narberth Presbyterian Church
Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Paoli Presbyterian Church
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Wayne Presbyterian Church

Gifts In Honor Of

The Advancement Team
Lise Dewiler

Anita Bell
Thomas and Cynthia Atkins
Marlin R. Taylor

Gregory and Anita Bell
Thomas and Nancy Wynn
Wynnstay Foundation

Kevin Blackney and Barbara Kraus-Blackney
Craig Stock and Rosalie Phipps

Meg Born
Andrew and Kaitlyn Born
Dr. Mary Jo Gunning

Gerald and Mary Clampet
Earl and Deborah Lee Pearson

Kenneth and Andréa Frazier
The Boston Foundation
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Jennifer Galasso
Sharon Thompson

Gayle Gaskin
Narberth Presbyterian Church Christian Preschool

Miriam Gustafson
Barbara N. Reed

David and Kimberly Ishmael
Matt Geitl

Grayson Jude Krakit
Robert and Diane Freer

Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Elaine Pruyn
Robert and Diana Freer

Dallas Rhoads
Jacqueline Peurifoy

Gifts In Memory Of

Jean Andrews
Alyce G. Andrews

Julia Bogdon
Laura Marie Van Wickle

William G. Brown, MD
Ethel Brown

Dr. Anthony Campolo
Allyn and Barbara Lehman
Rosemary Oliver
Marie G. Schilling
Geoff and Nancy Thomas

Philip M. Carey
Dawn Blackwell

Andrea Crawford
Fronefeld Crawford

Susan Galloway
Timothy J. Zaro

Helen M. and Harroy O. Hahn
Berks County Community Foundation

Katherine Holden
David and Judith Feick

Russell Naylor
James Fitzgerald
Brian Scanlon

Mark Nederostek
Donald and Cheryl Nederostek

Amy Redpath
Donald L. Born
Charles Redpath

Herbert Schilling
Marie G. Schilling

Heaty Sebring
Joanne Sebring

Keith Van Wickle
Laura Marie Van Wickle



Time, Treasure, and Lots of Talent

We're blessed to have a committed group of talented carpenters and craftsmen in our roster of volunteers.

Top Next Page: Volunteers pose for a group photo at Fall Teammate Day.



List of Volunteers 2024 – 2025

Shamira Abrams
 Lucy Aldis
 Robyn Aldis
 Cindy Atkins
 Robyn Attaway
 Don Ball
 Nancy Ball
 Judith Baltimore
 Sterling Baltimore
 Anita Bell
 Gregory Bell
 Samirah Bey
 Rick Bogle
 Jason Brown
 Montgomery Brown
 Robin Burns
 Courtney Carrington
 Ling Chamberlain
 Mike Chamberlain
 Ari Childs
 Mary Clampet
 Linda Clay
 Lisa Cocco
 Ron Cocco
 Tacara Comer
 Kathy Cook
 Jan Devonald
 Roger Devonald
 Everett Eadeh
 Heather Eadeh
 Sally Fehr
 Bruce Field

Lawrence Fields
 Sharon Franklin
 Wayne Geisser
 Glenn Gorman
 Maribeth Hacker
 KateLee Hands
 Nayelle Hands
 Courtney Hanscom
 Cynthia Hanscom
 Constance Harper
 Linda Hassett
 Latryce Holden
 LaToya Hooks
 Gail Infield
 Tom Infield
 Lisa Infield-Harm
 Otto Infield-Harm
 Paul Infield-Harm
 Joan Jackson
 Natalie Jackson
 Leonard Jackson Jr.
 Cliche James
 Gage James
 David Jones
 Peg Keach
 Wendy Kelly
 Ryan Killebrew
 Aniko King
 Chase King
 DeWitt King
 Joel King
 Kam King

LaLanya King
 Lydia Koech
 Mary Ellen Lavender
 Tanya Lewis
 Yalanda Lewis
 Jyrki Mattila
 Ginny Mayer
 Phil Mayer
 Darryl McFarland
 Marty McKay
 Kieran McNeice
 Buzz Mossholder
 Carla Mossholder
 Kelly Mowery
 Liz Naylor
 Alexis Newman
 Chris O'Brien
 Sheri O'Brien
 Lou Perrone
 Tony Perrone
 Chanika Pratt
 Maddie Ridgeway
 Nigeria Rogers
 Aniyah Romero
 Lynn Ruff
 Parish Ruley
 Madeline Smith
 Sharee Spivery
 Monroe Staten
 Rick Stoler
 Amani Rose Vaughn
 Alicia Walley

