



A Case for Support
The Room to Grow Campaign



Building Space
Strengthening Community
Enhancing Our Future

Mission

The Learning Community School inspires children to realize their true selves by nurturing curiosity, creativity, resilience, and a conscious connection to nature and community within a challenging academic environment.



How We Got Here

Since 1996, The Learning Community School (TLC) has offered families in Western North Carolina something rare: an education that offers academic excellence while nurturing the whole child. Founded by parents who believed children learned best through nature, community connection, and curiosity-driven exploration, TLC began as a grassroots program on the grounds of Camp Rockmont in Black Mountain.

In 2019, our community recognized the need for a permanent home. Within one year, we raised the necessary funds to purchase our current property on Bee Tree Road in Swannanoa - transforming a historic farmhouse and its surrounding acreage into a vibrant schoolhouse.

On this campus, we pair transformative academic engagement with a stewardship of the land. Learning happens both in the classroom and across our grounds, from the creek to the woods. Ask any child about their favorite subject, and you will hear a range of voices shouting: “Math” – “Outdoor Education” – “Science” – “Language Arts!” – and everything in between.



In recent years, our school navigated extraordinary challenges, including the pandemic and then Hurricane Helene, which sent 30-foot walls of water past our driveway. These historic events highlighted the profound resilience, resourcefulness, and mutual care that define TLC. Guided by clear values and effective leadership, we stand ready for our next step.



Where We Are Now

The Learning Community School is thriving. Enrollment is strong. Classrooms are full and demand continues to grow. Today, our historic farmhouse serves 120 students across nine grade levels (ages 5 to 15). Every square foot is utilized at TLC.

On any given day, our building is teeming with life!



While we are deeply proud of our growth, reaching capacity presents a positive and clear challenge. To serve current students and welcome future generations, we require expanded physical and operational resources. A new, multi-use "**Base Camp**" will meet these emerging needs - bringing athletics, physical education, musical rehearsals, two cutting-edge academic classrooms, and campus gatherings under a sheltered, purpose-built roof.

Beyond physical space, this project strengthens our long-term financial sustainability. Historically, TLC has relied on a blend of tuition and annual giving to meet operational expenses, and that will continue. Through thoughtful, deliberate expansion, we can reach an enrollment level that eases the pressure tuition alone puts on our budget, giving us more flexibility to direct annual giving toward continued academic enrichment and enhanced faculty compensation, rather than covering baseline costs alone.



Why This Matters Now

This moment has been years in the making. Our expansion plans have been developed alongside architectural and engineering professionals to prioritize sustainability, function, and design. TLC is primed and ready to build. We have already completed key pre-construction milestones - including environmental clearances, sewer permitting, stormwater management preparation, site clearing, and the construction of a 20-foot retaining wall. With advance funding secured and site preparation complete, we are ready to move forward.

What We Are Building

Through the Room to Grow Campaign, TLC will construct a multi-purpose learning and community space - a true "base camp" for campus life. This flexible facility will feature an expansive gathering hall, two restrooms, and two dedicated middle school classrooms.

Sheltered Physical Education: Provides a year-round space for athletics, games, and active play regardless of weather.

Tailored Middle School Classrooms: Designed specifically for the academic, social, and developmental needs of older students.

Expanded Grades Capacity: Reclaims space in the original farmhouse, allowing the lower grades program to grow purposefully.

Performing Arts and Assembly Venue: Offers an indoor space for theater, music, presentations, and community traditions.

New Student Opportunities: Enables new sports programs, including home hospitality league games.



A Visionary Foundation Beyond the Walls

Our decision to proceed with construction is rooted in two core drivers: addressing immediate space needs and securing our institutional future. However, completing this facility is only the beginning. As tuition and operational expenses reach full alignment, TLC will be positioned to pursue ongoing enhancements - such as dedicated space for staging, audience seating, and signature activities such as climbing.



A Secure Future: Ensuring a lasting educational home for generations of children to come.

Support for Educators: Creating the financial capacity to enhance compensation and professional development to support our hardworking faculty and staff.

A Base Camp for Innovation: Equipping school leadership with the physical and financial tools to guide TLC into its next chapter.

