

*Thank you
for your support!*



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

"The mission of The Unquowa School is to develop, educate and prepare our family of children with an unafraid spirit to achieve their personal best in a changing world."

The Future is in Our Care



from the Board President

As we start our second century at the Unquowa School I am filled with pride and optimism. Pride - in looking back to all that has been accomplished in not just the years in total but in just the past decade. We have significantly improved and enhanced our facilities through our past capital campaign and we have strengthened our endowment through the generosity of so many in our community last year. Optimism - I am so optimistic for the future of the Unquowa School. As each school year begins and I meet the new families that have entrusted Unquowa to teach and nurture their children, I am awestruck. We continue to attract the most wonderful parents and children. Our community shares our goal in providing the learning experience that will serve our children best for the many challenges ahead - both intellectually and socially.

The board has worked tirelessly to make sure that Unquowa continues to be well positioned for the changing economic and education landscape in Connecticut. We work closely to support the mission of the school and ensure that our innovative programming continues to thrive. We are excited that Sharon Lauer has renewed her contract as Head of School and will be guiding us through 2024. Sharon's belief that children need to develop into personally fulfilled, professionally satisfied and ethical adults is at the core of our goal to educate the whole child.

We are proud of our incredibly bright and caring teachers who help our children develop their love of learning and encourage their innate curiosities to go deeply into subjects that interest them. Learning doesn't begin and end with a chapter or test. Our curriculum gives our teachers the freedom to explore a topic that excites and engages students.

We have 100 years in our rear view mirror and a bright and promising future in front of us. Thank you to all who make the Unquowa School special. We stay true to the principles our founding families envisioned in 1917 - "The future is in our care"

*Joan Panagos
Board Chair*

Mother of Lucy '16, Lola '17 and Lily '19



from the Head of School

For over a decade, Unquowa has been funding and putting into place the campus to support innovative programming - Farm to Fork dining, Learning by Doing, Mindfulness, Makerspace, and a Humanities program that has established itself and coupled with our long-established visual arts program to add "voices of change" to the profile of our graduates. Our alums express pride in their school's new direction, ideas derived from and clarified by Unquowa's 100 year old mission to help children develop an Unafraid Spirit.

Now, as we step onto the first page of our school's second century, my faculty and I are thrilled to accept the challenge of guiding our students to live successfully in "an ever-changing world." The thinking that will allow us to continue to be the distinctive learning community we have been for over a century is our continued commitment to a school life that remains child-centric and that works with families to help children grow to be happy, to be engaged in meaningful work and to be ethical.

As a school, we continue to identify ways to redesign our learning community to better meet the needs of our students and faculty. It is through the work of our tireless and visionary Board of Governors, the energy and skill of our dedicated and imaginative team of teachers and staff, and the generosity of Unquowa's parents, grandparents, alumni and larger steadfast community that we are able each year to become a stronger institution and a learning environment that transforms the lives of young people. I offer my sincere gratitude to those of you who understand the importance of our work and who help us to make it possible, and I am thrilled to be ringing in Unquowa's second century with all of you.

