



## AFFORDING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

An independent school education is an important investment in your child's future. Because we know that financing tuition can be challenging, The Children's School is committed to making education as financially accessible as possible through the following:

### **TCS Early Payment Tuition Discount:**

- A 2.5% tuition reduction will be awarded to families who complete the following:
  - Submit signed 2010-11 enrollment contracts along with the required deposit of \$1750 by February 12, 2010 (returning TCS families) or March 26 (new TCS families).

AND

- Pay the school year tuition in full using cash or check by May 1, 2010 OR register for the 12 Month FACTS tuition payment plan by May 1, 2010. \*There is an administration fee of \$100 per child for the FACTS tuition payment plan.

### **Sibling Discount:**

- The Children's School offers a 5% sibling discount to families with two or more children attending TCS. The 5% is awarded to the child with the lower tuition rate, less Early Payment Tuition Discount. Families who receive financial aid are eligible for the sibling discount, less the Early Payment Tuition Discount and Financial Aid Award.

### **Monthly Payment Plan:**

- Families may spread tuition payments over a 12-month period by enrolling in the school's monthly payment plan, which begins on May 1, 2010. To enroll, families must pay a one-time administrative fee of \$100 per child and purchase tuition insurance, described in the enrollment contract. For more information, please contact Business Manager Janice Benesch.

### **Financial Aid:**

- More than \$225,000 was disbursed during the 2009-2010 school year to approximately 19% of our families. Awards ranged from 4% of tuition to a maximum of 50%. For more information, please see "Applying for Financial Aid."

In addition...

### **Education Loans:**

- Numerous financial institutions offer loans to finance elementary school education; repayment typically takes place over 10-15 years. The Children's School does not endorse any particular lenders; a list of potential lenders is available from the business office.

For further information or questions about affording The Children's School, please contact Head of School Molly Huffman, at 858-454-0184, ext. 105; Assistant Head of School Julie Lee, at ext 101; or Business Manager Janice Benesch at ext. 104.

*The Children's School does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid or other school-administered programs and activities.*



## **APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID**

The Children's School believes that a school is much stronger when its student body reflects the cultural and socio-economic diversity of its community. For the 2009-2010 school year, more than \$225,000 in financial aid was awarded to students, providing support for approximately 19% of our students. The Children's School does not accept money from the government; this aid is possible through the generosity of families and donors who believe in the value of a Children's School education.

Financial aid is need-based. Applications for financial aid and their contents are strictly confidential. Financial aid is offered without regard to race, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation.

### **Financial Aid Process:**

Families that believe they may qualify for financial aid are encouraged to apply. Applicants must complete the steps below:

**1. Submit the Financial Aid Request for Additional Information and the Financial Aid Program 2010-11 Application Form to The Children's School Business Office by January 15, 2010.**

**2. Submit the Parents Financial Statement application by February 12, 2010.** Complete the Parents Financial Statement provided by The School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS), either online at <http://sss.nais.org/parents> or by mail. SSS is a service of the National Association of Independent Schools that objectively assesses a family's ability to pay tuition and fees. Complete all forms. Forms are available in Spanish.

**3. Submit the following to The Children's School Business Office by February 12, 2010:**

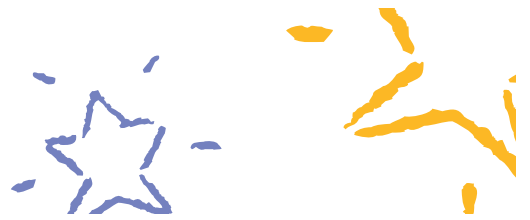
- A copy of the Parents Financial Statement submitted to the SSS.
- A copy of your 2008 Federal Income Tax Return, including all supporting schedules, K-1s, W2s and 1099s.
- If applicable, a signed copy of IRS Form 4506, a request for a copy of tax returns.

**4. Submit a copy of your 2009 Federal Income Tax Return, including all supporting schedules, K-1s, W2s and 1099s by April 30, 2010.**

### **Award Decisions:**

Eligibility and award decisions are made by the school's Financial Aid Committee, comprised of administrators and trustees. Awards are based on numerous factors including the SSS recommendation, financial data submitted by the family, and any extenuating circumstances detailed on the school's Request for Additional Information form. While the school strives to support all families that apply for assistance, priority is given to returning students in the elementary and middle years program and to children of employees.

- Award decisions to returning TCS families will be mailed by March 1, 2010. Acceptance of these awards must be made by March 12, 2010.
- Award decisions to new TCS families will be mailed by March 5, 2010. Acceptance of these awards must be made by March 12, 2010.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who qualifies for assistance?**

There is no typical aid applicant, nor are there pre-determined levels of income or assets that would disqualify a family from receiving aid. Applications are considered on an individual basis and are based on the information provided. If The Children's School determines that any information was withheld or falsified during the application process, it reserves the right to withdraw any offer or award of financial assistance.

### **Does applying for financial aid affect my child's chances for admission?**

No. Admissions decisions are independent of financial aid decisions. Students qualify for admission to The Children's School based solely on their aptitude, achievements, motivation to succeed and their potential to contribute to the school community. The Children's School does not offer any academic, arts or athletic scholarships.

### **My child is a current student. Our family has not previously applied for aid but our circumstances have changed. Can we apply?**

Yes, returning families whose financial circumstances have changed are encouraged to apply. All families who are receiving financial assistance are required to reapply each year.

### **What if I don't qualify for financial aid at The Children's School or I need more aid than is awarded to me?**

The Children's School's monthly payment plan may be of assistance. In addition, many financial institutions offer loans to finance elementary education. Please inquire with the business office for more information about lenders.

### **I am divorced/separated. Do you need information from my former spouse?**

All living parents who maintain a relationship with their child are expected to contribute to their child's education. Divorced, separated or never-married parents must both submit a complete financial aid application. The Children's School may also consider the resources of stepparents when making an award determination.

### **How much money will I be expected to spend on a TCS education?**

Every family is expected to contribute to the cost of tuition to the maximum extent possible; financial aid is intended to close the gap between what a family can afford and the cost of a Children's School education.