



# THE PHOENIX ANNUAL

Issue 10

The Raleigh Charter High School Annual Newsletter

December 2019

## *Forever Phoenix Rising*

Our newly established Alumni Association aims to Connect, Serve, and Give Back

*Introduction by Margaret Barnett*

In early 2019, a small group of alumni and staff began working on the outline of a new initiative to increase engagement. We believe now — our 21<sup>st</sup> year — is the time to create an opportunity for our alumni to connect with one another and engage with our school community in more frequent and meaningful ways. At our 20th Anniversary Alumni Celebration in June, we officially launched the RCHS Alumni Association. Its mission is to provide peer-led opportunities for alumni to connect with one another, serve our school and greater community, and give back by supporting the initiatives of Raleigh Charter High School. The Alumni Association provides a platform for all alumni to engage and participate.

Our Forever Phoenix community has always been involved in many aspects of the school. Last spring, six alumni participated in a special Lunch & Learn series where they spoke to students about their own experiences studying, working, and volunteering abroad. This fall, nineteen different alumni visited our campus to serve as panelists, volunteer as guest speakers, and provide classroom support as substitute teachers. In the last few years, we have had three alumni serve on the school's Board of Directors, and this year, we have three alumni who work on staff.

There are several traditions here at RCHS which alumni have avidly supported for many years. With more concerted and intentional support from Alumni Association volunteers, we believe that annual events like the PSAT Panel, Fall Gathering, and Winter Coffee will not only continue but also grow and generate other opportunities for alumni engagement. Already this academic year, our Alumni Association has participated in two community service projects and held two social events. Next spring, in collaboration with students from our Community Work Day group, Creating Career Connections, alumni will be invited to serve on an after-school panel where they will speak to students about their career experience.

Each and every student who has attended Raleigh Charter is part of the Forever Phoenix community which means all alumni are automatically members of the Alumni Association. As a student, you played an important role in shaping the culture and community of RCHS. Many of the clubs you started and initiatives you created back then remain strong today. We value the skills and experience you have gained since graduating and we look forward to how you will share your time and your talents with us.



By participating in the Alumni Association, you can continue to contribute to the life and legacy of our school. We invite you to join us however and whenever you can.

The Alumni Association is organized by the Office of Alumni Relations and a Steering Committee of alumni volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to help us plan, organize, and host programs and events. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us at [alumni@raleighcharterhs.org](mailto:alumni@raleighcharterhs.org). We can't wait to hear from you and see you soon!



*Margaret Barnett (left) returned to RCHS in 2017 to work as the Communications Specialist & Alumni Liaison. She is an alumna from the Class of 2008.*

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*Forever Phoenix*  
FAVORITES

We asked alumni to tell us about their favorite parts of RCHS. Here are just a few!

.....

*“My teachers at RCHS made a profound impact on my life, what I decided to study in college, and the kind of work I want to do for the rest of my life. The teachers at RCHS truly love teaching, and it shows every day in the classroom.”*

Anna Huck '14

.....

*“I have so many lasting memories of the care, love, and support from the teachers. High school is rough for everyone; they did their best to make you feel heard, loved, and important.”*

Danielle Kelly '05

.....

*“At RCHS, I learned that being smart is cool!”*

Graduate from the Class of 2006

.....

*“What I love about RCHS is that students trust the teachers to know what they’re doing and treat them with respect, and the teachers trust that the students actually want to learn and will treat them with respect. I think this is what makes RCHS such a great place to learn.”*

Graduate from the Class of 2018

# A Year of Celebration

For Raleigh Charter’s double-decade birthday, we chose to celebrate with two birthday parties: one in May with our current students and their families and one in June with our alumni community. In addition to these events, we also celebrated in small ways throughout the year. We featured RCHS trivia during the morning announcements. Teachers and staff hosted a parade of birthday cakes for students during the Second Friday Club Fair. The Music Department performed special concerts in collaboration with alumni musicians. Advisories decorated their doors to go along with the 20th Anniversary theme and students created their own RCHS-style memes!

## A Very Happy Birthday!

On May 10, 2019, we celebrated with students and parents at our 20th Birthday Party. Class of 2019 seniors, Emily Hannon (left) and Nuria Shin (right), and the RCHS Jazz Combo provided some party tunes.



*“My favorite thing about RCHS is the sense of community. For me that community was most visible in the ways that students, parents, and staff came together for events like Community Work Days and Flex Days.”*

Noah Vetter '14

.....

*“My favorite part of RCHS is all the opportunities available to every student! Everyone has a chance to be an artist, be an athlete, be a leader, be a scientist, be whatever. I got to explore and be a part of so many different activities.”*

Catherine McSorley '15

.....

*“I learned HOW to think, not WHAT to think!”*

Graduate from the Class of 2007

.....

*“It felt like home to me.”*

Graduate from the Class of 2011

.....

*“At RCHS, you can be yourself.”*

Graduate from the Class of 2009

.....

*“RCHS made me feel seen and valued.”*

Graduate from the Class of 2011

.....

*“Going to a school filled with people who are accepting of you no matter where you come from, who you are, or what you look like was an amazing experience. I loved going to a school filled with critical thinkers who supported each other.”*

Annie O'Neill '18

MORE Forever Phoenix FAVORITES

Teachers and staff at the Annual Faculty Retreat at Falls Lake in June 2019.



