



15 November 2022

Dear Friend of Sierra Madre Community Nursery School,

For 75 years, SMCNS has offered developmental, play-based early-childhood education. At a moment when we are all working to regain our balance after the uncertainty of the last few years, our school's mission of nurturing human development through play, and embracing the entire family through parent education and community, remains vital.

Tuition has never fully covered operating expenses at SMCNS – a fact that has been even more acute during the pandemic. To keep tuition affordable, all children are effectively on scholarship, and the difference is made up through fundraising. While much of this fundraising is shouldered by currently enrolled families, SMCNS alumni also have an important role to play in ensuring the school's continued financial stability.

Our family is immeasurably grateful for the years we spent at SMCNS. During the pandemic, in particular, SMCNS provided a lifeline for our family; no matter what was happening in the rest of the world, school was a predictable, safe place to engage with friends, teachers, and nature. When hard questions worked their way into classroom conversations, teachers were ready to respond thoughtfully with respect and age-appropriate honesty – equipping parents with a vocabulary to continue these important conversations at home. We know we will continue to draw on what we learned at SMCNS for years to come.

As you plan your end-of-year giving, please remember SMCNS and the nurturing it provided your family. Your fully tax-deductible donation to the SMCNS Annual Fund will be put to work to its fullest potential to maintain the playhouses, sandboxes, and play equipment that host children's play on a daily basis; to stock classrooms with art and science supplies so children can create and experiment; to cultivate the garden, which children visit weekly for hands-on learning; and to keep classrooms fully staffed by dedicated teachers who embody the school's philosophy of Loving-Caring-Trusting. Your donation of any amount can be made via mail or online at <https://www.smcns.org/annual-fund>.

On behalf of current and future SMCNS families, and the next generation of SMCNS alumni, we appreciate your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Laura Knighten

SMCNS Alumni Chair

Rosi Koeper

President, SMCNS Board of Trustees