Sharon Lauer

The Future is in Our Care



from the Treasurer

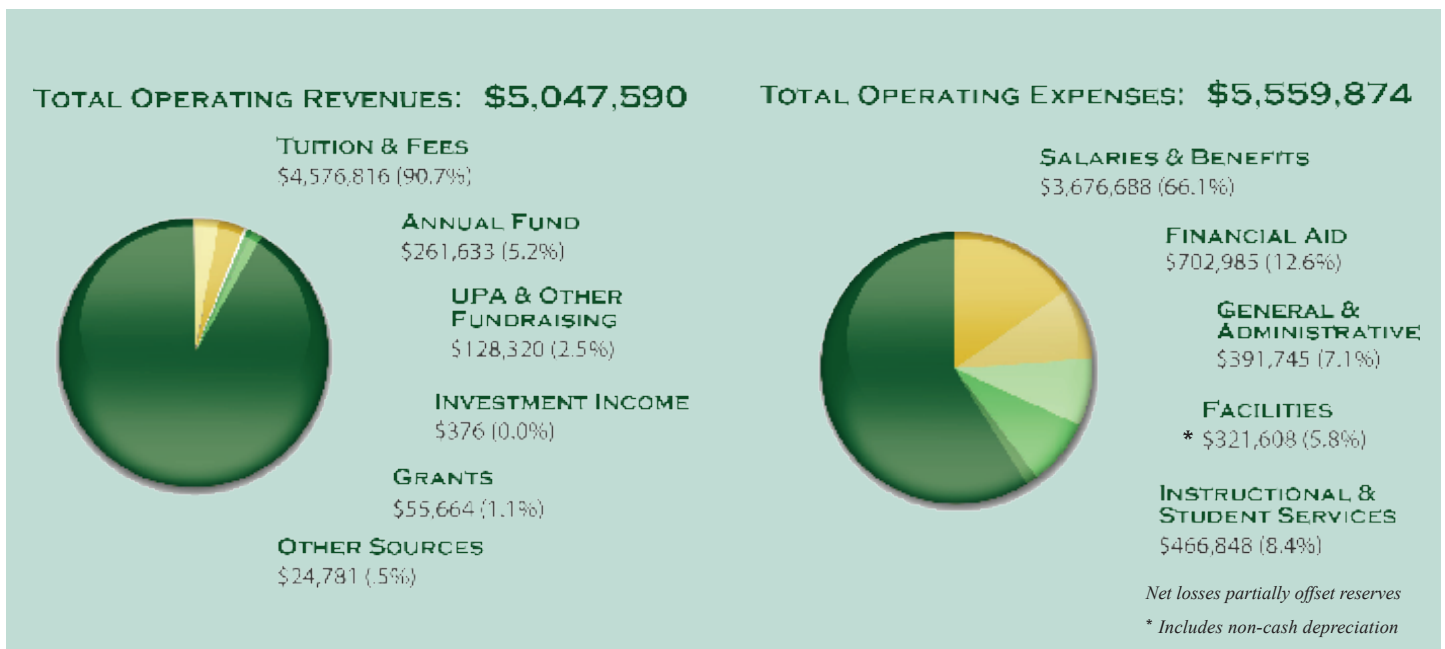
The Unquowa School's leadership took strategic action in 2016-17 to address changing realities of the economy both to area independent schools and the State of CT, and we are happy to report that the 2017-18 year benefited from those strategies.

In the last few years the Board discharged the school's debt ahead of schedule, made significant improvements to our facilities and pro-actively set aside all prior year surpluses. These strategic decisions allowed the school to manage the challenges of the current economy while continuing to enhance programs. In addition, the Admissions Office continues to make progress in expanding the school's enrollment catchment area, which has given rise to strong admissions statistics in 2017-18.

The *Second Century Campaign for Endowment* resulted in growth of the school's endowment net assets, which are now over \$740,000. Once again, parent giving and support from grants surpassed last year's totals and played a vital role in closing the gap between tuition and what it costs to educate all our students at Unquowa.

Building on the experience of its first 100 years, our school is excited to be launching its second century and with your help is well poised for continued growth and success in an ever-changing Connecticut.

Karl Martone, Father of Max '09



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JOAN PANAGOS - President • PAUL GREENBERG - Vice President • KARL MARTONE - Treasurer • STEPHEN JONES - Secretary
 DAVID COOPER • JENNIFER DOOHER • RYAN ERENHOUSE • PETER LANNI
 MARCIE LAPIDO • DAVID MCKINNIS • BETSY PRICE • LAURIE RENZULLI • ALISON ROBERTS
 HILARY TANNER • KATHY TATE-PADIAN • BRADLEY TOPAR • JOEL WHIDDEN • JIM WRIGHT

The Future is in Our Care

Annual Giving

During the 2017-18 school year, our community of parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty and friends came together once again to generously support The Unquowa School with gifts of \$356,000. Thank you!