# Celebrating Our Community



On June 15, 2019, nearly 200 alumni gathered at RCHS for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Alumni Reunion. It was incredible to see so many graduates (and alumni parents!) from nearly every year of our 20-year history. We love catching up with our alumni and hearing about all the wonderful things you all are up to. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a special day for our Forever Phoenix community.



Several of our original faculty members shared their stories, memories, and perspectives with us during the Faculty Panel Session which featured questions submitted by alumni. Thank you to James Kofecki '04, and Pooja Mehta '13, for organizing this very special moment! Panelists Glenda Atkinson, Kenny Felder, Mary Grimes, Amy Marschall, Tom Humble, Shayne Klein, Cynthia Brown, and Amy Koch are pictured above with James and Pooja.

## Reunion Reflections

*"I had a great time catching up with alumni and teachers at the 20<sup>th</sup> reunion. It was so exciting to tour the new building and feel that same sense of connectedness and adventure I felt at Pilot Mill in 1999 when this RCHS journey began. The character and mission of the school has not changed, and I was thrilled to see new classes of students graduating as citizens, learning how to learn and seek information, integrating into local communities and launching missions to change the world!"*

Peter Smith '02



*"How do I adequately put into words the profound impact Raleigh Charter has had on my life? As an alumni community, there is a collective sense of pride and gratitude for the opportunities, wisdom and memories we share. What a special dynamic we have to be able to reconnect as a 'Phoenix Family' at reunions and reminisce like no time has passed."*

Marina Strom '10

During the remarks portion of the event, several individuals spoke about their experiences here at Raleigh Charter. RCHS Board Chair Jameson Marks '03 spoke about being a member of one of the first graduating classes and the importance of staying involved with our school community. Principal Lisa Huddleston reflected on the past, present, and future of RCHS. Foundation Board Chair and alumni parent, Jeff Simone, expressed gratitude to our alumni parents for their steadfast support.

During her remarks, Ms. Huddleston recognized the commitment and dedication of our teachers and staff. Our community of students, teachers, staff, and parents is truly what makes RCHS a unique and extraordinary place to learn, work, and grow. In particular, we took a moment to recognize Dr. Tom Humble for his many years of thoughtful dedication to Raleigh Charter.

Mark Slattery and Alex Karsten '10 contributed to the festivities by presenting a hilarious rendition of the "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire" game show featuring trivia questions about Dr. Humble. The skit brought out many laughs but its true sentiment rang loud and clear: Dr. Humble has played an integral role in making Raleigh Charter the amazing school that it is and we — as a community of teachers, alumni, and parents — truly appreciate his continued contributions!

In closing, Ginnie Huntley '08, and Marina Strom '10, introduced our newest initiative: The RCHS Alumni Association. Ginnie and Marina also recognized Dr. Humble as an honorary alum of RCHS by presenting him with his very own "Still Rowdy" T-shirt.



Ms. Newmark and Mr. Hussey hosted a pop-culture and RCHS-themed trivia game. Much like a high school classroom activity, alumni formed teams and worked together to answer questions. It was wonderful to see alumni from different graduating classes collaborating.



Big thanks to the Buchanan family for bringing their ice cream truck and serving up some cool treats at the event!



Our prize raffle included some exclusive RCHS items: a beautiful quilt that K. Walsh '20 sewed using T-shirts from clubs, sports, plays, and spiritwear; a T-shirt designed by Meg Woodburn '19; and a "Still Rowdy" alumni T-shirt originally designed by Lucia Boehling '14, for our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

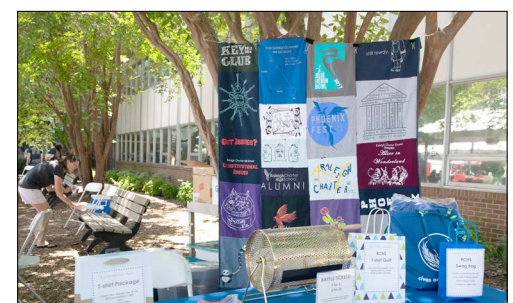
## Many thanks!

We are especially grateful to alumni parent and professional photographer, Catherine Davis, for spending the day with us and photographing so many special moments! All photos on this spread were generously provided by Catherine Davis Photography.

[www.catherinedavisphotography.com](http://www.catherinedavisphotography.com)



Dr. Brown hosted a special sing-a-long and music sharing session with choral and band alumni in the Music Room. Alumni sang some old favorites together and learned about what their classmates have been doing.



# Introducing

## The Alumni Association

Mission:

We, as **knowledgeable, thoughtful, contributing** citizens of the RCHS Alumni Association, will work together to provide peer-led opportunities for alumni to **connect** with one another, **serve** our school and greater community, and **give back** by supporting the initiatives of Raleigh Charter High School.



### Connect

We will build connections among alumni and strengthen relationships between alumni and our school.

### Serve

We will volunteer together to help RCHS and the greater community.

### Give Back

We will contribute our time and resources in support of Raleigh Charter's initiatives to ensure the legacy of excellent education.

## Get Involved!

- 1 All alumni are automatically members of the RCHS Alumni Association and we hope you will join us at many events.
- 2 Make sure we have your correct contact information and check your email for updates and invitations.
- 3 Join our RCHS Alumni Facebook group to connect with other alumni and stay up-to-date on what's new.

