



# The Found Coin

February 2026

## CGSUSA Philanthropy News

Banner artwork by Dana, age 9

Dear Friends,

During the month of February, we remember Valentina Lillig, and we honor her legacy by encouraging generosity to the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund.

**The mission of the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund is to support the growth and development of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through catechist formation, missionary outreach, and the work of the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGSUSA). To these ends, the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund offers a source of financial aid (in the form of partial scholarships) to applicants who would find paying the full tuition of a course to be a hardship.**

I am inspired by the many catechists and communities who are deeply committed to pursuing CGS formation and offering a time and space for children to know and love the Good Shepherd.



*If you or your community is in need of scholarship or grant support for formation, please visit our [website and apply](#). The next deadline for applications is April 30.* Thank you to all the donors who have generously supported the TLM Fund and made formation courses possible for catechists across the US and the world.

Peace,  
Erin

*In this newsletter  
you can expect:*

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The TLM Fund

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Donor  
Testimonials

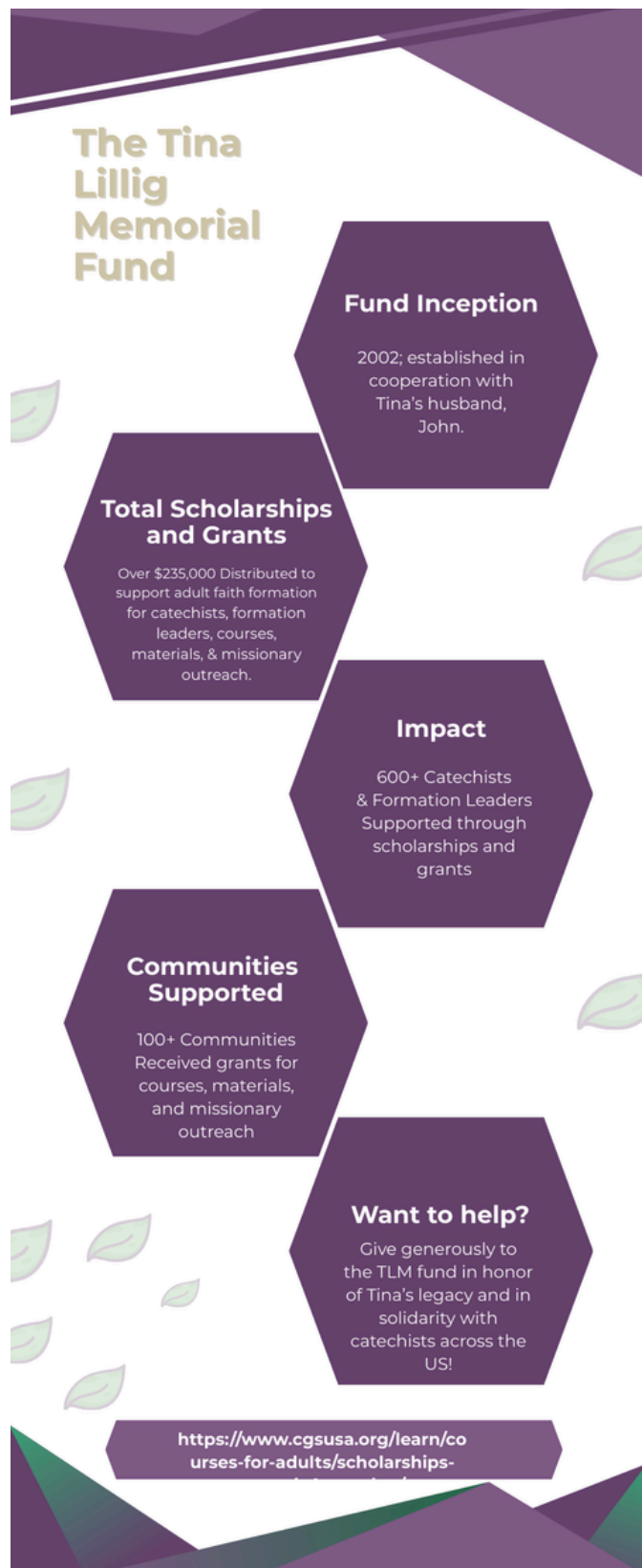
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Regional News

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Ways to Give to  
CGSUSA

# The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund: By the Numbers



Your gift to the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund helps us spread the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to more communities by removing cost barriers for catechists, parishes, schools, and congregations that want to start CGS.

*It takes a village to help a catechist attend formation, bring a course to a community, or build an atrium. Will you help others who desire to serve the religious potential of children through a gift to the TLM Fund?*

Thank you for your generosity.

## The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund - Grant Recipient Testimonial

We wanted to write a quick note of gratitude for your generosity. Our church began in 2020 and we began offering a level one atrium in 2022. In 2023 we had to move to a new building where we rent space, and therefore we must set up and tear down our atria every week (we now have levels one and two). In order to have a portable atrium, we had to purchase some large, rollable, collapsible cabinets. These cabinets were \$500 each. Your gift to our church allowed us to purchase one of the cabinets.

