

NEWS & ANNUAL REPORT

FOOTHILL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



2024-2025

MISSION Statement

Foothill Country Day School is a safe, nurturing, and inclusive community. We are united in pursuing intellectual inquiry, academic excellence, integrity, and service to others. We inspire each student to become ambitious, compassionate, and courageous.

CORE VALUES

Safe, nurturing, and inclusive community

We discover our similarities and grow together by respecting differences and learning about our cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs.

Intellectual inquiry and academic excellence

We build a foundation for academic excellence by cultivating a child's innate desire for knowledge, understanding, and relationships.

Integrity

We strive to be honest with ourselves and others.

Service to others

We develop awareness beyond ourselves through service toward others.

EDITORIAL CREDITS

Erin Hughes Photography

Donna Davis

Lan Glenn

Anne Henry

Mayra Diaz

Sharon Hammill

Shane Guilbert-Neal

Gabrielle Singh

YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mike Silva, Head of School

Todd Clark '97, Director of Auxiliary Programs

Shane Guilbert-Neal, Upper School Director

Anne Henry, Director of Communications and Marketing

Hytosha McDaniels, The Seedling School Director

Colette Sims, Director of Enrollment

Gabrielle Singh, Director of Advancement

Lisa Ulsh, Lower School Director

Danielle Witten, Director of Finance & Operations



WE ARE Foothill

GREETINGS

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Foothill families and friends,

It is my pleasure to share this report on Foothill's progress and philanthropy during the 2024–2025 academic year. This report reflects not only the accomplishments of our students and faculty, but also the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our families, alumni, and community partners.

As I write this, we find ourselves looking forward as well as reflecting on our past.

This year we began implementing Foothill's Strategic Plan, taking important steps toward fulfilling our vision for the next five years. To learn more about these initiatives, please see page 3 of this report. We are intentionally moving forward as we tackle these initiatives and face current issues head-on, such as the emergence of AI (see page 4), and the need for Foothill to remain a destination for the best employees in a competitive labor market. We invite you to join us in looking forward to Foothill's future!

As in years past, parent leadership and volunteerism have been central to enriching the student experience this year. Among the highlights was Generations Day in November, when we welcomed grandparents, relatives, and special friends to campus for a celebration of community across generations.

In the spring, our annual fundraising gala was held at the Pomona Fairplex. Despite an unexpected change of weather that moved the event indoors, the evening was both lively and inspiring, showcasing the tremendous generosity of our community. In May, Field Day and Art Walk marked Foothill's 70th anniversary with a "Run for the Roses" theme, paying tribute to our Kentucky Derby heritage. And in June, we celebrated another graduating class as they transitioned into high school, officially joining the Foothill alumni network.

It strikes me that so many of these events have been cherished by our Foothill families for decades. It is this feeling of community that powers our vision for the future.

For example, the impact of your philanthropic support is evident across campus. During the summer of 2025, thanks to your contributions, we installed a state-of-the-art lighting system in the Randall Lewis Family Auditorium and provided our athletic teams with new Nike-branded uniforms—both are investments in the talent of today's students as well as students in the years to come.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership. Together, we are ensuring that Foothill remains a place where students thrive, traditions are honored, and future goals are within reach.

With gratitude and appreciation,



Mike Silva (Joseph '17)
Head of School



Board of Trustees

Dear members of our Foothill community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am honored to extend our deepest appreciation for your continued support and commitment, which remain essential to Foothill's success and growth.

Reflecting on the 2024–2025 academic and fiscal years, I am pleased to share that the Board worked diligently to fulfill its duties of assuring that Foothill remains in a strong financial position, working in close partnership with the Head of School to establish future objectives and evaluating the progress on past endeavors, and assisting in the creation and implementation of the Strategic Master Plan.

I would also like to recognize our Head of School, Mike Silva, for his steadfast leadership and dedication to Foothill's mission and values. His guidance has been instrumental in moving the school forward.

In addition, I extend my gratitude to trustees John Harpole, Michael Hoe, Praveena Jeerreddi, Sandy Kaushal, and Valerie Newcomb for their outstanding service, and I warmly welcome our four new trustees—Kristine Griffith, Laura Hernandez-Flores, Kirsten Suttner, and Grissa Yao—each of whom brings valuable perspective as current Foothill parents.



On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your generosity and active engagement. Your support ensures Foothill's financial strength and enables us to provide an exceptional educational experience for every student.

It has been my privilege to serve as Board Chair. As a Foothill alumnus, I know firsthand the lasting value of a Foothill education. My time here gave me the confidence to take risks, to lead, and to grow in ways that shaped both my personal and professional life. I look forward to continuing this work with my fellow trustees and with Mike Silva, as he partners with families and faculty to ensure that Foothill prepares students to lead with courage and to contribute meaningfully in an increasingly complex and diverse world.

With appreciation,

Jeff Stark '76
Chair



Jeff Stark `76, Chair
Omrana Ahmed
Neetu Bhagat
Angela Cheng
Christine Delgado
Dr. Peter Fedorka

Laura Hernandez-Flores
Kristine Griffith
Meera Kanani
Eric Lau
Riley Lewis `03
Eddie Saa

Tamara Venit-Shelton
Kirsten Suttner
Matthew Weis `84
Grissa Yao
Michael Silva, Head of School, ex officio

2025-2026
MEMBERS

Strategic PLAN

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MOVE US FORWARD

In keeping with our institutional mindset of continual improvement, Foothill's Board of Trustees and Senior Team administrators embarked on a process of determining the school's strategic priorities. This process resulted in 15 goals and objectives that will guide our focus and work over the next five to seven years. In 2024-2025, we began active work on year-one priorities. Here is just some of progress made so far:

Provide meaningful opportunities for students to engage with perspectives and experiences different from their own.

