

2022-
2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

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OUR VISION

To follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

OUR MISSION

Mount Ellis Academy, a Seventh-day Adventist high school, is open to students of all faiths. As a Christ-following community, we seek to help students:

DISCOVER

The reality of their Creator

DEVELOP

Their God-given gifts

SERVE

In His Kingdom

ABOUT US

Established in 1902, Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) was founded as a Christian boarding high school for the youth of Montana. We are still located on the land donated to the school by the Rouse brothers all those years ago. For over 120 years, God's Hand has never been far from this school.

In 1952, God provided direction for MEA by allowing us to acquire the Bear Canyon Ski Hill beginning MEA's foray into enriched outdoor experiences for our students. This has grown into our Outdoor School program, Lifetime Activities, as well as a variety of other opportunities to get out to learn and explore God's amazing creation that surrounds our Bozeman campus. Many times throughout our history, God's hand has opened the floodgates of heaven to keep our ministry going in reaching His youth.

CURRENT STUDENT STATISTICS (NOVEMBER 2023):

Students: 66

New: 33

Returning students: 33

Students from Montana: 46

Out-of-State Students: 12

Other States Represented: ID, WA, AK, SD, OR, CO

International Students: 8

Countries Represented: Hong Kong, Brazil, Canada, South Korea

Dorm: 32

Village: 32

Distance: 2

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Whether it was the miracle of winning \$500,000 in the Kohl's Cares Campaign of 2010, or, after years of financial hardship, providing the means to eliminate over \$600,000 in debt in 2022, God has demonstrated His purpose and plan for MEA throughout our history.

WHERE WE ARE

- Fiscal responsibility:
 - MEA has ended the last three years in the black financially
 - Positive net assets for the past two years
- Intentional recruitment and retention plan:
 - 28% growth in enrollment in the past year alone



- New program development including HVAC, Autoshop, and Distance-education
- Capital improvements on campus
 - Science Center Remodel
 - New roofs and siding on Administration Building, Guest Services Building, King Hall, and Cafeteria
 - IA Building bathroom and foyer remodel
 - Phase 1 of Gymnasium remodel initiated
 - Phase 1 of Faculty House in process

WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY

"The small school size has given a tremendous opportunity for leadership development, and the frequent use of nature supplies a wonderful classroom. Our son is able to explore new interests outside of typical academic pursuits including choir, soccer, and HVAC training. It is clear that faculty care deeply for each student as an individual, and student-teacher ratios ensure no student gets lost in the mix. No doubt God led our decision to have him attend MEA, and we rejoice that we listened."

~Greg and Janice Hansen



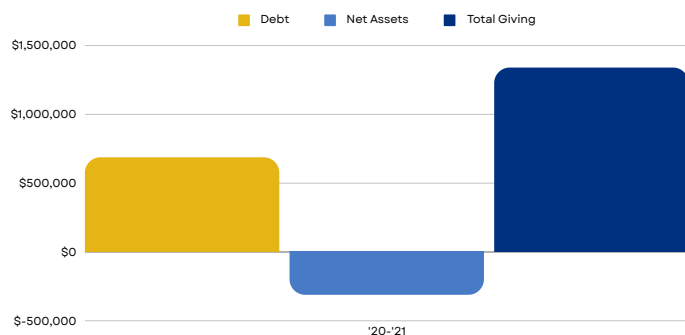
"MEA protects our kids with a culture of respect that is deeply rooted in every aspect of this school. It surrounds the kids, the staff, and every activity that MEA engages in. I sincerely believe my kids are making better decisions because of the respect that they are instilled with at MEA...Kids are taught to solve their problems together talking it out, teaching them to give each other a little bit of grace just like God gives each of them...The culture of MEA brings out the best in us, parents and kids alike. I'm proud to be a part of Mt. Ellis Academy."

