



February 6, 2009

Dear Heathwood Hall Episcopal School Community:

My first week with you has been a most humbling and rewarding experience. Your generous hospitality and reception have only solidified the belief that my family and I have indeed joined a very special community. From the “Welcome, Mr. Jones!” stickers to the personal introductions to the fancy balloons at our gate, I can’t imagine a more glowing welcome . . .

Or can I? I’ve decided that there is another – perhaps greater – sign of welcome illuminated upon the Jones clan this week, and that is our community’s support of our Annual Fund. Our development staff and volunteers are still receiving and recording the results, and will continue to do so, but it looks as though we’ve reached many remarkable milestones with five months still remaining in our fiscal year:

- \$310,000 in total gifts and pledges;
- 100% participation by our faculty and staff;
- 100% participation by our Board of Trustees; and
- 70% participation by our families – double the Annual Fund participation last year and the highest level in recent history.

As a newcomer, I can say with certainty that this level of participation and commitment, particularly in this economic climate, is unique among independent schools. I believe it represents a cultural shift and is symbolic of your belief in our mission and your wanting Heathwood Hall to continue to grow and improve the educational experience for our children. Your message is clear and I thank you for your support.

Behind these impressive figures are real stories of generosity that should be shared: Second-grader Aliyah Johnson, who personally delivered a contribution from her savings; the Goodwin sisters, Maddison and Morgan, who illustrated a great sense of personal style by bringing in their gifts attached to a hot pink card; third-grader Paris Tomlin, who made a donation with great passion; and, let us not forget, that a very beloved dog named Scout even gave to our Annual Fund. It is these stories that illustrate who we are as a community and the values that we hold dear and are passing along to our children.

I would be remiss if I did not personally acknowledge a few people who have gone – and continue to go – above and beyond to make our Annual Fund successful, including Deborah Black, this year’s chair; the members of our Development Committee; the grade-level representatives from our Parent Student Alliance who made phone calls to remind everyone of the opportunity to support our school; and those who offered their personal testimony as part of our “I Am Here” campaign.

We are in our traditional “February freeze” with regard to asks, but gifts continue to come in and our Development Committee is engaged in a very positive dialog with our anonymous donor, who has pledged a \$1 million matching gift toward our new Dining Commons, about our next steps. Certainly, we will keep you posted.

In the meantime, my best wishes for a relaxing weekend.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. H. Jones III".

Charles H. Jones III  
Head of School