



\$1.5 million donated to build the Staluppi Center at St. Mark's

Palm Beach Gardens, FL -- St. Mark's Episcopal Church & School is close to embarking on the most transformative phase of its building project thanks to the generous donation of \$1.5 million from John and Jeanette Staluppi to the WE WILL! Build in Faith Capital Campaign. The new building will be named in their honor, the Staluppi Center at St. Mark's, and will serve the church and school family as well as the community.

“St. Mark's is a jewel,” says John Staluppi, who is a business leader in the automobile industry. “My wife Jeanette and I are thrilled to provide this gift to St. Mark's, because the children, parishioners, and members of the community will benefit from the enhanced programs the center will provide.”

The Staluppis, who live in Palm Beach Gardens, have eight grandchildren, four out of state, two former St. Mark's students, and two who currently attend St. Mark's School. “Our grandchildren are passionate about the performing arts,” shares Jeanette, “and this new facility with a stage and sound system will take the performances to the next level. Everyone who visits St. Mark's will enjoy a greater experience in this beautiful new building.”



John and Jeanette Staluppi with two of their grandchildren who attend St. Mark's Episcopal School, C.J. Lizza, first grade student (left), and Bailee Lizza, third grade student.

“Our grandchildren love it here” adds John. “St. Mark’s Church & School has been great for all of them and it deserves our support.”

“We are so grateful to John and Jeanette for their generosity. A gift of this magnitude is truly a blessing to St. Mark’s and to northern Palm Beach County,” says the Rev. James B. Cook, St. Mark’s rector. “The Staluppi Center at St. Mark’s will enable us to serve the community in so many ways and we look forward to shining as a beacon of faith, hope, and light for many years to come.”

At 26,450-square-feet, Staluppi Center will be the largest structure on St. Mark’s campus and will include: a multi-purpose parish hall with a stage and professional sound system; fully-equipped kitchen; band room; choral room; art classroom with kiln; middle school science lab;

computer lab; multiple meeting spaces for church, school, and community groups; new Parents' Association room; and gathering spaces for a coffee shop and bookstore.

The Staluppis are no strangers to philanthropy – especially causes that benefit children. Some of the local and national nonprofits that have benefitted from their charitable giving include: Boys & Girls Club of America, Hibiscus Children's Center, Make- A-Wish Foundation, March of Dimes, The Jimmy Fund, Miami Children's Hospital, and UNICEF. The Staluppis, known in the area for donating the use of their Cars of Dreams Museum to select non-profits, hosted St. Mark's annual fundraising auction in 2008.

The visible transformation of the campus in recent years underscores the priority of growth in the church and school community as evidenced by the opening of its Silver LEED certified 24,374-square-foot youth center and gymnasium complex (August 2011), and the opening of the 13,850-square-foot, two-story administration building (August 2012), and 1,302-square-foot Peace Chapel (August 2012). The construction and successful completion of St. Mark's program-driven facilities have advanced St. Mark's opportunities for ministry, teaching, and learning, and the campus security has been heightened for additional security measures.

For more information about St. Mark's Episcopal Church & School, call 561.622.0956 or visit www.stmarkspb.org. For information about the ongoing capital campaign, call Michaela Kennedy, St. Mark's Development Director, at 561.623.2623.