# FIRM FOUNDATION

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE FLOURISHING FUTURE OF MARINERS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MARINERS
CHRISTIAN

# History

Mariners Christian School (MCS) was founded by a steadfast group of passionate parents desiring a covenant, Christian school in Orange County. MCS opened its doors in the fall of 1987 with 44 students in grades kindergarten through 2nd grade. In 1995, the school found its permanent home in Costa Mesa where it continues to uphold the vision of the founders as a covenant, Christian school equally committed to academic excellence and spiritual formation. Today, MCS spans grades TK-8 and is home to over 720 students from neighborhoods across the county.

The school's growth and development over the past 37 years are a testament to God's faithful direction and provision. MCS has earned a stellar reputation for its unwavering commitment to Christian education rooted in biblical truth, exemplary academics, outstanding enrichment and learning support programs, and a Christ-loving community.

From the visionary foundation laid by our founding families to today, Mariners Christian School remains steadfast in its mission and core values, building on the firm foundation of Christ as described in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11: "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder... For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." This resolute commitment drives our efforts to secure a flourishing, covenant, Christian education today and for generations to come.

# Our Unwavering Mission

From the desires of our founders to the present day, Mariners Christian School has never wavered from our mission: *"building a firm foundation through Christ-centered education."* The mission requires us to be uncompromising in our commitment to Christian values and the pursuit of excellence to equip students with a faith-driven, exceptional education that empowers them to stand firm, lead with integrity, and influence the world for Christ. This mission has never been more vital.

# Our Driving Values, Beliefs, and Commitments

**Mariners Christian School proudly stands as the only covenant Christian school in Orange County. As such, we believe we are uniquely called to be a beacon of light in a time when many educational institutions are drifting from biblical values.**

Fulfilling the mission requires a steadfast commitment to **five core values** that permeate every aspect of our school.

- We cultivate a deep **Love for Christ**, guiding students to grow in their faith and develop a biblical worldview.
- Through **Exemplary Academics**, we challenge and inspire students to achieve their fullest potential, preparing them for success in a rapidly changing world.
- Our **Whole-Child Focus** ensures that each student is nurtured emotionally, socially, and spiritually, recognizing that education extends beyond academics.
- Embracing a **Culture of Innovation**, we pioneer new approaches and foster creativity to enhance learning and engagement.
- The **Connected Community** reflects a shared partnership between families, faculty, and staff, united in the pursuit of providing a thriving, Christ-centered environment.

We believe in partnering with Christian families to "train up a child in the way they should go," trusting the promise of Proverbs 22:6: "When they are old, they will not depart from it." We believe in equipping the next generation with a firm foundation of faith, values, and purpose through a biblical worldview. Recognizing that all students are image-bearers of God, we believe they deserve the opportunity to flourish in the unique excellence He has designed for them.

