

Besant Hill School of Happy Valley, Development Office (805) 646-9951

Annual Campaign Update

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The Annual Campaign Hits 51% of Goal!

This year's Annual Campaign is in full swing and is on track to meet its goal of \$215,00 for the year. As of this publication, we have donations and pledges totaling \$110,520. Last year at this same time our total was \$78,790. These are very encouraging totals, but other statistics are even more exciting:

- We're at 51% of our goal with only 18% of our prospects contributing.

- The average size of donations is up over 25% compared to last year at this time.

- Two of the Annual Campaign Sections have exceeded their goals:

Board Section – 129% of Goal

Staff Section – 132% of Goal!

The Parent and Alumni Sections are progressing well:

To date, the Parent Section has raised \$54,998 which represents 49% of their goal.

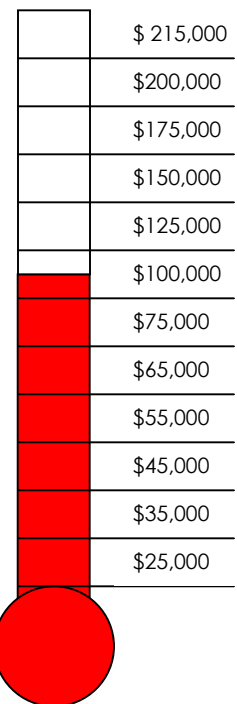
The Alumni Section is now reporting \$10,650 which is 30% of their goal with solicitation just getting under way!

Would you like to make a donation, but haven't been asked yet? Well there's no need to wait for your phone call, simply contact Matt Storey at (805) 646-9951 to make your contribution today! Don't miss out on reducing your 2007 income taxes. Make your contribution before the end of this month!

(Read 2007 Year-End Gift Ideas)

Total To Date =
\$110,520

51% of Goal!



"Our goal is to drive the green economy, revolutionize solar and renewable energy systems and other transformative green industries."

- REEL GREEN

Annual Spring Arts Festival Celebrates Earth Day!

April 19 Event Will Feature Award Winning Environmental Documentaries and Films presented by REEL GREEN!

"We're very excited about this year's event schedule. In addition to wonderful music, art, great food, and fantastic silent and live auctions, we'll be adding these incredible, thought provoking films to our agenda", says Event Chair, Christine Denney.

REEL GREEN's mission is to inspire a green renaissance in America, by making available resources and tools to both educate and empower citizens locally in environmental campaigns and actions. We're also pleased to announce a return engagement from THE HOUSEHOLD GODS!

Register Today!
www.besanthill.org
Click on
Event Registration

Help sponsor our event. Details on-line. Do it now and receive your 2007 tax benefit!

Meeting in the yurt is a daily ritual that has evolved from a practice that began 62 years ago as a time to share music and poetry. It has grown into a whole school gathering with announcements, council practices, and of course, music and daily readings.

It's not too late!

Take a moment to learn the advantages of giving on or before December 31, 2007

The Return of the Yurt!

This past year we had a terrible windstorm that blew our Yurt away! We were heart-broken as the Yurt held a lot of memories for our students and faculty.

Well we're glad to say that through the generosity of **Penny Gerbode**, (the original donor of our first yurt), **the Board of Trustees**, and a little help from our insurance company, we have a new yurt! (Right)



2007 Year-End Gift Ideas

Year-end giving is as easy as (1) making a charitable gift, and (2) saving taxes. We'd like to make it even easier with this primer on some of the best ways to save-and give.

The tax laws intentionally encourage charitable giving. Because of the income tax charitable deduction, individuals who make their gifts by December 31 and itemize, can significantly reduce their income taxes for 2007.

Example: *If you make a charitable gift of \$10,000 in 2007, you can save \$3,300 in taxes if you are in the 33% tax bracket. And the higher your tax bracket, the more money you can save with a charitable gift.*

Giving is, of course, much more than tax brackets and charitable deductions.

Philanthropy provides the meaningful difference in our ability to address our many pressing needs at BHS.

We urge you to discuss your 2007 year-end tax planning with your accountant, or other professional advisor, and consider a gift to Besant Hill School of Happy Valley.

Gifts of Cash

There is no easier way to garner a charitable deduction for 2007, and support us at the same time, than by simply writing us a check! If you itemize, your outright gifts of cash are fully deductible for federal income tax purposes up to 50% of your adjusted gross income.

