

Ascension  
School  
Camp &  
Conference  
Center



October 2024

Dear Friends and Family of Ascension School,

As our community celebrates 100 years of ministry at Ascension School, we are moving into the future with hope and gratitude knowing we have the gift and responsibility of stewarding this beautiful Place Apart. It truly is an honor. This is the spiritual center of the Diocese and a safe space of formation and fun for children and youth from diverse backgrounds and situations. It's a gathering place for the people of Cove, eastern Oregon, and from around the world. Together, we can ensure another 100 years of connection in Cove.

Nearly five years ago, the Ascension School Advisory Board set out to develop a strategic plan to help guide our program, facility and financial decision-making. This resulted in several recommended projects for a capital campaign. To be sure we were moving forward responsibly, we sought professional guidance and conducted a feasibility study, from which two key priorities emerged:

1. An onsite pool to benefit both our camping ministry and our neighbors in Cove
2. An endowment to support both the pool and our ministry operations for the years to come

The feasibility study\* also delivered good news – with a bit of stretch, these dreams are financially possible.

Enclosed you will find a case statement detailing the pool project and endowment. We invite you to join in the celebration of Ascension School with generosity and joy as we bring this vision of continued connection and sustainability to life.

With Gratitude,

Amy Jayne  
Co-Chair, Capital Campaign

Makenzie Dyer  
Co-Chair, Capital Campaign

*\*For more details about the feasibility study, see the back of this letter.*

### *Context from the Feasibility Study*

Ascension School conducted a feasibility study in the Spring of 2024 to determine the level of support for a capital campaign. The study yielded many valuable insights. Most importantly, we learned that there is resounding support for moving forward with the campaign.

At the same time, the responses gathered in the study guided us to revise our primary goal from \$1,610,000 to \$727,528 with a challenge goal of an additional \$80,028, for a total of \$807,556. In light of these findings, our leadership discussed ways to adjust the scope of our projects accordingly, to reflect the will of our supporters, focusing on the pool as the top priority.

Based on these discussions, we revised the estimated construction costs for the pool from \$600,000 to \$750,000 to account for inflation. It also became clear that once a pool is constructed, it will require annual maintenance and incur other ongoing costs. As a result, we have included these costs, as well as funds for other operating expenses, in the endowment funding we're seeking as part of this campaign.

In response to the findings in the feasibility study, the Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation committed to a gift of \$200,000. Combined with the projected potential for giving identified in the study, the foundation's pledge takes the total potential of the campaign to \$927,528.

The case statement provides the total project costs of \$1,550,000, leaving a difference of \$622,472, which may be filled by unanticipated "stretch" gifts or other sources. All gifts and pledges above the anticipated \$927,528 will go towards the endowment for the long-term sustainability of Ascension School.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, we believe that our goals are both realistic and achievable.

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#### *A note from Gretchen Kimsey*

One hundred years ago Bishop Remington and other church leaders took a "leap of faith" and created Ascension School. To bring some perspective to their action, the year of 1924 was just before the financial crisis and in between two World Wars...another very unsettling time. My Mother was eleven years old and a camper at that first camp. Now, in 2024, we are being asked to take another "leap of faith" by investing prayers and dollars into a campaign...an effort to upgrade Ascension School so another one hundred years of life will be possible.

*Please join me in supporting this important campaign.*  
Thank you, Gretchen