In order to prepare students to be leaders in a diverse and complex society, faculty began the process of reviewing the current curriculum for opportunities to expose students to different cultural or social perspectives that may be different from their own.



Reimagine the use of time by identifying the differing academic and programmatic priorities to design a schedule that reflects these priorities.

Foothill engaged an outside consultant who analyzed our current schedules and surveyed students and teachers to provide recommendations. Improvements include increased time for core academic subjects and more opportunities to develop healthy student relationships and foster wellness. Our faculty then built out what we now refer to as the 8 Day Cycle. That schedule is being implemented in 2025-2026.

Collaborate with the BWO to enhance the parent experience through community engagement and expanded education opportunities.

Administration collaborated closely with the BWO to launch the first-ever Socktober, a community sock drive supporting the local Foothill Family Shelter. In addition, the Community Cultural Presentations were expanded to include 14 events, providing families and students with enriching opportunities to engage in and learn from a broader range of traditions, holidays, celebrations, and histories that reflect diverse faiths, cultures, and heritages of our community. Finally, the school invested in the creation and hiring of a full-time position, Assistant Director of Advancement, Community Engagement & Special Events, to assist in continuing engagement within our community and alumni.

Expand our internal education, training and understanding of cultural competencies.

In October 2024, all faculty attended a professional development experience sponsored by the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, focusing on the topic, "Speaking Up: Strategies for Responding to Bias and Hate Speech at School".

For the entire FCDS community, we launched a new program, Foothill Forums, in 2024. This gathering of community members allows for cultural education, frank conversations, and meaningful discussions among parents and employees. Discussion leaders included Dr. Jerell Hill on "How Biases and Stereotypes Impact Your Children", Margari Hill shared her own experience as a Black woman and Muslim in the US and the need for shared values. We also participated in a discussion led by Dr. Nicholas Buccola on "The Lives and Learning of James Baldwin and Frederick Douglass".

Identify new enterprise opportunities that increase operating revenue by 20% (over 5 years) through scaling the Foothill experience to new ways of learning.

A senior administrator position was created to address this strategic priority to ensure Foothill's long-term financial sustainability through non-tuition revenue. The Director of Auxiliary Programs has expanded and reorganized after school enrichment

offerings, created an online Foothill store (The Nest) to sell branded merchandise, and has experimented with innovative, revenue-producing ideas such as filming on campus and gym rentals.

Create and expand our market awareness to enhance access and visibility.

We created a two-year marketing plan to expand our reach into new markets of Foothill-aligned families and launched a new website that is translated into 5 languages, is more responsive and is programmed to provide data on prospective families' preferences and interests when they are on our site.

Create a deep and robust culture of philanthropy capable of fulfilling our dreams.

The Board of Trustees approved a Gift Acceptance Policy and established endowment agreements to set the stage for securing major gifts. We have acquired donor management software and migrated all donor records into it, preparing for future donor prospect research. This lays the groundwork for growth in annual giving and an eventual capital campaign.



AI AT FCDS

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

by John Hostetler
Technology Systems Administrator



As part of this work, we developed new AI policies for both teachers and students. Faculty members now have clear guidelines to ensure that AI is used purposefully, ethically, and safely. For example, teachers may use AI to help draft lesson plans, create rubrics, or generate ideas for classroom projects—but they must always review AI output critically, avoid entering confidential data, and ensure their own voice and professional judgment remain central.

For students, the use of AI on campus is limited and under teacher direction. Our parent handbook outlines acceptable uses, such as researching complex topics, brainstorming creative projects, or experimenting with coding. At the same time, strict rules prohibit using AI for academic dishonesty, sharing personal information, or generating inappropriate content. These safeguards help ensure that students experience AI as a supportive tool that encourages

engagement and thinking rather than a shortcut.

Beyond policies, we have also begun implementing age-appropriate curriculum to build digital literacy and responsibility. Last year, we introduced a sixth-grade elective course on digital citizenship, focused on helping students navigate technology with integrity and safety. That program will continue this year, along with new lessons for seventh- and eighth-grade students that explore how AI can be used safely and productively.

Teachers regularly rely on AI to help organize lessons or explore new instructional strategies. Administratively, AI is assisting with accreditation reporting, organizing school media assets, and supporting day-to-day operations.

These initiatives reflect a balance: we see AI not as a replacement for human creativity and judgment, but as a tool that—when used thoughtfully—can enrich teaching, streamline operations, and prepare students to be leaders for the world ahead.

And if we could share one message with parents, it would be this: treat AI as a tool to guide thinking, not replace it. Just as we ask our teachers and students to use AI with care, we encourage families to do the same at home—verifying information, protecting privacy, and emphasizing creativity and critical thinking above convenience.

Ways to GIVE



MEET THE ADVANCEMENT TEAM:

Gabrielle Singh, Director of Advancement
Lexis Wallace, Advancement Assistant
Isabella Dueñas, Assistant Director of Advancement
(left to right)

Together, we are here to help you stay engaged with Foothill in a meaningful way. Whether you would like to visit campus, attend a reunion, connect with us on social media, or donate to make sure our School is vibrant for future generations. Reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to be involved in some way.



To stay connected, please see page 25 for more about connecting in person and virtually through our alumni and community networks.

We also ask you to consider staying involved by supporting our school through philanthropy. Each year, Foothill receives gifts that are crucial to Foothill's financial stability. Gifts of every size add up and have a significant impact. Parental and alumni involvement is an important measure of our success and commitment to our community, and it sends a powerful message to potential outside supporters, such as corporations and foundations.



www.foothillcds.org/GIVE

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to give to Foothill. Here are some of the ways to do so.

CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD

Gifts of cash, typically payable by check, and credit card gifts are tax deductible and provide immediate funds to the school.

