



## ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

June 26, 2018

Dear Alumni,

We write to share information about a number of new resources available for those who experienced sexual abuse by faculty or staff while students at St. Paul's School. These resources will facilitate access to mental health services and provide compensation for any long-term injuries former students may have suffered from such abuse. The board of trustees and the School's leadership are committed to providing support and care to those who have been negatively impacted by past wrongs with sensitivity and transparency while respecting any alumni preference for confidentiality. We hope that these resources will be beneficial for survivors and the larger community supporting them.

First, St. Paul's is establishing a fund for those who want financial assistance for therapy required because of adult sexual misconduct they experienced while at St. Paul's regardless of whether they make a formal report of such misconduct. We have also arranged support services to provide referrals to qualified therapists. Alumni may access these services in either one of two ways.

You may contact Sandra Matheson, an independent victim advocate consultant, who has more than 30 years of experience advocating for victims of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment at the local, state, and national levels. She has worked extensively with individuals who experienced sexual assault and abuse within institutions, including the Catholic Church, prisons, and other correctional facilities. Ms. Matheson is immediately available to listen, provide support and information, assist and support survivors in the reporting process, and to refer them to confidential trauma-informed therapeutic care. She can be reached at 603-540-7908 or at [smatheson@yahoo.com](mailto:smatheson@yahoo.com).

We also encourage survivors to utilize RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), a national provider of sexual assault services also committed to a trauma-informed, survivor-centered approach. Trained RAINN staff will assess your needs and refer alumni to counselors and/or therapists in your local area. RAINN has a dedicated phone line (1-855-215-2281) for St. Paul's School alumni or can be reached at [hotline.rainn.org/online](http://hotline.rainn.org/online). Please note that this dedicated phone line will be available beginning July 6.

Both Ms. Matheson and RAINN will refer callers to a third-party administrator for payment of current therapy bills in order to maintain confidentiality after confirming alumni status and a therapy plan. They will not share any information with St. Paul's School.

Second, St. Paul's is offering abuse survivors a streamlined and confidential method outside of the court system to seek compensation for harm suffered from faculty abuse. We have established a program for alumni to submit requests for compensation to a neutral arbitrator experienced in childhood sexual abuse claims. St. Paul's will not appear at the arbitration. It is a confidential process involving an independent arbitrator, the survivor and the survivor's attorney if the survivor chooses to have attorney representation. In this process, survivors

may share their stories confidentially with the arbitrator in person, by video conference, or telephone. The arbitrator will determine any compensation award. The School has arranged for the [Honorable Nancy Holtz \(ret.\)](#) to serve as the arbitrator. Judge Holtz has extensive experience handling sexual abuse cases during more than 30 years of practice as a judge, attorney, and an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) practitioner, including 15 years on the bench. Further details on this arbitration option are available by contacting Mr. Jeffrey M. Poirier of JAMS at [jpoirier@jamsadr.com](mailto:jpoirier@jamsadr.com) or (617) 228-9121.

Third, the Alumni Association has established the Alumni Doorways initiative, led by a group of alumni who will be seeking your input as we collectively process experiences of harm done to individuals while students at the School and craft a multi-layered response. The Alumni Doorways initiative seeks to facilitate conversation, direct alumni to resources, reassure people that they are not alone, and use our collective new knowledge of the past to open new doors to the future of the extended St. Paul's School community. As one aspect of this initiative, there will be a Service of Repentance and Healing at the School next spring in the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul. All alumni are invited to attend, and more information will be forthcoming. Members of the Alumni Doorways committee are eager to engage in conversations with all alumni as we explore a variety of ways to promote healing within our extended St. Paul's community. Alumni Association Executive Director [Alisa Barnard '94](#) and Alumni Association President [Liz Robbins '79, P'17](#) will be in touch with more information but do not hesitate to reach out to them at any time with questions about Alumni Doorways.

Finally, the School continues to retain [Scott Harshbarger, Esq.](#) of Casner & Edwards, LLP, for the purpose of investigating and recording stories of abuse of students by faculty or staff that occurred in the past.

We continue to work tirelessly to support the healthiest possible culture at the School. Faculty and staff continue to engage in extensive boundary training, and our students move through a fully integrated, cutting-edge Living in Community (LINC) program that at its core fosters both healthy culture and healthy relationships. Alumni and parents are involved in this work through the Building Healthy Relationships Committee, established with the support and participation of the Form of 1975. This group currently seeks additional members. If you are interested in learning more or in joining this committee, please contact [Dr. Theresa Ferns '84](#), vice rector for school life.

If you have any questions on the foregoing, please don't hesitate to let [Alisa Barnard](#) or us know.

Sincerely,



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