



Case for Support: Building on Success

A Permanent Home for Miriam Academy

Joy and Hope

Joy and hope. And a world-class education to help students with multi-faceted learning differences excel in college prep or career readiness. These are the gifts that Miriam Academy gives to families.

Miriam Academy students are highly engaged thanks to the Academy's personalized learning approach, with a curriculum designed by an experienced team of educators that builds on their strengths, interests and enthusiasm. Academy students often have not reached their potential in traditional educational settings.

Tailored programs such as internships and in-class experiences expand students' skills and perspectives – and build college and career readiness following graduation. Project-based learning strategies, an emphasis on social and emotional development and self-advocacy skills, as well as speech and language support, are incorporated to meet students' needs as they earn their high school diplomas.

Launching Miriam Academy

The Academy opened in fall 2016, in response to demand from Miriam School and Learning Center parents and endorsement of community social service professionals. Through a successful \$10 million comprehensive campaign, \$5 million was earmarked for Academy start-up funds and endowed scholarships. This beneficence allowed Miriam leadership to lease space in the educational wing of Parkway United Church of Christ on Ballas Road in Town and Country, Missouri.

Miriam Academy opened its fourth year with enrollment of 63 students in grades 9-12, and our incubator location has quickly run out of space. Enrollment is already ahead of initial projections with plans to serve 100 students by 2023.



A Place to Call Home

The time has come to establish a permanent home for Miriam Academy.

Over the past four years, several promising sites were investigated to lease or purchase but, ultimately, were not the right fit. In the summer of 2019, an ideally located and sized property was identified, and Miriam's Board of Directors voted to purchase the building with the understanding that we would need to take out a loan until the cost of purchase and renovations can be raised.

Miriam Academy's permanent home will be located at the former H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy at 1138 N. Warson Road. The 8-acre site includes a 58,324 square foot school building with classrooms, a gymnasium, administrative offices and a field. Total costs to purchase the property and renovate the building are budgeted at \$8 million.

The new location is being re-designed specifically for the educational and programmatic needs of our students and is expected to play an influential role in enrolling students and sustaining the mission of the Academy.

The property is located in Olivette and in the Ladue School District. Additionally, the site is centrally located, surrounded by Olivette Parks and located in close proximity to the planned 39 North AgTech Innovation District that encompasses Bayer, Danforth Plant Science Center and the Helix Center Biotech Incubator. These neighbors will offer great educational partnership opportunities for our students.

This space will also be home to the Miriam Foundation, currently located in generic office space, to be co-located with the Academy, saving significant annual rent expense and providing an immediate connection to our mission.

Next Steps

We had a chance to act on a time-sensitive opportunity that meets all of Miriam Academy's needs now and in the years ahead. It required significant additional philanthropy from a number of generous partners who believe in Miriam's mission and leadership and we are grateful to those lead donors who have stepped up to make this permanent home a reality for our students and families.

What started with only 12 students in a church basement just less than four years ago has grown to 63, and we continue to experience increasing interest and demand. When families discover there is a high school, a community of expert educators and compassionate supporters that accepts, embraces and educates their beautifully complex children, it literally changes their lives.

The Building on Success Campaign is an \$8 million initiative that secures a permanent campus for Miriam Academy. The campaign will fund the costs to acquire the former Epstein Hebrew Academy site, renovations to modernize and customize the facility, as well as incremental operating costs as Miriam Academy scales enrollment to break even:

Acquisition of Property	\$5,500,000
Renovations	\$2,000,000
Operating Costs	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
	\$8,000,000

We're pleased to share the good news that we have already secured \$5 million in support of the project!

Invitation

We invite you to be a part of Miriam Academy's history!

Now is the time to finish what was successfully started in 2016 – by providing a permanent home for the Academy, its students, teachers and families. With this campus, Miriam Academy will send a clear, comforting message that it – like Miriam School – will be here for decades to come.



For additional information, please contact Janine Lawler, Director of Development, at 314-962- 6059 or jlawler.BOS@miriamstl.org.



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