



ROOM  
TO  
MOVE

BUILDING A  
GYM TOGETHER  
AT WASHINGTON WALDORF SCHOOL



# ROOM TO MOVE

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## Children have an innate need to move,

and at Washington Waldorf School we fulfill that need in a variety of ways—such as unstructured play, games, eurythmy, and competitive sports. Movement is both a vital part of children's development and a bottomless reservoir of joy. Although students here have plenty of ways to move, they don't always have optimum spaces in which to move. In short, we don't have a gym.

*Room to Move*, a \$7 million capital campaign, will make possible the construction of a gym to enrich our full program of movement and sports. It will be a place of beauty, a place of community, and a source of pride.

The success of this important project depends on your support.



# PICTURE THIS...



It's 3:00 pm on a drizzly weekday afternoon, and for all six of Washington Waldorf School's basketball teams, it's time to practice. Because of the rain, practicing outside on the blacktop—never a great option, because of wind, sun, cold, and other factors you don't find on an indoor court—isn't an option at all. In the school auditorium—another less-than-ideal practice space—a theater rehearsal is underway. One solution has been to rent space in another school's gym, but those gyms won't be available for nearly three more hours, making transportation logistics impossible for many students and families.

For Washington Waldorf School's student athletes, all of this is frustrating. Many have played competitive sports here for years without ever experiencing what it's like to play a home game. This sends an inaccurate message about where sports—and movement, and other activities that can benefit from a space designed for them—fall on the school's priority list.

Now picture a different scenario. Instead of waiting around for hours, the teams go right from school to practice. At 3:15 pm, they're running layup drills. Instead of complicated transportation logistics, parents know when to pick them up, and where. Instead of being an "away" team for every single game of every single season, our students play half their games at home, where they're cheered on by their families, their teachers, their classmates, and the community.



**What's needed to bring this scenario to life is a gym. Now we're moving forward to build one, with Room to Move, a capital campaign designed to give Washington Waldorf School students just that.**

## AN INTEGRATED EDUCATION INCLUDES MOVEMENT

Moving and playing games are among the most fundamental ways a young person learns about the world. What do they learn? Everything from balance and motor skills to resilience and determination.

Eurythmy, the movement program, games, and competitive sports aren't extracurricular—they're as essential as everything else we do here, and should have the same support and resources as everything else we do.

"Here we teach students about the interconnectedness of their actions. Being on a team is a good way to learn that. You learn that what you do affects others. You learn to challenge yourself. You develop a good relationship to competition. Those things are important to any healthy education.

**"The gym will be a great step forward. It means having a chance to come together and cheer for your team in a space that's your own. It enriches the way you experience school. It's super fun to be in that kind of environment."**

### TAISTO SALOMA

After graduating from Washington Waldorf School in 1993 and from Guilford College in 1998, Taisto Saloma became a professional golfer. He returned to Washington Waldorf School in 2002, and today teaches American History, coaches basketball, and serves as Athletic Director.



## NEW GYM = TRANSFORMATIONAL BENEFITS

*Room to Move: Building a Gym Together* aims to raise \$7 million to build a state-of-the-art gym to support the full range of sports and movement programs at Washington Waldorf School. A new gym brings benefits such as these:

### PRIDE OF PLACE

Nothing brings a school community together like sporting events, festivals, and special all-school celebrations. Home games mean that Washington Waldorf School families with children of all ages can watch a game after school. Alums who live locally or who are visiting from out of town can come back to enjoy a sporting event or festival. The gym will create a pride of place that we have yet to experience.

### A HOME GYM FOR HOME GAMES

All sports fans will tell you that the home team has an advantage. For the first time ever, our students will experience that advantage. The gym will boost morale and improve our teams' competitiveness. The atmosphere at a big home game is electric and magical for those playing the game and for those watching them.

### EXPANDING SPORTS OPPORTUNITY

The new gym will make it possible for us to add new indoor sports in addition to basketball. When students enroll in high school at Washington Waldorf School, they are required to participate in one sport per year. Plans are underway to start interscholastic volleyball, and indoor soccer is another possibility.

### A HOME FOR THE MOVEMENT PROGRAM

Like our sports teams, the movement program struggles using spaces that weren't designed for it. We are fortunate to have excellent outdoor space—and make use of it whenever possible—but we lack suitable indoor space. The gym will mean that programs like circus arts—which features tumbling, trapeze, and aerial silks—will have an ideal place.