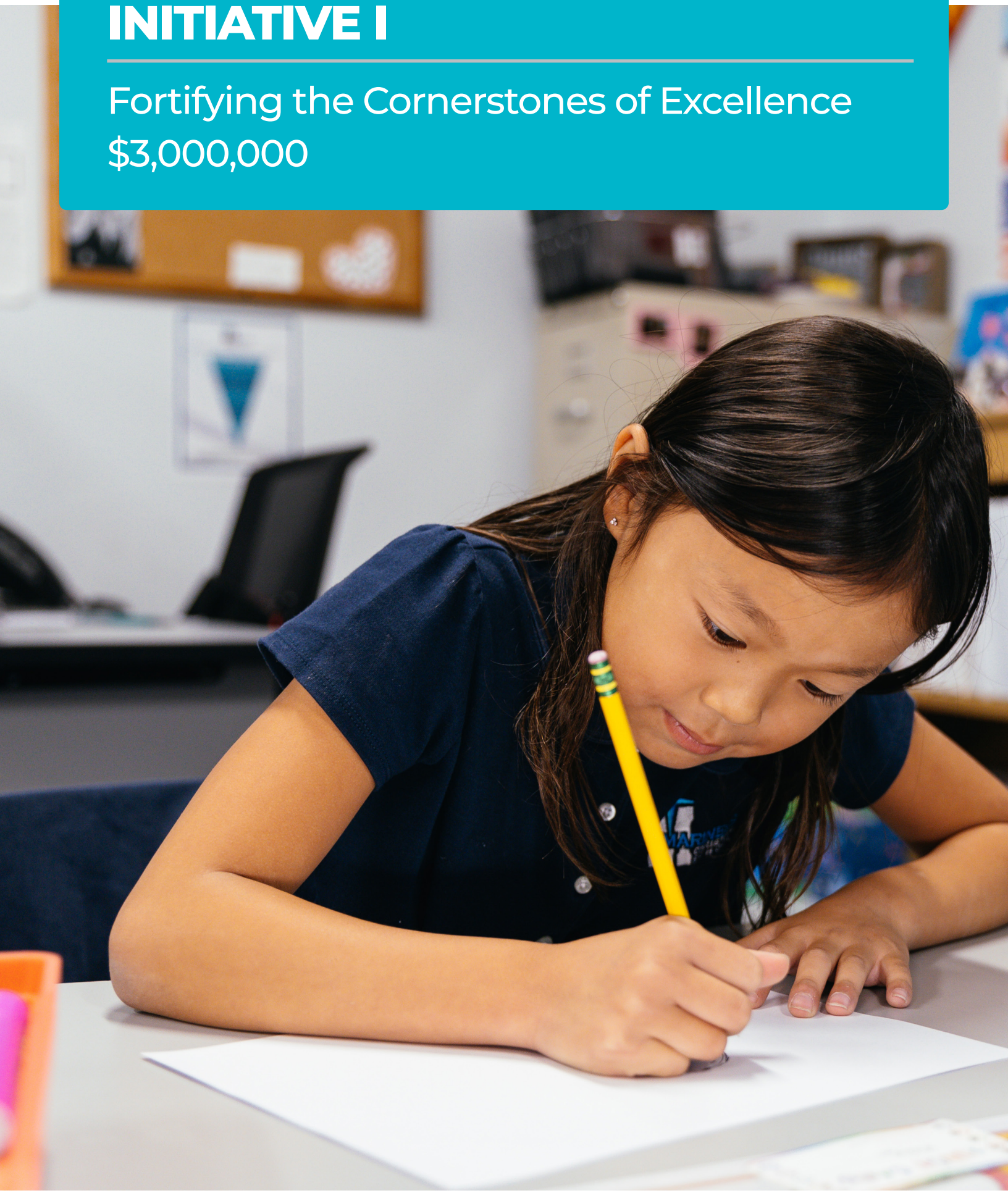
Our steadfast commitment to the cornerstones of excellence, faith, and stewardship drives every program and facet of our school. We are committed to the continual advancement and improvement of academics, programs, and student support to maximize the unique gifts and abilities of each student.

# Our Vision

Mariners Christian School's vision is bold and clear: to secure our Kingdom impact, protect our position as a covenant school, and ensure every student experiences the transformative power of an exemplary Christ-centered education. With great joy, we launch **Firm Foundation: A Campaign for the Flourishing Future of Mariners Christian School.** The strategic plan and subsequent capital campaign reflect prayerfully developed initiatives informed by years of careful planning and collaboration with the MCS community. Built on the cornerstones of a continual pursuit of excellence, stewardship through financial sustainability, and a thriving Christ-centered community, these initiatives will expand and strengthen programs, protect our mission and status as a covenant school, maintain affordability for decidedly Christian families, and ensure a flourishing future for our students and school community. With great joy and anticipation, we embark on this exciting journey to solidify the strongest foundation for Mariners Christian School.

# INITIATIVE I

## Fortifying the Cornerstones of Excellence
## $3,000,000



MCS is committed to building a firm foundation for **every student — academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.** Through the *Fortifying the Cornerstones of Excellence* initiative — one of two key strategic initiatives — **every child** will benefit from exemplary academics and enhanced offerings that support them in reaching their full potential and developing their unique, God-given gifts through programs designed to inspire passion and rooted in an uncompromising biblical worldview. This initiative is dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence, directly impacting the learning of every student and ensuring their success. It aims to continually refine and strengthen instruction to better meet the diverse needs of each child, providing a seamless and intentional approach to learning that integrates biblical values across all subjects.

**This initiative focuses on elevating the quality of education at MCS by investing in professional development, curriculum design, and academic support.** Professional development opportunities will ensure that teachers continually refine instructional practices to deliver the highest quality education. A rigorous, biblically integrated curriculum will strengthen every content area and be tailored to established learning objectives, content standards, developmental priorities, and biblical integration. Expanded programs will address the broadest range of academic needs, while also nurturing individual gifts and talents. MCS will provide greater academic rigor, accelerated learning, tailored interventions, and holistic support. These opportunities will be provided internally through a dedicated team, ensuring alignment with the unique needs of our programs, faculty, and students, while upholding our established priorities and biblical values.

By accomplishing this endeavor, MCS will remain not just a covenant school but the only covenant Christian TK-8 school in Orange County that can also offer such comprehensive programs with excellence. We will provide families with an unparalleled Christ-centered education that celebrates and nurtures the unique gifts and abilities of each child, ensuring that every student thrives within a flourishing and supportive community.