With 80% of parents participating, we surpassed our goal and raised over \$175,000 through the 2017 Annual Fund! Each year the Annual Fund provides vital support for innovations to programming and curriculum, financial aid, student activities, professional development, faculty salaries and more. In addition to the 2017 Annual Fund, last year Unquowa received additional gifts and grants totaling over \$181,000.

As Unquowa steps into the first year of its second century, it is truly an honor to be part of the Unquowa community. On behalf of every student, faculty member and the Board, thank you for your generous support!

Jennifer Dooher, 2017 Annual Fund Chair and Mother of Eva '19 and Anne Marie '16

Total \$356,000 - From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

CENTENNIAL CIRCLE (\$25,000 OR MORE)

Ellen and Paul Greenberg
Goldman Sachs
Newman's Own Foundation
Clea Newman Soderlund and Kurt Soderlund
Joanne Woodward

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$15,000 TO \$24,999)

Alison and Will Roberts
Joan and Steven Panagos

1917 FOUNDERS' SOCIETY (\$10,000 TO \$14,999)

Heiki and Bill Haber
Elizabeth and David McKinnis
Alexandra Wallace-Currie and Jeffrey Currie
Joel Whidden

THE WINTERFEST SOCIETY (\$5,000 TO \$9,000)

William Bucknall
Cannupa Foundation
Charis San Antonio Cooper and David Cooper
Sandra and Steven Frost
General Electric
Betsy and William Johnston
The William and Elizabeth Johnston Family Foundation II
Beth and Bill Krueger
Marcie Lapido and Alton Kremer
Donna and Christopher Lawrence
The Midvale Foundation
Gail and Matt Smith
Tracy and Timothy Stuart
Stephanie and Andrew Whittaker

THE BROOK SOCIETY (\$2,500 TO \$4,999)

Stephanie and Ronald Buesinger
Rosalind and Jeffrey Looby
Elizabeth McCance
Carolyn Gaines Ruckle '53 and James Ruckle
Alla Vash-Margita and Serge Vash
Heather and David Winkelmann

THE GARDEN CIRCLE (\$1,250 TO \$2,499)

Lisa and Daniel Callahan
Victoria Demos and Thomas Cawley
Jennifer and Michael Dooher
Sharon Lauer and Jerry Joseph
Hyeja and Edward Kim
Jennifer and Craig Knebel
Lis and Peter Reed
Elizabeth Hayes and Joe Saint
George Wheeler Seeley '53
Andrea and Andrew Shantz
Jerry Stagg '53
Gabriele and Bradley Topar '99
Sally Wallace '45

THE MAYPOLE SOCIETY (\$750 TO \$1,249)

Anne Stoddard Patterson '45
Sara MacAllaster Brooks
Bruce G. Lockhart Scholarship Fund
Ana(Lucy) and George Corey
Henry duPont IV '81
R. Bradford Evans
Fairfield County Community Foundation
Sara and Mark Greenawalt
Melissa and Christopher Howe
Sharon and Lee Jacobs
Kate and Sandy Haviland
Cornelia Gallo and Peter Lanni
David MacAllaster '73
Nor' Easter Foundation (Henry duPont '81)
Brian Pisanelli
Jeanne and David Rosow
Rosow Family Foundation
Sasha and Seth Schwartz
Linda and William Shelton '55
Kristen and John Staikos
Subhashree and Sankar Sunder
Hilary and Gregory Tanner
Tara and Kevin Tanzer
UBS

THE GATOR SOCIETY (\$350 TO \$749)