*Corpus Christi Anglican Church*

## The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund - Donor Testimonial

I [donated to the TLM Fund] in honor of CGSUSA, all the catechists, and bambinos! I was director of Christian formation at our local Episcopal church...when we learned about CGS. It changed my life and I believe the lives of the other catechists and many children in our church.

I truly hope this donation can help other churches or catechists receive formation. It is life changing for everyone involved - but especially for the children!

I did not know Tina personally but felt a real sense of loss when she died. I'm so glad her memory is being kept alive.

*Linda R.*

## Donor Testimonial - Light Bearers Circle

Three years ago I had not heard of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. But then I heard a sermon that so moved me I knew I had to be a part.

Writing a check was easy, but impersonal. So I volunteered as an assistant that first year in Level 1. The spiritual responses of those 3-6 year olds blew me away.

My belief and commitment grows stronger all the time. I've met some of the loveliest people.

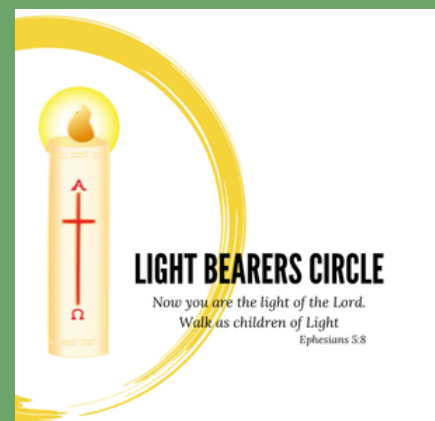
One way I'm helping is by naming CGS in my estate. I recently did a course on vocation for people ages 55+ and it helped me to begin thinking about how I might bless others with an estate gift. I explored several options, but I believe in the ecumenical mission of CGS, and the importance of accompanying children in their spiritual formation. I want every child to have the opportunity to know The Good Shepherd.

Janet

### Will you join Janet by designating CGSUSA in your estate plans?

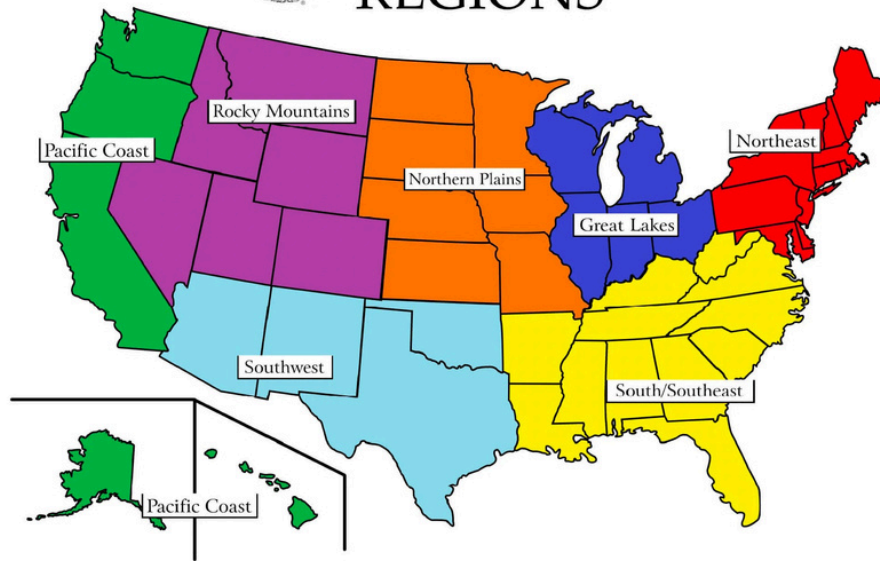
Knowing of your generosity helps us plan for our future. Please contact us to share your plans via our online form so we can thank you!

If you want more information about how to name CGSUSA as a beneficiary in your estate planning, please contact Erin Miller at [erinmiller@cgsusa.org](mailto:erinmiller@cgsusa.org). You can find more information on our website.





## CGSUSA REGIONS



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### *Regional Update*

In addition to CGSUSA's work on a national level, the Association also supports regional groups throughout the United States. A few of the regional groups are also then subdivided into chapters. You can learn more about regional group activities by emailing CGSUSA [here](#). You will then be put in contact with the organized group, or chapter nearest your home.

From the beginning of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, it has been a practice of catechists to spend a significant amount of time with each other after the children had left the atrium to discuss, with particular attentiveness, the religious life of the child. This practice has also built deep and sustaining friendships among the catechists. So often, when catechists gather, there is this feeling of "we have already met" that is experienced and celebrated. For this reason, part of the vision of CGSUSA is that "Regional groups will be encouraged in every part of the nation." Regional gatherings are a solid way of developing these groups.