The easiest way to give is online at:
www.foothillcds.org/give.

You can also send a check to:
Foothill Country Day School
Advancement Office
1035 W Harrison Ave
Claremont, CA 91711

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies offer their employees the opportunity to double their gifts to certain programs or organizations by matching them. Please check with your employer about their Matching Gift Program.

SECURITIES

Gifts of stocks, other securities have two significant advantages to the donor – they are tax deductible for the full fair market value of the gift when it is made, and the donor does not pay capital gains on the appreciated value of the stock.

PLANNED GIVING

Alumni, past parents, grandparents, current parents, and friends — have you included Foothill in your estate plan or will? Let us know so we can honor your commitment today for the generous gift you plan to make in the future.

These types of gifts may also provide significant tax benefits. Please consult your tax advisor for details.

For more information about making a gift of any type, please contact Gabrielle Singh, Director of Advancement, at 909.626.5681 or gsingh@foothillcds.org.

As a 501(c)(3) organization your charitable donations to Foothill Country Day School are fully tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Year in REVIEW



HAPPY 70TH FOOTHILL

Foothill celebrated the school's 70th birthday all year long.

What a year this has been! We began by kicking off the school year with a 70th birthday party, complete with birthday cake and the debut of our new mascot, Finlee the falcon. Shortly after, the entire school came together to create a living piece of "sky art", a replica of our new logo, using nearly 500 people! As the year progressed, we enjoyed buying 70th swag from the newly opened store, "The Nest". Field Day was the capstone to the celebration, honoring our founding with the theme "Run for the Roses" and a full day of Kentucky Derby and horse-themed fun. Alumni are always welcomed at Field Day, and this year was no exception as they came back by the dozens to celebrate Foothill's 70th!



MILESTONES

Did you know that our faculty have an average 14 years of teaching experience? That is a lot of expertise! Each year our Foothill employees are recognized for their years of service to the school in 5 year increments.

This August, nine employees reached a milestone and received a commemorative pin:

Viveka Christensen (5), Kendall Stewart (5), Shane Guilbert-Neal (10), Callie Opel (10), Seidy Ortiz (10), Danielle Witten (10), Sharon Hammill (15), Anne Henry (15), Donna Davis (20)



TRADITIONS

At Foothill Country Day School, this past year has been a celebration of community, growth, and traditions that bring us together. In a world that continues to change, Foothill has stayed rooted in the values and events that define us as a family. Students and families once again enjoyed favorite traditions like the Fall Family Event, Art Walk, and Field Day, held on the first Saturday in May. These moments were not only fun, but also strengthened the sense of unity and belonging that makes Foothill so special.



This year also brought exciting new highlights. In November, we hosted Generations Day, welcoming more than 270 grandparents and special friends to campus. The Allen Gymnasium was filled with joy and energy as guests enjoyed coffee, breakfast, and a program featuring remarks from Mr. Silva and a speech by our 8th grade student council president, Kevin Wei '25. Afterward, guests joined students in their classes, experiencing a “day in the life” at Foothill, and the morning ended with lively performances of the Virginia Reel.

Together, these traditions, new events, and milestones have not only shaped the 2024–2025 school year but also reminded us of the lasting impact a Foothill education has on our students’ lives.





THE GARDEN GALA, AN EVENING IN BLOOM Spring Gala 2025

On April 26, 2025, Foothill hosted its annual fundraising gala at the Pomona Fairplex. Originally planned for an outdoor setting at The Farm, the event was quickly and seamlessly moved indoors thanks to the quick thinking of our volunteers and staff. The evening was a resounding success!

The event was chaired by current parent Lauren Godsil, with Auction Co-Chairs Gladys Fedorka and Jacqueline Friedel leading efforts to secure generous donations from Foothill families. Their hard work enhanced both the silent auction and the beautifully curated class baskets.

Many of our dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators not only

volunteered their time that evening but also contributed special experiences to the auctions. Among some of the new offerings were a roller-skating party, encounters with real mermaids, a live magician performance, and even the chance to get slimed--along with many other memorable experiences and themed baskets.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, the 2025 Gala raised critical funds to support significant campus enhancements. This included a major upgrade to the lighting system in the Randall Lewis Family Auditorium, completed in summer 2025 with additional support from the McMahan Family Donor Advised Fund.

Our athletic program also benefited, as our sports teams debuted new Nike-branded jerseys, bringing fresh energy and pride to Foothill athletics.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make the Garden Gala a truly unforgettable evening of community, celebration, and support for Foothill's future.





GRADUATES

Congratulations



Class of 2025



FALCONS TAKE FLIGHT

At Foothill, helping our students find their perfect next step is one of our greatest joys. From boarding schools to public schools, arts programs to faith-based institutions, our graduates explore a wide range of opportunities that match their talents and passions.

We are thrilled to watch our Falcons soar into these new adventures, confident in the foundation Foothill has provided. Each placement is more than a school choice—it's a launchpad for curiosity, growth, and future success.



