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Dear friend,

Our girls are growing up. From the navy sailor dress, to the white sailor dress, to the blue knit, to the black formal, we get to watch them and mark the progression.

This progression goes well beyond the change in uniform. Their sound is maturing, and they are too -- finding out what it means to be creative, to do something they did not know they could, work at it little by little, be counted on by their friends, and see it all come together, in front of everyone they love.



These experiences are life changing.

Shirley Brice Heath, a linguistic anthropologist at Stanford (now at Brown), wanted to learn what kids, ages 8 - 18, do in their discretionary non-school hours. Over a period of 10 years, she embedded researchers in 124 different after-school programs throughout the country. She transcribed some two million words of recorded conversation with students. All the students involved in after school programs had benefited relative to peers who had not engaged in after school programs. But, relative to students who had participated in sports programs or community service programs (like scouting, religious clubs, 4H, etc.), arts-engaged kids sounded like they came from a different universe. Heath determined that, hands down, arts-based programs produced the most powerful and enduring pro-social impact on young people. The effect was particularly striking for disadvantaged students.



Heath's study demonstrates that **arts-engaged students remain curious, engaged, and interested in the process of their own learning and development.**

For this, 130 girls converge on Seattle's north Capitol Hill by carpool, bus, bike, ferry, and on foot each week. For this, SGC faculty members dedicate hours and hours of preparation and rehearsal time. For this, staff and volunteers work long hours to create a high quality, consistent and fun experience, year-round. For this, you and your family support her. THANK YOU for caring enough to make that investment as a family to foster her love of music and to enrich her life.

To continue to make this opportunity available, Seattle Girls' Choir relies on generous support for our annual fund from families, family friends, grandparents, aunts, uncles, alumnae, and people who care about arts education for young people. Tuition covers just 67% of our operating expenses. Your gift will support faculty and staff development, recording projects, program enhancements, community outreach, and continued financial aid to enable us to reach and serve the greater Seattle community.

That's why we are asking you to make a generous contribution today.

Our goal is 100% participation – each and every one of us is important to Seattle Girls' Choir's success. We hope you agree. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization your contribution is tax deductible.

Thank you for helping our girls become who they are through music.

Sincerely,



Jacob Winkler
Artistic Director

Mary Yglesia
President, Board of Directors

P.S. Choir geeks unite! Check out our 2nd annual SGC Geek-Out Trivia Quiz on the back of this letter. Dying to know the answers? You can find the "Geek-Out" answer-key on our web site *Make a Donation* page at SeattleGirlsChoir.org. While you're there, you can make your annual fund gift on line! How convenient is that!