



MES FUND

MARGARET ELIZABETH
STEPHENSON FUND

ANNUAL REPORT | 2022-23

Supporting Montessori
Teacher Training

— SINCE 2000 —



“The future of Maria Montessori’s work... is in the hands of those who are working and who will work without compromise for Maria Montessori’s mission.”



The MES Fund was established in 2000 to honor Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson, who dedicated her life to Montessori teacher training. It is the first national financial aid fund to provide scholarships to AMI teacher trainees in the United States.

In 1960, Margaret Stephenson was commissioned to initiate teacher training in the United States on behalf of the Association Montessori Internationale. She conducted training courses in this country for nearly 40 years. This year, the MES Fund is proud to celebrate our 23rd anniversary.



M E Stephenson

THE ADULT AND THE FUTURE

*International Study Conference,
Washington DC, 1994*

Dear MES Friends,

Inspiring—This is the word that comes to mind as we reflect on the 23rd Anniversary of the MES Fund.

We are inspired by:

23
teacher
trainees
who received
scholarships

25
MES award
recipients
who received
AMI diplomas

112
donors
the largest
number since the
fund's inception

In the words of our donors: “Teachers who truly follow the child and adhere to Montessori’s Principles are so needed today,” and “Margaret Stephenson was my Montessori guru and friend for many years. I truly miss her.”

What an honor it is for all of us to support our AMI teacher trainees and celebrate Miss Stephenson’s life and work!

Thank you for your support

We are grateful to you, our Montessori community—teachers, trainers, administrators, schools and friends—who have enabled us to support Montessori teacher training and continue the legacy of Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson, who dedicated her life to the training of teachers.

Scholarships available for Adolescent Training

Each year we receive over 100 financial aid applications for AMI teacher training in the U.S., including the adolescent. The MES Fund is pleased to announce that for the first time, applications will be accepted for scholarships at all levels—toddler, primary, elementary and adolescent teacher training.

The Collection of Essays by Margaret E. Stephenson

Originally published in 2002, we are happy to offer this limited edition, classically bound set of 12 of Margaret Stephenson's most inspirational lectures. The collection of essays will be available for purchase on our website soon!

Please Support the Annual Fund

Our goal is to inspire more people to choose Montessori education and to create opportunities for AMI teacher training for those who otherwise cannot afford it. We invite you to join us to continue the legacy of Margaret Stephenson and donate to the MES Fund this year.

Your gift will be an inspiration!

On behalf of the MES Fund Board of Directors and Advisory Council, thank you for being a part of this amazing community and thank you for supporting Montessori teacher training!

With gratitude,

Denise

Denise Alfeld



President

MES Fund Board
of Directors

MES Fund Award Recipients

2022 / 2023



"The MES scholarship has made a huge impact on my life. I would not have been able to take the course without it! I now have skills to help children and participate in their education as an aid to their life. I am deeply grateful for having been awarded a scholarship to help me achieve this beautiful goal and purpose!"

— FONTA BASNETT



"The MES Fund allowed me the opportunity to complete my AMI primary training this past June! I will now be able to fulfill my dream and start teaching this Fall as a primary guide. I am so grateful to the MES Fund for making it possible! Thank you!"

— LANEY ROGERS



“The MES Fund scholarship has allowed me to complete training and earn my AMI diploma. I would like to provide greater Montessori access to communities of color. I will now have an opportunity to foster an environment where children and families take control of their own learning. I truly believe that learning through the Montessori lens will give families of color a form of healing. Thank you!”

— JAZMINE TOMES



“The MES Fund scholarship is a huge blessing in my life! Because of their generosity, I am able to follow my passion for teaching and pursue my AMI Elementary diploma. Now more than ever, inspiring teachers are needed and I am so excited to serve my community as an elementary guide.”

— ANNA MARTELL



Thank you for supporting
Montessori Teachers in Training



Montessori schools
are in great need of
trained teachers

The average
cost of tuition
is \$15,000

We provide scholarships
to AMI teacher training at
all levels: Toddler, Primary,
Elementary and Adolescent

We receive over
100 applications
for financial aid
per year



Annual Appeal

In 2022-23, we received gifts from:

112 individuals, schools
and organizations = \$66,528.

Thank you to our supporters
who donated so generously!

Your contributions allowed us to provide
scholarships totaling \$68,517,
expanding access to Montessori teacher
training to those candidates who need
financial support the most.

**SUPPORT
MONTESSORI
TEACHER
TRAINING TODAY.**

Scan the QR code to
make your annual gift.



Financials

For the year ending July 31, 2023

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

DONATIONS & INCOME

Donations	\$66,528
Income	\$18,593
TOTAL DONATIONS & INCOME	\$85,121

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

Scholarships	\$68,517
TOTAL AWARDS	\$68,517

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fundraising & Administrative Expenses	\$41,248
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 41,248

NET UNREALIZED CHANGE IN INVESTMENTS	\$ 3,842
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$(24,644)

FINANCIAL POSITION

TOTAL ASSETS	\$715,373
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 0
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$715,373

Donors 2022-2023

We are grateful for your generous gifts and continued support.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Shelley Torres Aldeen & Bill Aldeen	Peter Ferris	Marc Lyons
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ORGANIZATIONS**

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Charitable Fund
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Utopianism
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Association (EAA)
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Montessori360, LLC

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(Reno, NV)
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Charitable Foundation/
Mr. David S. Koz
The Montessori School
(Morrisville, PA)

MES Fund Charter Members

Charter Members are the individuals, schools and organizations that contributed the initial funds to launch the MES Fund to honor Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson and support Montessori teacher training. Pledges and gifts that were received by July 24, 2000 are recognized for Charter Membership annually.

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*Gifts generously matched
by: Children's Own School,
Barn Arts Center, Karen
Hohman

Celebrating Washington Montessori Institute's 60th Anniversary

Founded by Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson, 1962

Montessorians from all over the world gathered in February at The Montessori Experience AMI/USA Refresher Course in Baltimore to celebrate the historic 60th Anniversary of the Washington Montessori Institute.

Founded by Margaret Stephenson in 1962, WMI was the first AMI training center in the United States. This marked the beginning of Montessori teacher training in the US. Many teachers and trainers who were trained by Miss Stephenson celebrated her life's work at the event.



Marie Fonseca, Class of 1962-63 & Mary Lou Cobb, Class of 1963-64



Phyllis Pottish-Lewis, Class of 1976-77, Allyn Travis,
Class of 1974 & 1980, Judi Orion, Class of 1966-67

Special guests included Marie Fonseca (Olson), a founding member of the WMI board and part of the first AMI training course in 1962 and Mary Lou Cobb, founding Head of The Cobb School, Montessori, who was trained by Miss Stephenson at WMI, Class of 1963.

AMI trainers Phyllis Pottish-Lewis, Allyn Travis and Judi Orion were trained by Margaret Stephenson and graduates of WMI. Judi graduated with a Primary diploma in 1967, Phyllis earned her AMI Elementary diploma in 1976 and Allyn received her Primary diploma in 1974 and her Elementary diploma in 1980.

The legacy of Margaret Stephenson continues!

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The MES Fund Board of Directors and Advisory Council are proud to support the training of Montessori teachers and continue the legacy of Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson.



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Thank you for supporting Montessori Teacher Training





Support Montessori Teacher Training

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STEPHENSON FUND

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