



# Dare to Be Musical 2016-2017 Annual Report

This year, Powers. . .

- Hosted a record number of participating students and teachers in the 2017 Mildred Freiberg Piano Festival
- Built a new annual tradition with our first piano concerto competition, known going forward as the Martha B. Sosman Concerto Competition
- Continued to expand our Musical Storytelling Program to introduce high quality music and literacy to our community
- Awarded an all-time high of more than \$54,000 in financial aid scholarships
- Introduced the Powers Conservatory Program for FY18
- Completed the search for Powers Music School's new Executive Director

**Annual Report Design:** Kelly Webber  
**Photos:** Kulbako Photo, Powers Staff

**www.powersmusic.org**  
**www.facebook.com/powersmusicschool**  
Helen Clapp Stevenson, Executive & Artistic Director

**Phone:** 617-484-4696  
**Mailing:** P.O. Box 398, Belmont, MA 02478  
**Physical:** 380 / 396 / 404 Concord Ave &  
17 Clark Street, Belmont, MA 02478



# Our People

## Board of Directors

### **President**

Ernest Sabine

### **Vice President**

Laura Vail Wooster

### **Treasurer**

Jacqueline Whitney Halas

### **Secretary**

Deborah Coyle Barry

### **Members**

Betsy Cabot

Sarah Freiberg Ellison

Elizabeth Foote

Susan Galli

Robert Halstead

Wenjie Hu

Shan-Lee Liu

Laura Perlo Meyer

Julie Holland Mortimer

Susan Polit

Bruce Rosenblum

Vera Trojan

Christopher Wright

## Staff

### **Executive & Artistic Director**

Helen Clapp Stevenson

### **Director of Music**

Dr. Daniel Acsadi

### **Director of Marketing**

### **& Communications**

Kelly Webber

### **Development Manager**

Jessica Firing

### **Registrar**

Cassandra Shelton

### **Office Manager**

Tristan Bouchard

### **Performance Coordinator**

Killian Kerrigan

### **Director of MYSP**

Spencer Aston

### **Director of Chamber Ensembles**

Meghan Jacoby

### **Accountant**

George Peddle

## Faculty

### **Brass**

Spencer Aston

Ryan Noe

Andrew Sorg

Sarah Sutherland

Michael Tybursky

### **Banjo, Ukulele**

Christopher Hersch

Tev Stevig

### **Music Theory**

Geneviève Leclair

### **Dulcimer, Harp, Penny Whistle, Recorder**

Lucy Joan Sollogub

### **Early Childhood**

Sarah Bacon

Jessica Cooper

Linda Emmanuel

Susanna Fiore

Yas Ishibashi

Haeun Shin

### **Guitar**

Daniel Acsadi

James Doran

Christopher Hersch

Lucy Joan Sollogub

Tev Stevig

### **Jazz Ensemble**

Todd Brunel

### **Music Therapy**

Trish Jonason

Andrew Krahn

### **Orchestra**

Spencer Aston

### **Percussion**

Gary Spellissey

### **Piano / Keyboard**

Elizabeth Chladil

Susanna Fiore

Levon Hovsepian

Yas Ishibashi

Svetlana Krasnova

Lisle Kulbach

Maxim Lubarsky

Tamara Medoyeva

Peter Morelli

Natacha Rist

Kathryn Rosenbach

Jei-Yern Ryu

Michael Shea

Lyubov Shlain

### **Piano Accompaniment**

Levon Hovsepian

Leah Kosch

Alix Pollack

Kathryn Rosenbach

### **Rock Band**

Tev Stevig

### **Strings**

Robinn Alfieri

Sarah Bacon

Madalyne Cross

Noah Dresser

Sarah Freiberg

Erica Klein

Ellery Klein

Sam Ou

Olga Patramanska-Bell

Morgan Scagliotti

Jenny Shallenberger

Colleen McGary Smith

Sophia Sogland

Jacques Lee Wood

### **Suzuki Program**

Sarah Bacon

Robin Alfieri

Madalyne Cross

Guan-Ting Ku

Jay Rosenberg

### **Viola Da Gamba**

Jane Hershey

### **Voice**

Emily Romney

### **Woodwinds**

Judith Bedford

Todd Brunel

Mary Cicconetti

Mary Cunningham

Carol Hunt Epple

Ben Fox

Faith Hutchison-Williard

Meghan Jacoby

## Summer Day Faculty & Staff

Spencer Aston

Sarah Bacon

Judy Bedford

Todd Brunel

Madalyne Cross

Ariel Friedman

Andrew Goodridge

Adam Grossman

Yas Ishibashi

