

MICH *Excellence in Education Annual Fund* **Frequently Asked Questions**

As an independent school, MICH does not receive any financial support from the local, state, or federal government. Independent schools, MICH included, depend upon tuition, donations, and investment income to fund the operation of the school.

What is the MICH *Excellence in Education Annual Fund*?

We ask our parents, alumni, faculty, grandparents and friends to make voluntary donations to MICH so that we can fully fund the excellence in education for which we are known.

In addition to maintaining a lower tuition than would be otherwise possible, your donations will contribute to enhanced programming, continued improvement of our physical facility including security, and most importantly allows MICH to continue to provide its excellence in education for every student.

Why should donating to the *Excellence in Education Annual Fund* be a priority?

The most important resource we have is our children. Your donation ensures that they receive the best education possible. An education that is as concerned with facts, figures, and helping students learn to question, explore, analyze as it is with teaching them respect for themselves and others, and their unique place in the greater world.

Your donation, at any level, is an indication of your belief in and support of our school and how successfully we are educating your child. Percentage of parent participation is one of the factors that outside funding sources, such as foundations, look at when evaluating a proposal.

Why is participation important?

Your contribution demonstrates your commitment to MICH and ensures that current MICH students receive an exceptional education. Your gift, at any level, supports a unique education setting that prepares students to be successful today and in the future.

What does the Annual Fund support?

The Excellence in Education Annual Fund directly benefits each student at MICH. Unlike most private schools, MICH does not need its Annual Fund to meet a budget deficit. We are fortunate to utilize these funds to enhance the educational experience for your student. The first year of our Annual Fund gave us the funds to refurbish all our classrooms, including painting and new furniture where needed. Last year's Annual Fund will be used to enhance our outdoor environment and upgrade the Media Center technology.

Can I direct where my Annual Fund donation goes?

Yes! The **Tuition Assistance Fund** provides assistance to current families who otherwise would not be able to continue at MICH. Now in its third year, this fund has helped 19 students benefit from a wonderful MICH education. You may direct your annual fund donation to this fund.

When should I make a donation to the Annual Fund? Do I have to pay my pledge all at once?

The *Excellence in Education Annual Fund* is conducted annually during MICH's fiscal year. Donations can be made from July 1 through June 30th of the following year. We ask that you make your pledge as early in the year as possible. Payments may be made throughout the year but no later than June 30th. Pledges may be paid by cash, check, credit card, or through gifts of stock.

How do I make my donation?

Check - Mail and make payable to Montessori International Children's House (MICH), 1641 Winchester Road, Annapolis MD 21409 or hand-deliver it to the office, or use the return envelope included in your annual fund mailing.

Credit Card - We can accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, and American Express. Please call the office with your credit card information or use the return envelope included in your annual fund mailing.

Stock Transfer - Contact the office for this useful information. To ensure proper credit, please let the office know before you make your transaction.

Payroll Deductions if you are a Federal Employee - We are part of the National Capital Area and the Central Maryland Combined Federal Campaigns. Our number is 72698.

Matching Gifts – Many companies will match the amount that you donate. Contact your Human Resources Office to determine if your company participates. If they do, send in their matching gift form along with your donation. This is a wonderful way to maximize your gift.

What are the Gift Circles?

In honor of the year of our founding, gifts of \$1000 and above are considered Leadership Gifts. Such outstanding support of MICH will be honored and specially recognized as well as acknowledged on our leadership board located in our front entrance.

We understand that not everyone will wish to participate at a Leadership Level. Please be assured that every gift is important to us and greatly appreciated. It takes all of us working together to achieve our goals of providing the best education possible for our children. Please join us, at your level of choice, as we all invest our time, energies, and resources to benefit our most precious commodity – our children.

Friend	\$100	Sustaining Circle	\$1,000
Colleague	\$250	Creating Circle	\$2,500
Supporter	\$500	Sharing Circle	\$5,000
Benefactor	\$750	Learning Circle	\$10,000

Is my donation to the Annual Fund tax deductible?

Yes! All donations are deductible as allowed by law. Parents for Montessori Education Inc, T/A Montessori International Children's House is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, Federal Tax # 52-1436080. All donations to the annual fund are acknowledged in writing. This acknowledgment should be retained for your tax records.