As Detroit Country Day School nears its centennial year, the Board of Trustees and headmaster, along with essential input from the parent, faculty, alumni and student community, have crafted this Centennial Campaign with a focus on three areas of need: academic and athletic facilities, endowment and annual giving. This campaign positions Country Day to meet its strategic plan objective of ensuring that “our school’s spirit of achievement and excellence remains strong, vital and dynamic by working toward a seamless system of integrated learning that delivers a consistently superior experience to all stakeholders” and reaffirms its commitment to delivering a challenging, disciplined and personal learning environment that instills the scholar-athlete-artist with this spirit.

This broad-based capital campaign is more than three times the size of any previous capital initiative undertaken in the school’s history and includes three matching challenge opportunities. Upon successful completion of the campaign, Country Day will have secured $60 million in new funds for its facilities, endowment and annual giving objectives.
Campaign Contributors

Firstly, George and I feel it is important to support the school philanthropically on an annual basis, understanding the importance of the Annual Giving Program to the finances of the school year in and year out. In addition to our annual support, the Centennial Campaign provided a perfect opportunity for us to make a gift which will benefit DCDS in perpetuity. In establishing our endowment fund in support of special initiatives in the fine and performing arts, we have provided for an area of the school’s program that has played a hugely significant role in our three daughters’ experience at DCDS. We look at it as a way to say thank you to DCDS and to all of the donors whose past support our daughters have benefitted from, while helping to ensure that the school remains financially strong long into the future.

Sue Murphy
Parent, Board Member and Campaign Chair

The DCDS Class of 1981 elected to create, as its 25th reunion gift to the school, a perpetual endowment to provide scholarship funding to Upper School students. Dozens of classmates readily agreed to contribute to the gift because of the importance of its purpose. The disparities in the American educational system have never been more obvious nor more egregious, and providing access for at-need students to the opportunities available at Country Day was a driving motivator for our class gift. As a DCDS scholarship student myself, I benefited from the generosity of donors who came before me and am thrilled to play a role in attracting future generations of students who would have otherwise expected a Country Day education to be out of reach.

Scott Falk, ’81

The Class of ’88 felt that our 20th anniversary should be commemorated by a gift that both celebrated the memory of our classmate Chris Kingsepp and provided a sustainable scholarship. It was important to us that by funding the scholarship, deserving students would have the opportunity to share in the special environment provided by Detroit Country Day, and that someday, while celebrating their five, 10 or 20-year reunion, those students would have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of giving back to their alma matter. To be able to support a Detroit Country Day scholarship and further memorialize our classmate made our reunion truly special.

Don Nystrom, ’88
Alumni Council President
On Monday January 5, 2009, Country Day students, board members, faculty, staff, families and friends joined together to dedicate the Cooper Gymnasium to Mrs. Susan E. Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper’s roots in Country Day have grown very deep. Her father, Robert H. Flint, graduated from DCDS in 1930, as did her uncle, Edgar B. Flint, who graduated in 1928. Her daughter, son and grandchildren also attend(ed) the school.

During the 1990-1991 capital campaign, Cooper’s leadership, generosity and sheer determination enabled Country Day to build its current Middle School building. At the time, she was insistent that the Board of Trustees also build a gym on the Middle School campus, but due to hard economic times, it was not possible to raise enough money to do so. Nineteen years later, as a part of the school’s current capital campaign “The Centennial Campaign—Preparing for a New Century of Achievement,” Cooper challenged the school with a leadership gift to build the state-of-the-art gym that Country Day just officially opened.

When deciding what to name the new gymnasium, Country Day Headmaster Glen P. Shilling wanted to name the facility in Cooper’s honor, although many of those who were close to her challenged that she, being such a humble individual, would never agree.

“I asked Mrs. Cooper if she would be willing to allow Detroit Country Day School to name this gymnasium in her honor so that our students and families would grow up in the school knowing that women are leaders and philanthropists for worthy causes and organizations,” said Shilling at the dedication ceremony. “She graciously consented because I literally begged her. So, on behalf of the entire Country Day School community including our trustees, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and especially our students, Mrs. Cooper, I thank you for your leadership and your support of our school. From this day forward, this beautiful gymnasium is named the Cooper Gymnasium in your honor.”

Cooper also addressed the audience during the dedication ceremony, expressing her excitement in seeing a long-time dream of hers coming to fruition. “It is such a thrill to stand before you and give you this gym. The Middle School is a beautiful facility academically and now it recognizes the importance of athletics and a sound mind in a sound body which is what the school stands for,” said Cooper. “Many middlers before you never knew the luxury of such a facility. It’s simply marvelous, so enjoy it, preserve it and appreciate it. It is a wonderful addition to Country Day.”
One Country Day

PREPARING FOR A NEW CENTURY
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