

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAKE FOREST, IL  
PERMIT NO. 380

# A N N U A L   R E P O R T   2 0 1 2 - 2 0 1 3



# The Next Chapter



Cultivate in every MSLF child a life-long love of learning.

# Mission



# Vision Values

## Excellence in Education

We achieve excellence in education by inspiring children toward their full social and intellectual potential.

## Respect for the Child

We respect each child and are committed to guiding each student on his or her own individual path to independence and intellectual development.

## Self-Development and Self-Knowledge

We value learning in prepared environments as a way to promote natural curiosity, self-development, and self-knowledge.

## Appreciation of the Natural World

We value the outdoor environment as a way to cultivate the child's inborn appreciation of nature and human beings' age-old role as stewards of the natural world.

## Diversity and Cooperation

We value carefully balanced classrooms which provide diversity in age, background, and skill level as a way to teach cooperation, mutual respect, and peaceful resolution of conflicts – critical skills of effective citizens in a democratic society.

## Engaged Communities

We value the active involvement of family, faculty, and friends.



# The MSLF Team



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Board Officers

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Edith Rasmussen Ahern | President                   |
| Thomas Zengeler       | Vice President – Operations |
| Nicole Korczak        | Secretary                   |
| Ryan Todd             | Treasurer                   |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Board Members

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| James Chamberlin  | Paul Serkland  |
| Andrew Knight     | Atul Shevade   |
| Luigi Mancusi     | Chris Tennyson |
| Humberto Martinez |                |
| Brian Mudrick     |                |
| Monica Palmer     |                |
| Katherine Ritter  |                |



## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ann Jordahl         | Interim Executive Director           |
| Ellen Pavelich      | Director of Education and Admissions |
| Nick Caccanno       | Business Manager                     |
| Sarah Cassidy       | Director of Communications           |
| Kevin Gallagher     | Facilities Coordinator               |
| Brooke Wiede        | Special Event Coordinator            |
| Lynn Dolister       | Receptionist                         |
| Yelena Lemberg      | Nurse and Kitchen Assistant          |
| Darek Macanowicz    | Evening Receptionist                 |
| Emir Calderon       | Janitorial Staff                     |
| Maria De Jesus Rios | Janitorial Staff                     |

## FACULTY

### Teachers

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Beverly Adamczyk | Ellen Pavelich |
| Eric Carlberg    | Monica Pearson |
| Kathryn Jasinski | Erin Smith     |
| Ann Jordahl      | Mia Stompanato |
| Saachi Kumar     | Mary Taylor    |
| Eva Leung        |                |
| Tami Levandowski |                |
| Jessica Lucas    |                |
| Kathleen Marino  |                |
| Celina Montoya   |                |
| Debra Pakkala    |                |
| Colin Palombi    |                |

### Assistants

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Hope Allegretti    |
| Barbara Beyers     |
| Margo Czechowski   |
| Rosa Ernst         |
| Helen Gerbin       |
| Michaela Glusic    |
| Pat Gregory        |
| Maria Malm         |
| Monserat Mares     |
| Tahera Navsariwala |
| Margaret Stypik    |
| Melissa Thomas     |
| Laurie Ward        |
| Kathy Willis       |



# Board Update

## Board Function and Structure

MSLF's Board of Directors plays an important and precise role in the school's operation. As its governing body, the Board establishes overall policy and assures the financial stability of the school. Its role is strategic in nature. The Board employs the school's Executive Director, who then employs the administrative staff, faculty, and support personnel. The Board is positioned to think and act from a big-picture, long-range planning perspective, while the administrative staff focuses on implementing our programs and managing our day-to-day operations.



The Board is comprised of current parents, alumni parents, alumni and community leaders, who are recruited for their skills, experience and perspective. The group meets on a regular basis during the year, and its collective expertise is both broad and deep. This year the Board undertook to craft the Strategic Plan for 2013-2018. This plan will carry the school into the future and allow it to address growth challenges and opportunities, ensuring its viability for future generations.

Thank you to all those who have contributed, and continue to contribute in this capacity. Your passion for *good* Montessori makes our school great.

# Message from the Executive Director

Dear Montessori School of Lake Forest Community,

The 2012-2013 school year represented another chapter in the life of our beloved school. It is a time for us to reflect, to review our accomplishments and lessons in view of MSLF's longstanding goals and virtues.

