



DONNA BRYANT GOERTZ  
FOUNDER

DONALD C. GOERTZ Ph.D  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 7, 2011

Dear Parents,

Every morning during the school year, children and adolescents all over Austin wake up, dress, brush their teeth, comb their hair, make their lunches, eat a good breakfast and arrive in their parents' cars at Austin Montessori School. Hugs are given, kisses blown, goodbyes said, and then each child enters a very special world – an environment lovingly created for that child, prepared in every detail exactly to the specifications laid down by the universal principles of child and adolescent development, tailored to that child's age. All day, each of these children is immersed in the work for which he or she was born: the creation of a strong, creative, flexible, compassionate, joyful, intelligent, principled adult – one who knows when and how to lead or follow, one who has both grace and grit, one who is committed to the progress of his or her community, one who loves life and knows that learning never stops, one who sets goals worthy of perseverance, one who will bless and inspire many generations of your family yet to come.

It is for this that you and your family sacrifice time, effort, and money to keep your children at Austin Montessori School. It is for this that our dedicated community of educators and staff work long hours and make their own sacrifices of time, effort and money.

You may say we are dreamers – but we're not the only ones. In fact, Montessori education is experiencing a renaissance all around the world. The experience your children have every school day is the envy of parents (and Ministries of Education) in places as varied as Romania and Thailand, Argentina and Viet Nam, China and Uganda, Russia and Japan, Norway and New Zealand. To whom do the Montessori pioneers in these and other countries look when they need advice and a benchmark for Montessori excellence? Increasingly, they look to AMI schools in the United States – and often to our very own school.

To give generously to our school's Annual Fund is to become part of these two great parallel projects: the continued well-being and growth in excellence of your child's education, and, indirectly, the global acceptance and growth of Montessori education modeled after exemplary programs such as ours. A gift to Austin Montessori School is more than just money exchanging hands; it is a public statement of your faith in the ultimate value of the human enterprise and your practical contribution to the civilizing effects of Montessori education as a road to peace.

No private, non-profit school that hopes to sustain a tradition of excellence in education is ever able to manage solely on tuition income. That is doubly the case in these current economic times. Austin Montessori School continues to be committed to a strong financial aid program

for families who truly need it. We are dedicated to filling your child's community with a diverse cross-section of the generation who will be inheriting the world along with your child. We are dedicated to maintaining one of the strongest continuing education programs offered by any AMI school to its guides and staff. We are dedicated to keeping our prepared environments full of beautiful, enriching Montessori materials. We are dedicated to expanding our services to children and families. Without your generous support of the Annual Fund, all these strong intentions remain in the realm of aspiration.

Please give generously to the Annual Fund. There is no better gift you could give your children.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald C. Goertz", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Donald C. Goertz, Ph.D.  
Executive Director