### A REGULAR PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The challenge of scheduling practices at other gyms and transporting team members to and from practice will end. Practices will be at regularly scheduled times in our on-campus gym. The benefits will be most obvious for basketball, but other teams will now have a reliable indoor space in which to practice when the weather is bad, and new indoor sports teams can be developed.

### LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

In 2012, we signed a long-term lease for the school building and grounds with Montgomery County, at a rate that is well below market rates. One condition of that lease was the school renovation, which we completed in 2015. Another is to build a gym. Building the gym will extend our lease by five years, demonstrate continued good will to a generous landlord, and help ensure that we can continue to rent our space on very competitive terms for the foreseeable future.



**"THE DAY AT WASHINGTON WALDORF IS MEANT TO BREATHE. YOU BREATHE IN—THAT'S THE INTELLECT. YOU BREATHE OUT—THAT'S EURYTHMY, RECESS, MOVEMENT, GAMES, SPORTS. YOU LEARN TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR BODY."**

Christian Gardiner, Movement Education and Games teacher

“Is Washington Waldorf School good for sports? We can make it better. Getting a gym, I believe, is vital. You won’t have to leave school early to go to games. You can practice more, so you become really good. Playing at home gives you a lift, and makes the other team a little nervous. And I don’t see a better way of bringing the community together.”

ANDRÉ, ALUMNI CLASS OF 2019



“Sports are healthy—movement helps everyone. You have a bad day, you can throw a ball at something and you feel better.

“Not having a gym kind of complicates things. Sometimes practice gets cancelled and we don’t play as well in games. And when you play at other schools all the time, it kind of feels like you’re the enemy. It would be nice to not feel like the enemy. It would be nice to feel like the hero.”

CATALINA, CLASS OF 2023

A former soccer and basketball player, **ANDRÉ** started at Washington Waldorf School in 9th grade, and says he valued the school because it let him “explore my own ideas, instead of choosing A, B, C, or D from someone else’s.” He now attends Goucher College, in Baltimore.

**CATALINA** is an 11th grader who plays basketball, soccer, and softball for the Washington Waldorf School. In addition to sports, her after-school activities include guitar and violin lessons, and singing. And homework.

“While the gym represents an important space for movement, sports, and games, it will also allow us to develop a stronger interconnection as a community. As I have heard others say, I believe the community that plays together stays together.”

**LELIA B. TRUE, FACULTY CHAIR/HEAD OF SCHOOL**

After beginning her Waldorf journey as a Children’s Garden parent (her son is now in the Washington Waldorf School high school), **LELIA TRUE** became our Operations Manager in 2017 and Faculty Chair/Head of School in spring of 2022. She is a member of the Trustees Council and College of Teachers. She has also coached our basketball and swimming teams.



## NOT JUST ANY GYM — A WASHINGTON WALDORF GYM

Our gym, like our school, will be one of a kind. With the help of renowned school designers Quinn Evans Architects, we are creating a distinctive space with features that include:

**A NATURAL HARDWOOD FLOOR**  
that's pleasing aesthetically  
and athletically

**REGULATION SIZE** for high school  
basketball and other sports

**CONNECTED TO THE OUTDOORS**  
and full of natural light, with large  
hallway windows, and a mix of clear  
and glare-preventing windows in  
the playing area

**FAN-FRIENDLY** Seating for up to 250  
people at sporting events, and for more  
than 400 for all-school events such as  
Commencement and the Gala

**A DISTINCTIVELY WALDORF  
INSPIRED DESIGN** Use of rhythmic  
elements, connection with nature,  
natural lighting, and the use of  
color—all directly related to the  
importance of sensory experiences  
in human development

**GREEN DESIGN** Built to meet the  
International Green Building  
Construction Code, with a super-  
insulated envelope, a high-efficiency  
HVAC system, low-flow restroom  
toilets and sinks, and the ability to  
add solar panels

**“WE ARE ON THE CUSP OF FULFILLING OUR  
COMMITMENT TO A GENERATION OF FAMILIES.  
THE GYM WILL BELONG TO OUR WHOLE SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY—STUDENTS, FACULTY, CURRENT  
AND ALUM FAMILIES.”**

Dan Wacker, Former Trustees Council Chair, Alum Parent

## ADVANTAGES THAT GO BEYOND SPORTS

Creating a home for school sports and movement is one big need the new gym will fill. But it's not the only one. Here are a few others.

