



# Campaign for Community Case Statement

High Mountain Institute has combined the best of traditional and wilderness education to turn good students into extraordinary adults. Now two decades old, HMI is a national leader. Institutions continually seek to emulate the outcomes HMI achieves at the nexus of extraordinary academics, the natural world, and a powerful community.

**HMI is the place where you can be the person you always dreamed yourself to be - where you can be your best self.**

**— HMI Semester alumnus**

In all aspects, HMI is a uniquely successful, cutting-edge school helping define what is integral to a twenty-first century education. The experience HMI's diverse student body enjoys is unparalleled in its quality and depth: in nationally-normed surveys, HMI students report feeling intellectually challenged and affirmed in ways that soar past their contemporaries enrolled in top independent schools. They also learn leadership skills that help them apply their knowledge and newfound inspiration every day.

The HMI experience is as lasting as it is formative. Years after they leave HMI, our alumni credit this institution with having a greater impact on their maturation into achieving, contributing adults than other formative experiences, including their K-12 schools, colleges, work places, organized sports teams, and, in many cases, even home lives. These adults report they developed their sense of responsibility, awareness, leadership, confidence, and duty to community and the environment on HMI's campus and in the mountains of Colorado and canyons of Utah.

Ensuring HMI remains as vital tomorrow as it is today is our collective responsibility. As part of this effort, HMI has begun a seminal project to complete our original campus master plan and provide on-campus housing for faculty. This *Campaign for Community* will **honor faculty members** by providing quality housing and allowing them more time at home with families. It will **strengthen our program** by increasing the time faculty spend with students, helping them build even more stellar relationships. Finally, it will **ensure our fiscal sustainability** by capitalizing a portion of benefits, allowing HMI to improve compensation without adding to the operating budget. The principle of "simple in means, rich in ends" that has always guided capital construction at HMI will extend to these projects. The housing will seamlessly match the veneer and feel of campus while enriching every aspect of this institution.

**On that day, on the first expedition, I learned more than I had during any other day of school in my life.**

**— HMI Semester alumna**

The promise that drove the creation of HMI back in 1995 motivates this effort as well. Under the inspired leadership of our Head of School, Danny O'Brien, our students continue to turn into extraordinary adults who make an impact in their communities and who strive to preserve the natural world. Their work demonstrates that an investment in HMI today pays great dividends that reach far beyond the boundaries of HMI's campus.

We are proud to say that HMI Trustees and our larger community have already committed over \$4.1 million to the \$4.5 million we will need to complete the project. HMI's success is due to the individuals and families who believe in the power of this school and who make this institution a top philanthropic priority. We hope you will consider supporting HMI's *Campaign for Community* to make this special asset an even more extraordinary one



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## Scope

Once complete, the *Campaign for Community* will have transformed our campus. The project will meet the diverse needs of HMI's staff and includes:

- **A Head of School Home** that has recently been completed and is a landmark for visitors and students alike. Designed to accommodate public and private gatherings, this dwelling serves both as an attractive home for Heads of School and their families and as a primary campus space for Family Weekend, faculty events, and student functions.
- **Three single-family houses** to help us welcome spouses and children to campus. Everyone will enjoy the benefits of an increased adult presence on campus and the infectious energy families bring to a residential community. These homes will also allow us to transform the nature of being "on-duty" at HMI. Imagine the quality-of-life improvements our faculty will see when they are able to sleep in their own homes and eat meals with their families.
- **Four apartments** to allow us to offer clean, modern options to faculty—in contrast to much of the uneven housing stock available in the Leadville area. They will allow our teachers to live in homes commensurate with the outstanding work they do each day with our students.

## Need

HMI is perhaps the only boarding school in the United States not to offer housing to its faculty. The power of our community drives students to excel, and we miss an opportunity when that community splinters each evening. More adult oversight will improve HMI's already-solid risk management as well and increase opportunities for student/faculty interaction. A survey of HMI's peer institutions demonstrates how far outside common practice HMI currently resides:

School	% of faculty/staff living on campus	Ideal?
<b>HMI</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>No</b>
Island School (Bahamas)	50%	No—planning to move to 90%
Colorado Rocky Mountain School (Carbondale, CO)	100% of faculty	Yes
Fountain Valley School (Colorado Springs, CO)	75% faculty/ 100% senior admin	No—want more
Steamboat Mountain School (Steamboat Springs, CO)	100%	Yes
Chewonki Semester School (Maine)	80%	No—want 100%
Mountain School (Vermont)	100%	Yes



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## Cost and Benefit

This project will be funded by capital contributions from our community. HMI has already received pledges for 93% of the \$4.5 million we expect to need to complete this project. In addition, the *Campaign for Community* is the rare project that will expand infrastructure and strengthen the student experience *while reducing operating costs*. We anticipate the completed effort will reduce payroll costs, which make up more than half of our budget, by over 10% because HMI will be able to offer a portion of compensation as a housing benefit. We can then invest these savings to continually strengthen our school.

## Timeline

While our fundraising progress will dictate the timing, we hope to complete construction by 2020:

<u>Building</u>	<u>Anticipated Start Date</u>	<u>Funds needed</u>
Head of School home	2015	\$700,000 — project completed!
Four townhomes	2018	\$1,500,000 — funds pledged!
Three single family homes	2019	\$1,750,000 — funds 55% raised!
Maintenance Endowment		\$1,000,000 — funds pledged!

## Funding

The *Campaign for Community* is driven by major gifts—naming opportunities are available for each home. We have already received seven gifts at and over \$200,000, and over twenty gifts between \$25,000 and \$199,000, along with a handful of smaller gifts. We rely on the generosity of lead donors who believe in our mission and this effort to ensure the continued strength of our school.



*The recently completed Head of School home*

*The High Mountain Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization. All donations are tax-exempt subject to the limits prescribed by law. Donors should be aware that the HMI Board of Trustees may redirect campaign gifts in the future, if necessary, from the specified fund/project to another higher priority need. If you are currently employed by a company that matches contributions, please supply HMI with the necessary information to secure the match.*