Members of the Class of 2025 were accepted to the following high schools:

- Bonita High School (La Verne, CA)
- Brooks School (North Andover, MA)
- Claremont High School (Claremont, CA)
- Damien High School (La Verne, CA)
- Davison Young Scholars Program (Reno, NV)
- Dunn School (Los Olivos, CA)
- EF Academy (Pasadena, CA)
- Fairmont Preparatory Academy (Anaheim, CA)
- Flintridge Preparatory School (La Canada, CA)
- Harvard-Westlake School (Studio City, CA)
- Los Osos High School (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)
- Northfield Mount Hermon School (Gill, MA)
- Phillips Academy Andover (Andover, MA)
- Phillips Exter Academy (Exeter, NH)
- Polytechnic School (Pasadena, CA)
- Ruben S Ayala High School (Chino Hills, CA)
- Sage Hill School (Newport Coast, CA)
- St. Lucy's Priory High School (Glendora, CA)
- Stanford Online High School (Redwood City, CA)
- Stevenson School (Pebble Beach, CA)
- The Peddie School (Hightstown, NJ)
- The Webb Schools (Claremont, CA)
- Westridge School (Pasadena, CA)



These colleges are just some of the destinations for the FCDS Class of 2021:

- Boston University
- Chapman University
- Clemson University
- Emory University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lehigh University
- New York University
- New York University Tisch School of the Arts
- Northeastern University
- Pitzer College
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Pomona College
- San Diego State University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Scripps College
- Stanford University
- The Parsons School of Design
- The University of Southern California
- University of California Berkeley
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of California Merced
- University of California Riverside
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of San Diego
- Vanderbilt University
- Wake Forest University
- Wellesley College



2024-2025 Financial Report - Endowment

Endowment

An endowment is a long-term fund made up of financial donations that support Foothill's mission for generations to come. These funds are set aside and invested, allowing them to grow over time and provide a sustainable source of income for the School. Each year, only a small portion of the endowment is withdrawn to support specific needs, while the principal remains intact to ensure continued growth. Foothill's endowment includes both donor-restricted funds, which are designated for specific purposes, and quasi-endowment funds, which are not permanently restricted. Significant gifts to the endowment are especially meaningful because they allow donors to leave a lasting legacy and help Foothill thrive well into the future. The Board of Trustees oversees the endowment and sets the annual spending rate, which is currently 4%, based on the average market value of the endowment over the past five years.

ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE AND MANAGED FUNDS SUMMARY

Market Value of Endowment

As of July 31, 2024
\$2,778,055

Investment value change \$109,370

As of July 31, 2025
\$2,977,143

Total Endowment Distribution in 2024-2025 by Purpose

Financial Assistance
\$428,681

Other
\$655,467

Programmatic
\$910,000

**Cumulative
Net Investment**
(includes Quasi-Endowment)
\$982,995

**Your gifts make
a difference!
Visit us at
www.foothillcds.org/give**



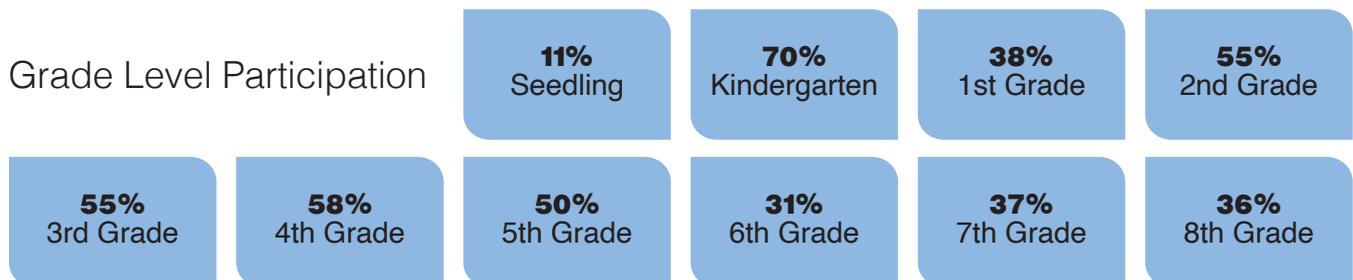
Total Giving in 2024-2025

Thank you for your philanthropic support. This represents all Annual Giving by Constituency giving beginning August 1, 2024 continuing through July 31, 2025.

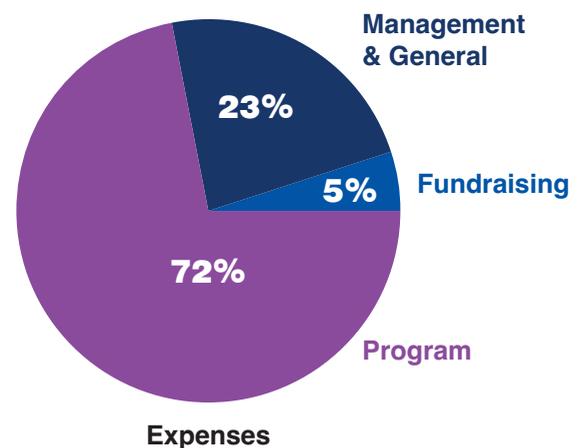
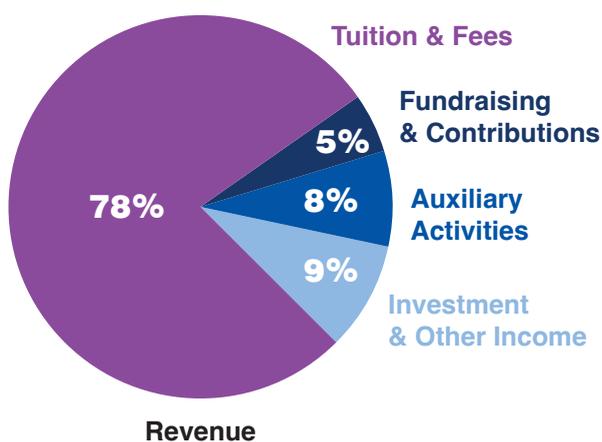
All Gifts



Annual Giving by Constituency



Operations & Philanthropy



Annual GIVING



PHILANTHROPY REPORT – THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US STRONG

Foothill Country Day School gratefully acknowledges the annual contributions of our donors who provide vital and essential support to our school. The collective philanthropy of our parents, alumni parents, grandparents, trustees, faculty and staff, and friends of the school benefit the entire community of learners. Leadership annual donors are recognized for their total annual support to Foothill.

