



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
FAITH | COMMUNITY | EXCELLENCE

# Donor Impact Report 2024-25



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## Message from our Principal

Dear STA Community,

Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful for your generous support over the past year.

Your gifts and participation in the Walkathon, Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund, Campus Ministry, and our Scholarship Program helped us towards the school's fundraising goals, supported those in need, and provided our graduates with a strong start in their post-secondary journeys.

Together, we've continued our mission to offer a Catholic education that enriches both the academic and extracurricular lives of our students.

Thank you for being a vital part of the STA community and our journey.

With sincere gratitude,

Mieszko Krol  
Principal



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## The Power of Participation

We know we can achieve more when we work together. Participation comes in many forms: volunteering your time and talent, and giving of your financial resources. Regardless of how you participate, your involvement fosters a sense of belonging, responsibility, and social connection. We appreciate the many ways you participate in STA.

## Time & Talent Summary

**Volunteer Hours Contributed:** At the end of March, 155 parents volunteered their time for 5,515 hours. Thank you!



*“Volunteering at the STA cafeteria for the past five years has been an enriching experience, allowing me to actively engage with the school community and positively impact students' lives by helping create a welcoming space. It has allowed me to build connections with staff, students, and other parents, strengthening the sense of belonging within the school. My involvement sets an example for my kids about the value of giving back.”*

- Sandra Alsop, Gr.12/9 Parent

The work of our Parent Association and all parents who support the school's mission through volunteering is immeasurable. Your contribution to build a vibrant STA community is more than parent participation hours.

Your impact includes:

1. Role modeling – By participating in school activities, you're demonstrating the value of education and the importance of community involvement to your students.
2. Building a stronger community - Volunteering fosters relationships among parents, staff, and students, contributing to a more cohesive and supportive school culture.
3. Stronger home-school connection - Children often feel more motivated and secure when they see their parents engaged in their learning environment.

# Giving Summary

	2024-25		2023-24	
	\$	# of donors	\$	# of donors
Walkathon	55,155.95	478	61,473.93	329
Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund	94,348.80	141	24,078.29	75
Campus Ministry (Spirit days + International Night)	16,082.65	-	15,259.58	-

## Highlights

### Giving & Gratitude Annual Fund

We know families have many options when they consider their giving. All gifts to the Annual Fund are received with gratitude, and 100% of the proceeds are invested in the current school year. All gifts are tax-receiptable. This year, participation in the Annual Fund increased by 88%

The Annual Fund allows parents to consider their family’s philanthropic giving for the year ahead. Priorities for the Annual Fund are selected each year based on strategic initiatives from Administration, and survey feedback from students and staff. In 2024-25, we focused on two priorities: new staging for the Visual & Performing Arts department, and a new small school bus. With your generosity, we were able to purchase the new staging in January. We are currently sourcing the best options for the new bus.



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## Walkathon

This year, we saw a 45% increase in donor participation for the Walkathon, with its return as a student-led campaign. Since 20% of Walkathon donations are set aside each year for the Grade 12 Grad Legacy Project, we wanted to help students understand the impact of their efforts towards the Walkathon. We encouraged students to reach out to their extended family and friends to extend participation and involvement in the lives of our students to our broader community.

The results show that STA students embraced this opportunity and worked hard in their fundraising efforts. Students were incentivized by choosing a fundraising tier, allowing them to select the participation level at which they were comfortable.

*“Our Walkathon is a great way to kick-off the school year. The school makes it easy for us to reach out to our friends and extended family to ask for their support towards our fundraising goals. Not only do we benefit as students, but knowing that our efforts have a positive impact globally through the Grad Legacy Project makes this a worthwhile initiative.”*

Charles S., Grade 10 student

In 2025, we will set aside 10% of the Walkathon for the Grad Legacy project. This approach allows us to allocate more funds for student initiatives, and to recognize how students give throughout the year for various charities, through Campus Ministry initiatives. For more information about the Grad Legacy Project, click [here](#).

## Annual Fund & Walkathon Allocations – 2024-25

Category	Impact	Value
New staging for the Performing & Visual Arts Department  (PURCHASED)	After 25 years of use, we were thrilled to be able to purchase much-needed new staging. This equipment is regularly used for masses, assemblies, events and more.  Not only is it safer, but the time savings to put the staging together allow students and teachers to spend more time on the content for these events.	\$32,856.44
New, small school bus  (IN PROGRESS)	We are currently sourcing a new, small school bus to transport students to games, festivals and academic competitions. The bus will fit 12 students and equipment.	\$159,000.00
		\$191,856.44
Parts from the sale of the old school bus and staging		(7,000.00)
	<b>Cost sub-total</b>	<u>184,856.44</u>
	Total gifts (Walkathon + Annual Fund – Grad Legacy Project)	139,484.04
	School allocation	<u>\$45,372.40</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<u>\$184,856.44</u>



*“Giving is very important to our family as we want to support those organizations that we are connected with and that we are grateful for. We know that our donation to STA makes a difference and provides learning and extracurricular enhancements to STA students now and in the future.”*

- Ms. Alexandra Radziwill, Grade 8 Parent

## Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry provides students with opportunities to live out their faith. One aspect of this is service opportunities to live out the corporal works of mercy. We care for and support our neighbours in need locally and globally.

