

Annual Report 2015

Margaret Smith Scholarship Established in Co-Founder's Name

Margaret Smith co-founded Amherst Montessori School in 1970, after "48 years of intensive research" raising her own eight children. Her vision was to create an enjoyable and exciting learning environment that encouraged independence and self-confidence in children. Margaret passed away in March 2015 and her family worked with the school to establish the Margaret Smith Scholarship Fund in her memory. ([read more](#))

Edwin S. Webster Grant Awarded to AMS

We are delighted to announce the school applied for and received a generous \$5,000 grant for general operations from the Edwin S. Webster Foundation. Alex Hiam, a former AMS parent, graciously invited the school to apply for the grant with the Foundation in the spring of 2015.



Overflowing Gratitude Jar! A message from Shelley Poreda, Director of School

A Montessori Gratitude Jar is a vessel for the collection of notes and pictures shared by members of the classroom, family or community to express what we are thankful for in life, or any particular day. The jar teaches children, and reminds adults, how to express our feelings of thankfulness. It is known that in order for a Montessori Gratitude Jar to be effective, adults need to model the behavior so children will learn how to express their own gratitude. (cont.)





Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign, which was launched in fiscal year 2013, unofficially came to a close on June 30, 2015. A total of \$465,000 was donated and pledged by individuals, foundations, and corporations in support of the construction of our new building. Our beautiful, state-of-the-art building would not have been possible without our generous donors, the tireless work of the Campaign Committee and fundraising volunteers, and the countless volunteers on site during the construction process. For all of you, we have eternal gratitude.

Annual Fund Surpasses Goal

The Annual Fund goal of \$15,600 was met and exceeded! Thank you to all of our donors for your generous support and for understanding the importance of philanthropy for a small nonprofit like Amherst Montessori School. Your generous contributions help support our staff with professional development opportunities, provide resources for the classrooms, and help with financial aid.

With this in mind, I am hopeful that through this Annual Report we can adequately express the gratitude each and every member of our community feels for your generous support through donations, gifts in kind, volunteerism, constructive and caring feedback, and rich dialogue you have contributed during the 2014-2015 school year.



Shelley Poreda
Director of School

As a small educational non-profit, we start each year with clearly defined fundraising and educational goals and objectives – all of which require monetary support, parent volunteerism and a commitment by staff to pursue excellence.

Even though we are in a new school year, we will pause and reflect on last year and express our gratitude for the many gifts we received and celebrate the contributions of our community. Our volunteers graciously accomplished remarkable feats of generosity. Whether you baked goods for staff on Fridays, helped develop the Yearbook, piloted the annual Auction, spearheaded the playground committee, chipped in on Grounds Day, joined the Parent Association or served as a Trustee, your contribution to our community is of great value.

Without your donations to the School and your investment of time and talent as volunteers, our school could not be what it is today: a state-of-the-art facility that embodies a community of children and adults devoted to the growth and development of our children. We exceeded our Annual Fund goal, which will enable us to enhance classroom resources and learning materials, provide professional development for our staff, and maintain our beautiful facility. For all of that, I say “THANK YOU, THANK YOU!”

With deep gratitude,

Shelley



Thank You for Supporting our Annual Fund

The 2014-2015 year saw yet another year of generous giving to Amherst Montessori School. A total of \$48,414 was contributed by individuals, foundations, and corporations in support of the school's fundraising efforts, which includes \$20,643 given in unrestricted funds to the Annual Fund. Thank you!

Anya Akaogi and Mick Loughran
Robert and Sally Alcusky
Lucy Alman
Anonymous (2)
Sanjay Arwade and Meri Clark
Shalini Bahl Milne
Christos and Tamara Balis
Nathan and Michele Bergeron
Peter and Patricia Blier
Eve Bogdanove
Simon Bousel and Yanina Rivas
Dennis Bowen and Elizabeth Pyle
Chelsea Brown
Nate and Beth Brown
James and Lea Bullock
Perry and Joan Burns
Michael and Celina Callahan-Kapoor
Kevin and Lauren Campbell
Johnny Chalapatas
Daniel Chard and Julie Johnson
Jim and Marcia Childress
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
Bryan Coughlin and Sandra Burkett
Bill and Karen Czerwonka
Lenny and Sarah Czerwonka
Zachary Danziger
Orlando David and Aimee Racicott
Monique Desir

