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\$1.28 million endowment given to Friends School

Donation will help minority children attend Quaker school

By a Sun reporter

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Friends School of Baltimore today announced the largest gift in its 224-year history, a \$1.28 million donation to help economically deprived minority children attend the Quaker school.

The new endowment, funded by the late Paul and Margaret Strasburg of Calvert County, will pay for two children, starting at age 4, to attend the lower school through fifth grade. After that, the school will pay for the children to attend the middle and upper schools and will identify new students to begin as pre-kindergartners.

The school solicited applications through contacts with community groups, state and city agencies, schools, churches and other organizations, and it has already selected the first two students from a pool of about 50. The students' names are being kept confidential.

The Strasburgs had no prior connection to Friends School before beginning discussions about the gift, nor had they ever lived in Baltimore.

"The timing of this gift represents an exciting convergence between the Strasburgs' wishes and the goals Friends has established for itself in our strategic plan," Head of School Matt Micciche said in a news release. "In seeking additional gifts of significant magnitude, the school will not only fulfill Peg and Steve Strasburg's intentions but will also help to achieve our objectives of increasing the school's endowment by \$10 million and enhancing the diversity of our student body -- two of the plan's primary components."

Friends School, located on Charles Street in North Baltimore, enrolls about 1,000 students from pre-kindergarten through high school.

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