



Rochester
Christian
School
Foundation, Inc.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reflections for the Season

In 1965, the American folk group The Byrds released the song *To Everything There is a Season*. The song was based almost word for word on Ecclesiastes 3:18 and became very popular. There are different versions of the song's lyrics - here is one version:

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

As your RCSF Board of Directors reflects on 2024 and looks ahead to the future, we feel it is important to ask ourselves: What season is RCSF entering right now? On the surface, the answer may seem simple. Some might say, "Just keep doing what you are doing and everything will be fine." But as we consider things like our board membership, our role with RCS, the methodology we use to support the school and our organizational construct, we have come to understand that what may have worked in the past may not be the best path forward.

I would describe our current season as one of discernment. Over the 30 years that the Foundation has been in existence, I dare say that we have experienced nearly all the highs and lows described in Ecclesiastes 3:18. Your support has been invaluable in allowing the Foundation to become a critical part of sustaining RCS in terms of providing annual support and scholarship opportunities for families needing a bit of financial assistance to send their children to RCS. We are deeply grateful for God's faithful hand in guiding us to get to where we are today. With growth comes new opportunities and the responsibility to consider what is needed for the next chapter. As a Board, we are thankful to be in a position to ask these important questions.

In this season of discernment, the Foundation asks for your thoughts and prayers as we develop plans for the future of the organization. As always, we thank God for His leading and guidance over these many years of working to sustain Rochester Christian School.

For the RCSF Board,
Greg Chambery



YOUR RCSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Greg Chambery, President
Ron Van Harken, Vice President
Tony LaPolla, Secretary
Gail Barbour, Finance Manager & RCS Liaison
Jeff Machiele, Financial Advisor
Neil Cieminis, General Advisor

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

RCSF General Fund.....	\$779,742
RCSF Capital Fund.....	\$15,897
Total RCSF Restricted Scholarship Accounts.....	\$664,893
Total RCSF Assets	\$1,460,532

RCSF Scholarship Accounts (Detail)

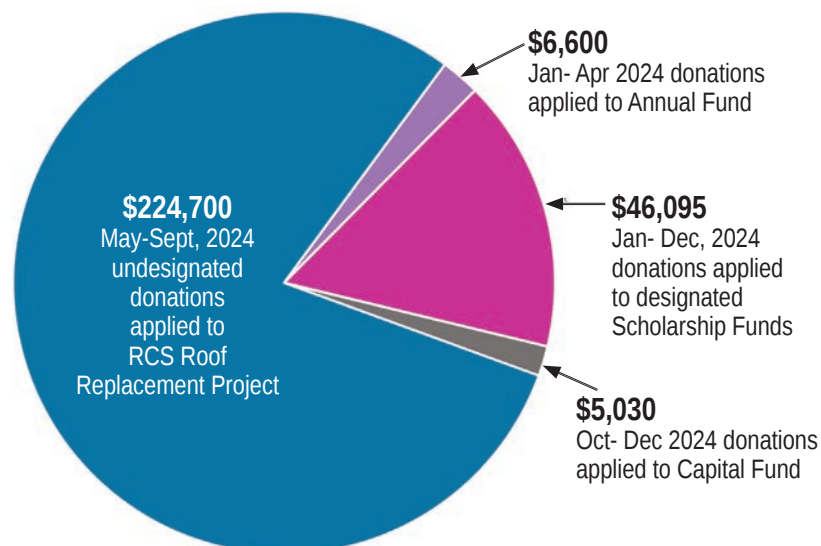
James & Judy Chambery Scholarship Fund	\$198,886
George & Ethel Dowden Scholarship Fund.....	\$22,113
Bernard H. & Alice L. Huussen Scholarship Fund	\$10,000
Jan R. & Judy V. Huussen Scholarship Fund.....	\$88,836
Ken Offringa Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	\$34,489
Taeke & Grada Porte Scholarship Fund.....	\$30,608
John & Loraine Schumacher Scholarship Fund.....	\$119,974
Peter & Myra Schumacher Scholarship Fund.....	\$29,132
Rochester City Scholarship Fund.....	\$130,855

Total RCSF Scholarship Accounts.....\$664,893

NOTE: Balances reflect contribution distribution and changes in market value over the past year.

2024 DONATION & FUNDING SNAPSHOT

As previously communicated, the Foundation partnered with RCS to help cover the significant costs of a necessary roof replacement, making 2024 an unusual year for fundraising and allocations. Below is a summary of donations and distributions:



In 2024, the Foundation also distributed \$47,500 for general operations and scholarship funds to RCS as planned.



KEEPING RCS STRONG: ADDRESSING AGING SYSTEMS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Anyone who has owned a home knows the excitement of moving in on that very first day. Imagine the joy the entire RCS community experienced when the brand-new Embury Rd. school building opened its doors, welcoming students to their fresh new desks for the first time. For those unfamiliar with the school's history, in the early 1970s, a large piece of land was purchased and a new Rochester Christian School was built in the back corner of the intersection of Embury Rd. and Creek St. in Penfield.