In a couple of years, MSLF will be half a century old. During most of this time it has grown very fast. This growth was defined by change and expansion: of facilities and grounds, programs, staff and faculty. Today we benefit from all that growth and we take full advantage of our beautiful campuses, our full complement of care services and education programs, our highly competent staff and our distinguished faculty.

This year we have entered a new phase of growth as we have put down roots and settled in to our identity. We have become stewards of the vision and dedicated effort of those who have come before us. We have renewed our faith in some of MSLF's and Montessori education's most basic tenets: the parent-child-teacher triad; the true community of everyone trying to live and work by the same standards; clear communications; accessibility; respect for differences; and collaboration.

We remain committed to excellence in education, and to achieving this by teaching "the whole child." We believe that each MSLF child will become "the best person they can be"—an adult who functions at the highest levels of performance and integrity in their work, their families, their communities, their personal growth.

The Montessori School of Lake Forest always has been and always will be "a community of thinkers," a place where people of all ages think for themselves. What does this mean in practice? It means that our parents ask tough questions and our teachers provide solid answers. People take their time making decisions. Change happens slowly and steadily. Children take time to answer a question. People might disagree, with the utmost respect for one another.

Last year we witnessed once again that the "love of learning" is thriving in our students, and throughout our entire school community. Thank you one and all for being vital members of the Montessori School of Lake Forest community. Our wonderful school has come a long way from its first years as a parent study group. We are well established now as a "full service" school. And we are building our future by doing what we do best: educating children according to Montessori principles, engendering for them and for ourselves a life dedicated to learning and to authentic growth.

Best wishes to all of you, and thank you for a wonderful 2012-13 school year.

Sincerely,

Ann Jordahl  
Executive Director  
Montessori School of Lake Forest





# Financial Overview



## REVENUE AND EXPENSES (IN 000s )

| Revenue          |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Tuition and Fees | \$2419 |
| Contributions    | \$56   |
| Interest Income  | \$1    |
| Fundraising      | \$152  |
| TOTAL            | \$2628 |

| Expenses                          |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Instruction                       | \$1572 |
| Administration                    | \$670  |
| Facilities                        | \$322  |
| Interest Expense and Depreciation | \$455  |
| TOTAL                             | \$3019 |

## BALANCE SHEET (IN 000s)

| Assets                 |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Cash                   | \$85   |
| Savings and Investment | \$609  |
| Accounts Receivable    | \$22   |
| Prepaid Expense        | \$28   |
| Property and Equipment | \$3328 |
| Bond Escrow            | \$0    |
| Loan Costs             | \$17   |
| Total Assets           | \$4089 |

| Liabilities                      |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Accounts Payable                 | \$30   |
| Accrued Liabilities              | \$54   |
| Unearned Tuition                 | \$121  |
| Mortgage Payable                 | \$1778 |
| Parent Deposits                  | \$207  |
| Total Liabilities                | \$2190 |
| Net Assets                       | \$1899 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$4089 |

Many of the photos in this publication were taken by MSLF's talented teachers, parents and alumni. Thank you for your contributions!

### Mari Pavelich (alumna) on how Montessori education benefits her...

My Montessori education is something that I am very proud and appreciative of. It has given me a lot of opportunities and has taught me so many invaluable things. It helped to foster a love of learning (which I still have today), a strong independence, self-motivation, and many different life skills.

My Montessori education has given me the ability to always do my best. That is something that will carry me far in life. It will help me live on my own, go to college, get a job, travel, and maybe even start my own business. Montessori gave me the foundation to be successful, so I know when I go out into the world, I have the skills to succeed. I know how to get my own food, organize my time, arrange my environment to help me work better, motivate myself, to the point where I can now succeed independently.

Montessori, after all these years, has given me not only the educational tools to succeed, but also the personal and social skills to succeed. I still use things I learned in primary and lower elementary in my everyday math class! I did a research in first grade, and finally got to use the information to answer a teacher's question in class last year (I was the only student able to answer). I know that I will keep having these experiences for the rest of my life, and I know that I can succeed because of what Montessori and MSLF have given me. I thank them for everything.





Life is like a book. Some chapters sad, some happy, some exciting. But if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapter holds.



# Stepping Up

Throughout the school children stepped up to the next level. Parent Infant children were welcomed into Toddler, Toddler into Primary, Extended Day into Lower Elementary, third years into Upper Elementary and sixth years into our Adolescent Program.

