As an alumnus, parent, trustee, and past chairman of the board, Ed Cone ’80 has certainly made an impact on Greensboro Day School. “I’ve been involved in the school since it first opened - I was eight and a student at the time.”

A testament to the outstanding education at GDS is the preparedness that graduating students feel when they enter college. Personally, Cone felt he was as well prepared for college as his classmates who attended prestigious boarding schools. “GDS is different because it’s focused on educational excellence, college prep, community values, a huge variety of extracurricular activities, and a general atmosphere that promotes a healthy lifestyle for children.”

Not only does Cone focus on the opportunities for children to further their education, but sees Greensboro Day School as part of the larger community picture. “This school is important for Greensboro, because we really need good educational options, and GDS provides just that.”

Planned giving plays a hugely important role in the success of the future of the school. Cone states two reasons why planned giving is so important. “The first is a basic math problem: The leverage (through an insurance program) of a relatively small amount of money now becomes a larger sum of money later. It just makes financial sense. The second, it demonstrates the long term commitment that an institution needs and shows your priority for that commitment.”

The McLendon Founder’s Society recognizes individuals who have provided for Greensboro Day School in their estate plans. For Cone, the Society inspires an enthusiasm for what GDS has to offer and focuses on the necessity of planning ahead. “When I was in school at GDS, it was a struggle to open the doors the next year, and now there is a sense of security that leaves room for future goals which can only be strengthened by giving.”

By Anna Hurd ’06