Mike Washington
 Daniel Wilson
 Caroline Wolff
 John Wolff
 Dave Zimmerman
 Diane Zimmerman

University Partners

University of Pennsylvania,
 Spiritual & Religious Life
 Center, Office of the Chaplain,
 Penn iBelieve Student Mentors

Campus and Community Partners

Park in a Truck Initiative
 Philadelphia Police
 Department, 12th District
 Salt & Light Church
 The Common Place
 Tiger Woods Foundation

Church Partners

Lenape Valley Church
 Paoli Presbyterian Church
 Wayne Presbyterian Church

Interested in Volunteering?

We have many opportunities for
 your support. Visit us online at
wearecornerstone.com/volunteer
 to find the option that best suits
 your talents.



Cornerstone Teammates 2024 – 2025

Gerald Baron
Edward Bohn
Ronald Bond
Donald Born
Caroline Dalrymple
David Dalrymple
Marossa Davis
Carol Diehl
Clyde Diehl
Janet Eberlein
Janet Eberlein
Warren English
Matthew Erdely
Greg Esterhai
Melissa Esterhai
Laura Evans
Thomas Evans
Paula Alden Frey
Janice Frohner
James Galasso
Jennifer Galasso
Gayle Gaskin

Howard Holden
Gail Infield
Tom Infield
David Ishmael
Kimberly Ishmael
Evelyn Ishmael
Kimberly Jones
LeRoy Jones
Judy Mileto
Shane O'Neill
Janet O'Reilly
Tom O'Reilly
Rhonda Roberts
Rosalyn Robinson
Jeanne Swope
Lindsey Tice
James Tiede
Susan Tiede
Elizabeth Walton
Michael Walton
Susanne Wherry

Cornerstone's Teammate program pairs donors with Middle School students, offering an opportunity to form a mentorship bond and genuine friendship. Teammates and students share written correspondence throughout the school year and interact in-person during two annual Teammate Days and a program kick-off Chapel service dedicated to these amazing donors.

While Teammates make a financial commitment in support of Cornerstone student scholarships, many will tell you that the connection goes far beyond financial support. "I like that you aren't just donating money," says longtime Teammate, Jan Frohner. "I have had a chance to connect with the students I've been paired with, and have stayed in contact with several of them even after they have graduated."

"You aren't just donating money, you have a chance to connect with the students."

If you are interested in forging a meaningful relationship with a Cornerstone student through the Teammate program, visit us online at wearecornerstone.com/teammates or contact Community Engagement Manager, Gayle Gaskin at ggaskin@cornerstonephiladelphia.com.

The Teammates Program Brings Support with a Smile

Top of Page: Bonding is always best when it takes place in person, like at Teammate Chapel which kicked off the 2025–2026 program this fall.

Give More Than Ever with the EITC/OSTC Programs

Did you know you can turn your PA tax dollars into Cornerstone student scholarships?

Through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) you or your business can earn a tax credit worth up to 90% of your contribution, reducing your state tax bill while expanding scholarship support at Cornerstone.

Applying is simple, and we can guide you through every step. Your contribution goes directly to Cornerstone's scholarship fund, so every dollar helps more families access a Cornerstone education.

How Does it Work?

Let's use an example of an individual who plans to make a \$1,000 donation to support our students, and has a Pennsylvania state tax liability of \$10,000. Without participating in the PA Tax Credit program, it would look like this:



By participating in the PA Tax Credit program, you can designate any amount (up to \$750,000) to Cornerstone, and your tax liability is reduced by up to 90%:



Three Quick Questions to See if You Qualify:

Question 1: Do you pay Pennsylvania state income taxes?

Question 2: Do you expect to have an annual PA state tax liability of \$500 or more?

Question 3: Do you want to turn your PA tax dollars into scholarships for Cornerstone students?