We are pleased and proud to announce the graduation of the Montessori School of Lake Forest Class of 2013. Paul Ahern, Ela Boddicker, Brandt Dudziak, Rachel George, Bryan King and Selene Serkland graduated as 9th year students on June 6th, 2013. Brede Baldwin, Mari Brady, Katie Davis and Cameron Dudziak "stepped out" as 8th year students. The entire MSLF community was invited to gather and hear these students' speeches and celebrate their achievements.

Congratulations to all!



## Nicholas London (current Elementary student) on why he loves MSLF...

I like nature, sounds, peacefulness, learning and happiness.

## Steven (current Elementary student) on why he loves MSLF...

You don't have to sit in the exact same spot and do the exact same work as everyone else.

## Ian Surroz (alumnus) on the Blue House...

Preparing for college in a few weeks, I'm able to look back on my entire high school experience and how the Blue House helped me. Academically, I came out right where I needed to be; I jumped into Honors and AP classes right off the bat with no more struggle than the rest of the students. I had a different view of the teachers, though. After the Blue House, where teachers were anything from very smart friends to consoling guides, it was easy for me to ask my high school teachers for any help I needed and forge a direct relationship of trust that I think surprised some of them.

The best classes in high school were the ones like the classes at the Blue House: students paid attention, the teacher happily guided the progress with rigor but took any questions, and the learning moved along at a swift, appropriate pace. Every teacher was someone to look up to, a parent away from home. I can't stress how important having stable adults at school was to me as I started out my awkward adolescence.

I guess the Blue House helped me grow up, instead of treating me like a kid who has to be sheltered and watched over every minute. I learned why rules exist, how to take responsibility for things that mattered like my own work or other people's lunch, I found what I really wanted to be for the rest of my life, and I came out ready for high school and college. Teachers at other schools simply don't trust you enough to let you do that. I can really trace back many of my characteristics and principles to something I learned from a MSLF teacher. Whenever I visit, it's with a sense akin to coming home.



## Primary to Elementary

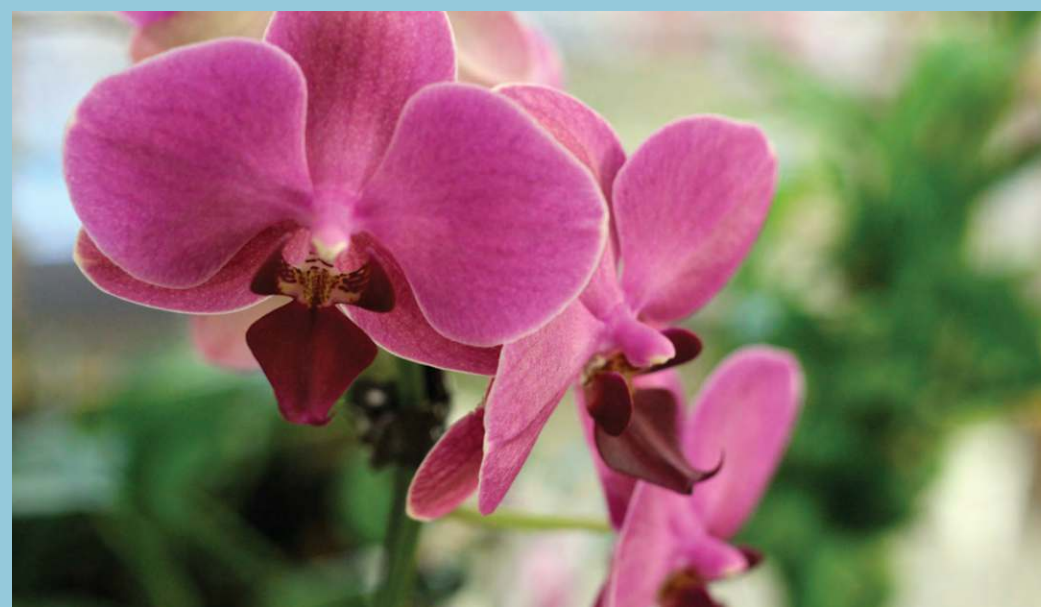
Elle Antrim, Lucy Atkinson, Makayla Boone, Selin Dogan, Benjamin Erulkar, Peri Fedderman, Rishi Gupta, Hollis Mann, Francis Marino, Christian Martinez, Shriya Maturi, Collette Mrowiec, Elliott Mrowiec, Sarita Narasimha, Jaylen Peng, Lucinda Peng, Dylan Rayburn, Arnav Singh, Carolyn Stach, Layla Steinbacher, Theodora Tobin, Christina Wang

