



Saint James CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Ann Cook Education Fund *for Students with Disabilities*



THE FUND

The purpose of this new fund is to expand our school's inclusion program to better serve our students with disabilities. It is named in memory of Ann Cook, a beloved parishioner and SJS alumni who lived an extraordinary life marked by adventure, kindness and generosity until her death on December 4, 2023.



About Ann



ANN WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 1, 1952, to Jack and Edie Cook. She attended Saint James Catholic School with her six brothers (Pat, Mike, Chris, Timothy, Dennis and Andy) and multitude of Cook cousins. The Cook families were an integral part of the Saint James community, with the 4th generation of Cook's attending St. James School today!

In August of 1977, Ann had a diving accident that left her paralyzed and a quadriplegic. This was a life-altering event which Ann faced with great courage, dignity and strength. After intense rehabilitation, Ann began her new life which included learning how to drive again, living independently with the help of friends and family, and beginning a 25-year career with the Defense Mapping Agency, which included many awards and honors.

Ann was known for her kindness, deep faith and great love for her family and friends. She always had a contagious smile on her face, which instantly brought joy to others. She loved her 17 nieces and nephews, often delighting them with rides in her wheelchair. Ann was a diehard Nats fan, even working as a customer ambassador to escort guests to their seats. She faced the challenges of life with great optimism and fortitude. Ann nobly embraced her Cross and because of this, she radiated love to others. Until the very end of her life, Ann knew how to love.

We hope this new fund in memory of Ann Cook will inspire you to give so that more students may be served through our expanded inclusion program. Thank you!



OUR CURRENT PROGRAM

- Educates two students with Down Syndrome (Preschool and Middle School).
- Inclusion in regular classes with peers, plus one-on-one instruction.
- Peer Mentoring program (modeled after Bishop O'Connell High School).
- Participation in school activities (e.g., Living Stations, plays, and service projects).



The Ann Cook Education Fund for Students *with* Disabilities

OUR FUTURE GOAL

- To increase the number of students with disabilities.
- To hire a F/T Special Education Teacher to provide support via modified curriculum, peer mentor program and specialized teacher training.
- To provide a pathway for our students with disabilities to later attend a Catholic High School with an inclusion program (e.g., Bishop O'Connell).
- To allow our parish families to send *all* their children to Catholic school!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Expanding our Inclusion Program requires hiring qualified staff, which is an annual financial commitment for our parish school.
- The Cook family has generously provided the initial seed money for this new Fund but more financial resources are needed.
- Our initial goal is to raise \$150,000 through one-time and renewable monthly gifts.

Thank you for your generosity and support of Catholic Education, particularly for our students with intellectual and physical disabilities.



To donate online, please scan the QR code.

Donate

TO DONATE ONLINE, go to:
<https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/VA50/59606>

TO DONATE by CHECK, make check out to Saint James Catholic Church with "Ann Cook Fund" in the memo line and mail to:

Saint James Catholic Church
Attn: Kathleen Anderson, Director of Development
905 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

TO DONATE via a QCD or DAF, contact Kathleen Anderson at kanderson@stjamescatholic.org