## Update Your Information

We invite all RCHS alumni and alumni parents to reconnect with Raleigh Charter by completing a short online form to update your contact information and share your memories with us.

**We will use your updated information to**

- Send you Alumni Association News by email
- Connect your skills & talents with school volunteer opportunities
- Keep you updated on all things RCHS!

Use these links or visit [raleighcharterhs.org/alumni](https://raleighcharterhs.org/alumni) to update your contact information today.

### Alumni

<https://tinyurl.com/ForeverPhoenixAlumni>

### Alumni Parents

<https://tinyurl.com/ForeverPhoenixParent>

## Help Us Grow

Whether you would like to help plan a single project or join the Steering Committee, we would love to have your help! If you are interested in learning more about how you can contribute to the development of the Alumni Association, please email [alumni@raleighcharterhs.org](mailto:alumni@raleighcharterhs.org).

# Forever Phoenix

Each year, alumni from near and far return for RCHS reunions and activities. Here are some 2018-2019 highlights from the Annual Alumni & Faculty Winter Coffee, Alumni Basketball Game, Forever Phoenix Fall Gathering, and Class of 2014 reunion.

Alumni, faculty, and staff enjoyed coffee and treats at the Annual Winter Coffee in January 2019.



4th Annual Forever Phoenix Fall Gathering at Lynnwood Brewing in November 2018.



Basketball alumni joined our current team for a game over Winter Break in January 2019.

## Happy Anniversary!

**Class of 2004: 15 years**

**Class of 2009: 10 years**

**Class of 2014: 5 years**

Alumni from the Class of 2014 celebrated at their 5-year reunion in July 2019.



# 20 Years of Serving Together

In October 2018, we celebrated 20 Years of Serving Together. As stated in our Citizenship Preamble, we believe "that if we build and maintain local communities and develop an awareness of our membership in ever larger communities, we shall become good citizens." Service to others has always been at the core of our citizenship-focused approach to learning so it was no surprise that when we asked for photos of the Phoenix in action, the response was incredible! We received dozens of photos of Raleigh Charter citizens of the world doing meaningful work here in the Raleigh area and across the globe. On Community Work Day in November 2018, current students assembled a display of these photos and stories along the stairs in our lobby. Here are just a few highlights.

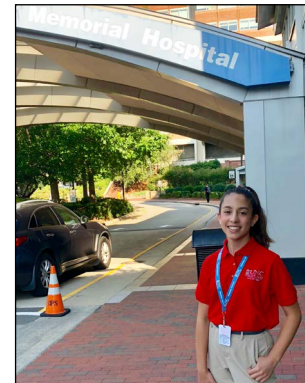


In addition to installing the Service Wall photo display, students in our 20th Anniversary Community Work Day group also organized an Advisory door-decorating contest, assembled a time capsule filled with Phoenix ephemera, and volunteered at the RCHS 20th Birthday Party.

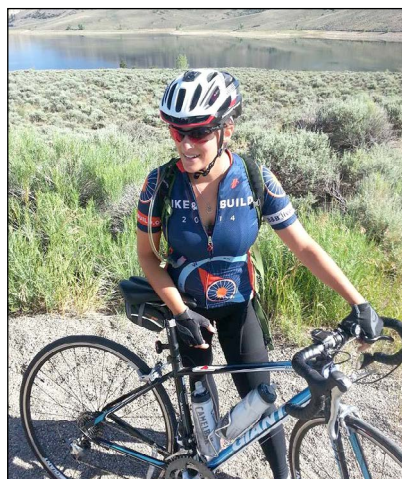


While studying at the Johns Hopkins University in 2015, **Brooks Morgan '05** helped initiate a research study of pulmonary health in urban and rural areas of Uganda.

**Petra Martignoni** (right) has been a long-time volunteer with the NC Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh. Over the past 14 years she has worked to build an ever-growing library for the women at the prison. **Hannah Page** (left) joined her in 2013. These two teachers regularly volunteer at the prison and are always looking for new titles to add to the library.



**T. DeStasio '21** spent the summer of 2018 volunteering at UNC Hospitals where she did art projects with the children who were waiting for the medical appointments.



**Martha Scott Johnson '07** volunteered as a cyclist with Bike & Build, an organization that runs cross-country cycling tours to raise money and awareness for affordable housing. Participants raise funds to be distributed to affordable housing groups, cycle from coast to coast to raise awareness, and participate in direct service projects along the route. Martha's team cycled from the coast of North Carolina to San Diego in the summer of 2014, and volunteered for 12 days in several states during the trip.



Members of Key Club packed a truck full of supplies collected by the school community for Hurricane Florence relief in fall 2018. **Anna Blake Glatthaar '19** (pictured center) who organized the supply drive, drove to Eastern NC to deliver items to people affected by the storm.



Over her summer break in 2018, **Emily Hannon '19** went on a week-long mission trip to volunteer in Philadelphia where she cleaned and weeded a city block and planted a community garden.



While working overseas as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, **Lauren (Holmes) Lewis '05** often takes opportunities to volunteer at community events. Lauren gave a speech in Japanese about the strong ties between the U.S., Japan, and China.