If you answered YES to the questions above, you qualify!

Ready to Get Started? Here's How:

Contact our Director of Institutional Advancement, Alex Borders today at aborders@cornerstonephiladelphia.com or visit us online at wearecornerstone.com/tax-program and start giving more to our students than ever before.

Support our Students With a Gift to our Annual Fund



Cornerstone's Annual Fund is the best way to make a gift of support for our incredible students. We are proud to offer many ways to make your contribution:

Checks and Online Gifts

Mail a check to us:

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

Or give online at wearecornerstone.com/donate.

Recurring Gifts

When making an online gift, you can set up a recurring gift on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

Pennsylvania's Tax Credit Programs

See information to the left of this page, or visit wearecornerstone.com/tax-program

Gifts of Stock and 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.



The Power of Cornerstone's Donor Community: A Conversation with Lauren Maloney and Alex Borders

Director of Institutional Advancement Alex Borders recently sat down with current Trustee and Cornerstone's former Director of Development, Lauren Maloney, to discuss giving trends, Cornerstone's future, and how a donor community becomes a movement.

Alex Borders (AB): Lauren, you led development at Cornerstone and now you serve on the Board. What changed for you when you shifted from staff to Trustee?

Lauren Maloney (LM): The view widened. As Director of Development, I lived the daily heartbeat with the teachers, students, families, and volunteers. As a Trustee, I see how those moments build up to strategy and the long-term stability of the school. Same mission, higher vantage point. You notice the importance of consistency.

AB: Consistency makes me think of our Faithful Givers. From that wider lens, what have they taught you?

“Cornerstone was founded on a belief that every child deserves an excellent education, regardless of circumstance. What’s grown is a school that pursues rigorous academics and embraces social justice and students to see themselves as agents of change.”

LM: That generosity is a relationship, not a transaction. Many donors have given every month for ten, fifteen, even twenty years. That rhythm says, “We’re in this with you.” The amount matters, of course, but the real power is in the steadiness, because steadiness lets the school plan confidently for both the ups and downs of school life.

AB: Planning turns into very tangible things, from retaining great teachers, making sure kids have meals, and keeping tuition accessible. From your time in the seat I’m in now, what did steady Annual Fund support actually unlock?

LM: Predictability. You can commit to programs because you know support will be there next month and next year. It stabilizes classrooms, protects financial aid, and gives leadership the courage to make long-term decisions instead of short-term fixes.

AB: You often connect our origins to where we are now: from Tony Campolo’s founding vision to today’s focus on academic excellence and social justice. How do you describe that arc to a prospective donor?

LM: Cornerstone was founded on a belief that every child deserves an excellent education, regardless of circumstance. That’s the root. What’s grown from it is a school that pursues rigorous academics and embraces social justice as formation, teaching students to see themselves as agents of change. Donors recognize both truths. We’re faithful to our origin and responsive to the moment.

AB: “Rooted and responsive” sounds like a board mantra. What does that look like in practice?

LM: Holding two commitments at once: safeguarding mission and measuring impact. We ask, “Are students learning at high levels?” and “Are we removing barriers so they can access that learning?” We keep the community’s voice at the table and we make decisions that reflect care and rigor.

AB: For someone new to Cornerstone, what’s the best first step to encounter that reality?

LM: Visit. Step into a classroom. Watch morning drop-off. You’ll see kids running in, excited; parents proud and at peace. Once you’ve felt that, the case makes itself.

AB: I had that moment in a reading circle. A student stumbled, then tried again, and the whole class leaned forward to support her, to hold her up in community. The teacher coached, waited, and then celebrated the win. That patience felt like Cornerstone in a single moment: dignity, rigor, and joy at the speed of a child.

LM: That’s exactly it. And when donors experience those moments first-hand, they understand their role. They’re not just “supporting a school”; they’re underwriting those quiet victories that have a long-term impact on a child’s life.

AB: For people who want to help beyond writing a check, what pathways matter most right now?

“When donors experience those moments [of student success] first-hand, they understand their role. They are not just supporting a school, they are underwriting those quiet victories that have a long-term impact on a child’s life.”