There are many ways our donors have chosen to support Foothill. The Foothill Fund generously supports the essential elements of a Foothill education that is not covered by tuition alone. Our signature fundraising event, the Spring Gala, supports curated funding priorities. Many donors choose to support scholarships or to make memorial gifts to honor special friends. Every gift matters and collectively makes a BIG impact. Thank you!

- consecutive donor for the past three or more fiscal years*
- consecutive donor for the past five or more fiscal years*

VISIONARY CIRCLE

Visionary Circle recognizes donors for their total annual support to Foothill at the \$10,000 level and above.

- Ahmanson Foundation
- Abdul Ahmed
- Omrana Ahmed and Bilal Khan
- Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
- Vanessa and Jose Cardenas
- Hans Cho and Jean Lee
- Cong Cong and He Zhang
- Edward Jones
- Peter and Gladys Fedorka
- Kristine and Jack Griffith
- Ke Han and Dan Li
- Terry Han and Faye Bai

- Kinger Industry Inc
- Edward and Cheung Lai
- Hla Maung Hwang and Yui Ying Chiu
- McMahan Family Charitable Foundation
- Revolve
- Scott and Lia Senise
- John M Sterling Family Trust
- The Empire Company
- Bin Wei and Sarah Zhao
- Lei Xu and Xiaoyun Cong
- Jin Yan and Yuxin Wang
- Jian Ye and Ying Xu
- Bo and Zhaoxia Zhu

BENEFACTORS CIRCLE

Benefactors Circle recognizes donors for their total annual support to Foothill at the \$5,000-\$9,999 level.

- Zhaojun Fan and Yanshan Huang
- Jing Gu and Jirong Zhang
- Michelle He and Tongtong Yin
- Jiahui Huang and Kai Guan
- Jerry Jin and Yushan Wang
- Chuansheng Kao and Li Liu
- Zubin and Deepa Laiwalla
- Marco and Dejou Marano '96
- Kathleen Marker
- Yuemin Pan and Nan Shao
- Kiran and Khurram Qidwai
- Hazel and Jayesh Raja
- Amna Rizvi and William Fleming

- Michael Silva and Deborah Carroll-Silva
- Jeff '76 and Christine Stark
- Gerald '88 and Nancy Tessier
- Grisa Yao and Hua Chai
- Kan Zhang
- Xiaoting Zhu and Shoufeng Zhang

1954 CIRCLE

The 1954 Circle recognizes donors for their total annual support of Foothill at the \$1,954 - \$4,999 level.

- Michelle Azu and Lloyd Allen
- Bejmuk Family
- Nutan Bhaskar and Latha Achanta
- Boya Inc.
- Raymond Chae and Angela Ye
- Yi Chen and Weiming Zhang

Liming Cheng and Liang Guo
 Daniel and Christina Ching
 Craig and Christine Delgado
 Tao Ding and Zhao Yu
 Anonymous Donor
 Herman and Xueyan Eng
 Fidelity Charitable
 Larry Fu and Sunny Sun
 Grace Gao and Xiaoteng Fu
 Forrest Guo and Bei Jin
 Shan Guo and Shaoqing Ma
 Jacob Haiyav and Maryam Roham-Haiyav
 Wanchun and Haiping Huang
 Meera Kanani and Tej Naik
 Lands' End
 Eric Lau and Hiu Cheung
 John and Grace Lee
 Riley and Emma Lewis
 Chris and Janina Leyster
 Mengjia Li and Jerry Dai
 Wei Li and Yi Du
 Ying Liang and Bing Feng
 David Liu and Hua Yang
 Jia Liu and Ming Han
 Lisa Liu and Ivan Lu
 Owen Liu and Qing Miao
 Kevin Ma and Selina Xu
 Ravindhra Mamilla and Anupama Grandhi
 Barbara and Carlos Monroy
 Steve and Nicole O'Neal
 Oscar Pinon and Tina Wang
 Lisa and Derrick Raptis
 Anitha Reddy and Kulwant Singh
 Viswanatha Reddy and Praveena Jeerreddi
 Abid Rizvi and Shaza Quadri
 Anthony and Irene Salas
 Ian Samuel and Shannon McHugh
 Meihong Sha and Weixiong Wei

Roshni Shah and Suchet Rao
 Cameron Shelton and Tamara Venit-Shelton
 Ray Shi and Ida Wei
 Melissa and Mark Shiu
 Ashley Song and Daniel Koo
 Nan Song and Tzermin Lien
 Xingpeng Song and Suki Peng
 Ao-Jan Su and Minyu Cheng
 Bin Sun and Shuning Zhang
 Ed Vasquez and Eiden Madera-Vasquez
 Harkamal and Sudeep Wahla
 Bin Wang and Subrina Guo
 Rui Wang
 Xingyu Wang and Xi Ding
 Matthew '84 and Darcy Weis
 Maggie Zhang
 Danielle and Jason Witten
 Ken Yan and Mengjiao Yang
 Jon and Serena Young
 Yibin Yuan and Lynn Guo
 Bin Zhang and Dong Ling
 De Zhong and Minna Huang
 Hong Zhou and Minghui Zheng
 Zeyu Zou and Mingyuan Ma

SUPPORTER CIRCLE

The Supporter Circle recognizes donors for their total annual support of Foothill at the \$1 to \$1,953 level.