Students in the Affordable Housing for All program worked on a Habitat for Humanity building project in Raleigh on Community Work Day in 2017.

## Students in Service Today 2019 Community Work Day Highlight

By T. Baddour '21, Communications Intern



Our Fall 2019 Community Work Day was a great day for RCHS students! A large group of students visited the Tammy Lynn Center (TLC) in Raleigh to spend the day doing activities with

children and adults with disabilities. Students enjoyed getting to know the residents while making art and craft projects together. Junior J. Balint-Kurti said, "It was fun to work with the kids and help them have fun with different art activities." This year the Tammy Lynn Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary of service to people living with disabilities in North Carolina. Raleigh Charter students have been visiting TLC for over ten years.



Farms of the Future is another Community Work Day favorite. Students visited Coon Rock Farm in Hillsborough to learn about sustainable agriculture and to get some real, hands-on

experience. On the farm, students had fun weeding, working with pigs, and planting onions and garlic. Owners Richard Holcomb and Jamie DeMent took over operations at Coon Rock Farm in 2004. Farms of the Future first started going to Coon Rock Farm about ten years ago when Richard, an RCHS alumni parent, graciously offered to host our student groups after plans to visit a different location unexpectedly fell through. Dave Palmieri, who has been one of the faculty advisors for Farms of the Future since the beginning, says "the program is important because we learn about where our food comes from, local farming, ways to encourage eating locally, and how to support small, sustainable agriculture efforts."

The Tammy Lynn Center and Farms of the Future are just two of the thirty unique Community Work Day programs we currently have at RCHS.

# Thank you!

During our 20th Anniversary year (2018-2019), our community members including alumni, alumni parents, current parents, grandparents, friends, corporations, and foundations contributed **\$339,170** exceeding our \$325,000 Phoenix Fund goal by **\$14,170**.



## Our PHOENIX FUND is operational.

It pays for today by supplementing low per-pupil funds.

With the extra \$14,170 raised, we were able to support our newest initiative – The Foundation Fund.

## Our FOUNDATION FUND is aspirational.

The Foundation Fund exists to support teachers and classrooms.

For the 2018-2019 school year, our community contributed **\$100,260**.

Learn more about The Phoenix Fund and The Foundation Fund on page 15.



From everyone at Raleigh Charter High School, **thank you to the following contributors for gifts received from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.** There is no way to fully express our gratitude for your many gifts. We are continually inspired by your dedication and generosity.

## Phoenix Fund

### Forever Phoenix

Rose Almasian '19  
Ahmad Ayesh '19  
Benjamin Balint-Kurti '19  
William Blackburn '19  
Daisy Grace Bonifant '19  
Ella Booker '19  
Mohamed Anwar Boutayba '19  
Lauren Bradley '19  
Jared Brodie '19  
The Burns-Fredericks Family (Brendan '11)  
Pranav Charvu '19  
Dabreon Davis '19  
Grady Davis '19  
Kaitlin Donovan '19  
Isabelle Dummer '19  
Adam Easley '19  
Sarah Edmondson '19  
John Eick '07  
Sam Elam '19  
Samuel Eshun Danquah '19  
Mariella Florimonte '19  
Charlotte Foley '19  
Carolyn Frein '19  
Robert Gan '19  
Aravind Ganesan '19  
Emma Gibson '19  
Anna Blake Glatthaar '19  
Marco Gomez '19

Grace Greene '19  
Morgan Greene '19  
Erin Greig '19  
Adam Hager '19  
Nicholas Hames '19  
Emily Hannon '19  
Kenan Hill '19  
Anna Huck '14  
Silas Huckins '19  
Clare Barnett Huerta '04  
Caitlin Huguely '19  
Henry Jackson '19  
Will Jackson '13  
Nupur Jain '19  
Akhil Jariwala '10  
Saumil Jariwala '10  
Nikita Joshi '19  
Adam Kadhim '19  
Riya Kanjia '19  
Kaathyayini Kashyap '19  
Farzan Khaja '19  
Blair King '18  
Brittany Kirby '19  
Patrick Koenig '19  
Silas Koning '19  
Emily and James Kotecki '04  
Caroline Krieman '19  
Peter Lane '19  
Claire Liang '19  
Jonathan Lindyberg '19  
Katie Liu '19  
Claire Long '05  
Sophia Macomber '19

Adya Mahajan '19  
Josh Markham '19  
Jameson Marks '03  
Camryn McClure '19  
Alicia Meyerhoffer '19  
Joanna Mills '09  
Lucy Murray '19  
Sanoj Nagarathal '19  
Langdon Ogburn '17  
Sarathi Patil '19  
Isha Patnaik '19  
Steven Powell '19  
Alex Pritchard '19  
Carter Ramquist '17  
Neill Robson '15  
Emma Rowe '19  
Jake Satisky '17  
Luke Satisky '19  
Megan Sawatzky '19  
Jacob Schuster '19  
Gillian Scott '19  
Rachel Scudato '19  
Maandvi Shah '19  
Patrick Koenig '19  
Julia Slater '19  
Alex and Mary Smith '06  
Britanny Soberanis '19  
Jackson Sommers '19  
Mary Stewart '19  
Vanessa Sullivan '02 for Social Justice Club  
Sophie Sun '19  
Noel Therien '19

