



# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

*A Spirit of Excellence*

## Alumni Annual Giving: Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a charter school?

- A charter school is a public school. Like a district public school, charter schools are funded according to enrollment (also called **Minimum** Foundation Program, or MFP), and receive funding from the district, New Orleans Public Schools, (NOPS) and the state of Louisiana according to the number of students who attend.
- The ways and amounts at which charters are funded compared to our district counterparts differ dramatically. Nationwide, on average, charter schools are funded at 61% of their district counterparts, averaging \$6,585 per pupil compared to \$10,771 per pupil at conventional district public schools. In LA we are funded at approximately 70%.

### Why is charitable giving so important now that Franklin is a charter school?

- As a charter school, we now enjoy more autonomy over the direction of Franklin; yet we carry greater responsibility for the financial integrity of our operations. Like other public schools, Franklin receives MFP, however it leaves a significant gap between the support offered by public funds and the true cost of a quality education for our students.
- In order to close this financial gap Franklin has instituted an Annual Giving Campaign.
- As a separate 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization, Franklin retains 100% of all contributions for direct school use.
- All donors to Franklin receive a thank you note and receipt of their gift for tax purposes.

### What are this year's annual giving goals?

- Attain 100% Alumni participation in giving
- Raise \$100,000 towards the operations of the school

### Why the emphasis on 100% participation?

- Foundations view annual giving participation as a significant criterion for funding. The overwhelming support of the entire Franklin family increases our eligibility for outside funding.

### How much should I give?

- We ask that you thoughtfully consider your donation and participate according to your ability.
- **You can double or even triple your gift** by asking your employer if they have a matching program. For further information, contact Christy Cowart Read '89 in the Development Office at 504-286-2615 or [christina\\_read@benfranklinhighschool.org](mailto:christina_read@benfranklinhighschool.org).

### How will my donation be used?

- In order to maintain Franklin's tradition of excellence, your donation dollars are invested in the following ways: faculty professional development, expanding our academic offerings, upgrading technology, increasing the library's collections, athletics, or improving our facility.

### How can I make my payment?

- Your tax-deductible contributions may be paid by check in installments through May 31, 2010; charged to VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or made through a stock donation transfer.
- In addition, your annual gift or pledge may be made online through our secure website, [www.benfranklinhighschool.org](http://www.benfranklinhighschool.org) by clicking on the Donate to BFHS link.

*We sincerely appreciate your support and ask that you continue to contribute to Franklin.*