## **OBJECTIVE 1:** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

**Exemplary academics and a culture of innovation require lifelong learning and continual growth, and maintaining this commitment will directly and powerfully impact every student. To accomplish this, the Institute will provide:**

- Rigorous, research-based professional development for all faculty and administration.
- Individualized coaching for every teacher.
- Professional development and coaching aligned to biblical truth, values, and beliefs.
- *Primary Needs: Director of academics, instructional coaches specific to grade levels and/or content areas, additional facilities.*

## **OBJECTIVE 2:** CURRICULUM DESIGN

Acquiring an available curriculum that is both highly rigorous and deeply rooted in biblical integration has been a significant challenge, as most available options offer one but not both. To provide exemplary academics through a biblical worldview, MCS requires a curriculum that meets the highest academic standards while seamlessly incorporating faith. Because no existing curriculum fully meets these non-negotiable requirements, we are committed to developing our own curriculum — one that aligns with our mission, supports exceptional instruction, provides resources for differentiation, and best serves the needs of our students and educators. To accomplish this objective, the Institute will:

- *Curate and design curriculum* specifically aligned to our mission, educational standards, and academic objectives.
- *Create tailored curriculum* resources to support differentiation to best meet the unique needs of teachers, developmental stages, content, and students.
- *Primary Needs: Director of curriculum design, subsequent curriculum development teams, and resources for publishing.*

## **OBJECTIVE 3:** EXPANSION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

This objective will focus on expanding the academic program to provide greater support so every child, regardless of ability, can reach their full potential. This initiative will:

- Expand instructional support in the classroom adding *Instructional Aides* across identified elementary grade levels to further support learning and small group instruction.
- *Expand Student Support Services* to better assist students with identified learning challenges and provide tailored support for their individual progress.
- *Expand enrichment* offerings for students who are exceptionally gifted providing greater depth and challenge.
- *Primary Needs: School psychologist, instructional aides, contracted support services to provide multi-tiered systems of intervention.*

## **OBJECTIVE 4:** EXPANSION OF INNOVATION

The Institute for Educational Excellence will drive innovation and creativity through the expansion of the Mariners Academy Program, a specialized enrichment initiative designed to nurture students' unique, God-given gifts and talents. Offering specialized enrichment through Academy Pathways across the three middle school years, the program provides exceptional opportunities for students to explore and deepen their passions. By continually refining the middle school master schedule, the Institute will ensure that students receive in-depth learning experiences that foster expertise and passion in specific areas of study. This approach moves beyond mere exposure, empowering students to thrive, develop their gifts with increasing depth and focus, and pursue their unique callings. By graduation, students will have cultivated their talents in meaningful ways, equipping them with advanced skills and a deeper understanding of their interests, laying a strong foundation for success in high school and beyond.

**The Institute will:**

- *Expand the Middle School Academy Program* by launching the Innovation Academy focused on cultivating skills in technology, engineering, and design thinking.
- *Continually design the middle school master schedule* to allow for the development of Academy courses and pathways.
- *Consider the addition of future academies* to meet the evolving interests of students, further enriching their educational journey.
- *Primary Needs: Additional faculty, innovative spaces and added facilities, cutting-edge resources, and advanced technologies.*

# INITIATIVE II

## Securing Our Decidedly Christian Legacy
## $9,000,000

Mariners Christian School was founded with a steadfast commitment to excellence and remaining a covenant Christian school for decidedly Christian families. Strengthening our mission requires a commitment to excellence through continual improvement. Protecting this mission and remaining a decidedly Christian school requires adherence to the highest standards of admissions to ensure community alignment with our beliefs and values. Achieving financial freedom is essential to sustaining this mission, enabling MCS to enhance academic and enrichment programs, maintain its Christ-centered identity, and secure a flourishing future, even in the face of economic challenges.

As outlined in the first strategic initiative, *Fortifying the Cornerstones of Excellence*, the pursuit of excellence and strengthening exemplary academics requires significant investment and expansion of programs, staffing, and resources. Achieving these goals requires not only initial investments, but a sustainable financial strategy that supports these efforts long-term. This second initiative, *Securing Our Decidedly Christian Legacy,* creates flexibility within the operational budget to support the goals and objectives of the first initiative.

Building a robust financial aid endowment is essential to preserving Mariners Christian School's founding purpose and ensuring it remains a vibrant, Christ-centered community for generations to come. The growing demand for Christian education, coupled with rising costs and limited financial aid options, has made it imperative to expand access for aligned current and prospective families. Many Christian families face financial barriers that hinder access to the exemplary covenant education MCS provides. By offering vital financial assistance to families in need, MCS can maintain affordability, uphold its mission to serve decidedly Christian families, and remain selective in admissions while weathering economic challenges. This effort will safeguard our commitment to excellence and ensure that a high-quality covenant Christian education is accessible to those who desire it and are a mission fit for our school.

