

# EVERY STORY BEGINS WITH YOU



AT TDCHRISTIAN,  
EVERY STORY OF GROWTH,  
FAITH, AND LEARNING  
BEGINS WITH YOU.





**At TDChristian, every story of growth, faith, and learning begins with you.**

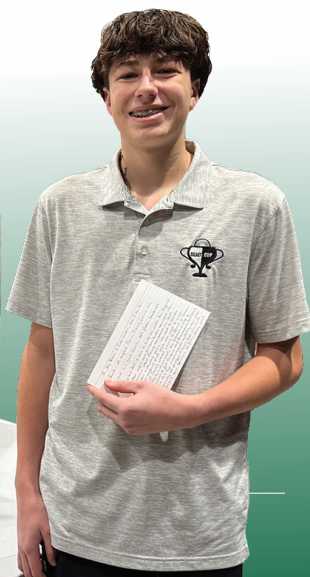
Without your generosity and prayers, our story would have ended long ago. Instead, your support empowers students daily to put their learning and faith into practice, shaping them into confident leaders and compassionate community members.

This year's theme based on Philippians 4:9, "Putting into Practice", inspires us to engage the world thoughtfully and boldly. Whether it is through service projects, leadership opportunities, athletics, the arts, or mental health support, your donations make these experiences and programs possible. Your support creates environments where students learn, thrive, and live out their faith.

In this booklet, you will discover ten impactful ways to contribute to the next chapter of TDChristian's story. From supporting classroom innovations to funding field trips that bring learning to life, your generosity, makes a lasting difference.

Thank you for investing in the next generation. With your help, we continue to co-author new stories of faith, hope, and community.

**Leanne Fernhout '95**  
*Director of Advancement*



# PROJECT FUND FOR DESERVING TDCHRISTIAN INITIATIVES

The Project Fund for Deserving TDChristian Initiatives provides TDChristian educators with the resources to develop hands-on, student-centred learning opportunities that inspire discovery and growth. This fund was established by Alice Vanderkooy, who was a student at TDChristian (1966-70) before teaching here for 30 years (1987-2017), and it remains a lasting tribute to her passion for experiential education.

Experiential and project-based learning fosters critical thinking, creativity, and confidence. Current projects in the Graphic Design and Photography programs, and past initiatives like the Ascension music album and the 2000 Candles drama production, give students the chance to create real-world solutions while exploring the arts and technology. These projects help students see themselves as capable, empowered learners, ready to contribute to their communities and future careers.

For decades, Principal William Groot has been a passionate advocate for experiential learning, empowering students to engage deeply with their education. In lieu of retirement gifts, William has chosen to highlight this fund as his catalogue item of choice. Supporting the Project Fund is a meaningful way to honour his dedication to TDChristian's mission and ensure that innovative education continues to thrive.



*Singing for Ascension  
music album*



**Join us in celebrating William's retirement and legacy by contributing to the Project Fund for Deserving TDChristian Initiatives today.**

## \$43

**One dollar for each year William has been on staff at TDChristian.**





# ON THE ROAD TO OPPORTUNITY: THE ROLE OF TRANSPORTATION

At TDChristian High School, transportation is more than just getting students from point A to point B; it's a vital extension of our community and an essential part of making Christ-centred education accessible to all families.

Each year, TDChristian invests in safe, reliable, and welcoming transportation for our students. With costs amounting to approximately \$1.4M, this program ensures that families from across the Greater Toronto Area can send their children to TDChristian without the barrier of distance. For many families, access to school transportation is the deciding factor in choosing TDChristian, making it crucial for enrolment and the diverse, thriving community we cherish.



**"We value Christian education for our children, and when choosing a high school, proximity and transportation were key factors. We're grateful for TDChristian's support, which goes beyond academics to genuinely care for each student. The transportation service provides peace of mind, offering a safe, reliable option with a convenient pickup location. The bus drivers are exceptional, building relationships with our kids and ensuring their well-being. The inclusion of transportation in the overall experience reflects how much TDChristian values every aspect of a student's education."** — Valerie Bauman, parent

This level of care and commitment reflects the heart of TDChristian: a place where every student is known, valued, and supported, from the moment they step onto the bus each morning. Your gift towards transportation costs will help ensure that every family, regardless of where they live, can experience the transformative education and nurturing community that TDChristian provides. Together, we can keep the doors—and bus doors—open for all.