This includes:

Activity	Charity	Value
Spirit Days	The Door Is Open	\$5,707.45
Lent Fast	Development & Peace, Caritas Canada	\$2,220.00
International Night	Local and global charities including: Spectrum Mother's Support Society, CCBR, Development & Peace - Caritas Canada, Talitha Koum Society, Chalice Canada, Mejor Venezuela Society, Good Shepherd Ministry, The Door Is Open, and Associates of the Urban Poor.	\$10,375.20

## Scholarship Program

With over 20 scholarships for Grade 12 students totaling \$52,500, STA graduates begin their post-secondary experience on a positive note through the generosity of our Scholarship Program donors. Click [here](#) for a list of all awards and scholarships.



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## Parent Support Group (PSG)/Gaming Grants

Gaming grants are funds from commercial gambling revenues distributed by the provincial government to non-profit organizations, such as STA. Gaming grants are intended to enhance our students' extracurricular opportunities. A Parent Support Group (PSG) consisting of three STA parents oversees the distribution of gaming grants in consultation with the STA's Administration and staff. The PSG received \$12,060 from the provincial government for this school year. Funds can be carried over for 24 months.

Several requests continue to be reviewed and finalized. To date, funds have been used to provide:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Food and beverage for the Grad Mass reception	\$500.00
Supplies for use during QUEST time	\$171.09
Glass blowing workshop for art students	\$600.00
Static Electricity Competition trophy	\$106.39
Funds for Dry Grad	\$3,030.00
New mascot costume	\$912.94
2025 Homecoming equipment rental (dunk tank and climbing wall)	\$1,805.74

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## Looking Ahead: Annual Fund Priorities - 2025-26

In September 2025, we will finalize our Annual Fund priorities for the next school year with input from students and teachers. With your support, we hope to continue to reach our goals.

As an independent school, we receive only 50% funding from the provincial government. Government funding, along with tuition fees, is expected to cover the following: salaries, operational expenses, building operations and maintenance, and more.

With your participation in the Annual Fund, we can provide students with enhancements in academics, the arts and athletics. Your participation makes a difference and has an impact on STA Saints now, and for future generations.

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## Campus Master Plan (CMP)

The original St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School was built in 1957. Over the years, the structure did not meet STA's needs for both facility suitability and safety requirements. As a result, our Catholic community undertook the responsibility to build new facilities that would meet our students' current and future needs. It is important to recognize that we are required to fund all capital programs ourselves. We receive no financial support from local, provincial or federal governments for capital projects.

The CMP is divided into three (3) phases:

- Phase I: Build a new school - completed
- Phase II: Convent renovation
- Phase III: The demolition of the old school, and building an activity field in its place

STA plans to progress to the second phase of the CMP, beginning with engineering studies, in Fall 2025.

### Phase II – Convent renovation

The Convent was built in 1932 as the regional headquarters for the Sisters of the Child Jesus as well as their member residence. The structure itself is well preserved; however, the original purpose of the convent does not support our proposed student use objectives. Additionally, today's building standards require that the convent be updated to reflect the latest environmental and safety standards.

Our objective is to expand our normal educational operating capacity of approximately 620 students to nominally 675. The school plans to upgrade the structure to allow for an additional four (4) classrooms as well as be the focal point for student arts. The renovations will bring our music, drama, choir and potentially the art programs under one roof and increase the seating capacity of the convent chapel. Additionally, the building will house additional teacher workspaces and offices and provide an upgraded location for our Evergreen Program.

The plan is to fund this proposal from the following three sources:

1. Revenues generated through the rental of the old school to the entertainment industry
2. Donations from community members
3. Obtain a loan from the RCAV

STA has been fortunate to rent the old school to the entertainment industry. Those funds, in conjunction with funds generated from school operations, were used to pay down the construction loan obtained for our current school. As of December 2024, six and half years after the school opened, that loan is fully paid, a major milestone for the STA community!

Going forward, all revenues earned through rental are set aside in a restricted fund for use in the continued development of our Campus Master Plan.

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## Conclusion

Thank you again for being part of the STA community and believing in our mission to educate students in a Catholic-faith environment to reach their fullest potential. This report is a testament to all that we have accomplished together.

Don't forget to:

- **Volunteer** – Join us in making a difference. Donating your time, talent and treasure all has an impact on STA students. Learn more about volunteer opportunities [here](#).
- **Spread the Word** – Share our mission with friends and family. Bring them to STA events and help build our community.
- **Make a Gift** – Sustained support helps us plan for long-term impact. The Annual Fund is open year-round. Click [here](#) to donate.