~Courtney Funk



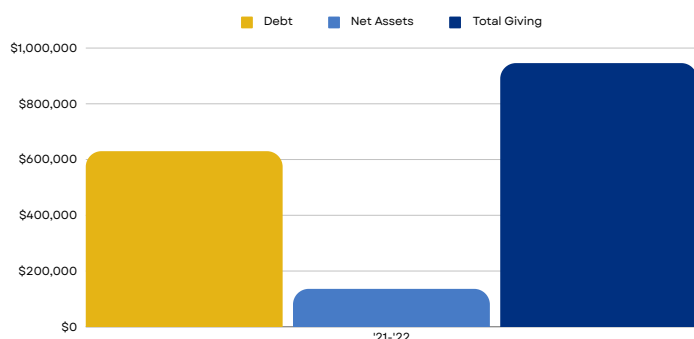
3 YEARS IN REVIEW

Re-established an active and engaged Development Program with \$2.8 Million Given



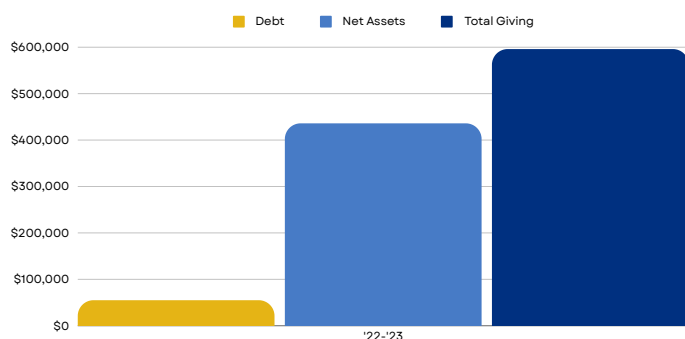
Distribution of Funds '20-'21:

- Debt: \$688,000
- Net Assets: -\$311,000
- Total Giving: \$1,340,000
 - Unrestricted: \$391,000
 - Student Aid: \$170,000
 - Other Restricted: \$779,000



Distribution of Funds '21-'22:

- Debt: \$630,000
- Net Assets: -\$136,000
- Total Giving: \$946,000
 - Unrestricted: \$585,000
 - Student Aid: \$268,000
 - Other Restricted: \$93,000



Distribution of Funds '22-'23:

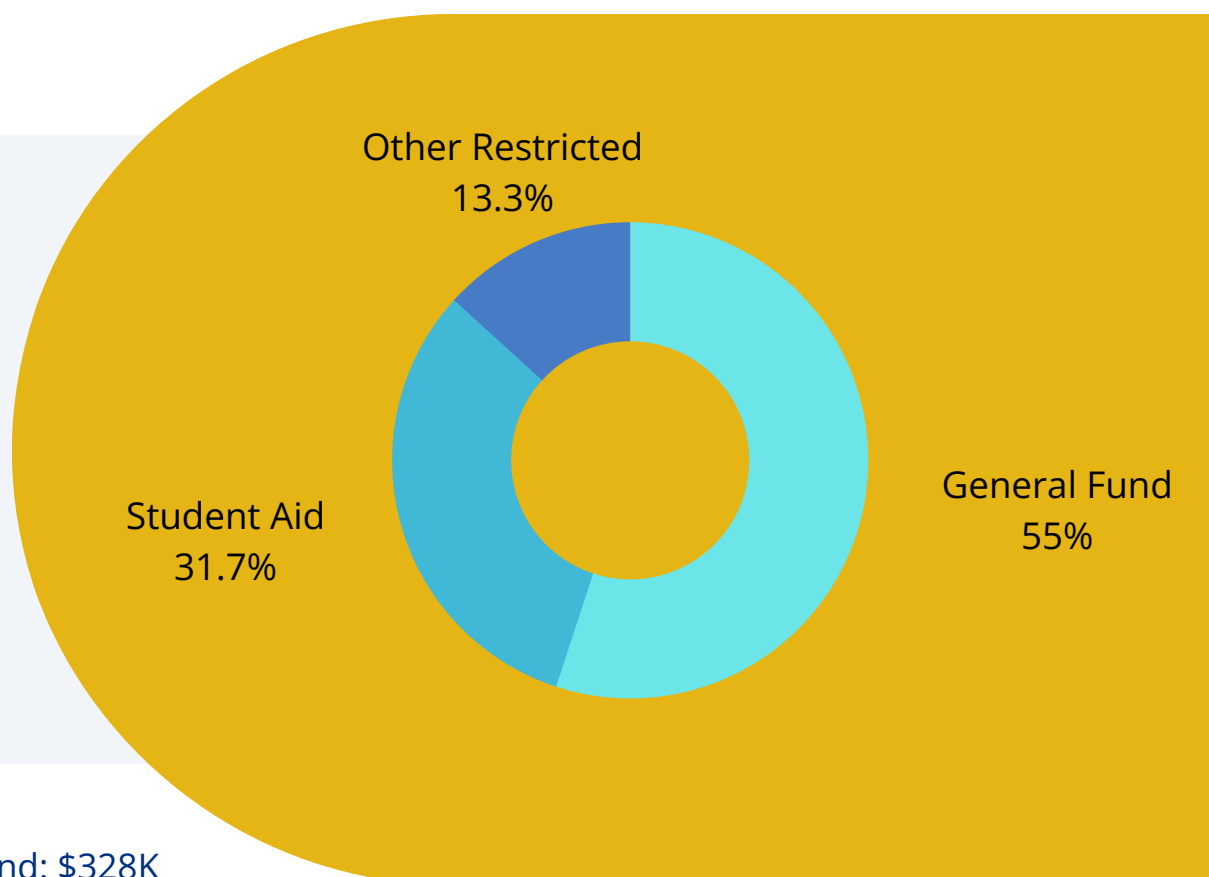
- Debt: \$55,000
- Net Assets: -\$536,000
- Total Giving: \$596,000
 - Unrestricted: \$328,000
 - Student Aid: \$189,000
 - Other Restricted: \$79,000

