



Dear St. Matthew's Community,

For decades, the Parent-Infant/Toddler (PIT) Program has been a cherished cornerstone of the St. Matthew's community—a place where children take their first steps into learning, parents find support and connection, and lifelong friendships begin.

The Mill Building was more than just a classroom—it was a thoughtfully created space, filled with warmth, intention, and history. Over the years, it became something truly special: cozy corners for conversations about feeding, sleep, and the transition to parenthood; carefully chosen toys that inspired imaginative play and joyful moments; and art supplies for projects that marked the seasons and celebrated holidays. Many of these items were generously donated or lovingly selected, and some had been part of our classroom for generations.

Tragically, due to the recent Palisades Fire, much of what made that space so special has been lost.

As we prepare for the fall at the Early Childhood Stoner Campus, our hearts and minds are already looking ahead to the long-term goal of rebuilding the PIT classroom at St. Matthew's with the same care, love, and intentionality that have defined it for so many years. While some losses are irreplaceable, we remain committed to creating a new space that embodies the same spirit of joy, connection, and discovery—one that offers our youngest learners and their parents a warm, supportive entry into the educational journey.

We share this with awareness that many in our community are facing

significant personal and financial challenges. Please know there is absolutely no expectation to contribute—your well-being is what matters most. The PIT program remains wholeheartedly committed to supporting you and your family as we move forward together, one step at a time.

However, if you feel moved to help and are in a position to do so, we would be very grateful. Your support makes a meaningful difference—and all donations are tax-deductible.

### **Ways You Can Help:**

#### **Visit Our Curated Wish Lists**

We've created a couple of registries to help us rebuild and restock the classroom. You may recognize an item your child once cherished in PIT—or discover something new that will inspire joy in future little learners:

Lakeshore Registry

MyRegistry

#### **Donate Gently Used Items**

We welcome donations of clean, gently used items your family is ready to part with, specifically:

- Large stuffed animals
- Wooden toys (puzzles, stacking toys, blocks, etc.)
- Brio or wooden train sets (tracks, trains, accessories)
- Vintage, non-electronic toys (e.g., Fisher-Price, Little Tikes)

#### **Make a Monetary Donation**

Help us purchase essential items to rebuild our classroom:

Make a Donation

If you have items you'd like to donate directly, please contact me to coordinate (my information is in the signature below). Items purchased through our registries will be delivered automatically to the address on file—please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. We are deeply grateful for your support and remain hopeful for the journey ahead—both at the Stoner Campus and, when the time comes, in returning to the Mill Building. Together, we will create a renewed space that nurtures curiosity, fosters connection, and carries forward the meaningful legacy of the PIT Program.

With gratitude,

**Gwen Grigsby**

Director, Parent-Infant/Toddler Program

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