Christopher Anderheggen '70
Kelly and T. Brooks Barrett '47
Kathryn Ingram and Enrico Cacciatore
Marie and Michael Cairo
Janice and Dick Cerone
Jacquelyn and Greg Coghlan
Ruth Mannes and Rick Cooper
Bridgett and Peter diBonaventura
Jacqueline and Christopher Dillon
Joan duPont(Henry duPont)
Michael Frascatore
Leslie Geary
Jennie and Frank Gulden
Amanda and Bryan Hanson
Richard Harriss III '52
Guy Hatfield
Colleen and Scott Jacques
Gina and Stephen Jones
Suzette King '43
Virginia Klein
Melody Waterhouse and Philipp Kusche
Lynn and Karl Martone
Dylan McCormick '16
Heidi and Saral Mehra
Sharon and Brian Miles
Michelle and Dominick Modugno
Mona Mulvey
Ruth Munson
Elizabeth and Jason Oberhand
Anna Panagos-Chandler
Samuel Perez '02
Carol Reed
Laurie and Scott Renzulli
Cameron Ross-MacCormack
Susan Breen and David Ryan
Marlene and Karl Schmidt
Linda and Peter Aikenhead Seed '52
Julianne and Scott Seymour
Madonna Sacco and Brian Smith
Rebecca and Garfield Spencer
Marie Ann Pajaro and Kevin Starke
Lee and Byron Stookey
Cecily Stoddard Stranahan '47
Lisa and Trevor Sylvestro
Beth Padian and Kathy Tate-Padian
Donald Turlick '49
Voya Financial
Rebekah and Aryn Wadadli

FRIENDS OF UNQUOWA (UP TO \$349)

Steve Aikenhead `54
Olivia Albenze `12
Rachel Albenze `15
Millette Alexander
Jennifer and Christopher Anto
Catherine and Robert Avery
B and B Transportation
Faith and Ernesto Barbuti
Jan and Joseph Bevan
Pat and Jack Blessington
Pitney Bowes Inc.
Elizabeth W. Brew Boyd `70
Jonathan Brew `72
Jennifer and Shaw Brown
Silvana and Tim Buono
Jessica Suarez and Nick Buonome
Debbie and Preston Carnes
Judith Chambers
Peggy and Phillip Chappell
Edward Christie `74
Deborah and Robert Colantuoni
Mary and John Curran
Karin and Marlon Dale
Eric Dawson `76
Jennifer and David DeGirolomo
Kathleen and David DeRisio
Courtney and Michael DeRisio
Lauren Gabriele `98 and Steve Diforio
Anne Marie Dooher `16
Marianna and Ryan Erenhouse
Corti Cooper and Carlos Esteves
Mary and Alfred Faulkner
Paige and Derrick Faunce
April and Tarell Floyd
Diane and Paul Galasso
Santiago Garcia-Pinales
Bonnie and Jon Geppert
Sheldon Gershman
Anne Tomchuck and Alex Giachino
Nancy Seeley Gilliland `47
Chriss and George Gombos
Daneen and Douglas Grabe
Carrie Greenspan
Jennifer and David Gruen
Mary and Clayton Hall
Donna Hamel
Caroline Hamilla `74
Jean Ann and William Heise `55
Joyce and Robert Hobbie
Daniel Iacovella
Louise and Warren Jacques
Joanne Karow
Shannon and Gerard Kavanaugh
Randy Kaye
Sarah Frassinelli Keenan `68
Sharon and Robert Kelly
Jill Kelly `45
Megan and Charles Kirk
Carrie Klein
Ellen Knepper
Judie and David Koch
Leslie Miller and Barry Kresch
Rachel and Peter Kushel
Sarah Land
Sharon and David Mack

