



## Tax Credit: The Time is Now

### Longtime DMS lender RSF Social Finance urges increased participation in DMS's tax credit program

On Monday, September 21 we had a site visit from our new RSF loan officer, Ted Levinson. It was a full day, with time spent touring the campus, reviewing the school's financials, looking at the construction plans and budgets, and meeting with teachers and board members.

The main question on the table was this: does RSF still feel comfortable with our ability to repay the \$1,377,000 construction loan that was approved in 2008, before the dramatic shift in the economy and the subsequent cuts to education funding in the Arizona budget? In a nutshell, the answer is yes!.. IF we can demonstrate our commitment to strengthening our long term income stream by dramatically increasing funds raised through Arizona's tax credit program this fall.

Do you know that feeling when someone tells you something you already know? Every year for the last few years we've said. We need to do more with the tax credit. But our records show that year after year, it's pretty much the same people who participate and the same amount that comes in: \$20,000 give or take a few.

This is in sharp contrast to the late 1990s. At that time DMS was a quarter of the size we are now " maybe fifty families " and consistently raised \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year through the tax credit program. How? Because we understood we needed to and we acted on that understanding. Now that we are 200 families strong, that same level of effort an average of \$1,000 brought in by each family would result in a \$200,000 increase to our annual budget. Now is the time to make that effort.

### What raising \$200,000 a year through the Tax Credit Program will do for our school

1. Strengthen the program we offer our students. Tax credit funds can only be used for extra-curricular (non core-academic) and character building programs. At DMS, that includes music, movement, gardening, handwork, woodwork and all day field trips and class overnight trips. When you direct money to DMS through the tax credit, you know that it will be going straight to the students.

2. Strengthen our overall finances. Right now our tax credit program doesn't bring in anywhere close to the amount of money it costs to provide the programming described above. But imagine if it did. The funds currently used for that programming would then be available for other important, under-funded needs such as teacher training, staff

benefits, and capital improvements.

3. Simplify fundraising and reduce out of pocket costs for parents. Right now DMS parents pay for field trips and class trips, as well as put significant time and more money towards class-based fundraising efforts like bake sales, car washes, etc. What if instead of having a dozen different, small fundraisers going on at the same time, every family simply networked with friends and family members who pay Arizona taxes and brought in a \$1,000 in tax credits?

### DMS Board of Directors to lead the way

At the September regular board meeting, DMS board members resolved to demonstrate their commitment to reinvigorate the tax credit program by working together to bring in \$20,000 in tax credits, the equivalent of what the entire community has achieved in previous years. This is a strong move on the part of the board and will provide much needed leadership in the area of fund development.

### What comes next?

A Tax Credit Committee has been formed and will meet next on Monday, October 19 at 8:30 a.m. outside the school office. If you want to be at the center of this transformative process, be sure to join us. If you're not able to make it at that time, don't worry we'll be calling you soon! You will also receive a packet in the mail soon that will provide you with all the materials you need to start bringing those tax credits in.

Thank you!

2009 DMS Tax Credit Committee

Jill Thomas Charity Williams Tami Hendrix Amy Bird

## Arizona Tax Credit 101

### Arizona Tax Credit 101

What exactly is a tax credit? A.R. S. 42-1088 provides a state income credit of up to \$400 per calendar year for married couples filing a joint return, or up to \$200 for single and head of household filers. These monies are used to support extracurricular and educational enhancement programs. This tax credit is an actual credit against state income taxes. In other words, if you have a tax liability, it's money you are paying to the State of Arizona anyway, so why not direct it to our school?

For more information, the Arizona Department of Revenue publishes a pamphlet, *School Tax Credits (PUB 707)* which is available by calling 602-855-3381 or 800-352-4090, or online at: [www.revenue.state.az.us/brochure/schooltx/htm](http://www.revenue.state.az.us/brochure/schooltx/htm).

## 24-7 Holistic Conference

On Saturday, October 3rd I attended the 24-7 Holistic Conference featuring author of *Seven Times the Sun*, Shea Darian. The morning opened with a Keynote address given by Darian wherein she addressed the topic of wonder and how it affects our lives and the lives of our children. She says that often our wonder is buried deep under all of the knowledge that we have obtained, and I find that to be true as I intellectualize entirely too much and lose sight of what's really important. She also suggests that children are pushed out of the state of wonder and into intellect too early. This can have detrimental affects on young children. I have seen this first hand in my own life and am therefore so grateful that my child attends Desert Marigold, a place where his wonder and imagination can be cultivated and not stifled.

I was fortunate enough to attend my morning session under the continued instruction of Darian where she focused on family life and how to create a sanctuary in our homes for our children. Darian created her family's sanctuary successfully through the rhythm's of daily life, rituals, and the arts.

Darian talks about the importance of rhythm to young children just like many other Waldorf authors. She says that rhythm is in a way a holistic form of discipline. I highly agree as I see my children falling in line with the rhythms of our home life. In the rhythm of our home my

children learn what is to be expected and act accordingly without much effort on my part. Rhythm can bring a wonderful sense of peace to everyone in the home.

Family rituals can foster a feeling of intimacy within a family. It creates many opportunities for togetherness thus strengthening the bonds of friendship within the home. Rituals such as dinner together each night, a bedtime routine, and Saturday gardening can create many fond memories within a family and act as anchor points to keep children flowing throughout their lives smoothly.

The arts can enrich any family's life. Darian used the arts in her home through instructional and transitional singing, to verses and poems at night to teach values and storytelling at bedtime.

Her attitudes and ideals of family life are so inspiring to me that I couldn't resist picking up one of her books at the conference. I look forward to reading more of her ideas and look forward to next year's conference. I recommend anyone who is interested in creating a more holistic home filled with beauty and creativity attend this conference in the year to come.

April Sauer  
Sunflower Parent

## DMS Community Outing

### Pumpkin Patch Excursion

**Saturday,**

**October 17<sup>TH</sup> - 11 am**

**@ Mother Nature's Farm**

[www.mothernaturesfarm.com](http://www.mothernaturesfarm.com)  
1665 E. Baseline Rd - between  
Cooper Rd and Gilbert Road  
Gilbert, AZ 85233-1542  
Farm: 480-892-5874 Fax: 480-  
507-0074

*We'll meet at Mother Nature's Farm around 11:00 am. We'll pick and decorate pumpkins, go for a hayride, and have a picnic together! Please, bring your own picnic foods and supplies!*

**Fees: \$7 per child** (this includes an OZ pumpkin, decorating your pumpkin, the air bounce, a hayride, straw bounce, feeding the animals and Alexander's Adventure Maze.),

**\$3 per adult** (includes hay ride).

**If your birthday is in the month of October, your admission is free!**



**Questions? Call Heather Sullivan (480)298-4521, Julie Donbrosky (480)326-5708, Rebecca Allen (480)329-8230 or Maria del Mar Damany (602)487-7225**

### Construction Funding Update

RSF has released loan funds sufficient to complete the first phase of our construction project, which includes the relocation of the parking area, the remodel of the Crabtree house into offices, faculty workspace, storage and a caretaker's apartment (which frees the current office space for educational use) and an accessible pathway from the new office into the campus. We will meet with RSF in December to evaluate the loan amount that will be approved for the new classroom buildings based largely on the results of this fall's tax credit drive.