## Lower Elementary to Upper EI

Zayd Anderson, Benjamin Atkinson, Maeve Brady, Tessa Buhl, Melissa George, Steven Hooke, Ilan Hurtado, Elizabeth Mancusi, Olivia Mancusi, Michael Masterton, Andromeda Nerge, William Vignocchi, Andrew Zengeler

## Upper EI to Adolescent

Michaela Abrams, Amanda George, Andrew Hooke, Gianna Stompanato, Hailey Swisher





# Fundraising



## ANNUAL GIVING

We are pleased to report that MSLF raised \$43,603 during the 2012-2013 Annual Giving Campaign, with 100% participation by the Board of Directors, 90% participation among faculty and staff, and 56% participation among the parent community. The funds raised go toward supporting capital improvements to the school, as well as operations and programming at both campuses.



## BENEFIT

This year's The Next Chapter literary theme lent itself to creativity; much like our art theme did last year. Each child embarked on a new chapter in their lives this school year, and our school as a whole has done the same. The Next Chapter also connected us to our children and their love of learning. Learning is often inspired by reading, and a story may resonate with a child for the rest of his or her life. Once again, we used the children themselves as the 'centerpiece' of the evening, when we displayed the beautiful candid photos taken of each student as they are working in their classroom.

The Annual Benefit allows our community to come together for a meaningful and relaxed evening of fun that also serves to raise the funds necessary to support MSLF. Many, many, parents spent long (and fun!) hours preparing for the event. MSLF extends a heartfelt 'thank you' to all volunteers, faculty and staff; particularly to our lead volunteer Kirstin Carruthers who went above and beyond the role of volunteer by logging full-time hours in the final weeks leading to the event!

“Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.”

- Maria Montessori

## Message from the Board President

Dear Parents and Friends of MSLF,

What is the best thing about a great book? For me, it is the anticipation of what comes next...what the next chapter has in store to continue holding my interest.

This is a fitting analogy for the upcoming school year. Montessori School of Lake Forest (MSLF) has a rich tradition that should make each of us proud. The 2013-2014 school year promises to take that tradition to an even higher level – the “next chapter” in the educational journey of our students. It's my privilege to tell you how we'll meet these high expectations.

First and foremost, our school is well positioned for our next chapter. We are very fortunate to have a staff of committed, devoted people and an outstanding Executive Director in Ann Jordahl. This commitment and devotion is backed by our Mission and Vision statements – not just words on a document, but a way of life that drives the MSLF experience. Together, these elements are the perfect composition for a thriving community.

This philosophy allows us to cultivate a lifelong love of learning in every MSLF child. The principles of a Montessori education help our students evolve in relevant, measurable ways, so they may reach their potential as children of the 21st century.

As I look back on my past 15 chapters at MSLF, I experienced a range of emotions and questions about the school. At first I thought our family would be here for only two years. I remember asking myself many questions: “We pay for our education, so why do we also have to volunteer our time? Why do we need to donate additional money to an Annual Giving program? They're not going to give my child any tests? Really? I think I'm gone!”

Fortunately, patience won out, along with my desire to provide an outstanding education for my child! I learned from discussions with Ann Jordahl and from the many books and articles she told me to read. I attended the Parent Education Programs. Best of all, I discovered I was giving my child the best possible educational experience available in the nation.

Perhaps you've had many similar questions. To help find your answers, I encourage you to see the rewards of an education at MSLF by spending time at our Blue House campus. You'll see an Adolescent Program that will leave you speechless. If you have younger children at the school, please spend time observing classrooms where your child may be in the future. You'll find a school with two campuses with outdoor environments surrounded by hundreds of acres of natural forest preserve. Most importantly, you'll develop a better appreciation and understanding of how fortunate you and your family are to be a part of this wonderful community.

Now, we're ready for our next chapter. The preparation began during the 2012-2013 school year, when a subcommittee of six Board members and our Interim Executive Director conducted a special strategic planning session. The team reviewed and revised the school's Mission, Vision and Value statements. These changes were approved by the Board of Directors, providing the framework for our next five year plan. We have a bright future with attainable goals.