Meghan Jacoby

Ellery Klein

Guan-Ting Ku

Peter Morelli

Jane Parkhouse

Dimitar Petkov

Emerald Rae Forman

Kathryn Rosenbach

Dawn Scaltreto

Haeun Shin

Liana Zaretsky

**This year, we recognize the talents and accomplishments of our board, staff, faculty, and the following graduating high school students:**

Rodrigo Astorga-Licardie, student of Tev Stevig, attending University of New Haven; Joe Beagan, student of Colleen McGary Smith, joining the US Marine Corps; Liora Gut, student of Mary Cicconetti, attending McGill University; Zoe Haggard, MYSP Orchestra student, attending Pomona College; Katherine Hui, student of Spencer Aston, attending University of Chicago; Jeremy Martin-Joy, student of Tev Stevig, attending Syracuse University; Gabriel Pino, student of Tev Stevig, attending Northeastern University; Thomas Walker, student of Spencer Aston, attending Brigham Young University; Peter Travassos, student of Spencer Aston, attending Northeastern University; Aaron Yao-Smith, student of Andrew Sorg, attending Cornell University; Jackson Elmore, student of Peter Morelli. Congrats!

In June we said goodbye to our Development Manager, Jessica Firing, who will be moving to Cleveland for a new position in arts administration. Our Registrar, Cassandra Shelton, announced the birth of a healthy baby girl this summer, and will be out on maternity leave. We also wish to recognize two faculty members who will be leaving this year - Maxim Lubarsky and Geneviève Leclair. Lastly, as our academic year came to a close, we said goodbye to our Executive & Artistic Director of almost 17 years, Helen Clapp Stevenson. Although we will miss her energy and vision, we are excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Gavin Farrell, for the upcoming FY18 year! The Board of Directors, with assistance from Arts Consulting Group, led a nationwide search for the perfect person to lead Powers into a new era, and we are thrilled at the announcement.



**A Note from Helen...**

Dear Friends,

Over a year ago, I decided that it was time for me to retire from Powers Music School as the Executive and Artistic Director.

Farewells are never easy and certainly not when you have had the great pleasure of working with so many wonderfully dedicated and talented people. It will be very hard to say goodbye on June 30th when I leave my position at Powers after being at the helm since March 2001, but I am looking forward to pursuing other options and spending more time with my family and grandchildren.

When I started, Powers was already a well-functioning school with established programs such as Music on the Hill, our core offering of private instruction, and annual traditions like the Mildred Freiberg Piano Festival (then called the Belmont Piano Festival). I had the pleasure to strengthen and expand many of the existing programs from the previous era and to help Powers embark on new adventures - developing new artistic programming, furthering my passion for musical storytelling, and promoting the development of young classical singers interested in opera.

Maintaining the school, overseeing the daily financial operations, and building upon Powers' artistic foundation has kept me well engaged for nearly seventeen years. I will miss the many challenges and opportunities I have had during this time in my life enormously. My hope is that I have left Powers in a better place than when I found it, and that the next Executive Director will be propelled onwards to even greater things.

I thank all of you for the wonderful experiences and friendships I have gained in my time at Powers and I wish you all well! Please keep in touch.

