

# Giving and Getting Involved



Welcome to the new school year at Parkside. Here your child's learning style and passions will be nurtured through our program of interdisciplinary teaching, individualized attention and collaborative problem solving. We strive to establish strong partnerships with parents in order to strengthen our connection to your child and family.

These partnerships take many forms, and we are indebted to the many donors and volunteers who support the school with their time and resources year after year. This pamphlet provides information about all of the ways you may be asked to support the school and get involved during your family's time at Parkside.



## **THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

The Parents Association (PA) is led by a committee of dedicated parent volunteers with the goals of building an engaged, active and social parent community; supporting school fundraising efforts; and showing appreciation for the school's teachers and other key stakeholders. Whether you can commit a few hours a year or a few hours a week, the PA can find the right volunteer opportunity for you.

The PA organizes the school's New Family Cocktail Party, Holiday Party, Staff Appreciation Party, and other community building events. In addition, the PA leads the planning of several fundraising events throughout the year, including the Book Fair, Valentine's Bake Sale and the Spring Benefit. Each of these events supports Parkside's overall fundraising efforts, and families are asked to support each event at a level that is comfortable for them.

Each family is asked to pay dues to the Parent Association to cover costs for events, staff appreciation efforts, graduation gifts, the yearbook and other expenses throughout the year.

## THE ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund is the foundation of Parkside's fundraising initiatives, and kicks off in the Fall. It supports Parkside's operating budget and helps bridge the gap between funding received from the State of New York and the actual cost of educating each child. Parkside parents, grandparents, alumni families, staff, and friends give to support the Annual Fund each year. We are very proud to have had 100% of our current families support the Annual Fund in recent years; a statistic that strengthens Parkside's case when applying for grant funding and accreditation.

The Annual Fund is Parkside's fundraising priority, with gifts ranging from \$50 to \$50,000. Many companies offer matching programs that allow donors to double the size of their contribution, and credit card gifts may be paid in installments over time. A small team of parent volunteers serve on an Annual Fund Committee. These crucial volunteers help educate fellow parents about the Annual Fund and encourage participation from every family.

## THE SPRING BENEFIT

Independent of the Annual Fund, the Spring Benefit raises money in support of Parkside's Art and Movement programs, which include studio art, music, drama, yoga, and gym. Working in tandem with the school's Director of Development, the PA organizes an event for parents, alumni parents and friends of the school to come together in support of these essential programs.

The PA will seek volunteers to help with event planning, solicitation of auction items, décor, publicity, ticket sales, and a host of other event elements. This event is a great opportunity for Parkside to come together as a community while raising important funds for school programs that have historically been underfunded.

## GALA, OTHER FUNDRAISERS & MAJOR GIFTS

In some years, Parkside hosts a Gala to raise funds in support of a specific effort at the school. Our 30th Anniversary Gala raised funds in support of the first phase of our Rooftop Playground project. Past benefits have supported the endowment, the Fund for Teacher Excellence, or the Renovation and Restoration Campaign, and have featured entertainers like Bette Midler, Robin Williams, Donna Summer, Billy Crystal, Paul Simon, John Legend, Joy Behar and Tracy Morgan.

During your time at Parkside, there may be other ways you will be asked to support the school. Such efforts often represent a transformative moment for Parkside and are opportunities for us to come together to reaffirm our mission and long-term goals for the school.



To learn more about giving and getting involved at Parkside, visit [www.parksideschool.org/giving](http://www.parksideschool.org/giving).

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