

Our foundation... *(continued from inside panel)*

You may be wondering if this can wait until after your investment portfolio rebounds or the state of the economy improves. Truthfully, the current economic climate should not impact or delay us in preparing and maintaining an effective and stewardly estate plan. Estate planning is recession proof and we should all be prepared at any time to be called to our heavenly home. I have yet to meet an individual or couple who has not enjoyed the peace of mind that comes with knowing their earthly house is in order. Joanne and I also have this peace of mind. Please call for confidential, no-obligation advice as to how you can help yourself, your family and the charities including our Christian schools that are dear to your hearts.

Are you in?

If so, continue to pray for our Christian schools as we should never underestimate the power of prayer. Secondly, if you have not done so already, please take a moment to complete the *Reply Form* found on the reverse side, either mail or fax it, or deliver it to me in person...and let's talk. Together we CAN make a difference!

News

Our website revamp is now complete. By now our site should also be fully networked with each of our member schools. Please take a moment to check out the resources available to you, upcoming events, direct links to member school websites, the complete listing and contact information for all of our Directors, as well as our newest page noting all of our recently registered business names. These business names are meant to assist each of our schools to create their own local brand and promote their foundation.

In the spirit of sharing

By Alice Klamer, Adrian & Kathy Koornneef, Henry & Joanne Koornneef, Fred & Evelyn Koornneef, Caroline & Ron Eyk

Our late mother loved our Christian schools and she was an unwavering supporter. As adult children we also knew that there were several other causes dear to her heart. When she was called Home this past January we were looking for a way in which we could allow others to honor our mother through in memoriam gifts for several causes that were special to her.

It was agreed that we would encourage in memoriam giving through our foundation (FNHCS) with the understanding that all gifts would be shared equally with the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Foundation and McNally House, the new hospice in Grimsby. In the days that followed nearly 40 gifts were received from various individuals and businesses; we were both touched and humbled by the generosity shown. In mid-February, we were honoured to share these proceeds through our foundation with the local hospital foundation and hospice.



We trust that the sharing of these proceeds honoured our mother as we agree that there are many causes along with our Christian schools that are worthy of our support.

Presenting Pamela Blackwood, Executive Director of McNally House, with a third of the in memoriam donations are brothers Fred (left) and Henry Koornneef (right).

Henry J. Koornneef CFP, CSA

Executive Director

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FOUNDATION

for Niagara & Hamilton area Christian Schools

Beacon Christian Schools, St. Catharines

www.beaconchristian.org

Brantford Christian School

www.bcsbrantford.ca

Calvin Christian School, Hamilton

www.ccshamilton.ca

Dundas Calvin Christian School

www.dccs.ca

Dunnville Christian School

www.dunnvillechristianschool.ca

Hamilton District Christian High

www.hdch.org

Jarvis District Christian School

www.jdcs.ca

Niagara Association for Christian Education

(John Knox & Covenant)
www.nace.ca

Smithville District Christian High

www.sdch.on.ca

Trinity Christian School, Burlington

www.tconline.ca

Wellandport Christian School

www.wellandportchristianschool.ca

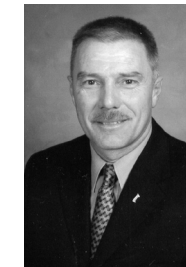


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Our foundation... will it make a difference?



*By Henry J. Koornneef,
Executive Director*

Easter...it's just around the corner. Aside from its true meaning, what also comes to my mind at this time of year is the newness of many things as Easter usually coincides with the arrival of spring. Likewise, our foundation is still experiencing "newness" as we continue to move forward now as a group of eleven member schools. I believe the transition that welcomed six new member schools last fall is going very well; however, we are still faced with a significant challenge.

When Joanne and I had children in both Christian elementary and secondary school (only 12 years ago), the combined tuition commitment surpassed the \$10,000 per year threshold. For many families in similar circumstances today, this amount has already surpassed the \$20,000 threshold. Although the time value of money has not been factored into these figures, it is a known fact that the cost of Christian education has increased at a far greater rate than the cost of living.

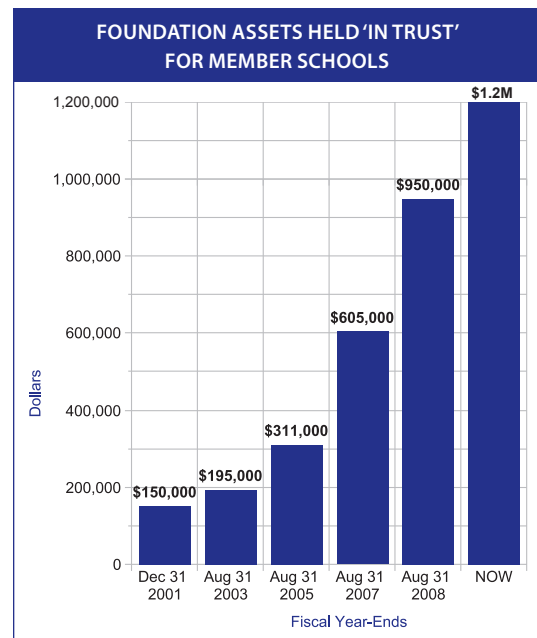
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Representing NACE, Sid Bakker (left) and Tony Kamphuis (right) gladly accepting an additional \$10,000 gift that will be applied to last summer's roofing project at Covenant in Smithville. Funds were made possible because of a gift of securities received by the foundation in 2007.