Max Martone `09
Alison Bevan and Michael McCormick
Sally and Bruce McDermott
Richard McKinley
Jamie and John Miller
Kathy and Lloyd Mitchell
Paula Moloney
Laura Babala and Ralph Money
Kathy and Richard Mongelluzzo
Kirsten and Brendan Murphy
Monica and Michael Murray
Margot and Lance Newkirchen
Brian O'Connor `50
Ann Palm
Lysandra Pamas
Lola Panagos `17
Lucy Panagos `16
Jill and Michael Pengue
Vivian Perez
Brendon Perkins
Betsey Barrett Phillips `50
Patricia and David Pitchenik
Krissy and Tim Ponden
Ruth Powell
Betsy and Eric Price
Anne Peters and Michael Proctor
Patricia and John Randolph
Ruth and Philip Reed
Sally and Joe Renzulli
Susan and George Richards
Brooke Roberts
Holly Russo
Nancy Lin and Phil Russo
David Sandler
Dolly Patterson and Christopher Scarpati
Mary Jo Scott
Miriam Ri and George Seferidis
Janice & Brian Shannon
Sysha Tyson and Charles Sheffield
Rebecca Shepard `49
Margaret Smith `45
Melanie Smith
Ella Stalowir `17
Jackson Stalowir `14
Laura Baytos and Val Stalowir
Winston Stalowir `11
Lindsay Stavnes `98
Stephanie and Harald Stavnes
Monika and Eric Stokes
Lee Streett `51
Aimee and Andrew Stumm
Jennifer and Lavelle Summerville
Deborah and Stephen Sylvestro
Jessica and Christian Toebe
Abby and Robert Tolan
Heather Burns and Matthew Tomei
June and Stanley Topar
Jonathan Truslow `55
Jon Turner `48
Alice Salem and Dan Van Der Aue `87
Jenna and Anthony Venditto
Eric Werner
Penelope Winters
Phil Winters
Jessica Wolf
Wen Tan and Zhifeng Yang
Blair and Jorge Zamacona

ALUMNI

Linda Aikenhead Seed `52
Steve Aikenhead `54
Olivia Albenze `12
Rachel Albenze `15
Christopher Anderheggen `70
T. Brooks Barrett `47
Elizabeth W. Brew Boyd `70
Jonathan Brew `72
Heather Burns `86
Edward Christie `74
Eric Dawson `76
Anne Marie Dooher `16
Henry duPont `81
Joan duPont (Henry duPont `50)
Lauren Gabriele `98
Caroline Hamilla `74
Nancy Seeley Gilliland `47
Richard T. Harriss, III `52
William Heise `55
Sarah Frassinelli Keenan `68
Jill Kelly `45
Suzette King `43
David MacAllaster `73
Max Martone `09
Dylan McCormick `16
Brian O'Connor `50
Lola Panagos `17
Lucy Panagos `16
Anne Stoddard Patterson `45
Samuel Perez `02
Betsey Barrett Phillips `50
Carolyn Ruckle `53
George Wheeler Seeley `53
Linda Shelton `55
Rebecca Shepard `49
Margaret Smith `45
Jerry Stag `53
Ella Stalowir `17
Jackson Stalowir `14
Winston Stalowir `11
Lindsay Stavnes `98
Cecily Stoddard Stranahan `47
Lee Street `51
Bradley Topar `99
Jonathan Truslow `55
Donald Turlick `49
Jon Richard Turner `48
Dan Van Der Aue `87

COMPANIES & FOUNDATIONS

B and B Transportation
Cannupa Foundation
Fairfield County Community Foundation
General Electric
Bruce G. Lockhart Scholarship Fund
Newman's Own Foundation
Nor' Easter Foundation (Henry duPont `81)
Pitney Bowes Inc.
Rosow Family Foundation
The Midvale Foundation
UBS
Voya Financial
The William and Elizabeth Johnston
Family Foundation II

IN KIND

Carrie Klein - Engage, Inc.
 Jerry Joseph
 Kindred Spirits and Wine
 Beth and Bill Krueger
 Melody Waterhouse and Philip Kusche
 Joan and Steve Panagos
 Betsy and Eric Price
 Pixels & Digits
 Sally and Joe Renzulli

GRANDPARENTS IN HONOR OF

Kathleen and David DeRisio Stella DeRisio
 Diane and Paul Galasso Ava Sylvestro
 Donna Hamel Henry & Willam Tanner
 Louise and Warren Jacques Connor Jacques
 Virginia Klein Halie Perkins
 Ellen Knepper Cooper and Danny`17 DeGirolomo
 Ruth Munson Blake, William and Walter`15 Erenhouse
 Brian O`Connor`50 Maggie Rosow
 Anna Panagos-Chandler Lily, Lola`17 and Lucy`16 Panagos
 Patricia and David Pitchenik Margot Pitchenik `18
 Ruth and Philip Reed Ashlee and Ethan Kirk
 Melanie Smith Madeline Reed`18
 Deborah and Stephen Sylvestro Ava Sylvestro

Unquowa Parents' Association

During the 2017-18 school year, countless parent volunteers in the Unquowa Parents' Association came together to raise funds to support their children's school while promoting events and activities to strengthen the connections among our students, families and faculty.