Over the decades, dedicated school leadership and faithful supporters have come together, working diligently to keep RCS up to date—ensuring the building, technology, and overall learning environment continue to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. Thousands of students have passed through these doors, receiving a first-class education and a knowledge of God that will carry them through the rest of their lives. We praise God for His continued faithfulness and provision to RCS.

As we look ahead, we recognize that every building and its essential systems have a limited lifespan. While regular maintenance can extend their usefulness, eventually, no matter how much maintenance and effort are applied to them, critical building systems ultimately need replacement.

This reality is becoming more apparent at RCS. Several original systems that date back to the school's initial construction are nearing the end of their service life and will require replacement in the years ahead. Some items will carry a heavy price tag and require significant funding. The recent roof replacement project is a good example. The task seemed overwhelming at first, and yet, our faithful and generous community came together to fund that critical need. While we were blessed with a successful outcome, the situation reinforced the importance of proactive planning to meet future building needs.

The leadership teams at RCS and the Foundation have been working together over the past several months to discuss this issue and work towards getting ahead of the challenge. We look forward to sharing more details about these needs and the early stages of strategic planning we are taking to ensure RCS remains strong for future generations.



Proverbs 16:3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE SELVAGGIO, RCS PRINCIPAL



The 2024-2025 school verse is Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.” I’m certain we all have wondered, at least on occasion, what God’s will is for a particular situation. Isn’t it comforting to know that Scripture promises that we can know? This year

we are focusing on what it means to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, so that we can live in God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will. What a privilege to walk alongside young people who are seeking such transformation in their lives.

From preschool to 8th Grade, I get to see all kinds of transformation happening in our classrooms. Already this year, I have seen preschoolers be amazed that God parted the Red Sea to save His people. I have witnessed third graders finding patterns in the multiplication chart and then discussing the ways in which they see patterns in their spiritual lives. (My very favorite answer: “I see God forgiving me over and over.”) I have learned along with seventh graders as they explored what the Law of Conservation of Energy tells us about God. (My favorite answer: “It’s kind of like God. He was not created and cannot be destroyed, and sometimes we don’t think He is still there, but he still is.”)

We are so thankful for the work of the Rochester Christian School Foundation that enables us to see transformation in the hearts of our students. The Foundation is a crucial part of bridging the gap between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of educating our students. Your financial contributions ensure that we are able to offer tuition assistance to families who need it, as well as to meet our operational budget each year.

If you’d like to see firsthand all that God is doing at the school, I’d love to give you a personal tour! Email me (mselvaggio@rochesterchristianschool.org) to set one up. We are so thankful for your continued support and encouragement.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 DONORS

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NEW BERNARD H. & ALICE L. HUUSSEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Bernard H. & Alice L. Huussen Scholarship Fund was established in 2024 to serve as a lasting legacy and honor their lifelong commitment to advancing Christian Education. Bernard and his late wife, Alice, have had a long history of support for RCS, the RCS Foundation and Christian education as a whole. Both of their children, Jake and John, attended RCS. Bernard was instrumental in establishing a Christian Education Society (CES) at Rochester Christian Reformed Church to provide financial assistance to families who desired to send their children to RCS but could not afford the full tuition. He faithfully served in this capacity for more than 30 years. In addition, Bernard led a major fundraiser which he called: GALUSA (Games, Lunch, Sales). This event featured a large gallery of paintings, contributions from other artists and other sale items, along with games for children and an extensive lunch. It was very successful.



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Jan R. & Judy V. Huussen Scholarship Fund

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Rochester City Scholarship Fund

Ms. Ruth Machiele

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ALUMNI CORNER BY THEA HARE

The story of my commitment to Christian education begins with my grandparents – two Dutch immigrants. They arrived with nothing and lost everything they had in the Depression and yet made sure that their son, Fred attended RCS. We still have dad's 8th grade graduation program and class photo and he always pointed out his classmates who were lifelong

friends. When it came time, my parents made sure sister Celeste and I also attended RCS. I went to the old school (Jersey St.) and my sister got to attend the "new" school. I remember having band in the basement, the inside of Miss Smith's closet, walking down the street to the "playground" and falling down the driveway hill (and still have the scars to prove it). I also still remember the Bible verses memorized and the Bible stories taught by Miss Smith through Mr. Spyker. The Bible lessons learned provided a firm foundation upon which to build a personal faith, Bible verses to still recite in the hard times of life and verses of rejoicing with God's blessings. That is the priceless benefit of a RCS education. My sister and I have continued our commitment to Christian education and our children have also been able to attend Christian Schools.

As a parent and member of Christian school finance committees, I see the challenges of operating a school. The school board struggles to provide adequately for the staff and teachers, keep up with technology and maintain the physical assets entrusted to their care while keeping tuition affordable. That is where the Foundation comes in, helping to support operations of the school and keep tuition within reach. We learned the miracle of the loaves and fishes at RCS and the Foundation is an example of how God uses each gift, large or small, in His plans for RCS. Although my sister and I both moved away from Rochester decades ago, we still value the important role RCS played in our lives, those before us and how important it is to provide that education to future generations. We are grateful to those who made financial sacrifices that enabled us to receive our RCS education and we are happy to contribute to the Foundation to provide that opportunity to the children to come.



Thea's late parents, Fred & Bobbie Kalsbeek

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