Brodie Thiele '19  
Benjamin Thomas '19  
Sallie Thompson '11  
Wheeler Thompson '19  
Shivangi Tiwari '19  
Sowmika Vaka '19  
Neha Vangipurapu '19  
Andrew Watson '19  
Andrew White '19  
Mary Claire White '19  
Caroline Williams '11  
Alicia Wnorowski '19

### Current Parents

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The Ahn Family  
The Albert Family  
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Terri Aron  
Debra Aronson  
Deepali Arte and Aniruddha Worlikar  
Javed Awan  
Vijay and Sapeena Awasthi  
The Ayala Family  
Edgar and Jeanette Ayerbe  
Philip Baddour



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Daniel Barker  
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Bergschneider Family Charitable Fund  
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The Boettcher Family  
Ben and Clare Bonifant  
The Bourne Family  
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Maureen Brass  
The Brussee Family  
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David Buck  
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The Clauss Family  
Laura Clougherty  
Mark and Dorothy Congiusta  
Jean Corley  
Nihat Cubukcu  
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Rebekah Davis and Grady Jackson  
Babu Dawadi  
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The DeWalle Family  
Lorna DeWalle  
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Wendy Dittman  
Eric Doggert  
The Dolicker Family  
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Amrapali Bose and Rudra Dutta  
The Edmondson Family  
Harrison and Lori Edwards  
The Elam Family  
The Estrada Family  
Marc and Catherine Finch  
Katherine and Louis Fortunato  
Michael Frein  
The Furr Family  
The Furr Family in honor of Scott White  
Marla Futrell  
Dayong Gan and Ma Junhong



The Gantt Family  
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The Gerber Family  
Pryor and Barbara Gibson  
Jamie Gordon  
Karen Gower  
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Jim and Lynn Greig  
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Sridevi Gunupudi  
The Hannon Family  
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Matt Hobgood  
Gerald and Courtney Hodge  
James Holland and Andrea Cardinal  
The Houck Family  
Stephen Humphries  
Tom Hurley  
Debra Hurst  
Mark Immler  
Thomas Ireton  
Mitch and Brenda Jackson  
Neena Jain  
Dave and Laurie Jeffries in honor of the Class of 2021  
Xuxian Jiang and Xining Wang  
Leo '20, Linus '16, Alex '15, Andi and Dave Johnson  
The Jones Family  
Seby Jones  
Dhanesh and Shivangi Joshi  
Connie Kang and Lianghong Liu  
Jagruti Kanjia  
Prasad Kashyap  
Matt Keele  
Constance Keen  
Arnold and Jane King  
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Andrew Krieman  
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Helene and Bill Lane  
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Lorie and Bob Lindyberg  
The Lipetzky Family  
Sandi Long  
Jodi Schwartz  
The Macomber Family  
Krishna Madap and Padmaja Nagaram  
John and Julie Malone  
DeAnne Mangum  
Vinay Manhass and Shalini Kheora  
The Marshall Family  
Seema Marshall  
The Mason Family  
The McClure Family  
Jessica Elder McDonald  
Ken and Lyuda McNees  
The McSorley Family  
Florence and Arnaud Melin

The Miller Family  
Renee Miller  
Saida Mohame and Ali Omar  
The Moomaw Family  
Subbarayudu Mukkamala  
Patrick and Michelle Murray  
The Murrays  
Karma Myers  
The Nagarathal Family  
Kiran Nanduri  
Ravi Nanugonda  
Pavan and Madhavi Nomula  
The Ogburn-Colvin Family  
Deb and Rudy Ogburn  
Emmanuel and Vivien Omile  
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Kathleen Perez  
Kailash Peri  
Manjula Petchetti  
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Renee Poole in honor of Kaylyn Poole  
The Potluru Family  
The Powell Family  
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David Quan  
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Balaji Ramadurai  
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The Saini Family  
Phyllis Sanders  
Xiaokang Sang and Jie Li  
The Santoianni Family  
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The Sawatzky Family  
Jeffrey and Donna Schuster  
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Joe and Gina Scudato  
Jennifer Serino  
Manish Sethi  
Ankur Shah  
Chris and Shannon Shea  
Cameron and Wendy Shearon  
Lisa Shelley  
Allison Sicary-Sutich  
Thusheeta Sivayogan  
The Smith Family  
Jennifer Snyder



Jennifer Southworth  
David and Sharon Spitz  
The Springle Family  
The Sridhar Family  
Matthew and Shawna Starbuck  
John and Robin Stewart  
The Strickland Family  
Angela Strickland  
The Surapaneni Family  
Stephanie Suski  
The Swenson Family  
Christian and Alice Tate  
The Therien Family  
Corinne and Martin Thiele  
Preethi Thomas  
Susan and Terrell Thomas  
Vinod Tiwari  
Marilyn Tomei  
Semyon Tsynkov  
Mary Ung  
Dave and Sharon Van Dyke  
The Vick Family  
Kim and Mark Von Weihe  
The Wallace Family  
The Walsh Family  
Lynn Wanbaugh  
Charles Wang  
David and Heather Watkins  
The Wedge Family  
Alison and Seth Weinreb  
The Wells Family  
Beth, Ellie, Claire, and Levering White in loving memory of Scott White  
Kevin White  
Lynn Whittenberger  
The Willette Family  
Wayne and Clastrala Williams  
Tricia and Mark Wilson  
Tom and Karen Wing  
Michael Wnorowski  
The Young Family  
The Zachary Family  
Timothy and Melissa Zantello

### Current Faculty & Staff

Sera Arcaro  
Glenda Atkinson  
Lisa Huddleston  
Thomas and Sally Humble  
Shayne Klein  
Gene Meade, Go Phoenix!



