



LENOX SCHOOL

"NON MINISTRARI, SED MINISTRARE" - "NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"



The Lenox School Legacy Campaign

At the foundation of the remarkable resilience of the Lenox School community has been what Reverend Curry called the “faith in the growability of boys” and the creation of a diverse, welcoming, and warm community. Lenox always prided itself for its ability to bring boys together from different races, places, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds long before other independent secondary schools recognized the benefits of and the needs for such diversity. Reverend Curry believed that “Lenox had a preeminence in the area which is the main reason for having boarding schools – to learn how to live together, to respect one another, and hopefully to love each other.”

We never tried to emulate other top schools academically. Instead, Lenox “drove right down the middle” and looked for boys with more modest means and circumstances who would benefit by a warm community that was small enough that each boy could be known. By seeking to admit young men of “all sorts of conditions,” Lenox ended up gambling on many of us and the success rate was high. Much of what the School accomplished was due to exceptional teachers who were committed to Lenox’s mission and went well beyond their basic responsibilities. To borrow a metaphor from boxing, Lenox punched way above its weight class in academics, athletics, and service to others.

The enduring commitment to the Lenox School

and its mission continues today as evidenced by the 100-plus alumni, family members, and friends who return each year for Reunion. These turnouts are even more impressive when we consider that Lenox has now been closed almost as many years as it was open. And, this commitment is evident in the LSAA’s ongoing support of other organizations.



Most of us in one way or another have lived the motto “Non Ministrari, Sed Ministrare” through our work, our volunteer activities, and in our day-to-day interactions with others. That continuing spirit to serve others manifested itself in the establishment in 2019 of a \$30,000 endowment to support in perpetuity two modest grants at neighboring schools, Miss Hall’s School and Berkshire Country Day School, as well as support for Shakespeare & Company and Trinity Episcopal Church.

But why do we support Miss Hall’s? For the past 18 years, we have awarded two scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000, in part to honor Peter Pickett



and the other members of the Lenox family who went on to teach there. Also, the Miss Hall's of today looks very similar to the Lenox we knew. More than 50% of Miss Hall's students self-identify as students of color. Moreover, 37% of the students come from 18 countries.

Serving others at Lenox was embedded throughout our time there. Regardless of our backgrounds or origins, we all participated in the daily work program and waited on tables. Lenox did not have the resources that other schools had; in part, the extensive work program was a financial necessity, and it was also where service to others and our community began. Beyond the campus, we volunteered through the St. Martin's Society. In addition, we served others during the summer through Project Outreach in England, Japan, Mexico, North Dakota, and Quebec.

Launched in 1995-96, Miss Hall's Horizons Program has taken community service learning to a new level. Horizons is built into the School's curriculum, and four years of participation is required for graduation. First-year students stay on campus working on projects to broaden their understanding of how to work with others and serve on a team. During sophomore year, students go off campus to participate in class-wide service projects. By junior year (during non-Covid years), students work individually or in pairs across the Berkshires. Then as seniors, the majority work in internships off-campus at more than 75 sites. Miss Hall's has created a diverse and warm community devoted to service much in the same way Lenox did.

LSAA scholarships to Miss Hall's students have always been received with much appreciation and fanfare. However, our support is very modest when one considers the staggering cost of attending independent schools today. According to the National Association of Independent Schools, tuition, room and board costs averaged \$62,823 in 2020-21 and approximately 27% of the families received financial aid. At Miss Hall's, the cost for boarding students in 2021-22 is \$64,500 (\$39,000 for day students), and 73% of the student body now receive aid with an average grant of nearly \$40,000. Even with a generous financial aid program, Miss Hall's cannot meet the financial needs of all students. By raising additional funds for the LSAA Endowment, we can have a far greater impact on the lives of these students.



Senior Class, Miss Hall's School, 2021

This weekend's Reunion marks the official launch of The Lenox School Legacy Campaign with a goal of raising \$600,000 over the next five years and culminating with the centennial celebration of the School in 2026. We have already received \$277,000 in gifts and commitments. Please consider joining us in adding to the LSAA Endowment to support these worthy organizations. Your commitment will make all the difference for deserving students at Miss Hall's. Your generosity will also allow us to continue supporting Shakespeare & Company and Trinity Church that played a major role in our lives while at Lenox. The LSAA can continue to improve lives just like Lenox School did.