

STEWARDSHIP OF THE GIFT OF CGS

To be true to its purpose of continuing the legacy of CGS, CGSUSA must look to how its founders developed and continued this work. Following the way of Jesus, Cavalletti and Gobbi approached their work in a spirit of poverty, simplicity, and generosity. They prayerfully designed and made simple materials for the children's use. They honored the dignity of the child, and sought no accolades for themselves. Cavalletti called CGS "the greatest gift from God I would ever have thought about." She and Gobbi joyfully received the gift and then passed it along to children, adults, the Church and the world.

CGSUSA holds the gift of CGS as a treasure, passing it along with great love and care through frequent communication with its membership, publications that advance knowledge of the spiritual life of the child, and formation of new catechists in a way that assures their work with children will have the same character and integrity as that of the founders.

CGSUSA always seeks balance between letting the work continue to spread on its own, that is, not seeking to control it, yet being a responsible steward of the growth. As an association, CGSUSA is charged with caring for the work which necessarily includes both administrative and financial elements.

Today, there are over 3,750 atria operating in this country, serving thousands of children in parishes, homes and schools. All of this has been done with a skeleton staff on a minimal annual budget that has slowly grown to almost \$650,000. Despite the thousands of families whose children have been formed in this method, three quarters of the association's revenue comes from catechists, most of whom are volunteers in parishes or schools around the country.

Our discipline each year in setting goals and objectives and working toward accomplishing them has allowed the Association to do what it set out to do: to help people enter the work of CGS and to make CGS accessible to children throughout the country and the world. We have witnessed a great increase in our work around the country. Like the mustard seed, the growth has been abundant and astonishing. We did not set out many years ago to target growth in numbers as a goal to be achieved. We've simply tried to serve the child and in doing so, have inspired many people to join us in our efforts.

As the Association has grown, so has the number of projects in support of our members. For any nonprofit organization, raising money is a challenge. For us, this is especially true because our way of life is rooted in a spirit of poverty and essentiality. Therefore, how do we best ensure a stable future for the work of CGSUSA? How do we best invite a prayerful response of time, talent and treasure? How can we become more sustainable as a community? While we have a number of possibilities, the three primary ways are through the Annual Appeal, the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund, and Major Gift donations by those with the capacity and heart for the child.



The Annual Appeal is a yearly call for support of our mission. Gifts to the Annual Appeal provide vital operating support and help to sustain and grow our Formation and Outreach ministry.

The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund (TLM) was created to support the growth and development of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through catechist formation, missionary outreach, and the work of CGSUSA.

Major Gifts: Cash is always appreciated by CGSUSA, since any gift large or small supports the work of nurturing the child's relationship with God. Donations in the form of multi-year pledges help us to plan responsibly. Donors have the option to set up monthly giving schedules or other installment plans.

Appreciated Stock makes an excellent charitable gift. Under current tax laws, when an appreciated asset (such as stock) is sold, a capital gains tax is due. By making a charitable gift of the appreciated stock, you can avoid or delay the capital gains tax. You can also take an immediate income tax deduction for the current fair market value of the stock, no matter what was originally paid for it.

Legacy Gifts, bequests made through your will or trust, are one of the most simple and popular ways to make a gift that will live on after you. You can make a bequest to benefit CGSUSA by providing a dollar amount, specific property, or a percentage of your estate, either designated or undesignated. A Legacy Gift can reduce your estate taxes. In many cases, a simple change to your will can add this bequest and does not require rewriting your most recent will.

Life Insurance is another simple way to make a substantial future gift at a level that might not be possible for a straight cash donation. If you name CGSUSA as the owner and beneficiary to receive the proceeds of an existing life insurance policy, you will receive a tax deduction for the approximate cash surrender value, thereby reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.