That's just the beginning. In 2014, we welcome our new Montessori High School so our children can continue to thrive in the Montessori educational experience through graduation. Beacon Academy will offer a new model of education, merging Montessori principals with the best practices of leading independent schools.

Finally, please avoid the mistakes I made when I first came to the school, when I watched from the sidelines. Rather, get involved and become part of this rewarding experience. There are opportunities for everyone, starting with five standing Committees of the Board that could use your help. Next May, we need to fill five positions on the Board of Directors, as current members' terms come to an end. As you can see, there is a role to be played by every parent and every friend of MSLF.

Join us as we begin the next chapter at MSLF. With your help, it promises to be our most exciting chapter yet!

Sincerely,

*Tom Zengeler*  
Tom Zengeler  
Board President



## Silent Auction Donors



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every effort has been made to ensure that the donors who support the school's mission are recognized for their generosity. If you have not received proper recognition for your gift in this Annual Report, please accept our apologies and notify our office so that we may correct our records. All gifts listed in this report were received between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

MSLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

Thank you to the entire Montessori School of Lake Forest community for your generous support, donations, volunteerism, time, talents and dedication to our wonderful school. Thank you to each family for supplying the children with healthy snacks. You, our families, are the key to MSLF's growth and expansion. Our fundraising efforts directly impact our ability to retain and recruit exceptional teachers, enhance our physical space, and expand our financial aid program.

Please accept our sincerest "thank you!"

A Perfect Setting  
Adler Planetarium  
American Girl  
Baldwin Family  
Bangkok Tokyo  
Ben Elsass Photography  
Bertucci's Steak & Seafood  
Beth Nielsen/Nielsen-Massey Vanillas  
Blast Zone  
Blue Mercury  
Body by Solomos  
Bradford Portrait  
Bridie McKenna's Irish Pub  
Carruthers Family  
Century Bay Builders  
Chalet Nursery  
Chicago Bears  
Chicago Bulls  
Classic Kids Photography  
Dolce Mia  
Down to Earth Designs LLC  
Egg Harbor  
Fitzgerald Photography  
Forest Bootery  
Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry  
Forever Om  
French Pastry School  
Fresh Market  
Grum Family  
Gymboree Play & Music  
Hawthorn Woods Country Club  
Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile  
Illinois Railway Museum  
Inovasi  
Kathryn Jasinski  
KH Photography  
Kiddie Canvasations  
Kiddles  
Kohl Children's Museum  
Korcak Family  
Lagunitas Brewing Company  
Lake Bluff Massage Therapy  
Lake Forest Health & Fitness Center  
Lake Forest Police Department  
Lake Forest Sportscars  
Lake Forest Symphony  
Lakeside Lanes  
Lift Reflexology  
Little Legends Soccer Academy  
Lou Jon Nero

Lovin Oven Cakery  
LT Swisher  
Magdalena Wesolowski  
Mannelly Family  
Marriott Lincolnshire  
Martha Abelson Photography  
Meatheads  
Melichar Architects  
Minted  
New Vision Athletics  
North Shore Distillery  
Northshore Dermatology  
Norwex/Renee Renz  
NV Salon & Spa  
Performance Factory Training  
Prairie Crossing Learning Farm  
Prismatic Nail  
Quackenbush Family  
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chciago  
Ravinia  
Ritter Family  
Rynes Family  
Shedd Aquarium  
Sunset Foods  
Sutton Studios  
Synergy Fitness & Sports  
The Bent Fork Bakery  
The Initial Choice  
The Museum of Science & Industry  
Thomas Family  
Tillman Family  
Touche Salon  
VanLanduyt Landscaping, Inc  
Veev Spirits, LLC  
Walls of Distinction  
Walt Disney World  
Winwood Health  
Yong-In Yu's Martial Arts  
Zanies Comedy Nite Club



## Every Family... Every Year

As teachers, we set out to help every child that we can. The openness among the faculty and administration at MSLF makes it a special place to do just that. For the fourteen years that I've been here I've felt a certain freedom to do what I need to in the classroom on behalf of the children. The collective effort of the adults at MSLF to do right by each and every student is inspiring. We work together well. It is with open arms that we embrace any given child's individuality and help them to develop themselves.

