



“Free the Child’s Potential...”
–Dr. Maria Montessori

November 17, 2017

Dear Athena Supporter,

We gratefully announce that with your contributions to our fundraising efforts this year, we reached our goal of \$22,000 at Casino Night for our teachers! Thank you to all of you who were able to make a cash donation, pay for a teacher ticket, attend the event, donate an item or service to our silent auction, or sponsor a table.

What a fun night! We got our groove on to Devan Jones and the Uptown Stomp, enjoyed lasagna from former parent Susan Shields of DiLux Catering, played casino games, enjoyed some scrumptious gelato from waiting pool family Leo and Francesca of Dolce Neve, and scored some awesome gifts at the auction! Thank you to those of you who were able to join us in the festivities.

Your support will fully pay for two incredible continuing education opportunities for our staff:

1. Payment for our entire staff to attend an introductory **seminar in Cultural Competency** provided by **Crossroads**, an organization committed to supporting institutions in implementing anti-biased/anti-racist practices. In this workshop, staff will have an opportunity to explore how bias and prejudice develops and how they become structured into institutions and systems. They will also gain insight into how children and adults internalize and act out of these biases. Through this reflective study, our goal is to increase our awareness about how we can foster equitable practices in our community, how to build trust and clear communication, and begin to understand how to make decisions based on multiple perspectives where all people are heard and represented in our community.
2. Travel, meals, and conference fees for all of our Lead Guides and our leadership team to attend the **2018 Annual American Montessori Society Conference in Denver, Colorado** this spring. This inspiring three-day conference is an intense experience full of keynote speakers and breakout workshop sessions, inspired by the theme “Montessori: Inside & Out” which will explore, among other subjects, studies about the positive effects of Montessori on the brain and the impact of Montessori in our communities.

On behalf of our entire community I want to say THANK YOU once more. Your support shows us that you appreciate our outstanding teachers and staff as much as we do. Supporting their success and ongoing growth is paramount to our mission at Athena and essential to our continuing to provide the level of care and service that you and your children expect from Athena. Thank you for your contribution.

In gratitude,

Lisl Friday
Founder