Strategic Outcomes and Financials

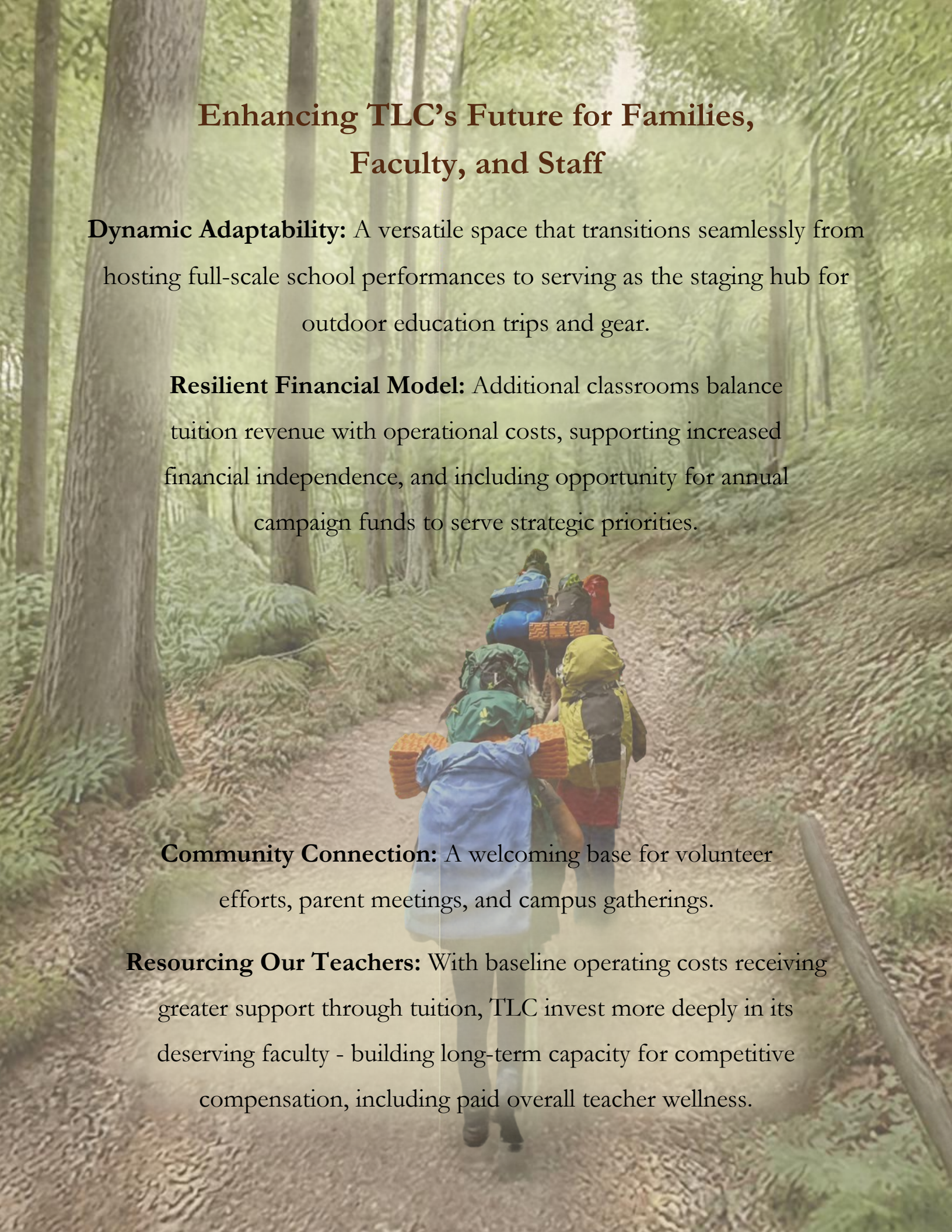
What This Campaign Makes Possible

For Our Students: Tailored Environments for Growth

Everyday Learning: Younger grades gain room to move, collaborate, and execute large-scale projects, while middle schoolers transition into spacious, purpose-built classrooms.

Campus Life and Traditions: Signature events find a permanent home - from science fairs and school musicals to home basketball games, Author's Parties, and year-round physical education.

Daily Operations: Reclaiming space in our original farmhouse allows for expanded capacity in the lower school and dedicated areas for private rooms serving parent-teacher conferences and administrative collaboration space.

A group of hikers with large backpacks walking away on a forest trail. The hikers are wearing colorful rain gear (blue, yellow, green) and carrying large orange and blue backpacks. They are walking on a dirt path through a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage. The scene is slightly misty or foggy.

Enhancing TLC's Future for Families, Faculty, and Staff

Dynamic Adaptability: A versatile space that transitions seamlessly from hosting full-scale school performances to serving as the staging hub for outdoor education trips and gear.

Resilient Financial Model: Additional classrooms balance tuition revenue with operational costs, supporting increased financial independence, and including opportunity for annual campaign funds to serve strategic priorities.

Community Connection: A welcoming base for volunteer efforts, parent meetings, and campus gatherings.

Resourcing Our Teachers: With baseline operating costs receiving greater support through tuition, TLC invest more deeply in its deserving faculty - building long-term capacity for competitive compensation, including paid overall teacher wellness.

A Clear Path Forward

The Room to Grow Campaign represents a total investment of \$1.9 Million. Thanks to early leadership commitments, we are already well on our way.

Campaign Summary

Total Project Cost

\$1,900,000

Funding Already Secured

(Gifts, Grants, Reserves, Financing)

\$1,300,000

Remaining Campaign Goal

\$600,000

Strong Early Momentum

Through leadership gifts, foundation grants, school reserves, and financing, TLC has secured \$1.3 million prior to the public launch.

This early support demonstrates deep confidence in the project's feasibility and long-term impact.

Comprehensive Financial Goals

1. **Complete Capital Construction:** Fund the construction of the new multi-use building and site improvements.
2. **Protect Operational Giving:** Maintain a strong Annual Fund alongside the capital campaign to support day-to-day excellence.
3. **Pledge Flexibility:** Provide donors with options for multi-year commitments to maximize participation and reduce long-term debt.



Call to Action

An Invitation to Partner With Us

The Room to Grow Campaign is more than a building project - it is a focused investment in the people, programs, and values that make The Learning Community School extraordinary.

With over \$1.3 million already secured, we have incredible momentum. Now, we invite our broader community to help us bridge the final \$600,000 to bring this vision to life.



HOW YOU CAN JOIN THIS EFFORT

- **Make a Pledged Campaign Gift:** Maximize your impact with a multi-year pledge payable over up to three years.
- **Provide a Leadership Gift:** Accelerate construction with a transformational outright gift or cornerstone contribution.
 - **Gifts of Assets and Stock:** Optimize tax benefits by contributing appreciated securities, IRA distributions, or Donor-Advised Funds (DAF).
- **Sustain Daily Operations:** Maintain your Annual Fund support to ensure academic excellence while we build.



Your support will directly shape our campus, empower our educators, and secure TLC's future for generations to come.



The Learning
Community School

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Please see our website at:
thelearningcommunity.org

Contact us with questions:
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