

Guide to Philanthropy



POLYTOGETHER

2023-24 ANNUAL GIVING

POLY PREP Core Pillars

Excellence

Poly Prep is committed to the pursuit of excellence in all we do by seeking to, “always reach beyond our grasp,”* to explore our individual and collective potential. It is an ongoing process of learning, growing, and always striving to do better.

*The poet Robert Browning



Diversity

Poly Prep is truly diverse. People new to Poly see themselves reflected in the racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and geographic diversity of the school. The diversity of perspectives and beliefs represented at Poly form the underpinning for constructive dialogue, debate, and understanding.



Brooklyn

We are one school community that embraces and gives back to the place in which we live. We believe Brooklyn to be the most vibrant, engaging, creative, and fun place to be on earth. The energy and inspiration we draw from NYC's greatest borough allows Poly to set its own distinctive course.



WHAT IS ANNUAL GIVING?

Annual Giving is Poly's fundraising priority that begins on July 1 each year and ends on June 30, the conclusion of our fiscal year. **Annual Giving is essential.** Tuition and other income alone do not fully cover the cost of a Poly education. Annual Giving supports everything that makes Poly a vibrant, exciting, and productive place to be. Participation is vital, because gifts at all levels add up and allow us to make your child's school experience even better.



“Our values, rooted in cultivating a life of the mind, speak to a full-day program of learning, service, and social engagement. Your generous support makes possible this 169-year commitment to exceptional schooling and whole child development.”

— John Rankin, Interim Head of School

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

Everything you value about Poly is made possible by Annual Giving. Your participation at any level is your commitment to helping our students become intelligent, capable, and self-aware citizens, who are fully prepared to pursue their dreams and ambitions.

Annual Giving has practical benefits as well. By “bridging the gap” between tuition and operating expenses, Annual Giving makes Poly more affordable for everyone. And, unlike tuition, your gift to Annual Giving is 100% tax deductible.



“An investment in education is a belief in the people who shape our future — the stewards and changemakers in the world! Our aim is to reach 100% parent participation each year, because Annual Giving touches every member of this community. When everyone contributes — at any level that’s comfortable — we all benefit.”

— Aferdita Hakaj, Director of Annual Giving



“Poly Prep is my second home. It is where I met my husband. It is where we have decided to send our children to learn, play, and discover themselves. We have formed lifelong relationships at Poly and we know that our children are doing the same. Our lives would be vastly different without Poly.”

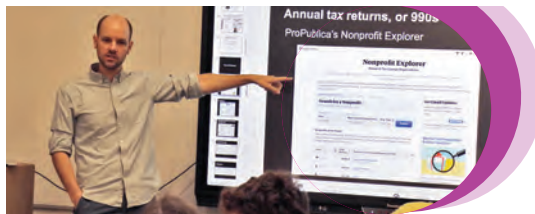
— Erika Freeman P'24, '26, '28, '32, DEIB Chair

HOW WILL MY GIFT MAKE AN IMPACT?

Annual Giving impacts every aspect of the educational experience.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS...

Provide your child and all Poly students the advantages of small class sizes and attention from dedicated faculty.



Support professional development for faculty, which elevates teaching and learning further in our Poly classrooms.



Fund our acclaimed arts programs, allowing students to engage deeply with the joys and challenges of the artistic process.



Fuel our athletic teams and provide students exceptional opportunities to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally.



“Poly is a community, a family! Together we’re on a journey that gives every individual the opportunity and experience to find and become their best self. For that to happen, resources are required, and that’s why I give.”

— Tina Petridis-Gerling P'25, '26

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How much should I give?

Annual Giving is a personal decision. We hope you consider Poly a top philanthropic priority, and that your gift reflects your financial capacity. Gifts at every level make a difference because our combined resources benefit everyone.



Can I make a commitment now and pay over time?

Yes. Our Annual Giving year begins on July 1 and concludes on June 30. Many Poly donors choose a recurring gift, a convenience that spaces out your commitment in monthly installments. Many people prefer to make a single payment; either way, we're here to help you. When you make a pledge to Annual Giving, it allows us to plan and impact the *current academic year*.



What is the difference between Annual Giving and Capital Giving?

