

Barbara Dodd Anderson

“Grateful Alumna Returns the Favor”

On September 17, 2007, the world applauded Barbara Dodd Anderson and admired her generosity. Her \$128.5 million gift to George School is believed to be the largest single gift made to an independent secondary school in the United States.

Anderson attended George School. This Quaker, coeducational boarding and day school, located in Pennsylvania, offers college preparatory curriculum for grades nine through twelve.

After graduating in 1950, Anderson earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from St. Lawrence University, received a Master of Arts from Teachers College Columbia University, and began her career in elementary education. Now retired, she has maintained a modest lifestyle in Fresno, Calif.

Anderson is financially capable, however, of a more luxurious way of life. Her father was the prominent economist David Dodd, one of Mr. Buffett's professors and mentors at the Columbia University School of Business. Mr. Dodd was an early investor in Mr. Buffett's company, Berkshire Hathaway, and placed the shares in his daughter's name. As Berkshire Hathaway grew into a holding company with assets of more than \$250 billion, Anderson also benefited financially.

Anderson could have chosen to use her money differently, but, instead, she decided to invest in our nation's children. She believes that "the country needs intelligent young people."

Specific to her support of George School, Anderson explains that "I went there under a situation in which my mother was ill. I'm paying back the way I was treated by them. Everybody was very kind and helpful." She is pleased to be giving to "very honest, straightforward, decent, friendly people."

Anderson stated, "This gift is meant to honor not only my father, David Dodd, and his legacy, but also all of the teachers at George School who had such an impact on me and are so important to their students today. I want to help George School because of the excellence of its faculty and because it is a school without pretensions, where caring for and learning from each other are as important as academic success."

Donations of this magnitude are often provided posthumously; Anderson, however, wanted to be involved in how the funds would be used. In accordance with the donor's request, the gift will enhance the core qualities that distinguish George School: core values rooted in the Quaker tradition, the community's strength, the diverse student body, and the faculty who inspire and care about the students. Allocations include: faculty/staff compensation, student financial aid, sustainability, and other projects.

Anderson has made a substantial impact in the education of young people. Her \$128.5 million gift doubles George School's endowment. Anderson had previously donated \$9.8 million to George School, including a \$5 million donation for a new library.

For further details about the Barbara Dodd Anderson Trust at George School, please visit <http://www.georgeschool.org/en/Support%20GS/The%20Barbara%20Dodd%20Anderson%20Trust.aspx>