Best Regards,

Helen Clapp Stevenson  
Executive and Artistic Director

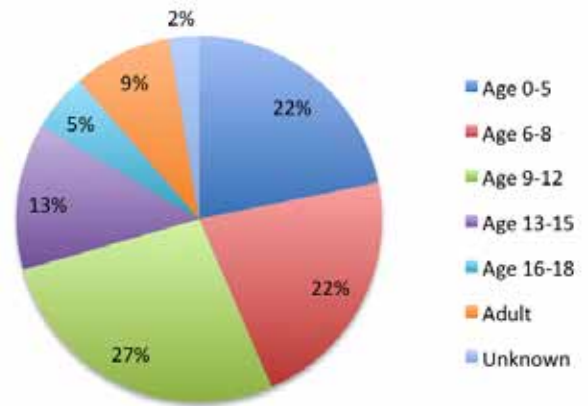
# Our Students

**Total Unique Students**      **FY17**      **FY16**  
 825                                  907

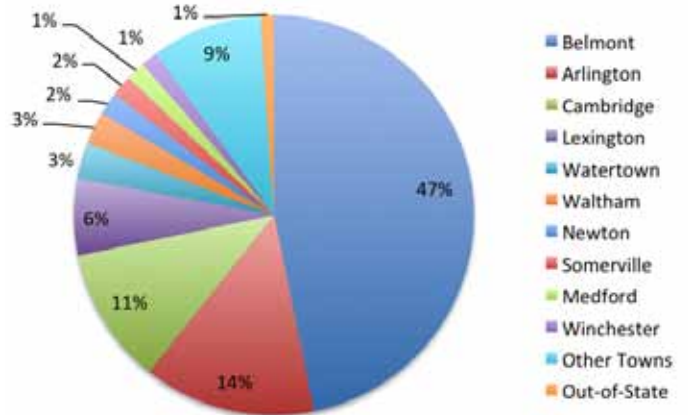
## Unique Students by Program (FY17 reported as of 6/12/17)

Program	FY17	FY16
Private Lessons	449	527
Eurhythmics	67	63
Music Pups	54	64
Pow-Wow	81	85
Suzuki Lessons	69	72
MYPSP	33	38
Keys for Kids	41	57
Ensemble	58	54
Suzuki Group	65	66
Music on the Hill	32	34
Theory	13	6
Fiddlin' on the Hill	19	12
Singing for Kids	15	10
Semi-Private Lessons	2	8
Suzuki Musical Kids	4	4
Suzuki on the Hill	18	15

## FY17 Students by Age



## FY17 Students by Town



# Our Community



### Musical Storytelling Series

*Our highest number of attendees!*

1,289 total attendees

7 events (13 concerts!) provided free to venues in 3 towns

### Mildred Freiberg Piano Festival

*Our highest number of student and teacher participants!*

246 participating students, 53 participating teachers, 19 concerts over 2 days!

### Peter Elvins Vocal Competition

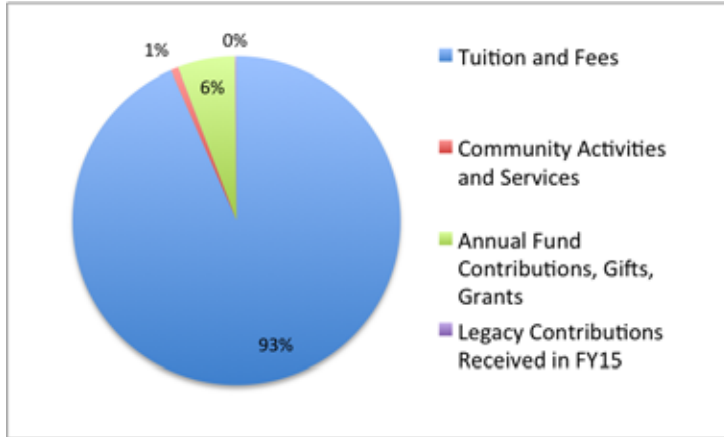
*Opera Division:* 22 applicants, 12 semi-finalists

*Teen Division:* 9 applicants, 6 semi-finalists

Awarded \$2,800 in cash prizes

## FY16 Operating Revenue

Chart does not include support from the endowment totaling \$73,019.