Naomi and Peter Adam
 Adriana and David Rodriguez
 Stephanie Alari
 Liza Alldredge
 Altria

Candy Alvarado and Carlos Lanuza
 Jordan and Cabrina Alviar
 Markus Ansmann and Ekaterina Chernobai
 James Atkinson
 Cameron Bailey
 Dante Barsotti
 Terrell Bennet and Tiffany Alvarez
 Alan Beyer '58
 Hillary Bleecker
 Bonnie Bone
 Amanda and Brent Bosson
 Box Tops for Education
 Mary Bradley
 Shanika Brown
 Emily and Nicholas R. Buccola
 Casey Anne and Dustin Bullard
 Lei Cai and Peng Wang
 Cambridge Charitable
 Gift Fund
 Sandra Cantu
 Yiwen Cao and Zhaofeng Xue
 Lisa and Alex Castro
 Ower and Jennifer Castro
 Josiah and Sharon Chan
 Patricia Chandaengerwa and Collin Tugman
 Maggie Chen and Harry Li
 Min Chen
 Ting Chen and Zi Ye
 Ognyan Chernokozhev and Ana Tomova
 Craig Chisholm '65
 Rajan and Meha Chopra
 Viveka and Wyatt Christensen

Katherine Church
 Todd Clark '97
 Cody and Jausmin Cloughesy
 Sarah and Michael Coeyman
 Andrea and Tom Cordova-Caddes
 Stacie Crumbaker and Jon Shawver
 DAFgiving360
 Marina de Diego
 Jessica DeCoite and James DeCoite
 Jay and Mary Demircift
 Bishal Dhakal and Shilpa Upadhayay
 Jane and Austin Winant
 Jennifer and Tony Diaz
 Mayra and Jessica Diaz
 Robert and Orsola Diaz
 Tony Dong and Juanwen Liang
 James Dreiling and Alexandria Green
 Herman Dulay and Sarah Davila
 Frances Escaba
 Cory Evans
 Tanya Fernley and Rory Hazen
 Elisa Ferrari and Ian James Dicke
 Lynn Forsell '69
 Madison Fox
 Gary and Sue Friedel
 Jacqueline and Brandon Friedel
 Vanessa and Adam Friedman
 Ann and Henry Gallagher
 Deborah Ge and Eddy Zhao



Lan and Eric Glenn
 Global Charitable Fund
 Tyler and Alex Godoy
 Gregory '68 and
 Nancy Griffin
 Shane and Wendy
 Guilbert-Neal
 Wei Guo and Thomas Liu
 Elizabeth and Chad Haines
 Pamela Haines
 Stan and Diane Hales
 Geoff Hamill
 Jeff and Sharon Hammill
 Peter and Shanna Hansen
 Harold Harrigan
 Lawrence and
 Sunny Harrison
 Tracy and Hunter Hay
 Anne and Mark Henry
 Elizabeth Hernandez
 Laura Hernandez-Flores
 and Gustavo Flores
 Diamond Hicks
 and Akhenaton Pappoe
 John Hostetler
 Ricky Hsin and
 Melissa Rudolph
 Yvette Huerta and
 Amro Nabil Ashour
 Nixon James and
 Irene Nixon
 Jackie and
 Bartlomiej Jamroz
 Jason and Lorraine Jeffrey
 Jorge Jeffrey
 Hanne Jeppsson and
 Pablo Hinojos
 Tao Jiang and
 Pingping Wang
 Chris Jin and Bin Hu
 Marissa Jolley
 Judith Kang
 Carly Jean and Kevin
 William Knowles
 Mallory and Andrew Koebel
 Connor '93 and
 Melissa LaRose
 Chris and Mark Lauria
 Sungmin Lee and Jae Hur
 Norman and Mimi Leraas '57
 Millie Lopez-Snyder
 and Keith Snyder
 Kevin '96 and
 Vicenta Maffris
 Marylynn and
 William Maldonado
 Lisette Mancilla
 Ann and Richard Marker
 Hector and Coleen Martinez

Michelle and
 Rodolfo Martinez
 Laura Martino
 Steve Mather and
 Carol Mason '71
 Hytoshia McDaniels
 Maria and Daniel Messner
 Amanda Minano
 Donna Minano
 Ryan and Tracy Mokricky
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Honorary and Memorial Gifts

Each year Foothill Country Day School is pleased to receive gifts from individuals and organizations in honor or in memory of a faculty or staff member, family member, friend, loved one, or to recognize a special occasion.

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In celebration of Foothill Country Day School's rich history and continued excellence in education, our esteemed giving society is known as **The 1954 Society**. This exclusive donor group is named in honor of the school's founding year, 1954, and is designed to recognize and celebrate those who demonstrate exceptional support for our mission.

Membership in The 1954 Society is extended to individuals, families, or organizations that contribute a minimum of \$1,954 in a single academic year. This level of giving directly impacts the school's ability to provide outstanding educational experiences, innovative programs, and scholarships that benefit our students.

To join The 1954 Society, please visit www.FoothillCds.org/ give or contact Director of Advancement, Gabrielle Singh, at gsingh@foothillCds.org.

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VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY

At Foothill Country Day School, everything we do starts with our core values: a safe, nurturing, and inclusive community. Today, we want to shine a spotlight on the incredible volunteers who make it all possible!

From sharing their time, offering their expertise, to bringing their creativity, our volunteers help Foothill thrive, grow, and shine every day. Your dedication allows us to live our mission and uphold the values that make our school so special.

Thank you for being the heart of Foothill!

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Alumni NEWS

CLASS NOTES

'64

Jeffrey Appleby '64 has retired and is enjoying life in San Diego.

'65

William Harrison Bell '65 shared that he is "knocking on retirement after 45 years at End of the Road."

'68

Gregory Griffin '68 and his wife Nancy visited campus to reminisce about his experiences during the early years of Foothill, the teachers that made an impact on his learning and life, and the classmates who stir fond memories.



'71

James G. Wetrich '71 published "STIFLED: Where Good Leaders Go Wrong". He has been executive coaching and mentoring for the last five years. He is married to his wife Nancy, and they live in the Dallas Fort Worth Area near their two married sons. He also has two grandchildren and are most fortunate in many ways.