Their extraordinarily successful fundraising efforts supported both traditions and innovation and impacted every child and every classroom.

Funds raised by the UPA helped to underwrite a wide range of activities and events throughout the year - Winter Festival, commencement, Earth Day, field experiences, athletic desserts, teacher appreciation, student socials, yearbooks for every student, Founders' Day and much more.

A Giving Tree Challenge from the Board of Governors at the Spring Gala & Auction raised an additional \$125,000 for financial aid.

TOTAL UPA NET PROFITS JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 - \$76,110

UNQUOWA AUTUMN WINE EVENT \$3,120
 CELEBRATE UNQUOWA GALA & AUCTION \$72,475
 GATOR GOODS GIFT SHOP \$ 515

The Future is in Our Care



UNQUOWA'S
FOUNDING
HEADMISTRESS,
VIRGINIA BIRDSALL
(SECOND FROM
LEFT) WITH THE
SCHOOL'S FIRST
FACULTY IN 1917.

The Unquowa School Endowment

Total as of June 30, 2018 \$740,170

As Unquowa celebrated its first 100 years during the 2017-18 school year, the Board launched the *Second Century Campaign for Endowment* in an effort to dramatically strengthen the school's financial foundation. A strong endowment is vital to every independent school. Endowment funds are restricted and carefully invested so that a portion of earnings each year will provide critical resources to the school and its students.

A healthy endowment protects against the potential impact of future market or enrollment fluctuations and ensures unwavering support for curriculum, innovative programming, financial aid commitments and faculty.

NAMED ENDOWMENT FUNDS AT UNQUOWA

Created with endowment gifts of \$25,000 or more

Proceeds from family funds may be directed by the donor towards an area of interest at the school or may be unrestricted for the school's leadership to determine where they are needed most.

We are so grateful to these donors who have already established Named Funds in Unquowa's endowment.

- ~ **The Brewer and Beach Family Fund**
- ~ **Friends of Maria Taylor Fund**
- ~ **The Alan '53 and Arthur '54 Kornblut Endowed Fund for Tuition Support**
- ~ **The Russo Family Fund**
- ~ **The Jean Carpenter Winton '34 Endowment Fund**

The Future is in Our Care

Second Century Campaign

It was with great joy and gratitude that Beth and I accepted the role of co-chairs of the *Second Century Campaign for the Endowment*. We had witnessed how Unquowa nurtured our son, Alex, and had seen what a fabulous place Unquowa was for so many other kids. We wanted to ensure that Unquowa would continue to thrive for the next hundred years.

The outpouring of support from the Unquowa community demonstrated that others felt as strongly as we did about “the school by the brook.” The members of the campaign committee had inspiring conversations and meetings with parents, alums, grandparents and friends of Unquowa where we heard stories and testimonials about the influence Unquowa had on students over its 100-year history.

We celebrate that the Unquowa community raised over \$723,000 for the endowment which brings the total endowment to over \$1 million, a major milestone for our school. We also had three members join the *Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society* and we know that as more people know about the Society and including Unquowa in their estate plans, that group will grow and sustain the school.

Thank you to everyone who supported the school in this campaign. As Unquowa’s motto states - *the future is in our care*.