Gifts of Stock

Year-end 2007 may be an excellent time to consider a gift of stock.

Giving long-term appreciated stock offer you a two-fold tax saving. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. In addition, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift. For income tax purposes the value of such gifts may be deducted up to 30% of adjusted gross income, with an additional five year carry forward.

Example: *If you purchased stock many years ago for \$1,000, and it's now worth \$10,000, an outright gift of stock to us would result in a charitable deduction of \$10,000. In addition, you permanently avoid paying capital gains on the \$9,000 of appreciation.*

2007 Year-End Gift Ideas (continued)

Gifts of Real Estate

If you have owned your home, a vacation home, acreage, or a farm for many years, a charitable gift of that real estate can be especially tax-advantageous.

The property may have so appreciated in value over the years that its sale would result in a sizeable capital gains tax. If given to us instead, you would avoid the tax and realize a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the real estate.

You may also wish to consider a gift of your personal residence or farm, reserving the right to continue to live in the house or farm the property for life (and, if applicable, the lifetime of your surviving spouse). Through such an arrangement, you will be entitled to a current income tax deduction for a portion of the fair market value of the property,



Life Income Gifts

If you are considering a major gift, your gift of cash or stock in the form of a "lifetime income gift" can significantly increase your income!

A life income gift allows you to transfer assets now, and yet continue to receive income from the cash, stock, or other property contributed. A life income gift can allow you to: (1) increase your income for life; (2) receive a generous charitable contribution deduction in 2007; and

Gifts of Life Insurance

If you own a life insurance policy that is no longer needed, consider it as the perfect vehicle for a 2005 year-end charitable gift!

To receive a charitable deduction, name HVS as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy. If the policy has a cash value, you can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. In addition, if annual premiums are still to be made and you continue to pay them, those premiums will become tax deductible each year. (It's easy to contribute a life insurance policy to us. Just check with your life insurance agent for details on which forms to complete.)



(3) if you contribute stock, avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation!

A life income gift is often made through a trust arrangement called a "unitrust" or an "annuity trust." With a unitrust, you and/or your spouse (or another beneficiary) receive a fixed percentage of the fair market value of the assets in the trust, annually. The income received will vary from year to year, based upon how the trust's investments perform. With an annuity trust, you and/or your spouse (or another

beneficiary) receive a fixed amount from the trust each year. This amount is agreed upon when you create the trust; it stays constant, no matter what happens with the stock market or interest rates.

If you already considered a provision for us in your will, please note that a life income gift can often be preferable. Such a gift allows you to accomplish your goals during your lifetime with considerable tax benefits. Please call or write for details, or meet with your professional financial advisor.

**Besant Hill School of
Happy Valley**

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2007 Year-End Gift Ideas (continued)

Bequests

While you're considering your 2007 income tax savings, this may also be a good time to consider long-term tax savings. The federal estate tax can still take approximately 50% of one's estate at the time of death.-that's a higher tax bite than

income tax! It definitely pays to do some advance planning with your attorney and other professional advisors.

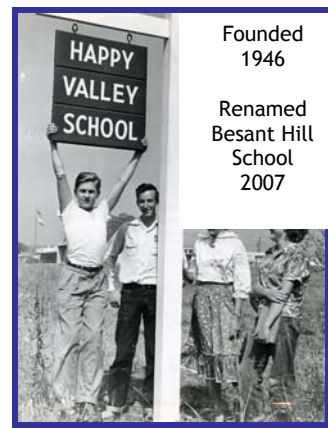
We hope you will consider a charitable bequest in your will to benefit BHS, while you save estate tax dollars at the same time.

For Further Information

No one publication can tell you everything you need to know about 2007 year-end gift opportunities and which method would be the most advantageous for your particular situation. Be sure to check with your

accountant, tax attorney, or other tax advisor for additional information on how these general rules apply to your situation.

We would be happy to provide you with additional



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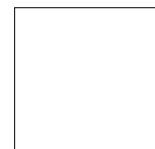
Renamed
Besant Hill
School
2007

information or assistance regarding year-end charitable giving to BHS. Please contact:

Matt Storey, Director of
Development at
(805)646-9951.

BESANT HILL SCHOOL OF HAPPY VALLEY

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.besanthill.org
