



HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MARCH
2023



RISE: Respond. Ignite. Serve. Excel.



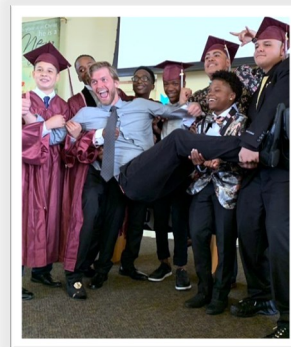
by Grant Peña-Hofman,
Chaplain, Bible Teacher,
Development Assistant

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.” -Genesis 12:1b

These words were pointed at Abraham generations ago, but they were resounding just as clearly in my life in 2016. I had just finished my seminary program and knew with a deep certainty that God was telling me to “go” from the Dutch, Christian Reformed enclave of West Michigan I had grown up in since birth, to “go” from my family and friends whom I loved deeply, and move to a new city: Philadelphia.

Though my intent in moving was to work for a church, I was told about an open chaplain position at Hunting Park Christian Academy. While I knew nothing about the school, their mission was one I could definitely get behind, so I applied. A couple of days before the school year began, I received an email offering me the position. I knew I had to take the step in faith, so I carefully bundled all my possessions into a moving truck. My nerves, sadness, and hope were bundled just as tightly as I prepared to go, totally uncertain of what God had waiting for me.

In leaving my family, I quickly found I was enveloped by a new spiritual family. HPCA welcomed me like a son and a brother. I found a community that cared about my gifts and wanted to see them blossom and grow in service to God’s Kingdom. But even more importantly, I found that they cared for their wider community just as much as they cared for me. They treated every student who walked through their doors as family, extending this same welcome and belonging. They encouraged the gifts they saw in them. They were committed, in a way I had never seen before, to making sure a quality, Christian education was financially accessible to *all kids, especially those who have not been given access historically.*



Often, when one sees behind the scenes of an institution, it can cause him or her to lose respect or hope. At HPCA, it has been quite the opposite experience. Having taken on additional administrative responsibilities, seeing the inner workings has only increased my love and trust of this place. With each word of affirmation spoken over a student, prayer offered for single parents at the limits of exhaustion, compassionate plan to help families find seemingly-impossible funds, and many other acts of goodness I witness daily, I become more grateful to be part of this community that so clearly reflects the light of Jesus Christ. I pray every one of you experiences the same.

Yours in Christ,
Grant Peña-Hofman

RACE FOR EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 26TH, 2023

WAYS TO HELP

- Contribute toward this year’s fundraising goal of \$710,000!
- **Pay Taxes in PA?** Donate to our scholarship fund and receive a **90% tax credit!**
- Join our email prayer team.
- Help us reach our Race for Education goal by being a **Special Runner!**
- Be a Race for Education volunteer! We could use help with mailer folding (March 20 —March 24) or on Race Day (April 26).

Contact Jen Deane,
Director of Development,
at 215-324-9180 or
jen@hpcaphilly.org for more

Scan here
to donate



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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OUR FAITHFUL HPCA VOLUNTEERS



MS. CLAIRE

This year, we have truly been blessed by amazing volunteers, willing to lend a helping hand wherever needed. They come each week to serve and joyfully help our teachers by reading to students, providing extra help in math, being an extra classroom helper, and pitching in wherever else there may be need. It has been an incredible blessing to have them be part of our HPCA family this year!

Ms. Claire has been volunteering with our 4th- and 5th-grade students since 2010! She travels forty-five minutes twice a week to provide extra reading help to small groups of students. Wanting to spend her retirement in a place where she could use her gifts and serve the Lord, she welcomed the opportunity to become a tutor at HPCA. Claire says, "HPCA gives an excellent education in the basics *and* in the ways of godly living. Each child is cared for with Christlike zeal!"



MS. KATE

This year, Ms. Nancy and Ms. Kate became weekly volunteers. They had volunteered in different ways before, including our annual workdays and Race for Education, and were looking to get more regularly involved. They attend the same church and carpool to HPCA once a week for a full day of volunteering. Ms. Kate works in many different classrooms, ranging all the way from pre-k to middle school. She says, "Volunteering has always been a part of my life; nothing brings me more pleasure than working with children. I am amazed by the educators, staff, and students at HPCA." Ms. Nancy spends most of her time in the kindergarten classroom but also reads with some of our first-grade students. She says, "Helping our children thrive in their early years sets the foundation for their future, as well as for our communities. Now volunteering weekly, I am welcomed by enthusiastic and smiling students who are working hard at their academic learning but also have the opportunity to sing, play games, and learn Bible stories that teach them kindness and empathy."

We are so thankful for the time and love these volunteers give to our student each week!



MS. NANCY

HPCA PHOENIX BASKETBALL

Phoenix basketball is back at HPCA! After taking a couple of years off due to COVID, we are so thankful to be back this season. Our middle-school students practice twice a week, then meet for film review and study hall another day. They compete in the PACSAC league against other Philadelphia area Christian schools.

In December, our basketball team faced their first challenge – a staff vs. student scrimmage game! At halftime, we honored Mr. Moore with his own Phoenix jersey to thank him for the eight years of coaching, teaching physical education, and leading our children in various sports. Mr. Moore now helps coordinate the PACSAC league, and we are grateful for his efforts. Everyone enjoyed the friendly competition and fun. Ultimately, the staff won the game, but the students definitely put up a fight!

Under the leadership of Coach Matt Lin, our prayer is for our students to have yet another opportunity to grow in sportsmanship, love, and leadership. The league memory verse, recited before each game, is Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Pray that our students can live this out during the season! Go Phoenix!



GIVING BACK

This Valentine's Day, we held our "Love Your Neighbor Day." Along with fun crafts and cute cards, our students were able to support a local homeless shelter in different ways. They raised money by purchasing candy grams for classmates and staff. Families and students also gave an abundance of toiletries to be donated to the shelter. While the sweets and crafts were wonderful, the outpouring of love ultimately points us to the love of our God: a love that is wide and long and high and deep, that is steadfast and patient and kind, that sacrificed everything for us on the cross. We are so thankful to provide our students opportunities to serve and encourage them to live a life of generosity.