'82

Steve McAlister '82 shared an album recorded by Foothill students. He was kind enough to preserve the recording for the School's archives.

It's a Musical World



'85

On February 21, 2025 **Dr. Danielle Allen '85** spoke with students in grades 6-8 about how her Foothill education helped shape her life. Dr. Allen is now a professor at Harvard University, a published author, and a leader in democracy work. She continues to make a difference through her teaching, writing and public service.



'86

The Betty Webb Organization hosted Claremont City Councilmember **Corey Calaycay '86** as a guest speaker for a BWO general meeting. Calaycay remembered his experiences at Foothill and shared his special connection with former Head of School Howell Webb, bringing memory albums that included a heartfelt letter of encouragement Howell had written to him after his first run for local office as a college student.



'92

Quincy Sims '92 has been teaching at Damien High School for 24 years and is currently the English Department head.



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021 VISITED CAMPUS UNDER A SHOWER OF CONFETTI AND CHEERING

Claremont Unified School District has a tradition of welcoming their seniors back to their local elementary schools as they approach graduation. For the first time, Foothill Country Day School kids joined the fun as Claremont High School's Class of 2025 visited campus with a few of their FCDS alumni friends. It was a joy to see Dorothy Ma '21, Mollie Chou '21, Milania Kasbar '21, Dunia Al-Khatib x'21, Alexan Madikians '21, and Omar Al-Khatib x'21.

The entire school gathered at the circle where they once entered kindergarten and congratulated the grads with cheers and confetti. Lots of hugs, selfies with teachers, and classroom visits!



We love it when alumni visit us at Field Day! Plan to see friends, and stop by our alumni booth on campus on May 2, 2026.



'06

Julia Brown '06 recently visited campus! She has worked with the Marketing and Communications staff at Chadwick School and received her MBA in Marketing from UCLA Anderson. She now helps K-12 independent schools in the Los Angeles area by providing them with reliable, high-quality marketing and communications project support.

Abbie has already made her mark with her senior thesis film *Be the Cowboy*, which she wrote, directed, and produced. The film was recently selected as a Handpicked Feature on Short Films Matter—a major accomplishment! Earlier in college, she also worked as a sound recordist on *Waves Won't Remember Us*, a collaborative project with an all-Asian cast and crew from the Claremont Colleges.

Taara Reddy '22 is varsity golf captain at Claremont High School and started the Play It Forward club (IG: @playitforward.cmont). In addition, she was recently awarded The Congressional Award Gold Medal - the highest honor Congress bestows upon youth, acknowledging their initiative, service, and personal growth in public service, personal development, physical fitness

'17

Abbie Oh Arroyo '17, a proud Foothill grad from the Class of 2017, recently graduated from Scripps College, where she studied politics and film—and she's not slowing down. She's now headed to UCLA's prestigious MFA Producers Program to continue building her career in film.

Abbie credits her time at Foothill and the guidance of her teachers for helping to spark her passion for storytelling and commitment to amplifying diverse voices in film.

'22

Arian Tolia-Shah '22 is the captain of varsity tennis and loves the beach.



and expedition or exploration. The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a youth civilian through the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 13 ½ – 23.

Kate Song '22 won Rotary District 5300's Four-Way Test Speech Contest on February 28, earning a spot in the regional contest, and is also a social media intern at the Claremont Courier.

'23

Angadbir Singh '23 is playing varsity soccer, taking AP Calculus and is a fashion model.

Gavin Hamilton '23 is currently working toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in Boy Scouts of America—an honor attained by only about 5% of Scouts.

Lilah Delaney Coeyman '23 has a part time teaching job.

'24

Stella Felice Diaz '24 is 1 point away from becoming a Thespian!

Lane Bronk '24 is playing soccer, cross country and track.

Selina Luo '24 is doing tech theatre, orchestra, dance and swim.

Harry Chi Ham Chen '24 is on the tennis team.

Isis Lanuza '24 is participating in three different sports and is part of the school newspaper, The Spyglass, at Westridge School.

Clive Chao '24 made the varsity football team.

Fahreda Nareekarn Varanont '24 is part of the International Thespian Society Troupe #2129.

Brandon Anthony Salas '24 made the JV for baseball this year and has a 4.0 GPA.

Cayden J. Wu '24 is in the top ten in the state for music composition.

Kaia Yee '24 is on the varsity track and volleyball teams and recently traveled to Japan.

Michael Yangchana Morell '24 worked at Foothill this summer.

Matteo Yangchana Morell '24 is on the basketball team.

Gael Julian Gurrola '24 opened a restaurant and enjoys playing basketball.

Milana Demircift '24 is a freshman at Mayfield Senior School and already exploring a future in medicine by taking pre-med courses through Georgetown University's Pre-College Program.

Jamie Jiaen Zhong '24 is in the varsity tennis team, orchestra and art club.

Other Alumni & Friends

Though her time at Foothill was short, **Ella Buckner x'21** carried its lasting lessons in character, curiosity, and a love for learning throughout her academic journey. This spring, she graduated summa cum laude from Sunnyside High School in Tucson, AZ—ranked 4th in her class of 481—and

will attend UC Berkeley this fall to study Molecular and Cellular Biology on a full academic scholarship.

Her family shared their deep appreciation for Foothill's early influence on her love for learning and science, crediting the school's faculty and community for helping spark the drive that continues to propel her forward.

Evangeline "Evie" Lien's x'24 love for music was first sparked at Foothill—and it's only grown stronger.

Now a freshman at Claremont High School, Evie recently made history as the first violinist to win the Grand Prize in the prestigious Spotlight Competition. Earlier this year, she was a Grand Prize Finalist in the Camerata Artists International Competition, performing in New York to great acclaim. Inspired to give back, Evie founded the Inland Empire chapter of the nonprofit Back to Bach, bringing live music and arts education to young students. She credits her early Foothill experience for igniting her passion for the arts and hopes to pass that spark on to others.

