



Terra

November 23, 2010

Dear Parents of the Terra Community,

It is that time of year again, the time we traditionally count our blessings and consider everything for which we are thankful. I hope Austin Montessori School is high on your list. If so, please consider making a contribution to the AMS Annual Fund according to your means.

The Annual Fund is vital to the school. It makes it possible for our school to maintain high standards by providing ongoing education and consultations for the staff. It makes it possible for me to attend workshops and conferences, as well as prepare the environment with beautiful materials for the children's daily use. It helps ensure the future of the school, which is a leader in AMI education in the United States.

Your gift to the Annual Fund might provide financial aid to someone who could not otherwise be at the school. Scholarships benefit everyone, giving our communities diverse perspectives and, in these tough financial times, keeping each community together. I believe this community is changing the lives of the children in it, and I know the world will be changed by those lives.

You may wonder why we have an Annual Fund. Why not just raise tuition to cover costs? A tuition increase might make it impossible for some families to remain in the school. Furthermore, by paying lower-than-cost tuition and making an Annual Fund donation, you are actually getting a tax break you would not get if there were no Annual Fund.

Our goal for the 2010 - 2011 Annual Fund drive is 100% participation. This shows to outside organizations that our staff and parents fully support the school. We are much more likely to receive funding grants if our *rate* of giving is outstanding. This means that no gift to the Annual Fund is insignificant. Furthermore, if you join with the rest in this effort, you will be doing what we ask the children to do every day, to create a community where everyone cares, everyone works, and every person matters.

Finally, during this season of giving, I ask that if you wish to honor my work with your child, you make a gift to the Annual Fund, not to me. It is a pleasure to work at AMS. Ultimately the Terra children, and you, are my gifts.

Many blessings,
Johnnie Denton