The mission of Valley Christian Schools is to equip students to be culture changers for Christ by delivering academic excellence, facilitating spiritual growth, and building lifelong community.
Dear Supporters of Valley Christian Schools,

On behalf of the entire Valley Christian community, thank you for your faithful support of our mission to equip students to be culture changers for Christ.

We had a record-breaking year in many ways. 910 students in attendance; 1,098 donors; $3,056,000 raised. We also had another record that was announced at our 40th Anniversary celebration in April. Last year, the school received the largest gift it ever has, a $3 million pledge for our Valley Impact Center.

By God’s grace—and with your overwhelming generosity—we continue to pursue excellence and position VCS to continue educating the minds, shaping the hearts, and building the characters of our students in the years ahead.

We appreciate you and the special role you play here at Valley Christian. Your faithfulness to Christian education is what keeps Valley Christian strong. It is one of the last places we can effectively educate future generations in the truth.

Thank you!

As we continue growing, we want to be careful never to forget the profound impact you and other Valley Christian supporters have on the life and mission of Valley Christian Schools. You may have heard that we made another announcement at our 40th Anniversary: the unveiling of our ambitious three-year Impact Fund that will support Everyday Operations, Excellence in Everything and Expansion for the Kingdom. We have big plans for Valley Christian in the coming years. The Impact Fund is a new way of thinking about how we fulfill our mission to equip students to be culture changers for Christ.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to review some highlights from this past year. We hope this report encourages you and strengthens your commitment to support Christ-focused education in a world which desperately needs it.

We’d love to hear what thoughts or questions you may have on this report. Please reach out to the Development Office (kjohnson@valleychristianaz.org) with any such feedback. We’d love to talk with you!

Again, thank you for all you do for Valley Christian. Go Trojans!

Yours in Christ,

Dan Kuiper, Head of School
Operational Fundraising
$875,839 (Gross Total)

Operational fundraising at VCS funds special projects at the school. While tuition covers our annual budget, fundraising allows us to offer additional products and services to our students.

Development Fundraising
$476,124 (Gross Total)

Development fundraising is for non-operational purposes, but funds many of our athletic, fine arts, and specialty programs, such as:

- Choir, Chorale, and Band Tour
- ENGAGE program and trips
- Athletic facilities and equipment
- Our ten VCS Endowment Funds

Campaign Fundraising
$1,704,384 (Cash Received)

Significant fundraising for the Secure the Future Campaign began in March 2019. Through today, we have raised $8,806,000 in pledges and more than $5,113,000 in cash.
2021-22 FUNDRAISING STATISTICS

1,098 DONORS

2,876 TOTAL GIFTS

70% ONLINE DONATIONS (2,013)

151 CHAMPIONS CIRCLE MEMBERS

104 MAJOR GIFTS ($5,000+)

910 STUDENTS SERVED

Donor Impact Report: 2021-22
VCS Celebrates 40 Years

On April 1st, 1,200 people gathered under the stars on Benson Field to celebrate 40 years of VCS. It was a great night to remember pivotal moments in our history from the founding to present day. So many contributed to 40 years, and many laid the groundwork even before that. We heard the personal stories of our speakers. Each person in our VCS community has a story of God’s provision and sovereignty over their lives which led them to call VCS their “home.” Praise God for your “story” and for you being part of the collective story that is Valley Christian Schools.
HOW YOUR GIFTS WERE STEWARDED

We believe in honoring your gift with more than just a thanks.

We also want to show you how your gift was used.

Our two main campaigns for fundraising are the annual campaign and the capital campaign. The annual campaign’s main avenue is Champions Circle. Our “Champions” are vital and donate at least $1,000 a year for a 5+ year commitment. These funds go directly to the current year needs. While tuition covers the cost to educate students, fundraising is needed to enhance and expand current programs, allow more program offerings, facility improvements, etc. Thank you to our Champions! Would you consider extending your pledge or joining Champions Circle at valleychristianaz.org/champions?

