

The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon

Friday, May 11, 2018

Dear PUCS Students and Parents,

Our 14th annual fundraiser, renamed to better reflect our activities: The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon, is just weeks away! This exciting adventure of service to our community in which the Lord has so graciously placed us has proven to be our most successful opportunity to raise money for general school support and scholarship.

The purpose of The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon is twofold:

- Our students, staff and volunteers will **serve the community** by picking up litter in Wilkinsburg, thereby preventing it from entering the Nine Mile Run Watershed. As there is less litter in our community (woot! woot!), we are excited about collaborating with local organizations on these service projects:
 - **The Wilkinsburg Bird Park**, at 718 North Avenue – weeding, turning the pollination beds over and decorating and hanging birdhouses.
 - Planting the high profile planters at Ferguson playground, the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, the Wilkinsburg Train Station and the Parklet on Wood Street with beautiful spring flowers!
 - Removing Invasive species at the watershed at Frick Park making room for native plantings.
 - **Radcliffe's Local Color**: a longtime neighborhood automotive business, has new ownership and they need 8th Grade muscle for tearing apart many boxes and getting them ready for recycling.
 - **Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church** in Wilkinsburg has a garden lot right next door and it needs some TLC getting ready for spring.
- We will **raise much needed funds** for *general school support and for our scholarship fund*. While the Development Office does this excellently and year-round, this is the only opportunity that we really ALL get to rally behind PUCS and share our vision. This school year, PUCS awarded over \$350,000 in financial aid; without it, many of our students could not have attended PUCS.

This year our goal is to raise \$40,000 for our school!

To reach our goal, we need every family's help! Start developing a plan now: We ask each student to set a personal goal of \$400. Be creative! Choose the method that works best for your family and start collecting donations, here are some ideas: Ask friends, family and neighbors face-to-face, by letter, email, Facebook or through our website's fundraising page (<http://pucs.org>); set out a collection jar at your church or office; working together as a family or with students in your class! All of these ideas can be fun and give you the opportunity to share about your school and our vision.

Thank you in advance for doing your part to make our Serve-A-Thon a great success. We would so love to have **100% participation** in this event and we are confident we can do it! If you have questions or ideas to share, or to volunteer please contact Bea at 412-244-1779 (x 103) or via email at bea.thomas@pucs.org, Susan LeCornu at susan.lecornu@pucs.org or Chrissie Koerber at admissions@pucs.org.

We are excited to make this a GREAT event!

How we will be serving:

Class Assignments	Project	Volunteers Needed
KDG Group 1	At PUCS, rake all leaves out of flower beds. Sweep our sidewalks. Clean up leaves & trash around new fence on Ross outside of gym, and on South Ave.	1. 2.
KDG Group 2	Clean path from PUCS to library on Ross St.	1. 2.
1st Grade Group 1	Hombres Class liked picking up trash - ask Borough to put orange cones up on end of alley for safety. Waiting for WCDC 4/7 Trash Survey to identify trash sites.	1. Mrs. Hommes 2.
1st Grade Group 2	Hombres pick up trash - waiting for WCDC 4/7 Trash Survey to identify trash sites.	1. 2. Marlee Gallagher (WCDC)
2nd/3rd Hampson Group 1	Tree tending/mulching with NMRWA for 1 hour, then switch to trash pick-up. Waiting for 4/7 WCDC trash survey to identify trash sites.	1. Mrs. Hampson 2.
2nd/3rd Hampson Group 2	Tree tending/mulching with NMRWA for 1 hour, then switch to trash pick-up. Waiting for 4/7 WCDC trash survey to identify trash sites.	1. Jarod Manzo (NMRWA) 2.
2nd/3rd Kautza Group 1	Center for Civic Arts and Wilksburg Historical Society are working on mural preservation. Engage students in the MLK Murals throughout the Wilksburg business district, specifically along the train trestles. These murals tell many stories about African American history. Have students look at the mural, find specific images they find compelling and do some drawing and/or writing about them - interpreting the mural through the eyes of children.	1. Mrs. Kautza 2.
2nd/3rd Kautza Group 2	Wilksburg Mural Preservation (see above)	1. 2.
6th Grade Group 1	Wilksburg Mural Preservation (see above)	1. Jess Bovard
4/5 Grade (Fuller)	Bird Sanctuary Lot (718 North Ave): The pollinator beds could be cleaned up, the fire pit ground area be bricked, and additional bird houses can be painted up and installed (Creative ReUse may build the bird houses)	1. Sarah Fuller 2. Jerry Gaudi (Bird Sanctuary) 3.
4/5 Grade (Reitsma)	In Frick Park, with Nine Mile Run WaterShed Association, pull invasive plants. Need rides (Christy working on these vans).	1. Beverly Reitsma 2. Perry Recker 3. Lindsey Rose (NMRWA)
6th grade Group 2	Borough Planting flowers at Ferguson playground, Borough Building, Train Station and Parklet (for the two-way street fest), litter pick up South Avenue and from Ardmore direction to Pennwood. Prep for Wood Street and Ross	1. Mrs. Douglas 2.
6th grade Group 3	Borough Planting flowers at Ferguson playground, Borough Building, Train Station and Parklet (for the two-way street fest), litter pick up South Avenue and from Ardmore direction to Pennwood. Prep for Wood Street and Ross	1. Mrs. Lee 2.
7th Grade	Garden (former vacant lot) next to Covenant Fellowship Church, weeding, mulching (1300 Swissvale Avenue, Wilksburg church.) The garden is on the adjacent lot.	1. Mr. Wilson 2.
8th Grade	Tearing apart boxes and delivering to recycling. Jennifer Chennowith will get back to us on tasks. Donations to Free Store packed and delivered (not confirmed.)	1. Mrs. Moore 2.

*As of 4/5/2018.

Fundraising methods - Ways to reach your goal

The keys to fundraising are relationships, personal interaction, honesty and the willingness to ask. Family members, friends, co-workers, church members, neighbors and businesses will usually support a worthy cause when asked. **We encourage you to ask for \$25 sponsorships (\$400 goal / \$25 sponsorships = 16 sponsors).**

Door-to-door fundraising tips

1. Use the attached sponsorship form to record gifts. **Give the donor a receipt. If the donor prefers that a receipt be mailed to them, ask them to write their name and address on the form. Be sure it is legible!** There is also a postcard included in the packet that you can make copies of to hand to your neighbors!
2. Always have a grown-up supervising you! The best time to go door-to-door during the week is 5-7 pm. On the weekend, anytime is a good time. Pick a time and day to start, set a goal for each day and get started.
3. Be courteous, SMILE and say “thank you” even if they say no.
4. **Practice smiling and saying your lines.** Hello! My name is _____ and I go to Pittsburgh Urban Christian School. My school is helping the community by picking up litter in Wilkinsburg so it doesn't end up in Nine Mile Run Watershed. We are also working on other community service projects. We are raising money to support our school so more kids can get a great education. Would you like to sponsor me with a (\$25) donation?

Internet Fundraising

Emails, Facebook, and online donation web sites like Crowdrise have made it easy to connect with friends and family to fundraise. Here are some key things to know:



PayPal – Gifts may also be made through the PUCS website at <http://pucs.org/give>.

Please be sure to, under the amount of money donated, include in the “special instructions” space that you are giving towards The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon & your family name! If your donors do not wish to make their gift online, they may **mail a check** to PUCS (with no fees!) Be sure to ask them to write your name and Serve-A-Thon on the check.

Consider asking your employer to match what you raise!

Companies such as PPG, Mellon, Google, etc., have match programs that help their employees give more!

Personal Letters, Emails and Phone Calls

Letters and emails are a great way to ask. We have included a sample letter on letterhead! When sending a letter, include a return envelope. Add a link to our webpage <http://pucs.org/give> so people can make their gift online if they choose to do so. Personal calls are highly effective means of soliciting and a great way to follow up after reaching out through social media.