## Former Faculty & Staff

Anthony Clay  
Lisa and Joe Tranquillo  
Marylee Deifer

## Contributing Friends

Anonymous (4)  
Roger and Nancy Callanan  
in memory of  
Angela Callanan Joseph  
Brian Lane  
Mike Jordan  
Professors Judith W. Page and  
William H. Page

## Grandparents

Anonymous (1)  
Bonnie Elam  
Richard and Barbara Famer  
Hedgehog Management, Inc.  
Joanne and Joe Gerber  
Charlotte Grant  
Ed and Pat Johnston  
Chip and Ellen Limbrick  
in honor of Wheeler Thompson  
Mary Pellettieri  
Susan Poux  
Joan Santadt  
Howard and Lyn Satisfsky

## Forever Phoenix Parents

Anonymous (1)  
Richard Adelman  
Winston Atkins and Kathy Green  
Winnie and Michael Beach  
Howard and Noelle Browne  
Meg Revelle and David Chapin in  
honor of RCHS's 20th!  
The Cheung Family  
Sam and Kim Craig  
Catherine Davis Photography, LLC  
Dave and Ann Marie DiSerafino  
Kris and Jane Dreyer  
Warren Edwards  
Allen and Susan Fisher,  
Trevor, Joseph, Erik  
Cindi and Joel Freeman  
John Fuscoe  
The Garcia Family  
Jane Gilewicz  
Yolanda Grijalva  
Mark Hardy  
The Hartwell Family

Brent and Felicia Heyward  
Anthony Ivosic  
Steve and Carolyn Jackson  
Edward Keating  
The Kempton Family  
Jody Stewart Khater  
The Kilgore Family  
Jak and Page King  
Battle Koonce  
Jeanne Lawson  
John Leonard and  
Laura Heintschel  
Amy and David Marschall  
Amanda and Michael McCabe  
Sharon and Alan McConnell  
Karl and Barbara Meyer  
Dick and Carol Anne Moehring  
The Morray Family  
David Nelson  
The Nicholls Family  
Bob and Tammy Noel  
Diana and Eric Parsons  
Kathy Perkinson  
Robert Ray  
Robert Siegel and  
Rafaella DiGiorgio-Siegel

The Simone Family  
Miles Smith, Jr.  
Dirk and Anne Steckmann  
Mark Stephens  
Don and Mary Lawrence Stroud  
Michael and Veronique Sweeney  
The Tempest Family  
The Thompson Family  
David Towns  
Cheryl Vetter  
Brandon ('16) and Ethan ('19)  
Wacaser  
James Ward  
The Wells Family  
Suzy White  
Collins and Joey Williams  
Jon Williams and Rose Vaughn  
Hong Xu

## Foundations & Organizations

Chop Shop Barbeque and  
Food Truck  
Lumpy's Ice Cream  
Phoenix Parents  
The John William Pope Foundation  
State Employees Combined  
Campaign  
United Way of Greater Atlanta  
United Way of the Greater Triangle

## Corporations

Bank of America  
Charitable Foundation  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
of North Carolina  
Cisco Foundation  
Citrix Systems, Inc.  
Clarkston Consulting, Inc.  
Dell Giving  
Deutsche Bank Americas  
Foundation  
Duke Energy Foundation  
Eaton  
Education First-Institute for  
Cultural Exchange  
First Citizens Bank  
Genworth Foundation  
Google  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
IBM International Foundation  
Intel Corporation  
Intel Involved Volunteer  
Matching Grant Program  
Lenovo Employees Care  
Campaign  
Oracle Corporation  
Pentair Foundation  
Qualcomm Matching  
Grant Program  
Quintiles (IQVIA) Matching  
Gift Program  
Red Hat Matching Fund  
SAP Software Solutions  
SAS Employee Volunteer Fund  
TIAA-CREF  
Verizon Foundation  
Wells Fargo Matching Gift Program

## In-Kind Gifts

Alien Skin Software  
Catherine Davis Photography, LLC  
Howard and Noelle Browne  
Joe and Joanne Gerber  
SAS, Inc.  
Tim and Melissa Zantello

## Foundation Fund

Anonymous (3)  
The Ayerbe Family  
Daniel and Catherine  
Bergschneider  
Sondli and Parag Birla  
Robert Bradley  
The Brussee Family

