

Dear Parents, Alumni, and Friends of Vanderbilt,

In an effort to help everyone have a clear understanding of the Vanderbilt Terrier Club, I thought it would be beneficial for me to explain our purpose, objectives, goals, and vision for the future.

The Terrier Club was established to promote and to support Vanderbilt Catholic athletics. It is an organization with an elected advisory board with the sole **purpose** of assisting where there is a need concerning Terrier athletics outside the school's operating budget. The Terrier Club is composed of parents, alumni, and friends of the school.

The Terrier Club sponsors three main events each year. Those events are

1. Membership Drive/Reserve football seating (Beginning in August)
2. Silent Auction (October)
3. Golf Tournament (May/June)

In addition to those three fundraising events, the Terrier Club organizes merchandise promotion and sales, holds work days on the fields, prepares free food at the Blue/Gold football scrimmage, and paints the football field prior to all home games. All of these events help to promote Terrier athletes and to provide our program with financial assistance and support.

The **objective** of the Terrier Club is to have people involved and engaged, to bring people together for a common goal, and to work toward that goal. It has been said that it takes a community to raise a child; well, I can tell you that it also takes a community of dedicated people to run a first-class athletic program. I cannot stress enough the importance of parental help in some capacity concerning working gates, selling concessions, selling merchandise, coming out for work days, and supporting the silent auction and golf tournament. Our athletic department is too big for only a handful of people stepping up to help. We need everyone pulling together in the same direction in order for us to be successful. The truth is if everyone would volunteer once, we would have enough workers to cover all our events.

As athletic director, it is my job to oversee the entire athletic budget and Terrier Club budget. I, together with my assistant, Doug Hamilton, sit down with each head coach and determine what is needed in each individual sport. I will not use Terrier Club money on items that are already budgeted in the athletic operating budget. The Terrier Club's **goal** is very simple – to give help where help is most needed. After a year of analyzing and studying the budgeting process, it is clear to me that the two main areas in which we needed help funding our athletic program are uniforms and facilities. I have made the decision that each year the Terrier Club will deposit \$15,000.00 into a special uniform account. Each team will be on a 3-5 year rotating new

uniform schedule, which will greatly improve our ability to make sure all of our teams are looking their best at all times.

Our facilities are getting older, and improvements are necessary. This is a major area of concern, and it is vital that we address this problem. Over the next three years, we will concentrate on upgrading the following facilities:

1. Concession stand and restrooms behind the baseball field
2. Cement/limestone under home bleachers for added storage
3. Dressing room and coach's office for softball program
4. Boys' dressing room improvements in old gym
5. Renovation of entrance into old gym to display state championship trophies

This is a start in the right direction for the Terrier Club to help upgrade facilities. As each project is completed, I will let you know the financial contribution the Terrier Club has made.

In conclusion, I want to thank all of you for your time, dedication, and commitment to Vandebilt athletics. Our **vision** is for parents, alumni, and friends of Vandebilt to come together and funnel our energies in the same direction. Together we can achieve far more success for our children if we work together as one. We have terrific young student-athletes here at Vandebilt, and the Terrier Club has always assisted the school in doing what is best for our program and kids. I am honored to serve as your athletic director and look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Kathy Luke (VCH Athletic Director)