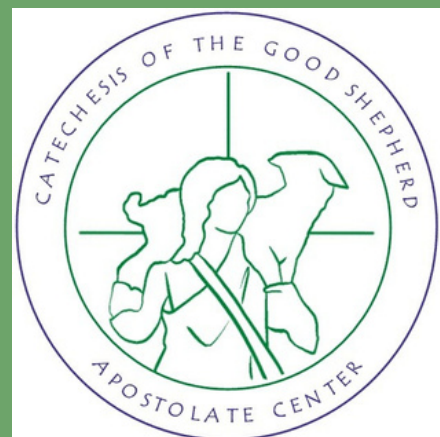
## Regional Report: The CGS Apostolate Center, Verona, PA

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Apostolate Center is dedicated to sharing the culture of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with families, communities, parishes, and schools. We offer formation courses to train catechists and to support those wanting to learn more about the spiritual needs of children from birth to age twelve. In addition, CGSAC supports catechists, parents, and educators by offering workshops, retreats and gatherings, seminars on Montessori theory, and other programs supporting the culture and community of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.



*The CGS Apostolate Center serves Western PA through regular adults formation courses at all levels, catechist gatherings, materials making retreats, atrium sessions for children, and more.*

To learn more about the CGS Apostolate Center's work, visit their [website](#) or [support](#) their efforts through a philanthropic gift.



# Maximize your Impact

## *Giving through a Donor Advised Fund*

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a simple, flexible way to give to causes you care about. It works like a charitable investment account: you make a donation to your DAF, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants from the fund to nonprofits over time. Many donors appreciate the ease of consolidating their giving in one place and the ability to support multiple charities from their DAF. If you have a DAF, you can recommend a gift directly to CGSUSA to help advance our mission. Simply share our legal name and tax ID (# 52-1328815) with your DAF sponsor, and your generosity will go to work supporting children and catechists nationwide.

## *Tax Advantaged Giving in 2026*

CGSUSA is here to welcome gifts beyond simply cash. We are equipped to help you make long lasting, tax-smart contributions that provide value for you and us. For more information on how you can make gifts of stock, use your IRA rollover, donor advised funds, or join the Light Bearers Circle through a legacy gift, contact [Erin Miller](#).

## Our Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees governs the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The Board of CGSUSA has nine trustees, each of whom is elected for a three-year term. A board member acts as a sponsor, ambassador, fundraiser, and consultant for the Association.

Each Board member represents and stewards a region of members/donors. If you have questions or comments, you can always reach out to the Board member covering that region.

Please visit our [Annual Meeting page](#) on the website to read the 2024-25 Annual Report and watch the Year in Review video.



Susan Stuhlsatz-Reese,  
Board Chair (Missouri)



Matthew Irwin,  
Vice Chair (Florida)



Jenny Pleiman,  
Treasurer (Ohio)



Hannah Marconeri,  
Secretary (Michigan)



Margaret Schaefer, Board  
Member (Nebraska)



Davette Himes, Board  
Member (Virginia)



Erica Dunning  
Member (Texas)



Zachary Krueger  
Member (Idaho)



Maris Wimberly  
Member (Alabama)

# Growing Seeds: A Sustainable Giving Initiative for CGSUSA Members



*I love Kerri's story and in so many ways, I have experienced exactly the same things. I listened to the podcast even when I took a 2-year break from the Atrium. It's so good to hear from seasoned Catechists and to know we're all experiencing similar blessings and challenges. I love the podcast and I have been so blessed by CGS. We will be making a monthly donation. We love the CGS! - Pia*

**In honor of our 40 years of remaining with children, we launched a new sustainable giving program for CGSUSA members: Growing Seeds.**

As part of Growing Seeds, your regular, automatic gift is simple and convenient, allowing you to spread your philanthropy over time. It also provides CGSUSA with a more predictable source of income so we can focus on sustaining and supporting the religious life of children and those who serve them.

**To select your contribution frequency and amount click [HERE](#) or visit <https://www.cgsusa.org/connect/cgsusa/growing-seeds/> to complete the online giving form. For a minimum gift amount of \$15 per month (\$180 per year), you will automatically be recognized as a CGSUSA Growing Seeds donor, giving you one year of access to the recordings from Between Memory and Hope: 40th Anniversary Celebration as our way of thanking you for your generosity.**



**Hannah, Age 11**



Jocelyn, Age 8, Richmond, VA

## CGSUSA Annual Appeal: 2025-2026

Philanthropic support enhances our impact in the following areas:

- Catechist Formation
- Technology
- Formation Leader Discernment, Training and Continuing Education
- Outreach and Atrium Development
- Infant/Toddler Formation
- International Resources and Support for Religious Communities
- Publications, Events and Educational Resources
- Mustard Seed Growth (support to dioceses, regional groups, etc)

*Thank you for reading!*

ERIN MILLER, STEWARDSHIP  
COORDINATOR

ERINMILLER@CGSUSA.ORG

[www.cgsusa.org/donate](http://www.cgsusa.org/donate)

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