Host a mini-fundraiser!

This is where some of our families get really creative. In the past, families have held a bake sale, car wash, dog wash or lemonade stand in their neighborhoods or at churches to raise more. Some have worked as a team with siblings or classmates and have shared the proceeds with their team so that everyone receives credit. This can be such a fun way to raise additional dollars and to let people know about our school. We have a unique and amazing thing at PUCS and we love the opportunity to get to share it.

Tracking and turning in your donations

- Record all cash and check donations on the attached sheets. **PARENTS:** Please total checks and cash, verifying and initialing each sheet to indicate money turned in matches the amounts listed.
- The days to turn in donation sheets and money are **each Monday** (April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7) and the day before our event (May 10).
- Class totals will be announced each week during chapel and posted in the school.

Goals and Rewards

When kids work hard for something, we want to encourage them in their efforts. Below are some of the prizes we will award to students and classes. Prizes will be determined by money received at the school as of May 10th!

Individual prizes: Every child who raises \$400 or more may choose one of the following prizes:

- Single admission to Kennywood or Sandcastle
- One hour pass to SkyZone



Super Duper Prize Circle: Families raising \$1200 will earn two additional tickets/prizes from the individual prize list.

Grand Prize: 4 days/3 nights at Canadohta Lake, just 2 hours north of Pittsburgh! (To be agreed upon with owner's permission.)

Class prizes: Special parties for the top two classes raising the most money. Special treats for the classes representing 100% participation in fundraising.

The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon Schedule for Friday, May 11th

Students arrive at school as usual – but are ready to be outside and get dirty! Wear your PUCS t-shirts if you have one! Bring tools!

8:45 a.m. Parents and volunteer orientation - Bring a broom, rake or shovel if you have one!

9:00 a.m. Assembly and chapel



9:30 a.m. Serve-A-Thon!



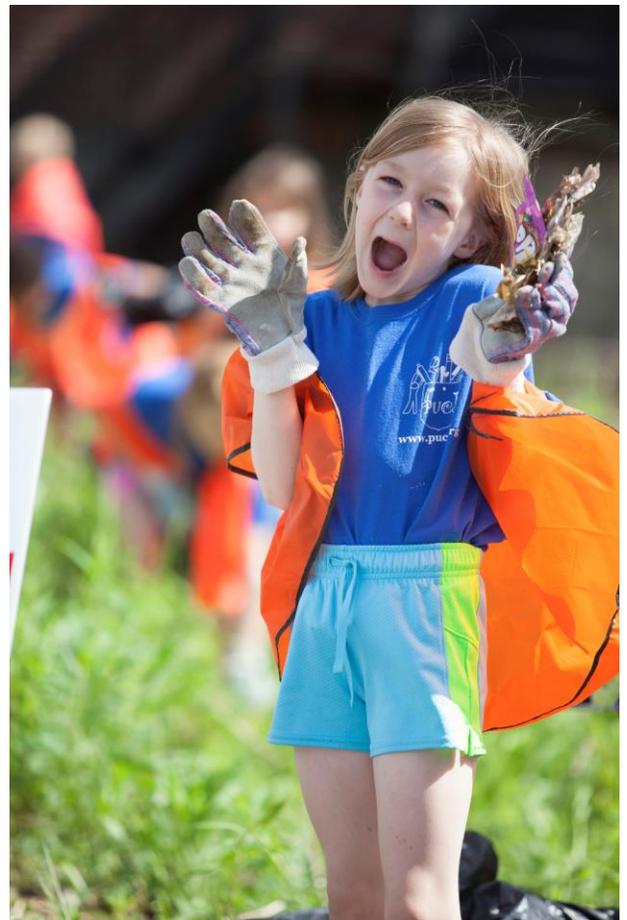
11:45 a.m. Celebration Picnic on the Playground!