## \$16.24

If our furthest student walked to school,  
it would take 16 hours and 24 minutes.  
Donate to help our students get to school.





# GAME ON: HELPING OUR ATHLETES REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

At TDChristian, athletics is more than competition; it's an avenue for growth, Christian leadership, and belonging. Through sports, students develop discipline, teamwork, and resilience while building lifelong friendships. Rooted in three core values—Honour God in all you do, Respect others and the game, and Compete with all your heart—our athletics program encourages students to strive for excellence while reflecting Christ in their actions both on and off the field.

Each year, TDChristian offers students a wide range of athletic opportunities from basketball and volleyball to cross-country and soccer. The annual budget for the athletics program provides approximately \$400 per student-athlete, covering only a portion of the expenses for equipment, transportation, and tournament fees that are needed.

**"Athletics provides a unique experience that is like no other. I have made strong relationships and important life skills that I would never get without the athletic programs. Being able to participate in athletics helps me express myself in an environment that feels comfortable for me, while also granting me opportunities to explore outside my comfort zone and develop my character."** — *David Strom, student athlete*



Your support is vital in ensuring every student has the opportunity to participate in athletics. A gift to the athletics program directly impacts students by enhancing their academic and athletic experiences, promoting well-being, and creating opportunities for growth both in sports and in life. Thank you for helping us provide these valuable opportunities for all students to thrive.

## \$400

The annual budget per student-athlete, covering some of the cost of equipment, facilities, transportation, and other fees.





# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: EXTENDING LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM WALLS

At TDChristian, we believe that education extends far beyond the classroom. Field trips provide students with hands-on, immersive experiences that deepen their understanding of creation, history, and culture. These trips align with putting faith into practice, offering students opportunities to explore, reflect, and grow expanding our classrooms to the neighbourhood and even the world through service trips to places like Belize.

One experiential learning opportunity we've established is the Grade 9 Geography trip to Crawford Lake, a global marker site for the Anthropocene epoch. This trip blends human and physical geography, offering a rich learning experience that stays with students long after they return to school. Here's how students reflected after the trip:

**"I could really sense God's presence in this place."**

**"Enjoying nature, being with our friends, getting away from the traditional classroom... even for just one day was one of the best learning experiences I've ever had."**

**"The exhibits and experiences at Crawford Lake gave us a chance to see so many Indigenous innovations in action, like the turtle shell calendar, the four sacred plants, and a 600-year-old grinding stone!"**



Your support helps make these trips possible, ensuring that every student can take part in learning that inspires, challenges, and shapes their worldview. Invest in impactful learning experiences like Crawford Lake by giving today!

## \$25

**Donate to cover park fees and transportation and provide invaluable lessons in faith, stewardship, and community.**



# RAISING A JOYFUL SOUND

Music has long been an essential part of the educational experience at TDChristian High School. Through band, ensemble, and individual study, students grow their musical abilities while gleaning the cognitive and academic benefits from playing an instrument.

At TDChristian, students explore brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments primarily through a rental system. However, these costs have increased dramatically. The Music Department's desire is to purchase instruments instead of renting them, so we can ensure that students have access to high-quality instruments while freeing up more funds to improve other facets of our music program.

**For students like Josiah Fraser, music has been life-changing:**

**"Music is truly important to me because it has many variables that can invoke meaning or emotions. Being able to actively play a clarinet and understand something I enjoy is not just educational, but eye-opening to see what makes good music." — Josiah Fraser**

TDChristian will initiate the transition away from instrument rentals by purchasing 12 clarinets. Your donation will give our current and future clarinetists the opportunity to develop their musical skills on well-made instruments.



