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My name is Bryan Greenberg and I'm a proud alum of Charlotte Preparatory School! My 4-year-old son Blake is now in Mrs. O'Briant's class. For you parents of older kids, you might recognize our names by way of my parents Dale and Maria, or my siblings Erin, Lisa, and Matthew – all of us have been associated with Charlotte Prep in some fashion over the last 2-plus decades. If I'm a stranger to you, well, keep reading to learn more about my story!

Back in the mid-1990s, I was fortunate enough to be a student at Charlotte Prep during the very first year of its existence. It was Charlotte Country Day School back then. My teacher was Anne Schofield. I have fond memories of Mrs. Schofield and her passion for teaching. I remember the exact layout and location of her classroom in our first school building. I remember our Montessori activities. I remember much more, too.

Fast-forward 25 years - not only do I recall each of my early classmates, but most of us still communicate frequently. Some of them are dear family friends. Many are families you've probably heard before: Evan Waksler (parents Joe and Geri), Rachel Zusman (parents Neil and Amy), Sarah Colunga (parents Frank and Julie), Alex Wynn (parents Vander and Kathy), Mark and Cara Levy (parents Ken and Berinda), and Nick Grant (parents Mike and Lorraine). My older sister Erin was in that class as well.

My former classmates went on to find meaning and success in their own ways. This group includes a host of college grads, entrepreneurs, doctors and other medical professionals, an electrical engineer, and...wait for it...a quantum computing scientist at M.I.T. You could say he's off to an impressive start, right? After all, he worked at NASA before M.I.T. He's only 31. (By the way, when I last spoke with him a few weeks ago, he said Charlotte Prep may be the best school he's attended, including college and grad school. He really meant it, too.)

Off the top of my head, I can identify at least 2 common grounds: (1) they were MY classmates, and (2) they were provided with a solid foundation for early learning and education, facilitated by the teachers, staff, and parents involved with Charlotte Prep. Draw your own conclusions as to who deserves more credit. This is why my wife Meghan and I decided to move back to Charlotte County with our children. We want our children to have this same foundation for success.

Think about our Charlotte Prep story. Over the last 25 years, Charlotte Prep has grown from a small school with a few kindergarten and elementary classrooms to now a distinguished private school sought by families from around the area and beyond. Did you know that there is currently a waiting list for admission? Charlotte Prep has that reputation. This was no fluke, as countless individuals along the way have dedicated their expertise and passion to better the school and provide Charlotte Prep students with an opportunity to flourish. Beyond the contributions of past administration and staff, the school has always had strong support from philanthropic donors, mostly Charlotte Prep families and associated local businesses.

Charlotte Prep relies on revenue from tuition and charitable donations to not only maintain its reputation as a premier private school but also to facilitate the growth and development of the school itself. This year is no different, as continued financial support from families, alumni, community leaders, and local businesses is necessary. Revenue from tuition alone is not enough. The donations made by our philanthropic families and local businesses fund a variety of projects – all designed to continue improving the quality of education that our children receive.

Charlotte Prep is fortunate to have a remarkable team of leaders, teachers, board members, parents, grandparents, and other volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that our students have the best education and experience available. This group of people works hard – so that you can rest easy at night knowing our current students are getting the best, which allows the rest of us to juggle our career, work, childcare, extracurricular activities, our own hobbies and interests, and whatever else life throws at us. No shame there, Meghan and I fall into that category as well. However, we can all assist with simple fundraising efforts, and many can contribute financially, at least from time to time. Now would be that time if you're able.

I ask that you please join me in making a year-end, charitable contribution to Charlotte Prep. If you have your own business or have a strong relationship with your employer, please ask if they would be willing to contribute or perhaps match your gift. Pass this along to your friends or loved ones who might want to help make a difference. Donations can be made by visiting www.charlotteprepfl.com, through the parent portal, by sending in a check, or by contacting Nicole Maugeri, Director of Development, at nmaugeri@charlotteprepfl.com.

My hope is that I've highlighted a few reasons why donating is not only essential but paramount to Charlotte Prep's ongoing success story. Thank you for your time and thank you for considering a contribution!

Bryan Greenberg

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