Ross Harris’ longstanding relationship with Greensboro Day School has been integral in her life since the founding of the school. “I remember sitting in my room hearing my brother with his friends next door writing the school song and choosing the Bengal as the mascot.”

Her brother, Carlton Harris ’76, passed away in 1983 from leukemia at the age of 25, and the impact that GDS had on him is largely influential in Ross’ involvement with the school. “I just know what a difference the Day School made in my brother’s life and, even though I wasn’t a student, in my life.”

“We were one of the first families, and the Day School has meant so much to our family over the years. My mom and dad absolutely loved it and it seemed instinctive to become involved.” Ross Harris’ passion for Greensboro Day School is infectious. As a trustee, she gets to be a part of the school, something which she really enjoys. “Every time I go to GDS I’m overwhelmed by the opportunities for the children and the things that they’re doing. The teachers are passionate about what they do and it shows.”

The reason why GDS stands apart is the fact that “it’s not a cookie cutter approach to education.”

Ross Harris’ 76 Scholarship that provides need-based financial assistance for three students each year. To respect the privacy of students who receive financial aid, the recipients of the scholarships are not announced publicly, however, the student recipients are given the option in the fall to meet and have lunch with her; all recipients have gladly accepted the lunch invitation.

“I think it is our responsibility to plant the seed for what is yet to come, and for those of us who have benefited from GDS, how can we not take the time to allow others to have that opportunity?”

Dr. and Mrs. Carlton Harris, Sr. established the endowment to honor their son’s memory and their daughter continues the family legacy. Harris is committed to the financial security of GDS, and encourages others to participate, whatever the size of the donation. “Whatever you can comfortably give is a huge difference in the future of Greensboro Day School. For me, [the reason why] I give is to leave something that I will never enjoy, but maybe the grandchild or great-grandchild of someone who went to school with my brother can enjoy.”

-- By Anna Hurd ‘06

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Kristen and Marc Magid’s four children span Greensboro Day School’s three divisions. As they begin their 11th year as a Day School family, Kristen believes the reasons they originally chose GDS are more relevant today:

“When we first visited GDS,” says Kristen, “we got an immediate sense of an educational community that nurtures and challenges kids individually. And that’s still true today. The quality and dedication of the faculty is evident in all three divisions. Plus we like that the school is committed to character building, community service and respect for different cultural and religious perspectives.”

Andrew ’11, Ben ’13, Caroline ’13 and Rebecca ’16 are involved in a variety of activities at GDS — sports, community service, the arts and, of course, schoolwork. “The Day School is providing an amazing educational community for our family,” Kristen says. “Our children have a range of learning styles, and the school has addressed and nurtured each child individually — through enrichment and support.”

Another aspect of their GDS experience is less tangible — but just as important. “When our family experienced significant loss and change several years ago, we realized how important the GDS community was in helping each of our four children heal and adjust,” says Kristen. “I can’t imagine being at any other school.”

Both Kristen and Marc have volunteered with the Annual Fund for many years, but Kristen admits they didn’t always understand the importance of the Fund.

“It took us awhile to realize,” she says “that GDS depends on the Annual Fund to meet the budget every year — and not just for extras. To attract and keep high-quality faculty, we’ve got to remain competitive with other schools. Andrew, Ben, Caroline and Rebecca are growing up in an environment where doing well in school is cool. That’s something Marc and I are happy to support — with our time and gifts.”