



Sharlane with her daughter Anna (2015)

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- Sharlane Chase

October 14, 2016

Dear Billings Community,

When Ginger asked me to write a letter in support of the Annual Fund, I immediately said YES. I am very grateful to the teachers and this school. Billings shares the credit for the wonderful young adult Anna has become. Of course I would write a letter!

I then sat in front of the computer day after day. I couldn't figure out what I should say to ask people to give a gift that feels meaningful to their family. I couldn't come up with a way to make it funny, encouraging, or moving. I instead decided to share why our family will be giving.

When Anna first arrived at Billings, she was self-conscious, insecure and different. When she left Billings, she was confident, strong, and different. One of the best things about Anna has always been that she is different. At her elementary school, this made her a loner. At Billings it was fostered and celebrated. **Billings helped to show her the strength in her difference.** The encouragement she received every day from faculty and staff helped to build her confidence. Anna is now a firm believer that the people who forge their own path, the people who think and act differently, are the same people who make a difference in this world. Would she have come to this conclusion without Billings? I certainly hope so. I have always tried to instill this belief in her. Would it have happened in middle school when she needed it most? I don't believe it would have.

Middle school can be a difficult time for some kids. I am so grateful it wasn't for Anna.

As an alumni parent, you may recall that there is a gap (\$2,400) between the yearly tuition and what it actually costs for a child to attend for a year. Your gift to the Annual Fund can help bridge this gap. Your donation can keep Billings growing stronger and help another child grow stronger and confident in their difference.

Thank you for your support,

Sharlane Chase (Anna, Class of 2015)

P.S. Did you know that this year is the 20th Anniversary of Billings? Give today to ensure that Billings thrives for another 20 years!