This initiative is a bold step toward securing a strong financial foundation that will enable the school to secure and sustain our decidedly Christian legacy.

## Goal 1: Freedom to Flourish: A Debt-Free Future for MCS

$6,000,000

Eliminating the school's debt is a critical objective within the initiative *Securing Our Decidedly Christian Legacy*. Eradicating the debt will unlock $520,000 annually. This will redirect significant resources currently allocated to debt service to sustain strategic initiatives and continually advance our mission as a covenant school. Debt elimination accomplishes three vital objectives:

### OBJECTIVE 1

*Sustain program advancement and required staffing* necessary to achieve and maintain all strategic initiatives and program expansion.

### OBJECTIVE 2

*Provide financial flexibility* to adapt to changing circumstances such as economic challenges or enrollment fluctuations, while reducing dependence on fundraising and tuition increases.

### OBJECTIVE 3

*Maintain affordability* to ensure families are not priced out of a covenant Christian education while covering the costs of program expansion and staffing additions without placing the financial burden on enrolled families.

**Primary Needs:** *Successfully completing a capital campaign to raise $6 million to* ***eliminate existing mortgage debt*** *and secure financial freedom for MCS. See Projected Gifts Required table.*

## Goal 2: Expanding Our Legacy Endowment

$3,000,000

### OBJECTIVE 1

*Expand our current Legacy Endowment* to provide financial aid to current and prospective families fostering a school community that reflects the beauty and belonging of God's Kingdom.

# God’s Call, Our Faithful Response

**From the founding of MCS, God has called us to accomplish mighty things for His Kingdom.** Fulfilling the mission requires a steadfast commitment to five core values that permeate every aspect of our school.

This will require God’s people who believe in a covenant, Christian education to boldly step forward with sacrificial financial commitments. Like the eight founding families who launched MCS, accomplishing these grand plans will require conviction and courage. Every gift is an active step for the Kingdom in a world that desperately needs a place committed to God’s truth, following that truth, and raising a generation who will do the same.

Now is the time to unite as a community of believers to ensure that MCS remains a beacon of faith, influencing students, families, the community, and the world for Christ’s Kingdom, while accomplishing the cornerstones of excellence, sustainability, and a flourishing, decidedly Christian school to secure its impact today and for generations to come.

# The Opportunity

**Firm Foundation: A Campaign for The Flourishing Future of Mariners Christian School** is a pivotal initiative to secure the long-term success of MCS. With a fundraising goal of $12 million, this campaign will provide the necessary resources to enhance our programs, eliminate debt, and ensure that MCS continues to offer an exemplary, covenant Christian education to future generations. If you believe in Christian education, meeting the needs of all students, and are compelled to provide this incredible opportunity to more Christian families, join us.

| # of Gifts | Gift Amount | Subtotal | Cumulative Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | $2,500,000 | $2,500,000 | $2,500,000 |
| 1 | $2,000,000 | $2,000,000 | $4,500,000 |
| 2 | $1,000,000 | $2,000,000 | $6,500,000 |
| 3 | $500,000 | $1,500,000 | $8,000,000* |
| 4 | $250,000 | $1,000,000 | $9,000,000 |
| 8 | $100,000 | $800,000 | $9,800,000 |
| 8 | $75,000 | $600,000 | $10,400,000 |
| Many | <$75,000 | $1,600,000 | $12,000,000 |

**Campaign quiet phase fundraising goal*

Secured through a letter of intent, gifts can be designated over a 3-year period and can include cash, appreciated securities, or other assets.

# The successful completion of this campaign will transform Mariners Christian School:

**INITIATIVE 1: FORTIFYING THE CORNERSTONES OF EXCELLENCE**

**Goal: Establishing the Institute for Academic Excellence**

- Objective 1: Provide Professional Development and instructional Coaching
- Objective 2: Curriculum Design through Biblical Worldview
- Objective 3: Expansion of Academic Programs
- Objective 4: Expansion of Innovation

**INITIATIVE 2: SECURING OUR DECIDEDLY CHRISTIAN LEGACY**

**Goal 1: A Debt Free Future**

- Objective 1: Sustain Program and Staffing Expansion
- Objective 2: Provide Financial Flexibility
- Objective 3: Maintain Affordability

**Goal 2: Expansion of Legacy Endowment**

- Objective 1: Expand Financial Aid Support

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## GIVE OR PLEDGE ONLINE

Scan the QR code above or visit

**marinerschristianschool.com/firm-foundation**

## CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

Use the enclosed envelope to donate by check or credit card.

## STOCKS AND MATCHING GIFTS

To learn more about gifts of stock and corporate matching, contact Jennifer Vaughan, Campaign *Director,* at jennifer.vaughan@marinerscs.org.

300 FISCHER AVENUE | COSTA MESA, CA 92626 | PHONE 714.437.1700