**\$576.00 for one clarinet, \$288 for half a clarinet, and \$144 for a quarter of a clarinet.**





# SHARING THE BLESSING: HELPING FAMILIES OVERCOME FINANCIAL BARRIERS

At TDChristian High School, we enfold, engage, and empower students to put their faith and learning into practice—during their time at TDCH and after they graduate. We believe that family finances should not be a barrier this kind of Christ-centered education, where they are supported, challenged, and equipped to serve.



**"Affordability isn't just about numbers," says Finance Director Anne Vos. "It's about removing barriers for families who want a Christian education for their children. Donations help us do that by supplementing the cost of education and keeping tuition sustainable." Her passion reflects the care and commitment of our entire team to make this education possible for more families.**

Gifts to the Tuition Assistance Fund directly support this goal, bridging the gap between tuition fees and the actual cost of a TDChristian education. Donors help ensure students receive high-quality instruction, faith-based mentorship, and a nurturing environment—without undue financial strain on families.

When you give, you're investing in more than education. You're helping to shape students into thoughtful, faithful graduates who are equipped to serve in their communities and beyond.

## \$1000

**With \$1000 you can make an immeasurable impact.**



# SEEING GOD'S WORLD THROUGH A NEW LENS

At TDChristian, photography is more than just learning to take good pictures; it's about discovering the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Through our photography program, students explore their creativity, develop technical skills, and learn to see the world through the lens of faith. In a world saturated with imagery, we explore what it means to be responsible, Christ-oriented consumers and producers of images.

**"Photography at TD is an amazing class," shares Abby DeGier, a Grade 12 student. "I always loved photography but didn't know how to execute techniques properly. The class gave me the knowledge and hands-on experience I needed. I'm still using what I learned even after the class ended."**



To continue inspiring and equipping our students, we need to upgrade our equipment. With the purchase of new mirrorless cameras and essential accessories, students will gain valuable skills in digital photography and editing, preparing them for careers in media, design, and even ministry.



*Photography by  
Abby DeGier*

"A new set of cameras would allow students to explore night sky and macro photography while also learning how to take professional headshots and product photos," explains teacher Joel Sjaarda.

We invite you to support our vision of nurturing creative potential in Christ. Your generosity will help our students develop their gifts, glorify God through their work, and impact the world around them. Thank you for helping us see God's world through a new lens.

## \$1500

**\$1500 buys one camera  
for this class.**





# KRISTINA'S WISH: TAKE A SEAT, AND WATCH OUR STUDENTS SHINE

At TDChristian, the arts inspire creativity, connection, and courage. Our Presentation Centre has become a space where students shine: you may have enjoyed a comfortable seat for productions like *Shrek*, the Musical, *Anne Frank*, and *2000 Candles*. To fully complete seating in the Presentation Centre, we need to pay for 46 more high-quality theatre seats.

Kristina's Wish is dedicated to making this dream a reality. The campaign honours Kristina Pazic, a joyful Grade 9 student who, undeterred by her battle with cancer, loved the arts. Her friends initiated this fund to celebrate her vibrant spirit and to support a space where students can pursue their dreams—just as Kristina would have loved.

**"Before the Presentation Centre and the seats, our shows were hosted in the Commons with ground-level seating. Hosting shows in the Presentation Centre is a more dynamic experience, where our hard work is seen in a formal setting. It was truly special to perform there, knowing that the seats were in memory of my dear friend Kristina. I hope we can finish this space to allow future generations to shine bright on stage."**

**– Julia Robinson [24]**



\$50,000 is needed to complete the campaign, ensuring that future students will be able to experience the blessings of theatre in a professional setting and find joy through the arts as Kristina did.

## \$1,070

**\$1,070 buys one seat but we don't mind if you get cozy and share the cost of a seat with someone else.**



# NURTURING EVERY STUDENT'S WELL-BEING: BODY, MIND, AND SOUL

The pressures of academics, social dynamics, and the broader cultural climate can take a significant toll on a student's mental and emotional wellbeing. Our students face challenges from social media and the constraints and fallout of the pandemic that are different from those faced by previous generations, making it essential for them to have access to support.