Anne "Laurie" Riggio, former Foothill teacher who taught on campus from 1982-1999 recently stopped by campus for a visit. She shared fond memories of Foothill and still lives right here in the area!



FALCONS IN FLIGHT

Past & Present: Teachers Meet in Flight

It was a small world moment when current science teacher Jessica DeCoite met former teacher Jeanene Bean at the airport. They had never met but discovered that they had Foothill in common! Mrs. Bean taught 1st grade at FCDS in the 1990s.



Visiting Alumni at their Boarding Schools

Alumni are never far from our hearts, even if they are far away at high school. Director of Upper School, Shane Guilbert-Neal, went on the road this spring as part of the California Boarding School Tour. He found some of our falcons along the way!



IN MEMORIAM

Julia Alexander '81, a distinguished curator and art historian who shaped many institutions including Yale, the San Diego Museum of Art, the Walters Art Museum, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, died on May 4. Born in Memphis, Tennessee and raised in Claremont, California, she earned a B.A. in art history and

French from Wellesley College and an M.A. in French literature from NYU before joining the Yale Center for British Art in 1997, where she helped curate celebrated exhibitions, mentored generations of students, and shaped the museum's intellectual life. Alexander is survived by her two children, her mother and sister. Her brilliance, warmth, and dedication left a lasting legacy across the museum world and in the many lives she touched.

David W. Armstrong, founder of the American Museum of Ceramic Arts (AMOCA) and a U.S. Army veteran, passed away on



January 7. Born in McPherson, Kansas, and raised in the Pomona Valley, he attended Pomona College, where he discovered his passion for ceramics and met his wife, Julianne.

After serving with the Army's military police, he returned home to run his family's furniture business, later converting it into a gallery and collector-plate enterprise. A visionary leader in downtown Pomona, he founded AMOCA in 2004, creating a lasting cultural legacy. Armstrong's wife, Julianne "Julie," was a longtime Foothill faculty member. Their children, Elizabeth '77 and Christy '81, also attended Foothill. The couple generously



donated art to the school, including the colorful bird on Harrison Circle designed by David, and the school's art room is named in his wife Julie's honor.

Tony Sheets, son of artist Millard Sheets, passed away in Oregon on December 10. Tony was a beloved friend, artist, exhibition director, and a champion of his father's legacy. Tony was exposed to art early, at Foothill Country Day School. He was



the original artist of the colorful "bird in the mustard tree" image when he was in 7th grade at FCDS. The bird image was originally created as a ceramic tile (currently displayed in the Main Office) and it later came to be used

as the school's heritage logo, is still emblazoned on student uniforms, and was recreated stylistically by artist David Armstrong (above) as a sculpture at the Harrison Circle entrance.

After FCDS, Tony went to Claremont High School, then he became a celebrated artist and teacher in his own right, as he worked for Walt Disney, then apprenticed for Tom Van Sant and created artworks in California, Hawaii and Taiwan. He became a committed to preserving and sharing his father's work and was the Exhibit Director of Art at the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts Pomona Fairplex for 25 years.

FOOTHILL QUIZ TIME!

Think you know Foothill? Test your knowledge and see if you can ace the quiz!

Can you answer them all correctly?

The first five persons to get every question right will snag a cute plush Falcon, a pair of cozy Foothill socks, or other Foothill swag! Email us your answers at alumni@foothillcnds.org

Quiz Questions:

1. What year was Foothill founded?
2. What's the school mascot?
3. Name one of the school colors.
4. Which Foothill event is everyone excited about every spring?
5. Who is the current Head of School at Foothill?
6. True or False: Foothill has an award-winning debate team.
7. What's one fun fact about Foothill that most people don't know?

Hint: Some answers might be easier than you think!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

Can anyone give us the names of these students in the photo? Send information to alumni@foothillcnds.org.



We would love to hear from you!

CONNECTED

Staying

STAY CONNECTED – IT’S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

We know you’ve left the nest and are off to high school, college, and beyond. We’d love to see you—whether on campus or wherever life has taken you!

Falcons in Flight – If you’re gathering with former Falcons in your area, let us know! Send us a group photo to share in this annual report, on social media, or in our alumni e-newsletter. These are casual meetups happening where you are!

Breakfast at the Nest – All alumni are welcome to join us for breakfast on the morning of Field Day, held annually on the first Saturday of May. Be sure to let us know if you plan to come!

Field Day – A Foothill Tradition – Always on the first Saturday of May. Stop by our Alumni Booth after Breakfast at the Nest to reconnect and celebrate!

Home at the Nest (Reunions) – We’d love to help you plan your milestone reunion! Reach out, and we’ll work with you to make it special.

Alumni Class Reps – Were you selected as your 8th grade class rep while a student? We

want to hear from you! We’re also looking for alumni who want to get involved and help keep classmates connected.

Falcons Nest E-Newsletter – Sign up to receive our newsletter at least twice a year! Email us at alumni@foothillcds.org to join.

Social Media – Follow us online to stay connected:

 Instagram
[@foothillcds](#)
[@finleefalcon](#) (our mascot)
[@theseedlingschool](#)

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[fb.com/TheSeedlingSchool](#)
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SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
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To make sure you receive a copy of our News & Annual Report, please send your updated contact information to alumni@foothillcds.org.



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SHOW YOUR FALCON PRIDE!

Want to show your school pride? Visit The Nest Store – Foothill's online store that offers an ever-changing selection of merchandise. Stop by for a hat, a sweatshirt, stickers, jerseys and much more!

To place an order please visit <https://foothillcds.square.site/>