Fund Report

A general illustration of the way in which Foundation assets owned 'in trust' for the benefit of our member schools are growing. These assets are currently being held in a variety of ways, including general endowments, memorial endowments, named and/or donor advised funds and insurance policies. A complete breakdown by school is available upon request.



Our foundation... *(continued from front panel)*

How many young couples starting families today will be able to afford Christian day schooling? Some will, some will choose not to and I believe many may genuinely not be able to afford it. Through no fault of their own, are our Christian schools in conjunction with declining enrolment in some areas, pricing themselves "out of business"? A sobering thought but this could be reality without some proactive measures on our part.

This reflection is not meant to discourage young families or negate the timeless value of Christian education; exactly the opposite is my intention here. We all have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference and invest in the future of our children's education. There is no shame in placing a high value on something so invaluable. The quality of education offered in our Christian schools is also second to none! Every dollar spent is a dollar invested in the future of our children but yet, a growing number of families will need us to walk along with them.

Our foundation is part of the solution! However, without a collective will similar to that which helped found many of our schools 50 years ago, our foundation will not realize the true potential that exists to ensure our schools thrive for the long-term.

I have spoken to many people who genuinely believe growing our foundation is an invaluable and long overdue development for our Christian schools. It will ensure they remain financially viable and Christian education remains affordable for both current families and future generations. I realize there are many other worthy causes to support, many more now than when our schools were founded. However, failing to provide a Christ-centred foundation in

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our children's formal instructional years could have unfortunate results. Look around and take note of all those now currently active in ministry who had the benefit of a Christian education. To quote a recent post on the Christian Schools International website, "there is no substitute for Christian schools that help students develop discernment and Godly wisdom, all the while teaching them to work within and through community." Simply, Christian education is a timeless investment that continues to reap benefits for a lifetime.

So how can you help?

First of all, we cannot leave it just to those with perceived wealth to support our foundation, although some of these individuals have already realized they have the ability to "send it ahead". We are very grateful that some of this has already taken place; this has been crucial in helping establish endowments, bursary and scholarship funds that have already impacted our schools. Despite our now combined asset pool in excess of \$1.2 million, we cannot afford to become complacent. In order to realize a timely impact across eleven school societies, we need to increase this amount 20-fold or more as soon as possible. Is this unrealistic for our combined support communities? Absolutely not! Is there an element of urgency to this appeal? Absolutely! Again, we need to witness the collective will that was evident when our schools were founded.

Our long-term goal is to ensure that all our school supporters have an up-to-date estate plan, one that also includes a future (planned) gift for our schools. Our history includes many excellent examples of kingdom work accomplished through a strong community will. If we were all to contribute to the charities dear to us through a planned gift, the long-term impact for our schools would simply be phenomenal. To quote someone dear to me no longer on this side of heaven, "we can't take it with us..."

(continued on back panel)

REPLY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

- I would like to learn more about making a planned gift for my local Christian school(s). Please send us some information.
- I would like to learn more about the series of funds developed by the **Foundation** (e.g. Tuition assistance, Capital, Technology, Alumni, Donor Advised and/or Named Funds).
- I would like to become a **Friend of our Foundation**. Enclosed is our gift of: \$ _____

For all other general inquiries, including gifting opportunities for your school's endowment, please contact the Foundation office or any of the Directors listed below:

- * Fred Bennink.....905-648-7999
- * John Bezuyen905-562-7887
- Kleis Hensen Jr.....519-759-3145
- * John Kikkert905-957-7766
- Juliette Lamb905-319-8816
- John Langendoen905-892-3972
- * Theo Meester905-563-6332
- Clarence Mulder.....905-774-3809
- Don Nelson.....905-892-8191
- Bert Prinzen.....519-587-3066
- Fred Reitsma519-752-3466
- * David Rumph905-304-6643
- Richard Schilstra905-774-6171
- Bob Schinkel905-387-0100
- Karl Vahrmeyer905-892-2321
- * Bill VanderKlippe905-386-7157
- Rob VanStaalduinen.....905-331-7074
- * Bernie Voortman.....905-628-8582

*** Denotes Executive Committee Members**