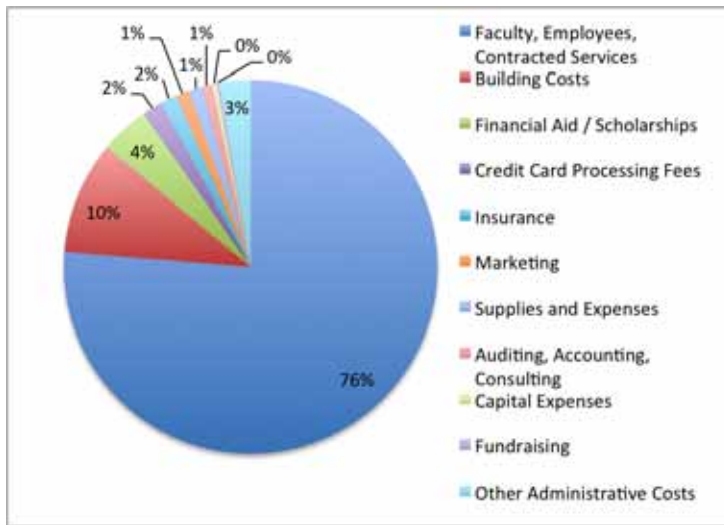


# Our School

## FY17 Endowment Update

<b>Beginning Balance (8/31/16)</b>	<b>\$1,471,855</b>
<b>Ending Balance (6/1/17)</b>	<b>\$1,501,669</b>

## FY16 Operating Expenses



## FY16 Key Financials

### OPERATING REVENUE

Tuition and Fees	\$1,316,827
Community Activities & Services	\$10,570
Annual Fund Contributions, Gifts, Grants	\$79,736
Legacy Contributions Received in FY16	\$2,000
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,409,133</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

#### Instruction & Community Programs

Faculty Compensation, Benefits, Taxes	\$717,718
Contracted Artist Services	\$5,703
Building Costs	\$118,937
Supplies & Expenses	\$16,929
Financial Aid	\$53,174
Competition Awards	\$8,140
<b>Total Program Services Expenses</b>	<b>\$920,601</b>

#### Support Services

Employee Compensation, Benefits, Taxes	\$352,080
Contracted Administrative Services	\$28,294
Auditing, Accounting, Consulting	\$12,628
Building Costs	\$22,132
Marketing	\$16,438
Fundraising	\$4,373
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$25,534
Insurance	\$20,988
Other Administrative Costs	\$38,577
Capital Expenses	\$5,281
<b>Total Support Services Expenses</b>	<b>\$526,325</b>

**Total Operating Expenses** **\$1,446,926**

### NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT (before depreciation & endowment)

**(\$37,793)**

Depreciation	(\$15,836)
Support from Endowment	\$73,019

**NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT** **\$19,390**

### ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY FY16

<b>Beginning Balance (9/1/15)</b>	<b>\$1,421,604</b>
<b>Ending Balance (8/31/16)</b>	<b>\$1,471,855</b>
<i>Activity included...</i>	
Spending Policy Transfer	(\$58,019)
Transfer for Succession Plan	(\$15,000)
Net Realized/Unrealized Gains	\$123,270

### Neighborhood Concert Series

500 total attendees!

9 free concerts provided at senior centers in 5 different towns

### Belmont Open Sings

104 unique singers  
+ 19 anonymous guests  
= 123 total participants

2 concerts at Payson Park Church

### Stein Chamber Music Festival

48 participating performers

# Development

## **Total Raised for FY17 Annual Fund**

**(9/1/16 - 6/12/17): \$91,110.65**



### **Martha B. Sosman Concerto Competition**

It is with great pride that we launched our first concerto competition this winter. With ongoing support from the Martha B. Sosman Fund, we look forward to expanding this regional competition in the area for years to come!

### **Scholarships**

Access to high-quality music education for all has always been an important part of Powers.

#### **Financial Aid Scholarships**

Through the 2016-2017 year, we plan to award \$54,500 in financial aid scholarships to 43 students, an all-time high for Powers. A total of 32 families so far have received financial aid scholarships, with aid covering a total of 77% of the combined tuition cost for these families. 44% of our FY17 financial aid recipients will receive 80-100% aid, while another 53% will receive 45-75% aid.

#### **Ellen Huff Powers Merit Scholarships**

The Ellen Huff Powers Merit Scholarship program was created to honor the memory of Powers' first Director. As of June 1, 2016, we awarded \$2,615.50 in Ellen Huff Powers merit scholarships to 5 unique students with extraordinary achievements.

#### **Powers Conservatory Program**

This spring we launched a new Conservatory Program to provide scholarship assistance to passionate and dedicated students who are active participants in lessons, ensembles, orchestra, and theory. In FY18, this program will be supported in part by Ellen Huff Powers merit scholarships.