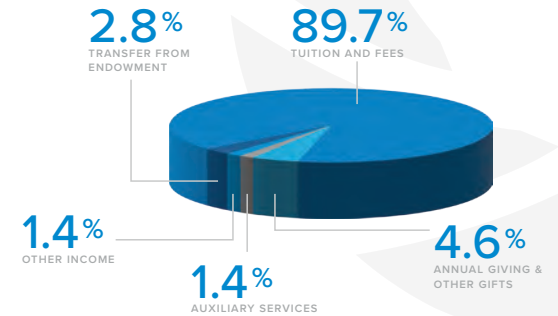
Annual Giving is comprised of unrestricted gifts — gifts that provide Poly the greatest flexibility to address needs and opportunities. Unrestricted gifts touch every aspect of the Poly experience — academics, the arts, athletics, extracurriculars, and more — in the current academic year. Capital gifts are directed to a specific project or purpose at Poly and are transformational in nature. These gifts can impact Poly and its students for generations to come.

Contact Director of Advancement, Keith Wiggs at kwiggs@polyprep.org or (347) 394-1164 regarding capital gifts.

Participation is Vital.

Annual Giving closes the gap between tuition, fees, and the actual cost of educating each Poly student.

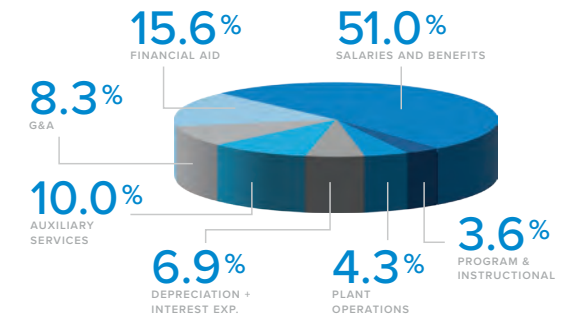
INCOME 2022-23



Poly is People.

Salary and benefits for faculty and staff account for more than 50% of operating expenses and financial aid comprises 15.6%.

EXPENDITURES 2022-23



DECLARE YOUR IMPACT

Gifts to Annual Giving are spent the same year they are given. Poly also offers a choice of where you can direct your impact: the Arts, Athletics, or Professional Development for faculty and staff.

Choose a distinction you value most at Poly:

- ✓ Academics
- ✓ Arts
- ✓ Athletics
- ✓ Faculty Development
- ✓ Poly Blue Devils
- ✓ Student Experience
- ✓ Area of Greatest Need

THE POWER OF ANNUAL GIVING

Annual Giving is impactful. Four million dollars raised in Annual Giving is the equivalent of the yearly proceeds generated through a \$100 million endowment.

Individual and collective leadership gifts of Tower Society members also have the power to create immediate and lasting benefits for our students. Annual Giving donors have helped us build new initiatives (e.g., an innovative Media Studies Center) that greatly benefit students and the larger community.

Explore meaningful opportunities you can support through Annual Giving by contacting Director of Annual Giving Aferdita Hakaj, ahakaj@polyprep.org or 718-663-6033.

TOWER SOCIETY





Membership Levels

Visionary Leaders	\$100,000+
The 1854 Society	\$50,000+
Blue & Gray	\$25,000+
Blue Devils	\$10,000+
Poly Partners	\$5,500+
Tower Level	\$3,500+
Oasis Circle	\$1,000+
Community Circle	\$Up to \$999

Donors giving \$3,500 or more will be invited to the Tower Society Reception. Donors giving \$10,000 or more will be invited to the Leadership Donor Reception.



HOW CAN I GIVE?

-  **Mail**
Mail your check to Poly Prep Advancement, 9216 7th Ave Brooklyn, NY 11228
-  **Online**
By credit card on polyprep.org/give or via Venmo
-  **Stock and Wire Transfer**
Call Lauren Bonaventura Sorrento, Director of Advancement Services (347) 394-1103 or email her at lbonaventura@polyprep.org
-  **Phone**
Call Aferdita Hakaj, Director of Annual Giving (718) 663-6033 or email her at ahakaj@polyprep.org

GIVE NOW



MEET THE ADVANCEMENT TEAM



Peggy Cook
CHIEF ADVANCEMENT
OFFICER



Keith Wiggs
DIRECTOR OF
ADVANCEMENT



Aferdita Hakaj
DIRECTOR OF
ANNUAL GIVING



**Lauren Bonaventura
Sorrento**
DIRECTOR OF
ADVANCEMENT
SERVICES



Erin Hughes
CAMPAIGN MANAGER



Donna Muoio P'13, '17
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI
RELATIONS



Nicole Patti
ADVANCEMENT
ASSOCIATE



Kristin Russotti
ADVANCEMENT
SERVICES
COORDINATOR