1 p.m. Students return to class. Volunteers clean up the gym and kitchen, store supplies.

Volunteer to Serve on May 11th!

We need a small army of volunteers (about 40) to make this event happen. This event counts towards family service hours! Please contact Bea Thomas or Chrissie Koerber if you have questions.

**Thank you in advance for
your family's participation in
The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon!**





809 Center Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412.244.1779
office@pucs.org
www.pucs.org

Our family has some exciting news! Pittsburgh Urban Christian School (PUCS) is going to raise money by cleaning up our neighborhood and serving local businesses and non-profits. We are looking for sponsors for our 14th annual The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon event!

On May 11th, you'll find us throughout Wilkinsburg wearing orange safety vests and rubber gloves. We are working with the Borough of Wilkinsburg and the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association to catch the litter from a 32 block area before it pollutes the local wetlands rehabilitation project. We also have a lot of fun service projects that we have lined up to care for the local businesses and non-profits that care so well for us!

PUCS is different than a lot of independent schools. One of the primary differences is that we recognize that there are many families who desire an excellent Christian education for their children, but can't afford the full tuition. PUCS offers scholarship money to over 60% of our students. That means we need to find ways to raise money for our school **so we are serving our community to earn BUCKS FOR PUCS!**

This year, our school hopes to raise \$40,000. My goal is \$_____. Will you help by sponsoring me?

Every gift, whether large or small, will help us reach our goal. You may mail a check along with the form at the bottom of this letter or make your donation on line at <http://pucs.org/give/> (please indicate it is a **Serve-A-Thon gift and our family's name!**) All gifts are tax-deductible.

Thank you for partnering with me!

Sincerely,

.....
The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon SPONSOR FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

GIFT AMOUNT: _____ STUDENT'S NAME: _____

I would like a tax receipt for my donation.

I would like to receive the PUCS newsletter.

Please return to: Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, 809 Center St. Pittsburgh PA 15221

.....
CULTIVATING CARING HEARTS AND CURIOUS MINDS



THANK YOU for your support and the opportunity to tell you about Pittsburgh Urban Christian School's 14th Annual The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon.

On May 11th, our entire school and 40 volunteers are going to make a difference by picking up litter and recyclables, as well as serve our community by helping local businesses in Wilkinsburg.

Making a donation to sponsor this community service project is a great way to support our school and encourage students to be good stewards of the environment and community. Monies raised through this event support our school, helping us to provide a great education for kids from Wilkinsburg and the surrounding areas. Through the generous support of people like you, PUCS awards financial aid to more than 61% of our students, students who would otherwise not be able to attend PUCS.

To give online visit www.pucs.org/give

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School

809 Center Street, Pittsburgh PA 15221 (412) 244-1779

Donation: _____ Date: _____ Student: _____
Please keep this receipt for tax purposes

THANK YOU for your support and the opportunity to tell you about Pittsburgh Urban Christian School's 14th Annual The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon.

On May 11th, our entire school and 40 volunteers are going to make a difference by picking up litter and recyclables, as well as serve our community by helping local businesses in Wilkinsburg.

Making a donation to sponsor this community service project is a great way to support our school and encourage students to be good stewards of the environment and community. Monies raised through this event support our school, helping us to provide a great education for kids from Wilkinsburg and the surrounding areas. Through the generous support of people like you, PUCS awards financial aid to more than 61% of our students, students who would otherwise not be able to attend PUCS.

To give online visit www.pucs.org/give

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School

809 Center Street, Pittsburgh PA 15221 (412) 244-1779

Donation: _____ Date: _____ Student: _____
Please keep this receipt for tax purposes

THANK YOU for your support and the opportunity to tell you about Pittsburgh Urban Christian School's 14th Annual The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon.

On May 11th, our entire school and 40 volunteers are going to make a difference by picking up litter and recyclables, as well as serve our community by helping local businesses in Wilkinsburg.