Lois Dickson
Felice DiMartino
Charles and Marilyn Dorato
Victoria Dowling
Russell and Hilary Ducharme
Kirsten Dudkiewicz
Christophe Ehnstrom and Gaby Costa
May Emery
Christine Eustis
Peter and Linda Eustis
Karin and Andy Fafard
Liz Feeley
Jacob and Julie Fine
Jim and Pat Fish
Dennis and Heidi Foley
Leah Frenkel Hassan
Michael and Nicole Fuller
Deepak Ganesan and Kalyani Subramanyam
Lisa Giddens
Phil Grauer and Sarah Braman
Louis and Hilda Greenbaum
Amber Halkiotis
Julian Halpern and Nicole Falcone
Gretchen Duhaime and Paul Healey
Jason Hoynash and Stephanie Fish
Christopher and Saxony Huenneke
Surya Isaza-Figueroa
Peter and Jennifer Jacoby
Heather Edwards and Todd Jansen

Lian Duan and Lu Jiang
Paul Jodka and Carol Richardson
Suzy Johnson
Bill and Kylie Johnson
Molly Kienzler
Daeyoung Kim and Shu-Min Liao
Ho-Sung Kim and Yoon Ju Kang
Mike Kolendo and Cindy Stein
Melanie Kourbage and Emily Bowden
Kristie Laflamme and Peter Gelinias
Jocelyn Langer
Shawn and Carol LeBlanc
Laura LeClair
Norma Jean LeClair
Andrew Logan and Rohini Harvey
Katie Maloney and Sawyer Pouliot
John and Catherine Manly
Rico and Christine Mariani
Marilyn Martinez
David Mednicoff and Joya Misra
Laura Melbin
Sean Meyer and Kate Cell
Cody Miller and Tessa Holmes
Corky and Carolyn Miller
Lawrence and Dolores Miller
Martin and Brenda Miller
Rick and Laura Miller

Khalif Mohamed and
Shakayla Lawrence
Elizabeth Montgomery
Roland and Virgie Moser
John and Margaret
Nunnelly
Ruth Oland
Aaron Piziali and Kathryn
Swaim
Paul and Shelley Poreda
Robert Racicot
Bart and Sarah Rankin
Nick and Rebecca Renzette
Matt and Beata Riel
Michelle Risch and Amy
Beth
Louis and Susan Roberts
David and Amanda
Robertson
Gareth and Sara Ross
Paul and Christina Sahd
Elena Schwartz

Tristram Seidler and Kristina
Stinson
Judy Sentman
Justin and Angela Serpone
Amit and Kasey Sharma
Woody and Mila Sherman
Mark Sims and Mary
Henderson
Adam and Allison Small
John and Kimberly Snyder
Nicholas and Carly Speyer
Adam and Julie Tanguay
Morgan Terres and Lauren
Harvey
Nathan and Kathryn Totz
Peter Vamosy and Maxine
Oland
Dan and Elaine Wang
Dong and Ludmila Wang
John Wells and Traci Hess
Michele and Vlad
Zakashansky

Gifts in Honor of:

Martin and Brenda Miller
*Goldie and Stanley Miller's
60th Anniversary*

Susan Johnson
Louisa and Ayla Chard

Louis and Hilda Greenbaum
Adam Vigderman

Gifts to the Margaret Smith Scholarship Fund

Eric and Sarah Aasheim
Lynn Boodhoo and Robert
Bartram Robert Brooks
Eileen and Patricia
Cheever Joanne Cheever
Mario DePillis and Anne
Walton
Liz Feeley
M. Catherine Harraghy
Penelope and Kevin Holland
Joan Hornaday
Norton and Jeanne Juster
Elizabeth Lacey
Lisa and Tilman Lukas
Patrice Mackey
Sean Meyer and Kate Cell
John and Karen Muse
Maryann Orcutt

Lauren and Jameson Pawlik
Mary Phinney
Mr. Frank Smith
Sean and Marilyn Smith
Marianne Snow
Elizabeth Van Dyke



The school is working closely with the Smith family in setting up a scholarship fund that has been created in memory of our co-founder Margaret Smith. Over \$6,980 was gifted to Amherst Montessori School to create the scholarship fund. Margaret's legacy will help create an opportunity for a Montessori education for children. ([read more](#))

2015 Auction a Great Success

Thank you to Auction Committee Chair Amanda Robertson, her fellow organizers, our numerous volunteers, and our generous item donors and bidders for making the 2015 Auction a great success. The Auction is our major fundraising event and earned the school \$20,791, which helps with the general operating costs.