David & Elizabeth McKinnis, Co-Chairs, Second Century Campaign for the Endowment

\$75,000.00 TO \$149,999

Charis San Antonio Cooper and David Cooper
Joan and Steven Panagos

\$50,000 TO \$74,000

Alice Salem and Dan Van Der Aue`87
Tracy and Tim Tracy Stuart

\$25,000 TO \$49,999

*Jennifer and Craig Knebel
Beth and Bill Krueger
Joel Whidden

\$15,000 TO \$24,999

Marcie Lapido and Alton Kremer
Cecily Stoddard Stranahan `47

\$10,000 TO \$14,999

Ana (Lucy) and George Corey
Jennifer and Michael Dooher
Sandra and Steven Frost
*Kate and Sandy Haviland
*Ruth Powell
Hilary and Gregory Tanner

\$1,000 TO \$4,999

*Steve Aikenhead`54
Judy Kessler and Lee Arthurs
Kathryn Ingram Cacciatore and Enrico Cacciatore
Helene Rousseau Epifano`67
Nancy Seeley Gilliland`47
Jennie and Frank Gulden
Guy C. Hatfield
Cornelia Gallo and Peter Lanni
Lynn and Karl Martone

Laurie and Scott Renzulli
Meghan and Christopher Rosow
Carol Gaines Ruckle `53 and James Ruckle
Goldman Sachs
Sasha and Seth Schwartz
Rebekah and Aryn Wadadli
Voya Financial

UP TO \$999

Gina and Andrew Arnold
Laura and Mark Birdsall
Karen Block-Nichols`93
Janet and Christopher Brogan
Janice and Dick Cerone
Jacqueline and Christopher Dillon
Leslie Geary
Chriss and George Gombos
Louise and Warren Jacques
Jeffrey Jensen`63
Sarah Frassinelli Keenan`68
Jill Kelly`45
Judie and David Koch
Kathy and Richard Mongelluzzo
Gibney Patterson`36
Coverly Roche Rees`52
William Parker Seeley`50
Julianne and Scott Seymour
Cecily Stoddard Stranahan`47
Lucy Truslow`63
Jon Richard Turner`48
Eric Werner
Marie and Frank Werner

* In Bequest

The Future is in Our Care

Legacy Giving Society

Our celebration of The Unquowa School's first 100 years is a chance to look back...and to look ahead.

As alumni, parents, grandparents and faculty came together to mark this historic milestone, we had both the opportunity and responsibility to launch Unquowa's second century from a position of financial strength.

Established in 2012, Unquowa's *Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society* is named for the school's longest sitting headmaster. Mr. Churchill's twenty year tenure shaped the early years of Unquowa's history and laid the firm foundation for its progressive philosophy.

Legacy giving offers a unique level of long-term security that strengthens Unquowa's financial foundation for the future. As with all giving to the school, donors have the option of directing a legacy gift towards an area at the school that they are passionate about or leaving it unrestricted for the school's leadership to determine where it is needed most.

We are so grateful to these dedicated families who have made a bequest to Unquowa in their wills or whose family has established a legacy gift in their name to support the school for years to come. Please let us know if you have made a bequest to Unquowa so that we can thank you and recognize you as a member of the *Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society*.

- ~ **Steve Aikenhead, '54**
- ~ **Georgiana Brewer Beach,* '26**
- ~ **Kate and Sandy Haviland, Charlie '10, Grace '13**
- ~ **Craig Knebel, current faculty**
- ~ **Bruce G. Lockhart,* '48**
- ~ **Norman Morse,* '33**
- ~ **Joan and Steve Panagos, Lucy '16, Lola '17, Lily '19**
- ~ **Ruth Powell, former faculty**
- ~ **Carolyn Gaines Ruckle, '53**
- ~ **Jean Carpenter Winton,* '34**



A variety of legacy giving methods are available at Unquowa and each offers a different path that can be taken to support the school while providing possible tax and inheritance benefits to the donor and their family. Since the school is not in a position to provide financial advice, if you are considering making a planned legacy gift, we strongly urge you to discuss these options with your financial advisor.

Together we are making Unquowa stronger for the students who are here now and for those who will join the Unquowa family in the future. On behalf of all of them, thank you.

To learn more, visit the *Giving* section of the school's website or contact Janice Cerone in the Business Office at 203-362-2561 or janice.cerone@unquowa.org.

* deceased

We have carefully reviewed the names listed in this report but recognize that errors may still occur.

Please accept our sincere apology if your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed.

So we may correct our records, please notify

Jacqui Mudre, Advancement Assistant at jacqui.mudre@unquowa.org.