Tami Levandowski  
MSLF Primary Teacher



Our children have been so lucky to benefit from a MSLF education. Over the nine years we have been here, the school has weathered many transitional challenges. Through it all, we knew that an MSLF education, with its outstanding faculty, and parents who share our educational values, was always the best we could offer our children. Today we see a robust elementary program and an adolescent experience unlike any other, where our children are guided with understanding while carving their own paths. It's invigorating to walk the halls this year and know that the next chapter has begun. What Lissa Hektor spent decades building will grow under Ann Jordahl's leadership. Brian and I are excited for families joining the community now and the journey awaiting them.

Patty Abrams  
MSLF Parent



The Montessori School of Lake Forest's Annual Giving campaign is the foundation of the school's fundraising activities. Tuition covers only 90% of the annual budget requirements, and the remaining 10% comes from generous donors. Annual Giving contributions supplement the operating budget, therefore avoiding the need for higher tuition. MSLF asks "every family, every year" to show its commitment to the school by supporting Annual Giving. Each contribution makes it possible for MSLF to continue providing exceptional education programs and a diverse socio-economic learning environment.

When everyone contributes to the school's shared mission, no matter the level, it demonstrates what it truly means to be a community.

Thank you for participating in our Annual Giving program. Together we can make a difference for MSLF and its children...now and in the future.





# Annual Giving & Benefit Donations

Every Family... Every Year



## BENEFIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Co-Chairs

Ann Forowycz  
Sarah Buckley

### Committee

Yasmin Anderson  
Kirsten Carruthers  
Laura Fosselman  
Tanya Hinkle  
Nicole Korczak  
Keith Maraccini  
Sarah Maraccini  
Ayisa Mulani  
Monica Rayburn  
Kelly Rynes  
Sarah Stodard

The following amounts represent donations made in the combined categories of Annual Giving, donations and Benefit purchases. We very much appreciate your generosity and look forward to our community's support...every family...every year.

#### \$10,000+

Carruthers  
Wadhwani  
Baldwin  
Zengeler  
Abrams

#### \$2,500-\$4,999

Moore  
Ahern, Patrick  
Korczak  
Tobin  
Jasinski

#### \$1,000-\$2,499

Stutzman  
Palmer  
Martinez  
Nerge  
Hooke  
Rynes  
Ritter, Kenneth  
Mulani  
Padilla  
Liu/Wang  
Jordahl  
Tennyson  
Cathlina  
Gregory  
Shevade  
Oates/Heiberger  
Atkinson  
Long  
Lykins  
S. H. Freund

#### \$750-\$999

Hinkle  
Mann  
Anderson, Luke  
Clifford  
O'Rourke

#### \$500-\$749

Werba  
Buhl  
Shanahan  
Caccamo  
Grum  
Barkow  
Huang/Liangfu  
John Swift Charitable  
Trust  
Levine  
Patrick/Effio  
Schaff  
Serkland  
Suter  
Todd

#### \$250-\$499

Cassidy  
Morgan  
Zitzewitz  
Kumar  
Urban/McGarvey  
Ahern, Edward  
Boddicker  
Carlberg  
Rohrbach  
Anderson/Lynde  
Lewis/Bell  
Lynde Anderson  
Architects  
Papanos  
Ward  
Engel  
Malm  
Clarke  
Erulkar  
Forowycz  
Gallagher  
Janas  
Jindal/Khanna  
McWilliams  
Narasimha  
Ritter, Elliott  
Siqueira/Boddicker  
Weiner

#### \$100-\$249

Davis  
Gill  
Knight  
Leung  
Millennium Endontics  
Pavelich  
Yue/Wang  
Zitzewitz  
Brady  
Haddad  
Cannizzaro  
Friedman  
Marinelli  
Willis  
Allegretti  
Papanos  
Adamczyk  
Taylor  
Kantamneni  
Cantor  
Barhoum  
Boddicker  
Chub  
Emery  
Ernst  
Glusic  
Korbakes  
Stypik  
Verlen  
Wielde

#### \$1-\$99

Fedderman  
Mohammed/Kahn  
Cooper  
Blue House Bake Sale  
Cretu  
Engel  
Leung  
Mares  
Navsariwala  
Smith  
Krummenacher  
Meyer  
Czechowski  
Anonymous  
Dolister  
Jin  
Lucas, Jessica  
Lucas, Michael  
Mace/Zeller  
Pearson  
Marino  
Pakkala  
Palombi  
Stompanato  
Allegretti  
Levandowski  
Thomas  
Beyers