### **Online Giving**

FY17 was Powers' first full year accepting online donations. Online giving and event ticket purchases made up 20% of all individual giving this fiscal year! By providing another channel for giving, we hope to further encourage new donations, repeat giving, and a culture of support at Powers.

### **Fundraising for and with the Community**

#### **#ArtsMatter Day 2016**

Powers participated for the first time in #ArtsMatterDay, an advocacy day supporting the arts of all kinds, hosted each October by MassCreative. 54 students added their voices to the cause by writing or drawing their answer to "Arts Matter because..." on our community wall.

#### **Annual Performance Events**

Powers students performed in several fundraising events this year, including the Music for the Holidays Festival & Bookfair on December 10th and the All-School Extravaganza on March 4th. These events helped us to gain momentum for our Annual Fund campaign.

#### **Walk for Music 2017**

Powers staff and their families joined the 2017 Walk for Music for the first time this year on April 30th. More than 250 community members joined the 2-mile walk around Piers Park and the East Boston Greenway to help raise funds and awareness for music organizations in the Greater Boston area.

#### **"Finding A Song"**

The community gathered together on June 14th to celebrate with and congratulate Helen Clapp Stevenson, Executive & Artistic Director for almost 17 years, on her retirement. Donations in anticipation of and at the event propelled Powers towards our Annual Fund goal and gave donors and friends an opportunity to recognize Helen's significant impact on our school.

# Donors & Supporters

## September 1, 2016 – June 14, 2017

### Composer Circle

**\$10,000+**

The Edmund & Betsy Cabot  
Charitable Foundation  
The Virginia Wellington Cabot  
Foundation

### Maestro Circle

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

Anonymous+

### Soloist Circle

**\$1,000-\$4,999**

Anonymous+

Vera Trojan & Mark Carthy  
Anna Gabrieli  
Wenjie Hu & Xiaopeng Gong\*\*  
Jacqueline Whitney Halas &  
Paul Halas\*\*  
Louise & Bert Halstead\*\*  
Anne & Neil Harper\*\*  
Julie & George Hibben\*\*  
Fran & Tom Knight  
Laura Perlo Meyer & Klemens Meyer  
Julie Holland Mortimer &  
Richard Mortimer  
Connie & Arthur Page\*\*  
Tracy Powers\*\*  
Zigrida & Ernest Sabine\*\*  
Susan Galli & Mark Thurber  
Jessica & Chris Wright

### Concertmaster Circle

**\$500-\$999**

Anonymous+

Louise Botero  
Shan-Lee Liu & Po-Shang Chen\*\*  
Kathleen Corsi & Mark Cosby  
The Iyengar-Richard Family\*\*  
Nancy McCabe & Richard Curzi\*\*  
Sarah Freiberg Ellison & Jeff Ellison  
T. Walley Williams, III  
Laura Vail Wooster & Jim Wooster\*\*

### Principal Circle

**\$100-\$499**

Anonymous+

Alexandra Houck &  
Kevin Amaratunga, In honor of  
Kathryn Rosenbach & Susanna  
Fiore  
Lillian Armstrong,  
In memory of Peter Elvins  
Philippa A. Bovel\*\*

### Principal Circle (cont.)

Katie & Paul Bittenwieser  
John A. Carey  
Beverly Char  
Joan & Ronald Curhan  
In honor of Yas Ishibashi  
Martha Davidson  
Nancy & Mark Davis  
John Dieckmann\*\*  
Grace Feldman  
In honor & memory of Ellen Powers  
Andrew Jewett & Healan Gaston  
Gisela & Ron Geiger  
The Gillis Family  
Sheila Mehta-Green & Brian Green\*\*  
Artie Helgason  
Gretchen & John Jackson  
Elizabeth Foote & Howell Jackson\*\*  
Harriet A. Karkut  
Jeanne-Marie Kaufmann\*\*  
Lillian & Edward Keefe  
In honor of Alexandra Keefe  
Elizabeth Reed & Ulrich Klingbeil  
Gisela Krause-Beyer\*\*  
The Lambert & Mackevicius Family  
Asako Nagashima  
Peter S. Panov  
In honor of Jacob & Misha Panov  
George Peddle  
Caroline Huang & Michael Phillips  
Susan & Stephen Polit\*\*  
Alix Pollack  
Drs. Lisa Geller & Steven Rauch  
Roger & Lynn Peterson Read  
In honor of Veda Kogan  
Bruce Rosenblum & Family  
Diane & Greg Rutan  
In honor of Bethany Condon  
Helen Clapp Stevenson &  
Gordon Stevenson  
Ann Waters\*\*  
Leslie & Jonathan Wolf  
Barbara & Christoph Wolff  
Jane Yee & Bao Min Yee  
Qing Cao & Yinghui Zhou