Making a donation to sponsor this community service project is a great way to support our school and encourage students to be good stewards of the environment and community. Monies raised through this event support our school, helping us to provide a great education for kids from Wilkinsburg and the surrounding areas. Through the generous support of people like you, PUCS awards financial aid to more than 61% of our students, students who would otherwise not be able to attend PUCS.

To give online visit www.pucs.org/give

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School

809 Center Street, Pittsburgh PA 15221 (412) 244-1779

Donation: _____ Date: _____ Student: _____
Please keep this receipt for tax purposes

THANK YOU for your support and the opportunity to tell you about Pittsburgh Urban Christian School's 14th Annual The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon.

On May 11th, our entire school and 40 volunteers are going to make a difference by picking up litter and recyclables, as well as serve our community by helping local businesses in Wilkinsburg.

Making a donation to sponsor this community service project is a great way to support our school and encourage students to be good stewards of the environment and community. Monies raised through this event support our school, helping us to provide a great education for kids from Wilkinsburg and the surrounding areas. Through the generous support of people like you, PUCS awards financial aid to more than 61% of our students, students who would otherwise not be able to attend PUCS.

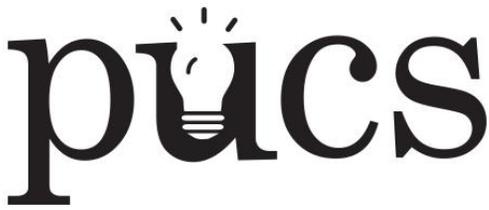
To give online visit www.pucs.org/give

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School

809 Center Street, Pittsburgh PA 15221 (412) 244-1779

Donation: _____ Date: _____ Student: _____
Please keep this receipt for tax purposes

.....



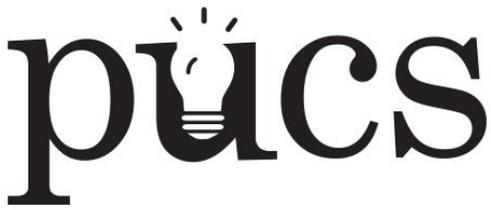
Pittsburgh Urban Christian School 2018 The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon Student Sponsor Donations

We are LOOKING FOR 16 SPONSORS AT 25\$! Our goal is to clean a 32-block area of Wilksburg on May 11th, 2017. **Would you consider sponsoring me at the \$25 level to help me meet my goal of \$400?** You may also give online via PayPal at <http://pucs.org/give/>. Your gift will help kids get an amazing education at PUCS!

Family name _____ Student name(s) _____ Class(es) _____

Please do not record pledges or online gifts on this form.

No	Sponsor Name	Mailing Address if you would like to receive our <u>newsletter</u> . Email address if you would like a <u>receipt</u> sent to you.	Receipt needed?	Mailing list?	Cash	Check	Total Collected
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
I verify that the cash and checks total the donations recorded		Parent Signature:			Cash \$	Checks \$	Total \$



Pittsburgh Urban Christian School 2018 The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon Student Sponsor Donations

We are LOOKING FOR 16 SPONSORS AT 25\$! Our goal is to clean a 32-block area of Wilksburg on May 11th, 2017. **Would you consider sponsoring me at the \$25 level to help me meet my goal of \$400?** You may also give online via PayPal at <http://pucs.org/give/>. Your gift will help kids get an amazing education at PUCS!

Family name _____ Student name(s) _____ Class(es) _____

Please do not record pledges or online gifts on this form.

No	Sponsor Name	Mailing Address if you would like to receive our <u>newsletter</u> . Email address if you would like a <u>receipt</u> sent to you.	Receipt needed?	Mailing list?	Cash	Check	Total Collected
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
I verify that the cash and checks total the donations recorded		Parent Signature:			Cash \$	Checks \$	Total \$

The Great PUCS Serve A Thon

Fundraising counting sheet



16 sponsors x \$25 donations = \$400 GOAL!



Cross off a garbage bag with each new sponsor!

(all monies turned in to PUCS by Thursday, May 10th)