LM: Three: start a monthly gift you'll keep; invite one friend to see the school; and lend your skills, through church partnerships, professional expertise, or volunteering. Each connection strengthens the network around our students.

AB: You've shepherded donors through easy economies and hard ones. When the economic weather changes, what endures?

LM: Values. People keep investing in young people because education is a durable path to opportunity. In uncertain seasons, recurring gifts matter even more. They're the ballast that keeps us steady.

AB: You've described donors as partners, not patrons. What does true partnership look like this year?

LM: True partnership looks like steadfast support and shared storytelling. Keep the monthly and annual gifts going and tell one more person why you do. If every supporter brought one friend into the fold, we'd double our circle of care without diluting our values.

AB: Is there a moment that captures that partnership for you?

LM: The ordinary ones. A student holding up a book she can now read aloud. A parent saying, "My child is seen here." Those are transformational moments woven into an ordinary school day.

Alex, I'm going off-script, your turn in the hot seat. What's the one moment since you arrived that told you, "Yes, this is where I'm meant to be"?

AB: That reading circle moment. It was quiet, ordinary, and holy. I thought, "This is what a donor's promise looks like when it becomes a child's progress."

LM: Beautiful. One more: when you think about leading Advancement, what's your non-negotiable?

AB: Stewardship with integrity. Listen first, tell the truth about need and impact, and make promises we can keep. If we do that consistently, trust compounds. That's the endowment.

AB (laughing): Wait, who's interviewing who here? I'm stealing the mic back. Quick lightning round. What's one hope donors can make real this year?

LM: A broader base of monthly givers.

AB: One invitation for every supporter this month?

LM: Host a short visit, on campus or at your church.

AB: One word you want people to feel when they step onto campus?

LM: Belonging.

AB: And one word you want students to carry when they step off campus?

LM: Agency.

AB: Last question. If you could place one sentence in the hands of every prospective donor, what would it say?

LM: "Stand with a child long enough for her effort to become achievement." That's what a recurring gift does. It stands long enough.

AB: That's beautiful, and it's the work. Lauren, thank you for the clarity and the charge. To our readers: if you're already part of this story, thank you. If you're new, come see Cornerstone. Join us in the way that fits, recurring giving, inviting a friend, lending your skills. Rooted in mission, responsive to the moment, we're building this together.



Make Your Gift With Maximum Impact

Have you met Cornerstone's Director of Institutional Advancement, Alex Borders? She's ready to guide you on how to get the most out of your support of our students.

Find out how you can make a difference today, contact: aborders@cornerstonephiladelphia.com



Cornerstone Christian Academy Board of Trustees

Anastasia Austin

Academic Coach, School District of Philadelphia

Brad Banken

Principal, Oak Stream Investment Advisors

Rev. Dr. Anita Bell

Pastor, Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church

Kevin Blackney

Principal Architect, Blackney Hayes Architects

Ronald Bond

President (Retired), Adrian Associates Consultants, LLC Sports and Facilities Programs

Mary Clampet

School Volunteer

Caroline Dalrymple | Secretary

Physical Therapist and School Volunteer

Casey Dunn

Founder, Young Life; Capstone Project Consultant, The FOCUS Group

Warren English

Electrical Engineer (Retired), PECO

Gregory Esterhai

Co-Founder and CEO, Foresite Sports LLC

Kenneth Frazier, Esq.

Former Chairman and CEO, Merck & Co., Inc.

Wayne Geisser, CPA (Ret.) | Board Chair

CPA, Partner, Marcum LLP

David Ishmael

Executive Director, Financial Systems and Training, University of Pennsylvania

Kimberly Jones

Co-Owner and Co-Founder, ereflow

Terence Jones, Esq.

Associate, Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young

Lauren Maloney

Director, AmeriHealth Caritas Foundation

Mario Martinez

Managing Partner, Wisdom Capital LLC

Stacy Niemkiewicz | Treasurer

Director of Finance, Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region

Charles Olson, III

President/CEO, The Olson Research Group, Inc.

Myra Rutland, DNP

Nurse Practitioner, Spectrum Health Services

William Simon, Jr. | Vice Chair

Investment Management, Non-Profit Board Specialist, Former Cornerstone Board Chair

Faculty Spotlight: Ms. Walker - 3rd Grade



What is Your Teaching Background?