### A SPACE FOR COMMENCEMENT, THE GALA, AND THE BAZAAR

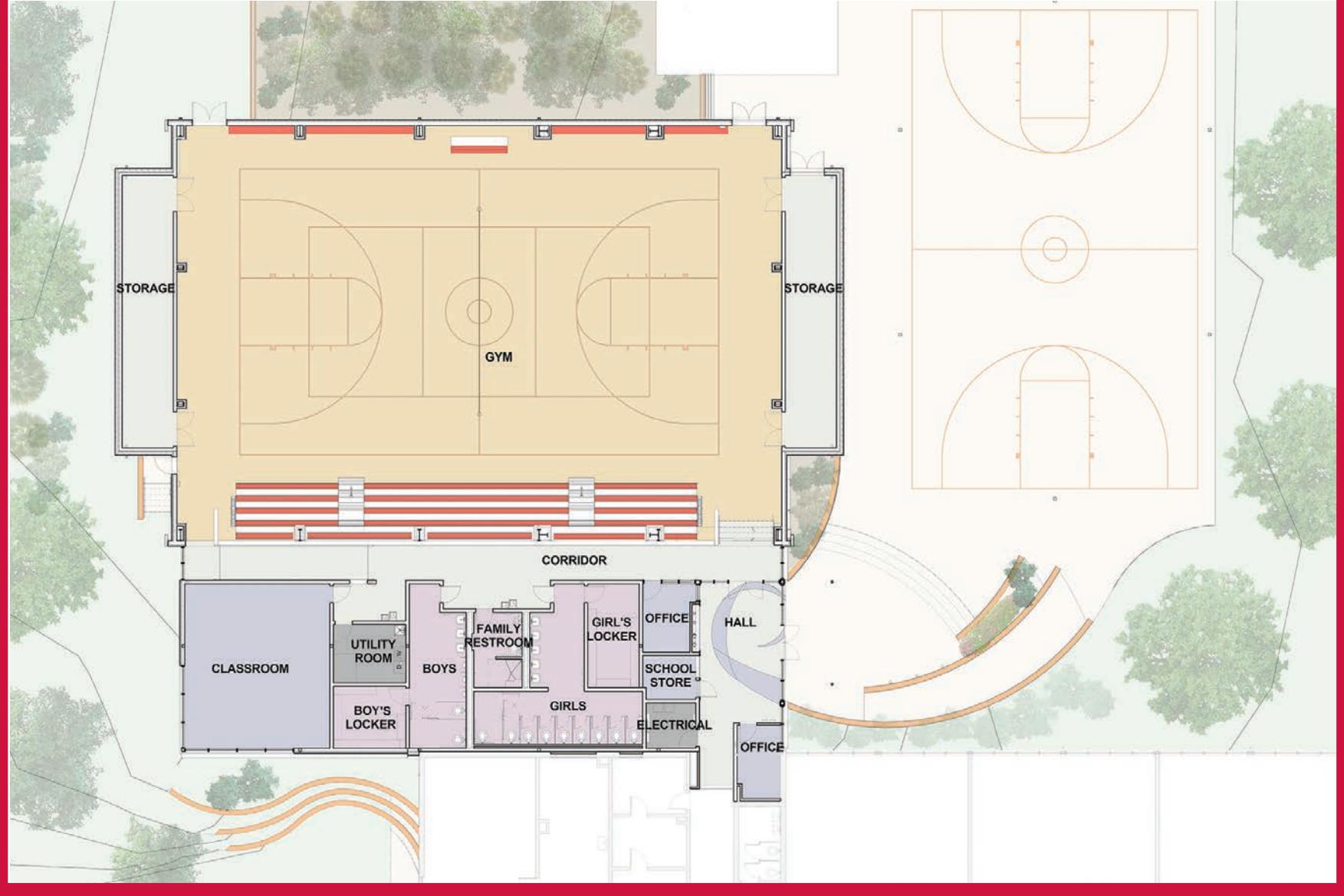
At present, the school's largest meeting space is the multipurpose auditorium. The room has an intimate feel, and more than earns its "multipurpose" name, but it's too small to accommodate the whole school community. The new gym will seat more than 400 people auditorium-style for all-school events.

### A SPACE FOR SUMMER CAMPS & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The gym will be fully air-conditioned, so it can be used in summer months for camps, and during the school year for after school programming. The opportunities will engage children in sports, arts, and other activities (all delivered in a Waldorf style), and provide a source of revenue. The summer camps will showcase the school for families that otherwise may not have known about us.

### A BOOST FOR STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The gym makes us more competitive in admissions, increasing awareness of Washington Waldorf School among families that may never have visited. Other schools have gyms, and many families (and students) won't consider a school that doesn't have one. This is especially true at the high school level, when many students get more serious about athletics.



