

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ANNUAL APPEAL

2022-2023

Since its inception in 1853, St. Mary's School for the Deaf (SMSD) has been the primary source of quality education utilizing the full spectrum of communication modes.



Throughout its history, SMSD has benefited from the support of numerous local businesses, foundations, and community members just like you. Your support has allowed us to fulfill our mission together.

St. Mary's School for the Deaf is committed to providing equitable access to exemplary educational programs that prepare Deaf students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who are productive members of society.

Together with SMSD's Foundation (also known as the Foundation for Deaf Education or FDE) we strive to improve the quality of life for our students and fund programs and activities not covered by legislative appropriation, as well as promote public awareness of our school and Deaf Culture.

All SMSD stakeholders come together to help our students overcome tremendous challenges, reach their full potential, and prepare them to be leaders of the next generation. Donations to our Annual Appeal allow our faculty and staff to continue to provide the kind of support and resources that meet the lifelong needs of the deaf, hard-of-hearing and functionally deaf community of Western New York.




LET'S MAKE AN IMPACT TOGETHER!

OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO RAISE \$65,000. The Foundation (FDE) supports non-state funded programs and provides at minimum \$500 per year, per student. Your donation allows us to continue to offer enhanced academic, athletic and recreational programs to each of our students.

THANK YOU from the Foundation for Deaf Education Board of Directors, and the Board of Trustees, Administrators, Staff, Students, and Families of St. Mary's School for the Deaf.

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH. — HELEN KELLER

FOUR EASY WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

- 1. ONLINE:** Visit the SMSD website's Foundation page: <https://www.smsdk12.org/domain/52>
- 2. ANYTIME:** Return donation form & payment using the enclosed postage paid envelope.
- 3. PAYPAL:** Scan this QR code with your phone's camera. 
- 4. WALK WITH THE SPIRIT OF ST. MARY'S!** In addition to monetary donations, we are offering the opportunity to purchase commemorative bricks! Brick purchases can be made online: <https://polarengraving.com/smsd> or by mailing the donation form and payment with your brick order section completed. (See back of this flyer for more information on brick purchases)



A note from the Mullen family, whose son Aaron graduated with the Class of 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS AARON!

What does SMSD mean to the Mullen family?

It means Aaron can be a productive part of the community that he can communicate with. Aaron is now 21 and started at SMSD when he was 14 years old. Since the moment we toured the school we knew it was the place for Aaron to be to learn how to communicate with people. We are so blessed to have this gem in WNY!

SMSD has been the best place for Aaron - not only was it his school community, it was also a WONDERFUL family for Aaron and for us as well. Aaron's communication with his family, friends, and neighbors flourished during his time at SMSD. Aaron is deaf, and has global developmental delays. We always thought of SMSD as a school for 'normal' kids that were deaf, but it is so MUCH MORE.

Aaron has made such huge gains in so many areas. Total communication has improved Aaron's ability to talk with anyone he meets! The teachers and staff were all so dedicated in helping Aaron become more independent. I never had a dry eye when I saw Aaron at school because I am so proud of who he has become and understand what he can do. This truly is a CHILD FIRST school.

We love the support that we as a family received. We had the ability to take sign language classes and attend many events with Aaron. As sad as we were to see Aaron graduate, we know that Aaron's training and development at SMSD will help him with his future endeavors.

-Gretchen & Tom Mullen



YES! I want to make a tax-deductible donation to SMSD's Foundation for Deaf Education

DONATIONS OF ALL SIZES ARE WELCOME!

- I WILL SPONSOR A STUDENT FOR \$500!**
(That's only \$62.50 per month)
- My Annual Appeal donation is: \$ _____**
- Walk with the Spirit of St. Mary's!**
Purchase a commemorative brick in addition to (or instead of) your Annual Appeal donation. See back of form

Donor Information

Name (please print) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment Information

- My check is enclosed (payable to the **Foundation for Deaf Education**)
- Please charge my credit card for a one-time donation:

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

YES! My employer offers a **Corporate Matching Gift Program**. Please send me a duplicate receipt.

Employer Name: _____

Corporate Matching Programs are employee giving programs in which the company matches donations made by employees to eligible nonprofit organizations, like SMSD's Foundation.

EVERY GIFT COUNTS, THANK YOU!



Foundation for Deaf Education, Inc.

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