Because we recognize that God cares about our whole person—body, mind, and spirit—TDChristian offers up to six no-cost psychotherapy sessions for students who seek it. These services provide students with a safe, confidential space on site to address their mental health concerns and develop strategies that will help them with their learning and other aspects of their lives.



**"Megan is a valuable member of our Guidance team. She is a great listener who helps students manage stress, anxiety, and academic pressures, and is a wonderful support to students experiencing depression as well as to those who are adjusting to major life changes. It is reassuring to be able to refer students to Megan, knowing they will receive the professional mental health support they need to thrive."**

*—Judy Van Schepen, Guidance counsellor*

The mental and emotional health of our students is vital. With this resource, our students can learn to maintain and sustain a healthy balance in their lives. Your support enables us to continue to provide effective psychotherapy services, helping our students to be holistically cared for and empowered to succeed.



*Megan Kooy '12  
is our psychotherapist*

## \$150

**An average counselling session in Ontario costs \$150. Your donation makes sessions easily accessible to students.**





# FINANCIAL FREEDOM: LET'S BURN THE MORTGAGE

By paying down the mortgage, TDChristian High School can direct more resources towards enhancing educational programs, improving facilities, and expanding opportunities for current and future students to grow academically and spiritually. Reducing our mortgage allows the school to focus more fully on its mission to provide a Christ-centred education, where students are equipped to serve and lead in the world.



**"We (our family) support the growth and improvements at TDCH since my daughter started there in 2007. We give monthly to the mortgage because interest costs take a lot of money over time. I know the faster you pay off your debt the more you can use for other school services or build more school facilities and services."**

**— Dante Fabiello, Debt Reduction Monthly Donor**



Project 20/20, completed in November 2020, blessed the school with many improvements, including a spacious front foyer, a state-of-the-art Presentation Centre, a university-style classroom, and an innovative Learning Commons that enhances student learning. These upgrades have transformed the school environment, but the \$3.4 million mortgage remains a challenge.

By giving to the Debt Reduction Fund, you can help reduce this mortgage



and ensure that TDChristian continues to innovate, making the most of its resources to support student growth and faithfulness to God's word. Your gift directly impacts the future of TDChristian's mission and students.

**\$34**  
a month

Give \$34 per month to help us reduce our \$3.4 million mortgage and invest in the future of TDChristian.





## FUEL THE FUTURE: GIVE TO TDCHRISTIAN'S GENERAL FUND

If you can't decide which of these options to support, consider a gift to the General Fund. Tuition alone does not cover the full cost of our operating budget, and without donations, TDChristian would not be able to provide the high-quality education and resources that it does. Gifts to this fund give the school the flexibility to respond to immediate needs, address unforeseen challenges, and seize new opportunities that enhance the educational experience and strengthen our community.



**"Donations to the general fund, that are designated as 'Use Where Needed', are essential to TDChristian's ability to thrive. These gifts are stewarded by school leadership to bridge gaps in our operating budget to empower teachers to offer robust educational programs or purchase education tools to engage our students in learning that makes a difference both now and into the future."**

*- Joel Dykxhoorn, Associate Principal*

This fund also enables significant investment into capital improvements, including the designing of innovative and inspiring learning spaces and maintaining beautiful facilities for students involved in athletics, drama, music, art and more. In short, your generous gift allows us to continually offer the best environment for our students to flourish at TDChristian.



# \$Custom

Every dollar counts!



# HOW TO GIVE:



## ONLINE

[tdchristian.ca/donate](https://tdchristian.ca/donate)

## CHEQUE with inside slip

Make cheques payable to  
"TDChristian High School"

## E-TRANSFER

to [donations@tdchristian.ca](mailto:donations@tdchristian.ca) and  
add the story you are supporting  
in the notes.

These donations are representative and will go where most  
needed when each item goal is surpassed



TOGETHER LET'S WRITE  
THE NEXT STORY

