



Dear Good Shepherd Family,

As Good Shepherd Montessori (GSM) enters its eleventh year in operation, it is important to reflect on the tremendous ministry that is taking place before us. I had the opportunity recently to walk through the facilities with Marcella Rush, the GSM Director and was struck by the loving care and nurturing the children in the program are receiving. This *is* our vision in action...transforming the world through the love of Jesus Christ!

The efforts of the GSM are legacy building in the little hearts that are transformed by such wonderful love and care. Now, more than any time since its inception, this ministry is needed in this community. I was reminded of this while volunteering recently at the Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) program at St. Andrew's in Vancouver. The increased number of younger families with small children in residence was immediately apparent to me. I kept thinking to myself, "Where do these kids go during the day? Who cares for them? Do they have anyone that reads to them and tells them that they are loved abundantly by God?"

While I cannot answer these questions for the children I met that night, I can answer it for the children at GSM with a resounding, "Yes, with God's help!" And it underscores how important it is for the community of Good Shepherd to continue to give its abundant support to this vital program. At this time, the GSM Scholarship Fund is in need of additional offerings totaling \$3,400 to pay for the 9 scholarships awarded this year that total \$36,500. As we are within 10% of achieving that goal, I would also offer that simply achieving it is not enough. While the target of GSM has been to fund 25% of the enrollment with scholarships, the need is so much greater than that. The disadvantaged children in Clark County need our increased support, now more than ever. I ask that you pray for God's guidance in how you may contribute and support the mission in a greater way that allows GSM to far exceed the current goal.

Mother's Day is that special time when many of us reflect on the blessings of motherhood, children, and families. We will hold a special offering for the Good Shepherd Montessori Scholarship fund. Please pray about making a special offering in the name of a loved one this Mother's Day. It will be a wonderful way to honor them and the abundance of God's love for each of us!

Lastly, above all that you may consider to give, on behalf of the GSM board and staff I ask for your gift of prayer; for the continued excellence in ministry at GSM and for the needs of the children in our community to be met with nurturing and loving hearts such as those at Good Shepherd Montessori.

All good things!

Rick Thomas

Senior Warden

Yes, I'd like to support a Good Shepherd Montessori Scholarship Student.!



Enclosed, please find my offering of:

- \$6,200 to support 1 child on full scholarship
- \$620 to support 1 child for 1 month
- \$35 to support 1 child for 1 day
- \$ _____ to support the scholarship fund

Name

Date

This offering is in honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to the Church of the Good Shepherd and note as "GSM Scholarship."

805 SE Ellsworth Rd., Vancouver, WA 98664