### Member Circle

**Up to \$99**

Anonymous+++++

Dr. Daniel Acsadi  
Nadia & Brian Altomare  
Lindsay Miller & Peter Ambler  
Kristi & Andy Armstrong  
Renée Landers & Thomas Barrette Jr.\*\*  
Margaret Waters & Thomas Battle

### Member Circle (cont.)

Judith Bedford\*\*  
Tristan Bouchard  
Carol & Frank Burt  
Donald Drumm  
Kim Sibley & Eric Eimold  
Carol Epple\*\*  
Emily & Jerome Farnsworth\*\*  
Jessica Firing  
Lisa Nelson-Firing & Dean Firing  
Nina Grimaldi\*\*  
Katya & Vladimir Gurin\*\*  
Jim Harper  
Ann & Philip Heymann  
Faith Hutchison-Williard\*\*  
Svetlana Krasnova\*\*  
Janet Sand & Peter Lawner  
Susie Sanchez & Kiernan Mathews  
Carolyn Mehaffey  
Andrea Mason Nolin &  
Christopher Nolin  
Jane Parkhouse\*\*  
Cynthia Pfeiffer  
Sandra P. Rosenblum\*\*  
Steven Samler  
Cindy & Lester Savage\*\*  
Abigail Scherrer  
Nancy Seasholes  
Olivier Senoussaoui  
Christina & John Shin  
Chitra & Rangamani Sundar  
Tammy Reisman & Edward Takach\*\*  
Bonnie Payne & Roger Tobin  
Yana & Alexander Turkowski\*\*  
Drs. Anjali Kumar &  
Anthony Vagnucci  
Kelly & Greg Webber  
Stephanie Weko  
Sylvia Whitney  
Blair & Jack Wylie  
Sarah & Tim Yoon\*\*

### Volunteers

Ronald Arslanian  
Aine Obara  
Jesse Colford, Intern

### A Special Thank You to

*Bethe and Robert Hagopian for their  
long-time support of Powers Music School!*

+ indicates number of donors

\*\* donors who gave in honor of  
*Helen Clapp Stevenson*

# Donors & Supporters

September 1, 2016 – June 8, 2017

## In-Kind Gifts

Louise Wolfe & Stefan Ahlblad  
Belmont High School  
Bruce Creager  
Shirley Goldstein  
Anika Gregg  
Caroline Huang & Michael Phillips  
James Martin  
Julie Holland Mortimer  
Ernest Sabine

## Corporate Giving

Allston Piano Moving Company, Inc. ,  
a division of Gentle Giant Moving  
Company  
AmazonSmile  
Barnes & Noble  
Cambridge Savings Bank  
East Boston Savings Bank\*\*  
Watertown Savings Bank  
Westwood Graphics\*\*

## Matching Gifts

Dell Community Foundation  
The G.E. Foundation  
John Hancock  
State Street Foundation

## Foundation Giving

East Boston Savings Bank  
Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
The Edmund & Betsy Cabot Charitable  
Foundation\*\*  
Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation

## Government Grants

Arlington Cultural Council  
Belmont Cultural Council  
Peabody Cultural Council  
Somerville Cultural Council  
Waltham Cultural Council  
Watertown Cultural Council  
local agencies supported by the  
Massachusetts Cultural Council,  
a state agency



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Powers that you support  
music education!***

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Powers Music School, P.O. Box 398, Belmont, MA 02478

**Donate by phone:** Give us a call at 617-484-4696 to learn  
about your options for making a gift to Powers.

**Donate online:** Now you can donate by credit card  
with a click of a button at [www.powersmusic.org/donate](http://www.powersmusic.org/donate)

Ask us about matching gifts, stock, planned giving,  
and other ways to make your gift!