Note:

- Debt: Mortgages and MTC debt
- Student Aid: Scholarships, Sponsorships (Church and Individual), MTC Budget
- Unrestricted: Gideon's 300 and all unrestricted funds
- Other Restricted:
 - Special Projects: Science Center, IA Building, Faculty House, Trade Program
 - Endowments
 - All other restricted funds

*"God will generously provide all we need...then we will have everything we need with plenty left over to share with others."
~2 Chorinthians 9:8*

'22-23 GIFTS GIVEN



General Fund: \$328K

Student Aid: \$189K

Other Restricted: \$79K

Total Given 2022-2023: \$596K

We are striving to create a sustainable future for MEA as we prepare for our next 120+ years of ministry. Our next big step forward is a long-term goal over the next 3-5 years of \$4.5 Million to augment our "only at Mt. Ellis" activities, further develop our Trade Program offerings as well as develop new programs that enhance the learning experience at MEA, and to create a vibrant indoor and outdoor environment conducive to creativity and learning.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

As we move forward in pursuit of our vision for our graduates, we have identified the following strategic priorities:

- **Create long-term sustainability** for operations by stewarding our resources through the creation of income streams to support our ministry as well as operating from a position of fiscal responsibility.
- **Grow financial aid opportunities** for families through ongoing giving and significant gifts to create a robust student aid fund to provide the means of Christian education for all students.
- **Expand and fund our Trade Program** offering certified vocational training to enable all students to succeed beyond high school.
- **Create an enhanced campus** with aesthetically appealing and updated facilities that inspire learning and development, serving our school and the broader community.

This will enable us to equip our youth for ministry today and tomorrow, thereby fulfilling the mission we have been called to as Kingdom Builders.



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

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"MEA helped me become a leader in Christ."
~SD, Senior

"One of the many things I think MEA offers over other schools: a chance to gain your confidence. In other words, to *keep trying*, and keep bettering yourself so that you can become the person you want to be and who God has meant for you to be." ~GC, Junior

"This school gave me opportunities to find what I was looking for in myself, as well as who I wanted to be and what I wanted to do... It is a special thing to be able to understand who your teachers are and how much they care about their students."
~OM, Senior

"Another high point of MEA is that it is so embedded in nature that you can connect with God through His creation, which helps create a very solid base for developing a relationship with God."
~MF, Junior

"Staff have pushed me to truly refine what I believe so I can stand in my ideas with valid reasonings...It's really easy to just listen, but if you *understand* how God is trying to reach you, and what the true lesson is, you can apply things in your life instead of take them as just a 'faith value' story."
~NC, Senior