



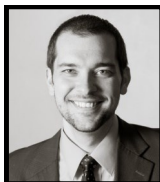
HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Transforming Hearts and Minds



by Kevin Deane,
Principal

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. - John 14:12

What would you do if Jesus left? Have you ever thought about how you might process that event, if, after years of leading and teaching, He just...moved on? At the Last Supper, after speaking many times about His death and the apostles' betrayal and denial, Jesus told the apostles that He was going to the Father to prepare a place for them—a destination. He then told them, "You know the way to the place where I am going."

With understandable confusion, one of the apostles asked, "How can we know the way if we don't know where You are going?" He was longing for Jesus to give him direction and guidance. Jesus responded by saying, "I am the way." He did not say, "I know the way," or, "I can show you the way." **He declared that He is the Way.** Another apostle then said, "Show us the Father and that will be enough." He was longing to know the destination, the end. Jesus' response was, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

When we experience difficult struggles or daunting tasks, we often call out to God in the same way the apostles did. We worry about the destination, the end to whatever trouble we are facing. Have you ever felt yourself thinking, "If I could just see and know how it all turns out, I would finally have some peace"? **It is not only the destination; we also worry about the way itself.** We wonder if we are going the correct direction, at the right speed, with the best gear. If we could just use GPS, we could plan EVERYTHING. The unknown is dark and so challenging for many of us.

Sometimes we face these feelings when we think about the need for restoration in this world. HPCA exists to help bring restoration in North Philadelphia and we are not immune to this way of thinking. When tasks get tough, we long for a glimpse of the end result or just a bit of assurance that our path is correct. I believe Jesus' response to us is the same as it was to His apostles: **"I am the way. I am preparing the end. Believe in me."** He says that we will be able to do what He did (and more) because He is going to the Father.

We do have to work with strength, and smarts, and determination, but the "greater things than these" happens when we believe and ask. Believing and continuing without specific directions, explanations, or even, in many ways, a defined outcome, has never sat well with our human longing for total control and lucid foresight. Finding our way and restoring what we can has always been, ultimately, about having faith and giving away what we have been given. **Even when things are hard, HPCA strives to keep our eyes on Christ, trust in His leading, and, in doing so, set an example of faith for our students. We ask that you would pray for us and partner with us in this.** Sure, there is struggle in navigating the unknown. But when our perspective is based on Jesus as the Way, there is also peace-filled beauty in the mystery of it all.

WAYS TO HELP

- Contribute toward this year's fundraising goal of \$485,500
- **Business Owners:** Donate to our scholarship fund through OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit)
- Join our e-mail prayer team
- Consider HPCA in your estate planning
- **Be a Special Runner in the Race for Education**
- Send us your Box Tops for Education and used ink cartridges.
- Organize a donation drive for Good Stuff Thrift Store
- Volunteer by helping with the Race for Education or Theme Week (see below)

Upcoming Events...

Easter Program

Thursday, April 6th – 7:00 pm

Race for Education

Wednesday, April 26th

Theme Week

May 1st–May 5th

Mission Statement: Hunting Park Christian Academy's mission is to provide an affordable, quality, Christian education that celebrates a diverse community and leads children to know and serve the Lord.

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THANK YOU, STUDENT COUNCIL!



Student Council President

This year, HPCA's student council has done an excellent job planning fun activities for our students. The student council includes a boy and girl from each third-through eighth-grade class. They meet weekly to plan activities, led by Tanya Figueiredo, Assistant Principal.

Martin, Student Council President, joined the student council because he wanted to make the school more fun with activities and help the student body get their voice heard. His favorite thing is setting up for different activities, then seeing the kids' smiling faces when they enter the room. He takes his position very seriously, making sure that he keeps everyone in the council calm and leads in a respectful way so that different opinions may be heard.



Helping at Mock Election

So far, the student council has coordinated a mock election in November, helping students cast their votes for different presidential candidates. Also in November, they planned a Harvest Festival, which included carnival-type games and scarecrow building. In December, they organized a Christmas store, giving students a chance to buy gifts and do a Christmas craft. They are currently working on Love Your Neighbor Day, which will include a fundraiser for a neighborhood ministry and a neighborhood clean-up. In May, they will be responsible for Theme Week, with different activities every day.



Taking a break during the Christmas store

We are thankful for their hard work and dedication to providing fun activities for the students of HPCA!



Good Stuff Thrift is a non-profit organization providing support to HPCA, among other charities serving children. They now have four locations in Buckingham, Doylestown, Fairless Hills, and Hamilton.

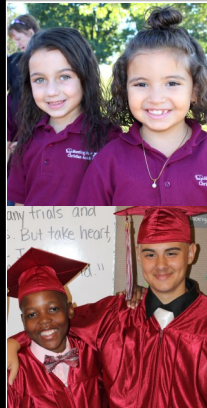
There are many ways to support Good Stuff Thrift, and in turn, support HPCA. They are always looking for volunteers to help at their locations. You can also set up a donation drive and they will come pick everything up.

They are accepting items **in great shape**, such as clothing, household items, jewelry, books, CDs, toys, electronics, sporting goods, furniture, pianos, and large appliances. Donations are tax-deductible.

You can drop off donations at any of their locations during store hours. You can find more information on their website at:

www.goodstuffthrift.org

Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit ...Turn Your Tax Dollars into Scholarships



The OSTC allows qualified PA businesses to fulfill their state tax burden by providing scholarships to low-income students at HPCA!

Businesses receive a tax credit of 75% (for a one-year donation commitment) or 95% (for a two-year donation commitment).

If your business is authorized to operate in PA and pays one of the following taxes, you are eligible to donate through OSTC.

- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax
- Mutual Thrift Tax
- Personal Tax of S Corporation Shareholders

If you would like more information on the program, please contact Jen Deane at (215) 324-9180 or jen@hpcaphilly.org.