



The Historic Campaign  
for Our Endowment

# Forever Stevens

# This

Our first campaign in 20 years will establish our first endowment, dedicated exclusively to financial aid.



**IN 1949, STEVENS WAS  
FOUNDED BY THE COMMUNITY,  
FOR THE COMMUNITY.**

Today, what makes us great — what makes us transformative — is still the character and the composition of our community. We believe that education is a cooperative endeavor, grounded in shared values, powered by relationships, enriched by diversity in all forms.

*Forever Stevens* is a campaign for our community, now and in the future. We want to raise \$2 million: \$1 million from families, graduates and friends, and \$1 million from our own reserves. We'll use that money to establish the school's first endowment, a permanent fund designed to grow at a sustainable rate. Over time, the endowment will become our primary source of financial aid for families.

Why is this campaign so important? And what makes it so Stevens? Here are three answers.

# is

# big!

**01**

# We're living our values.

“**OUR COMMITMENT** to financial aid has always been crucial to our identity,” says Director of Development Farad Lowther. “We value equity, and we value diversity in every form, including socioeconomic diversity. If we’re not accessible to everyone in our community, we’re not living our values. *Forever Stevens* ensures that we’ll never have to make that compromise.”

We’re affirming that commitment at a moment when more families need us to do so. “The economic picture in our neighborhoods is complicated,” says Head of School Sergio Alati. “More families need aid. Middle-income families are struggling. Too many low-income families assume

we’re out of reach. We need to be flexible; we need to meet families where they are.” An endowment gives us that ability — not just today, but for the long run.

The celebration of our 75th anniversary is a reminder of where we’ve come from — and a sign of where we’re going. “We’re fortunate to be in a strong position,” says Alati. “We’ve been responsible stewards of our funds. We’re seeing more applications and greater interest from prospective families. This is the perfect time to stand up for what matters to us: equity, diversity and access. *Forever Stevens* lets us bring our values fully to life.”



“All children should have access to a Stevens education, regardless of their family’s socioeconomic circumstance. To us, this campaign is about helping Stevens grow stronger — a standard-bearer for progressive education that is deeply rooted in, and concerned with, the well-being of its community.”

**Mukund and Anna, P '20 '25**



**02**

# We're enriching every student's education.



## WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE —

75 years of it! — that a diverse community leads to a deeper, more innovative, more powerful education.

“The kids learn so much from each other,” says Nancy Rossi, Co-Director of Admissions and High School Guidance. “They come to Stevens every day with different experiences, different histories, different ways of thinking and engaging with the world. When they work together, collaborate with one another, brainstorm with one another — amazing things happen. Barriers break down. New prospects open up.”

Our Cooperative model is built on that kind of interconnection. “Because of the parent Cooperative, socioeconomic diversity really shines here,” says Allison Tabor, Co-Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. “People come to Stevens because they want to be part of a community that represents the neighborhood, that looks and sounds like the world. What we share in common is a commitment to education, and to engaging with the school.”

“When I was younger, I focused on myself. Stevens shifted my vision outward, helped me become more inclusive and empathetic. I learned that my actions and words affect other people — and I learned how they can help. Stevens showed me that leadership can mean caring for a community, valuing the ideas and experiences of others, and advocating for them.”

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Our financial aid program adapts to the changing needs of our families, who represent a cross-section of our surrounding communities. “This is a thoughtful, responsive, smoothly run program,” says Rossi. “We want to cover everything a family needs to be truly included in the life of the school. For some families, that means a portion of tuition; for some it means tuition; for some it means tuition and more — field trips, summer camps, computers, afterschool programs. Every family belongs at Stevens. And every family adds so much to the experience of teaching and learning here.”



## 03

# We're raising our profile.



**ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT** for financial aid affirms our values, enriches our education — and it shows the world that we're a strong, stable, viable institution, built to last.

“The establishment of an endowment is transformational for any nonprofit,” says Lowther. “Only a handful of similar schools in New Jersey have endowments. By joining

their ranks, we're making a bold statement of intent: We plan to be around for a long time. And we plan to grow on our own terms.”

We've arrived at this moment thanks to smart, strategic financial management. “We've been such a careful school,” says Rossi. “We've always been good at saving money and using it when it's most needed. That's what helped us get through the pandemic. Other schools were closing; we actually hired more teachers. An endowment is the next logical — essential — step for a school with our track record and our ambitions.”

“When you reach 75 years as an organization,” says Lowther, “that's when you say: ‘OK, we've set the foundation. Now it's time to move to the next level.’ *Forever Stevens* gets us there. If you believe in what's happening here, now is the time to join the journey.”



# The Stevens Annual Fund

In conjunction with *Forever Stevens*, the Stevens Annual Fund sustains the best of our school

**FOREVER STEVENS IS ESSENTIAL** for our long-term growth. But what about our day-to-day needs, time-sensitive opportunities or short-term investments?

That's where the Stevens Annual Fund comes in. The Annual Fund is our bedrock. Day by day, year by year, it gives us the resources and the confidence to swiftly, strategically meet the needs of students and faculty.

The Stevens Annual Fund was instrumental in supporting the development of our new seven-day schedule. It helped our Pandemic

Task Force bring community events back to life. It helped us establish a lasting relationship with NOBIS project, so our 8th graders can travel and engage in overnight service-learning projects in different cities.

If a teacher has a great idea for a new field trip; if a student wants to start a service project; if a classroom or an athletics team or a musical group needs special tools or equipment or costumes — the Annual Fund is there. When someone says, "We should do this great thing for our students," the Stevens Annual Fund lets us say, "We can do it."

"For 75 years, Stevens has evolved to meet the needs and ambitions of our community by always asking, 'What's next?' The *Forever Stevens* Endowment for financial aid underscores our long-term commitment to the belief that our diversity is our unity and a cornerstone of our growth as a community of lifelong learners."

Kim Lew, Board Chair 2013-2020

# Join the journey

To give to *Forever Stevens*  
or to the Stevens Annual Fund,  
visit [www.stevenscoop.org/give](http://www.stevenscoop.org/give)



Stevens  
Cooperative  
School