On April 1st, we officially closed Phase 1 of Secure the Future by completing some major projects. Phase 2, The Impact Fund, encompasses all of our fundraising efforts, but donors can designate their funds specifically toward expansion. Thank you for joining The Impact Fund and thank you to those who are still fulfilling their Phase 1 pledges. VCS is eternally grateful. Learn more at valleychristianaz.org/impact.

Below are some highlights of the annual and capital campaign accomplishments:

- Completed the second story academic building on the high school campus
- Completed the parking lot and traffic signal at the high school campus
- Computer Lab for 5th and 6th grades
- Growth needs and renovations for the junior high campus
- Renovated elementary library
- Reimagined the high school Student Union
- Shade Structure (still in progress) for the high school campus
- Resurfacing the high school track
- New golf cart for the elementary campus
- New grass field at the elementary
- STEM “Project Lead the Way” extensive training for our staff
- Telephone upgrades
- Emergency classroom supplies refreshed at the elementary school
FUND A NEED & YEAR END IMPROVEMENTS

At our 2021-22 Legacy Auction, donors contributed to our Fund-A-Need project. We also asked Year-End donors to add to those raised funds. Through these two giving opportunities, we received $140,000 for the “Student Experience Project.” This project encompasses three areas.

Student Union
Our high school student center needed extensive work to modernize and give our students a place to experience community. This lines up with one of our VCS pillars which is Lifelong Community. At the high school, we had limited space for students to build community with each other. The student center (now renamed The VCS Student Union) is a wonderful place intentionally created for these purposes. From the furniture and aesthetic improvements to the coffee bar and Spirit Shop, this space now exudes “community.” We specifically want to thank Colorado Christian University for their large donation to accomplish this area. CCU values community as well, and wanted to make this happen along with the many donors who saw the vision.

High School Courtyard
The second part of creating community spaces for our students was in the high school courtyard. We desperately needed shading in the courtyard, so our students, faculty, and staff could enjoy the outdoors more often and for more of the school year. The shading was ordered quite a while ago and will be installed very soon. We have also added seating to the courtyard. We look forward to utilizing this space often and more comfortably.

Elementary Library
Our library needed a refresh. It is much more welcoming and usable for our elementary students. It now has new paint, furniture, bookshelves, and a new configuration. Thank you to our elementary team who poured a great amount of time and energy into making this library the best it can be.

*Special thanks to our Facilities Team that worked tirelessly on these projects.*
A number of families and donors have expressed interest over time in supporting VCS through a specific endowment, scholarship, or other need. The school now maintains ten different Endowment accounts, including six scholarship funds:

**The Bailey (Voss) Dykstra Scholarship** | [valleychristianaz.org/BaileyVossDykstra](http://valleychristianaz.org/BaileyVossDykstra)

Steven and Wendy Voss have served the Valley Christian community for more than two decades, through regular gifts of time, talent, and treasure. The Voss family has also served VCS through their successful design studio, offering the highest quality land planning and landscape architecture services, and have employed numerous VCS alumni and community members. Steven and Wendy’s two children – Taylor (’04) and Bailey (’07) – are proud Valley Christian alumni. This $1,000 scholarship is granted each Fall to an enrolled student.

**Multi-Student Family Scholarship** | [valleychristianaz.org/MultiStudentFamilyScholarship](http://valleychristianaz.org/MultiStudentFamilyScholarship)

The Multi-Student Family Scholarship testifies to the legacy of long-time donors, alumni families, and friends. These donors have a passion to alleviate the financial stress of multi-student families, so they can attend Valley Christian Schools. Recipient families receive this $2,000 scholarship in the Fall for three consecutive years.

**Winfrey Family STEM Scholarship** | [valleychristianaz.org/WinfreyStemScholarship](http://valleychristianaz.org/WinfreyStemScholarship)

The Winfrey Family STEM Scholarship testifies to the legacy and generosity of longtime donors, alumni family and friends, Chuck and Pam Winfrey. The Winfreys have a passion for STEM education specifically at Valley Christian Schools. They serve on the STEM committee and use their experience and expertise in guiding the future of STEM education at VCS. The Winfreys have established an endowment scholarship to current 11th or 12th grade students who have a long-term focus on STEM education to assist with tuition to attend Valley Christian Schools. This $2,000 scholarship is granted each Fall to an enrolled student.
Al Nelson Memorial Scholarship | valleychristianaz.org/NelsonScholarship

Shortly before beloved and longtime teacher and coach, Mr. Al Nelson, passed, he told those who were helping with his care that he wished he had money to donate for a math scholarship. Around the time of his death, close friends discovered that Mr. Nelson did, in fact, have money to leave to VCS. In July 2018, VCS established the Al Nelson Endowment Scholarship fund in his honor. This scholarship fund assists a graduating or current student pursuing a math or STEM career, fields near and dear to Mr. Nelson’s heart. This $2,000 scholarship is granted each Spring to one or two seniors.