I taught for two years in the Philadelphia school district and one year at a charter school. I'm originally from Jamaica, where I taught for seven years before migrating to the U.S.

I used to help kids in my neighborhood with homework, and my high school teacher noticed my patience and how the students responded. She told me, "You're going to be a teacher."

Is There Anything That Stands Out About Cornerstone Students?

The biggest difference I have noticed is their behavior and the respect they show their teachers and their fellow students. At Cornerstone, there is a genuine love and respect that exists between students and teachers, and among the teachers themselves. That makes such a difference for me.

What do You Hope to Achieve in the Classroom This Year?

My goal is to develop a genuine love of learning, and to see it as something valuable for life. I also want to build confidence. I tell them, "I'll meet you where you are," and it's working. I have seen how hard they work, even in my first month. The work they're doing and how much they're learning and producing now is incredible.

Tell us About Yourself Personally!

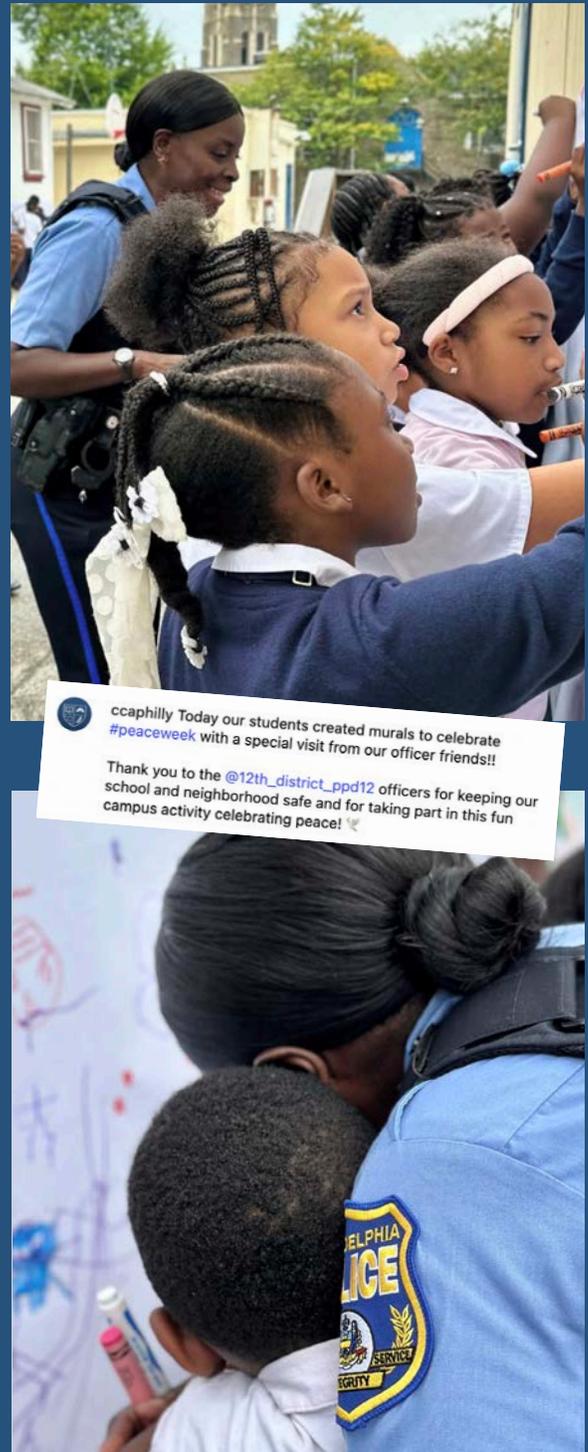
Well, I love traveling, being outdoors, and anything having to do with nature. Being from Jamaica, of course I love the water! Most of all, I love being a mom. Honestly, I get a lot of the same joy from teaching as I do being a parent.



Social Media Spotlight

One of the easiest ways to support Cornerstone, and stay on top of all the amazing things happening on our campus, is to follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook: @ccaphilly

Here's a highlight from this school year:





Cornerstone
Christian Academy

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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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