Save the date for Auction 2016: April 2, 2016 at the Hadley Farms Meeting House. More details will be provided throughout the school year.

Our Volunteers

The School greatly appreciates the multitude of parent, grandparent, and staff volunteers that give their time and talent tirelessly throughout the school year. The following events could not have been successful without the many hands that helped make the work much lighter and fun!

Auction
Board of Trustees
Classroom Liaisons
Grandparents' &
Special Friends' Day
Grounds Day
Harvest Festival
Parent Association
Playground Enhancement
Spring Celebration
Ice Cream Social
Class Field Trips
Special Speakers & Presenters
Yearbook...
and the many other
contributions taking place
through out the school year.

Thank You to Our Many Volunteers

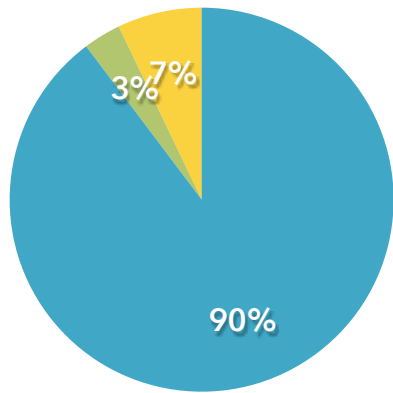


Special thanks to Russ and Hilary Ducharme, who volunteered to pilot the playground renovation projects. Parents of Rusty (CH2), the Ducharmes are dearly missed as they moved on to new adventures on the West Coast. We are forever grateful to our dear friends!

Revenue and Expenses July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Amherst Montessori School is pleased to report that fiscal year 2015 ended in good financial position. The revenue and other support was \$1,716,806 while expenses were \$1,509,946 leaving a balance of \$206,860. As you can see from the charts below 90% of the school's revenue comes from tuition and fees.

2014-15 Revenue



● Tuition ● Fundraising ● Other*

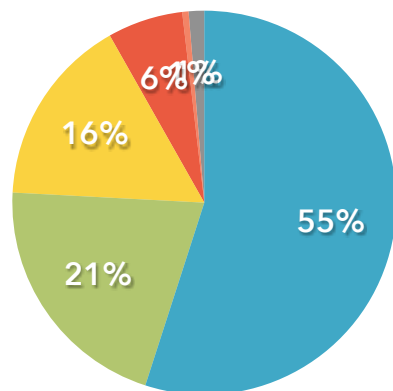
Tuition*	\$1,540,315
Other**	\$122,106
Fundraising***	\$54,388
Total Revenue	\$1,716,806

*After the awarding of financial aid.

**Other = Vacation sessions, registration fees, interest.

***Fundraising = Annual Fund, annual auction general contributions, in-kind donations & other small fundraisers

2014-15 Expenses



● Program wages, benefits, prof. development
 ● Admin wages, benefits, prof. development
 ● Program expenses
 ● Admin expenses
 ● Fundraising expenses
 ● Building repairs

Program wages, benefits and professional development	\$830,061
Admin wages, benefits and professional development	\$315,067
Program expenses	\$241,095
Admin expenses	\$95,855
Building repairs	\$19,788
Fundraising expenses	\$8,080
Total Expenses	\$1,509,946

**A message from Michele Zakashansky,
President of the Board of Trustees**



Dear Friends,

I recently came across an article about the use of the word "dear" as a salutation in letters and learned that "dear" is an ancient word, recorded in old English as "deoare" as far back as 725, when it meant precious, valuable, or costly. Over the years it has lost its meaning, and with the age of electronic communication upon us, is barely used. I'm bringing it back, friends.

This community is made up of the most precious and valuable people I have come to know in my lifetime. The generosity, kindness, and compassion that is "our way" at Amherst Montessori School, is what makes us so special.

This past year is no exception. You have once again gone above and beyond to support our school. We are also grateful for the amazing gift of time that is offered by our cherished volunteers. As an independent non-profit school specializing in high quality Montessori education, we rely on your support to help us reach new heights and be our best.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Zakashansky". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michele Zakashansky
Board President