Belinda Miller Memorial Scholarship | valleychristianaz.org/BelindaMillerScholarship

The Belinda Miller Memorial Scholarship testifies to the legacy and generosity of VCS grandparent, Belinda Miller. Belinda and her husband, Tim, shared a firm belief in Christ as their Savior and the value of Christian education. After Belinda’s passing, Tim asked for the opportunity to begin an annual scholarship in Belinda’s name to bless a family who may otherwise not be able to attend VCS. This $1,500 scholarship is granted each Spring to an enrolled student.

Justin Kyle Lett, “Dream Then Do, in the Name of the Lord,” Memorial Scholarship | valleychristianaz.org/DreamThenDoScholarship

This scholarship testifies to the legacy and spirit of VCS alumnus, Justin Lett, Class of 2007. The Lett family and the VCS community lost Justin suddenly in 2018, at the young age of 28. The Lett family worked with VCS to honor Justin and his love for God, people, and the gift that is life. Justin truly lived with passion for every moment and dreamt up, penned, and consistently lived out every day the phrase, “Dream then Do, in the Name of the Lord.” This $1,000 scholarship is granted each Fall to an enrolled student.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the scholarships above, the Board of Directors at VCS awards money from the school’s operating fund to students and families who need it most.

This year, the school awarded more than $1.03M in discounts and financial aid to families that needed it most.

These totals are in addition to the more than $5.5M in scholarships our students receive annually through state tax credits and other scholarships.
LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Long-term financial sustainability is one of the four initiatives of our strategic plan. We’ve taken numerous steps towards this initiative, and will continue to do so. A number of measurables for the school’s long-term financial sustainability are as follows:

→ A significant reserve fund
→ A well-established, growing, multi-year giving society (Champions Circle)
→ Phased facility expansion
→ Establishment of multiple endowment funds
→ Increasing the amount of guaranteed internal financial aid available
→ Running a balanced budget annually
→ Growing our expectancies/planned giving

We have made significant strides on each initiative. A few we’d like to share:

→ The Champions Circle was launched in May 2017, and currently includes 151 Champions and more than $1.6M committed
→ The multiple VCS Endowment Funds now total more than $347,000
→ Through our partnership with Financial Planning Ministry, $3 million has been committed to VCS through planned giving

$1.6M $347K $3M
CHAMPIONS CIRCLE PLEDGES SINCE 2017 BALANCE OF VCS ENDOWMENT FUNDS COMMITMENTS THROUGH PLANNED GIVING
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION HUB

Phase 1 of Secure the Future closed on April 1st. During this night, we launched Phase 2 – our Impact Fund. Our Phase 2, the VCS Impact Fund (highlighted on pages 11 and 12), is our focus for the capital campaign going forward. However, here is the final update on our Phase 1.

→ Our STEM building is complete! This 2022-23 school year, we begin educating students both downstairs and upstairs. We now have the capacity for up to 600 students.

→ In order to open the STEM building, we first needed to complete our new staff parking lot. We are happy to say that our staff are now joyfully parking in this new lot, leaving the parking near the buildings open for students.

→ The traffic signal and deceleration lane at the corner of Galveston and 56th also needed to be completed in order to occupy the 2nd story of the STEM building. All initiatives are complete except for the very last stage of the traffic signal.