Brad Clark's vision for a gym at Washington Waldorf School started thirty years ago, when his children were students. While walking the school grounds and current outdoor blacktop with faculty member and basketball coach John Brauer, Brad commented "Wouldn't this be a great spot for a gym?" Three decades later, Brad's lead challenge gift of \$3.5 million dollars has formed a partnership with the Washington Waldorf School community to achieve our goal.

Brad has requested that the gym be named in honor of John and Mary Brauer, two longtime faculty members of Washington Waldorf School.

"Washington Waldorf School doesn't take students' bodies away from their brains. They use their hands. They engage their bodies. And athletics is part of that. Children who love sports need to have a facility at home that they can walk into and do what they love to do. Having a gym at Washington Waldorf School has been a long term dream for me, ever since my kids were students and athletes at the school.

**Now that dream comes true."**



**BRAD CLARK** is the father of three Washington Waldorf School graduates and Co-Chair of the *Room to Move* campaign.



**JOHN AND MARY BRAUER**, having met at Washington Waldorf School, are both long time faculty members, now both retired. John began his career at our school in 1975, after taking a class on the work of Rudolf Steiner at the University of Maryland, taught by Clopper Almon, a Washington Waldorf School founder. In addition to bringing four Lower School classes through Grades 1–8, John filled in temporarily in four other classes, served as a movement teacher, and taught U.S. History blocks in the High School. John started the athletics program at Washington Waldorf School in 1981, and coached Middle School Girls Basketball until his retirement in 2021. John and Mary's son also graduated from Washington Waldorf School in 2001.

“John has continued to stay connected to Washington Waldorf School. The care and energy that he brought has had a long lasting impact on the lives of children who were a part of his class or on his athletic team. John and Mary will always be a part of our community, and I am glad to have this gym dedicated to them and the years of service that they provided the school.”

LELIA B. TRUE, FACULTY CHAIR/HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mary Brauer was introduced to Washington Waldorf School as a parent in 1973 and never looked back. She began the Educational Support Program at Washington Waldorf School, carrying it from helping one student to a full time job benefiting many. She also had a special interest in the seasonal life of the school. Under her guidance, the Michaelmas Festival grew to become a community celebration of courage. Mary’s daughter played middle school basketball, and later, after graduating, served on the Trustees’ Council. Her grandson graduated from Washington Waldorf School in 2021.

*Brad Clark’s three children were all involved with athletics during their time at Washington Waldorf School. John coached Brad’s oldest daughter, and also served briefly as his middle child’s main lesson teacher in his 2nd Grade year.*

## WAYS TO GIVE

The *Room to Move: Building a Gym Together* campaign seeks to raise \$7 million to support a worthy project. Thanks to the generosity of lead donors, the campaign has already raised over 80% of its goal. However, to reach our final goal, we need broad participation from our entire community. There are a variety of ways to give to the *Room to Move* campaign. Please choose one that best fits your needs and financial situation.

### PLEDGES

Pledges enable donors to make ambitious gifts and spread payments out over as many as four years. All campaign pledges must be fully paid by December 31, 2025.

### OUTRIGHT GIFTS

Made in one payment and provides direct and immediate campaign support.

### STOCK GIFTS

Pledges or Outright Gifts can be accepted via appreciated stock. Please contact the Development Office to learn more about how to transfer stock to Washington Waldorf School as a charitable tax free donation.

### 401K OR RETIREMENT FUNDS

Individuals over 70 are able to make gifts to Washington Waldorf School directly from their 401(k) or other retirement funds. These donated funds can be a part of an annual required minimum distribution.

*Room to Move* Campaign gifts provide capital support for construction of the gym. They are separate from annual One Fund gifts which provide ongoing operating support for the school. Please maintain support for Washington Waldorf School's One Fund as your first priority, by making your campaign gift in addition to the One Fund.



**"THE GYM IS A NO-BRAINER.  
IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE."**

Jim Bryla, father of four  
Washington Waldorf School alums

## NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Named gifts provide invaluable campaign support while also fulfilling a donor's desire to be recognized. Contributions of a certain size give donors the privilege of naming a space or program in honor of themselves or someone else they would like to commemorate.

A separate list of naming opportunities is available on request.



## CREATING THE GYM IS A TEAM EFFORT

The most successful sports teams are those in which everyone contributes by playing their role to the best of their abilities. To be successful, the *Room to Move: Building a Gym Together* campaign likewise requires an exceptional team effort. Thank you for playing your part in this important project.

### TO MAKE A GIFT, OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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