Jane Cleveland  
Matt and Eve Coats  
Lori Collins  
Mark and Buffy Curtis  
Damita Davis  
Marc DeWalle  
Daniel Dittman  
Jennifer and Paul Elam  
Santiago and  
Mary Michaels Estrada  
Matthew and Kathryn Gerber  
The Green Family  
Richard He '13  
Nancy Heyes  
Sarah Huck '11  
Thomas and Sally Humble  
Steve Humphries and  
Helena Oakley  
Steve and Carolyn Jackson  
Mr. and Ms. Edward R. Johnston  
Elizabeth and Randal Karsten  
The Keim Family  
Elena Dowin Kennedy '05  
Arnold and Jane King  
Mike and Heidi King  
Haden and Beth Lane  
Craig and Becky Lightfoot  
Charles and Jodi Long  
Jameson Marks '03  
Hilarie Nickerson  
Chris and Amy Northup  
Eric and Diana Parsons  
The Poole Family  
Susan Poux  
Patricia Reid  
Allison Sicary-Sutich  
Vincent Smith and  
Carrie Dow-Smith  
Dirk and Anne Steckmann  
Thomas Steckmann '17  
Corrinne and Martin Thiele  
Nancy Thompson  
Semyon Tsynkov

## Corporations

Anonymous (1)  
BBVA Compass Bank  
The Walt Disney Company  
Foundation  
Fidelity Foundation Matching Gifts  
to Education Program  
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation  
Qualcomm Foundation  
Quintiles (IQVIA)

# A Letter from Our Board Chairs

Dear Phoenix Community Members,

Raleigh Charter High School is recognized throughout Wake County, North Carolina, and the nation as an outstanding high school. Many of you sought admission for your student for this reason. **We believe that the foundation for our success is small classes led by experienced, passionate, dedicated teachers.**

What you may not know is that for every year of our existence, our budget has been difficult because **the quality of education we offer costs more than state and county funding provides.** There are two primary factors that contribute to this financial challenge:

We hire experienced teachers, many with advanced degrees.  
We do not receive funding for our school building.

This year is particularly challenging due to the state budget delays. This affects our revenue (student funding) and expenses (salaries and supplies). Imagine trying to keep teachers or hire new teachers without telling them if there will be changes in salaries or allowing them to replenish lab supplies or purchase updated textbooks.

Simply put, our school budget is lean. 79% funds the people who work with our students every day, yet our teachers receive less salary because we are unable to pay the 12% supplement for National Board Certification that is offered to Wake County teachers. Additionally, building costs represent 13.5% of our annual budget. (See the budget pie chart on the next page.) There is little room for reducing expenditures within the remaining 7.5%; the options are our people or our building. **Yet, our successes, past and future, are directly related to the people we employ and the environment we provide.**

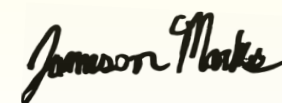
Because of these annual budget challenges, we have always asked our community members to help by contributing each year to our Phoenix Fund (Our \$325,000 goal = 6% of our budget.) For many years now this amount or more has been provided by gifts from current parents, alumni, alumni parents, grandparents, friends, corporate matching, and foundations. **The Phoenix Fund secures the quality of education at RCHS for this year's students.** This is why we say... **The Phoenix Fund is operational. It pays for today.**

In anticipation of continued budget challenges, several years ago we established the Foundation Fund. It exists to improve compensation and benefits for our faculty and staff and to replenish reserves following large capital expenses. To date, through both one-time gifts and pledges over time, the Foundation Fund has received \$255,270. Contributions have helped to provide bonuses to our faculty and staff for the past three years and helped to repair or replace aging components of our building. This is a tremendous step forward in our strategic goal of offering competitive salaries and will continue to secure the quality of teaching at RCHS. This why we say... **The Foundation Fund is aspirational. It ensures our tomorrow.**

If you have already contributed to our fundraising efforts, THANK YOU! RCHS is possible because of you.

We hope that our words will inspire you to support, or continue to support, our school with gifts to the Phoenix Fund and, if possible, to the Foundation Fund. Everything you need to respond to this request is enclosed in this edition of The Phoenix Annual. Every gift matters and will be greatly appreciated and carefully used.

With great appreciation,



Jameson Marks '03  
RCHS Board Chair



Jeff Simone  
RCHS Foundation Board Chair

**Please see the next two pages for information about how you can support RCHS.**

We make every effort to ensure that this listing of donors is accurate.  
Please contact Carolyn Jackson at [cjackson@raleighcharterhs.org](mailto:cjackson@raleighcharterhs.org) with corrections.

*Thank you to the many donors who contributed in support of our **Drama, Athletics, We the People, and student assistance programs.** We are grateful for the in-kind donations of a conference room table, painting supplies, a saxophone, monitors, computers, and Lego Mindstorm robotic kits.*

*We are thankful for the inclusion of Raleigh Charter High School in the SECC, United Way of the Greater Triangle, and the United Way of Atlanta workplace campaigns.*

*We Rely on Support from  
 All Phoenix Families.*

Please Help Us Meet Our \$325,000 Goal!

**The Phoenix Fund is operational. It pays for today.**

The Phoenix Fund is our annual fundraising appeal. Contributions are used to supplement low per-pupil funding and make our day-to-day operations possible.