BUY-A-BRICK CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the many who participated in our Buy-A-Brick Campaign. Your bricks are here! With supply chain issues, the additional pavers that will be used to complete the pathway and supplement our 250+ commemorative bricks have not arrived yet. Our commemorative bricks have been installed near the softball field on the high school campus and we will update you when the pathway is completed with the additional pavers.
introducing:
THE VCS IMPACT FUND

Maricopa County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Chandler itself is one of the fastest-growing economic hubs on this side of the country, and has even positioned itself as the “Community of Innovation.” At the same time, there has never been a greater need for a Christian worldview, as “truth” has become diluted and Christian values seem less popular than ever.

This means there has never been a better, or more important, time for Christian education. There has never been a more important time for Valley Christian Schools.

Our goal is to educate more than 1,500 students per year in the light of God’s word, impacting thousands more current, alumni, and extended families through our daily operations, ENGAGE trips, athletic performances, choir performances, Christmas productions, Odyssey of Excellence, and more.

This year, we are embarking on an initiative that will allow us to make the largest impact. To do this, we believe God is calling us to think big, perhaps bigger than ever.

What role will you play as we seek to make an impact? We invite you to join us on this journey as we boldly step forward to make an impact through the VCS Impact Fund and the following initiatives:
Impact Fund Goals

PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

We want every person in the VCS community to fearlessly and boldly partner with VCS in making the largest possible impact. We invite each member of our community to participate in one, two, or—ideally—all three impact initiatives.

SECONDARY GOAL

$66 MILLION, OVER 3 YEARS

We are trusting God’s leading and provision, not only for our ongoing ministry and service at VCS, but for the expansion and impact efforts needed to engage the East Valley, equip our students, and empower our students and community to make a difference in the world.

Join us on this journey as we boldly step forward and make an impact through the following initiatives:

EVERYDAY OPERATIONS: $47 MILLION

This represents our general ministry and operating budget over the next three years. We need to expand, strengthen, and resource what we’re already doing so that our operations can continue to scale alongside our growth. We must continue to invest in and develop all of our students in grades K-12 across all three campuses. This is the backbone of who we are as a school, primarily funded through tuition.

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING: $3 MILLION

This represents the annual fundraising that we do to add programs and improve existing programs. Fundraising events and programs like our Champions Circle and the Legacy Auction support these funds. Trips and experiences like ENGAGE trips and Choir tour, as well as additional financial support (beyond the budget) for our championship athletic programs are paid for through this funding.

EXPANSION FOR THE KINGDOM: $16 MILLION

This represents our desire—and, we believe, God’s leading—for continued expansion efforts. God has been incredibly gracious to VCS over forty years, and continues to provide in ways we never imagined. As we look toward our future, we believe God wants us to educate more than 1,500 students in the light of His word. We are working to expand our capacity in all grade levels until we are able to educate 100 students in grades K-8 and 150 students in grades 9-12.
Dear Friend of Valley,

I wanted to leave you with one final note of encouragement.

This report made clear that our work at Valley Christian is not possible without generous supporters like you. I hope you enjoyed reading about how you have helped fulfill our mission in the last year.

In reality though, the impact of your generosity goes far beyond one school year. They could never fit into one document.

As Valley Christian continues to increase its impact, hundreds of communities across the country will have well-educated, strong-minded, and, above all, Christ-focused young leaders. Those young leaders have the foundational, Christian education at VCS that effects communities all over the world. Our students impact because of your impact.

So, when you give to VCS, do not think you’re only supporting the students and families at our school. Remember that you’re supporting the future communities that receive the vital gospel news and the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership, and may God bless you and your family.

With Gratitude,

Kittren Johnson
Director of Development
VCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021-22)

Scott Crouch, Chairman  
Bob Davies, Vice Chairman  
Mike DenBleyker, Treasurer  
Melanie Dykstra, Secretary  
Tami Butcher  
Ken Fechner  
Michael Fraley  
Mike Gauthier  
Nicole Johnson  
Ally LaGatta  
Denise McClain  
Richard Suzuki

VCS LEADERSHIP

Dan Kuiper  
Head of School

Troy Thelen’03  
Assistant Head of School

Dr. Chris Fryar  
Elementary Principal, Exec. Director of Academics

Jeff Kleck  
Junior High Principal

Tim Livengood  
Executive Director of Business Operations

Josh LeSage  
High School Principal