The Phoenix Fund is Vital to Our Budget

**Charter schools are funded differently than traditional public schools.**

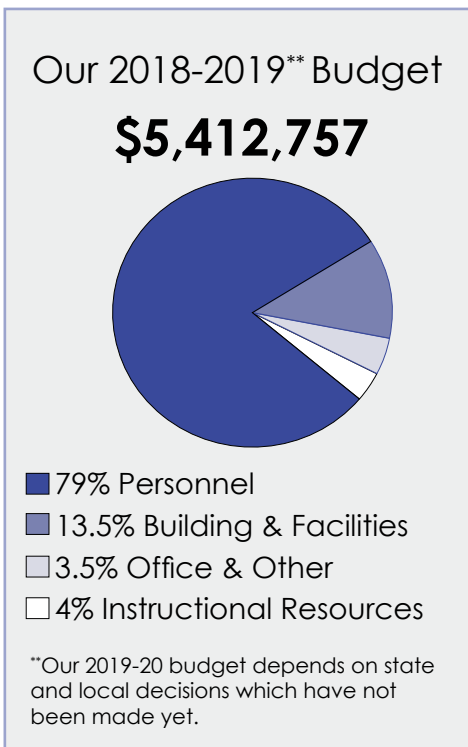
Charter schools do not receive building funds or lottery proceeds. RCHS facility costs totaled about \$1,100 per student in 2017-2018.

**Our per-pupil funding has been and continues to be low.**

2017-2018 Average Funding Per Pupil		The RCHS budget is lean. We use our limited resources wisely.
US	\$15,050*	
NC	\$11,621*	
RCHS	\$8,000	

\*Data source: NEA Rankings and Estimates Report, April 2019.

**Without the annual Phoenix Fund we would face a difficult decision:**  
 Increase enrollment without adding faculty members  
 OR reduce the number of faculty members.  
 In either case, class size would increase.



*The Phoenix Fund secures the quality of education at RCHS!*

With Your Support of the Phoenix Fund We Will...

**Keep classes sizes small**  
 Our current student to teacher ratio is 16 to 1.

**Attract and retain excellent teachers**  
 Our teachers have an average of 18 years of classroom experience!

**Purchase new textbooks**  
 Textbooks can range in cost from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per course.

**Pay for our school building**  
 This includes paying our mortgage, maintaining our roof and HVAC, and even keeping the lights on!

RCHS is Possible **Because of YOU!**

# Every Gift Matters

We appreciate your contributions to either of our two funds.



**PHOENIX FUND**  
*Every family. Every year.*

**The PHOENIX FUND is operational. It pays for today.**

The Phoenix Fund is our annual fundraising appeal. Donations are used to supplement limited per-pupil state funding. The Phoenix Fund supports **small class sizes, technology, textbooks, college counseling, community service, the arts,** and much more.

To contribute to The **Phoenix Fund**, direct your payment to  
**Raleigh Charter High School**  
 Fill out a **Blue Card** or donate online at [raleighcharterhs.org/giving](http://raleighcharterhs.org/giving)

**Foundation Fund**  
 SUPPORTING TEACHERS & CLASSROOMS

**The FOUNDATION FUND is aspirational. It secures the school for our future students.**

Donations to The Foundation Fund will be used to steadily and sustainably **increase compensation for our dedicated faculty.** The Foundation Fund will also secure our classrooms by replenishing reserves used for **major building maintenance.**

To contribute to The **Foundation Fund**, direct your payment to  
**Raleigh Charter High School Foundation, Inc.**  
 Fill out at pledge form or donate online at [raleighcharterhs.org/giving/foundationfund.asp](http://raleighcharterhs.org/giving/foundationfund.asp)



## Donate Today!

- Write a Check\*
- Set Up Automatic Payments\*
- Donate Stock
- Give Online
- Ask Your Employer to **Match Your Gift**
- Participate in a **Workplace Giving Campaign** such as SECC or United Way

\*These methods incur no fees so RCHS will receive 100% of your donation!

Raleigh Charter High School, Inc. and Raleigh Charter High School Foundation, Inc. are two separate 501(c)3 charitable organizations. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. To learn more about how you can support RCHS, contact Carolyn Jackson, Director of Development, by email ([cjackson@raleighcharterhs.org](mailto:cjackson@raleighcharterhs.org)) or phone (919)-715-1155.



# *RCHS Events At-A-Glance*

- December 20 **Annual Alumni & Faculty Winter Coffee**, RCHS, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- January 28 - February 28 **Application Period for 2020-2021 School Year**
- January 31 & February 6 **Informational Meetings for Prospective Families**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
- February 28-29, March 1, 5, 6, 7 **RCHS Drama presents *Chicago*** at Burning Coal Theatre
- March 13 & 20 **Flex Days**
- March 12 **Creating Career Connections: Alumni Panel**, RCHS, 3:00 pm
- March 20 **Admissions Lottery for 2020-2021 School Year**, RCHS, 4:00 pm
- April 24 **Spring Community Work Day**
- April 24 **SOOTS Cake Bake & Art Farm**, RCHS, 1:00 - 3:30 PM
- Spring Concerts** **Strings** April 22 at Meredith College at 7:30 pm  
**Band** (April 28) and **Choral** (April 30) at William Peace University at 7:30 PM
- May 8 **RCHS Spring Festival** with Current Families, RCHS, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- June 6 **Graduation**, Meymandi Concert Hall, 4:00 PM

Connect with RCHS!



Online  
[raleighcharterhs.org](http://raleighcharterhs.org)



Like us on  
Facebook



Follow us on  
Twitter



Alumni News  
[raleighcharterhs.org/alumni](http://raleighcharterhs.org/alumni)



Raleigh Charter Alumni  
Facebook Group