

# The 22nd Annual Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon



<p><b>It's a service project</b> PUCS students serve the Wilkinsburg community on <b>May 8th.</b></p>	<p><b>It's a fundraiser</b> PUCS families fund the future through generating donations prior to <b>May 8th.</b></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Dear PUCS Family,

**The time has come for Serve-A-Thon!** Why? Because faith is not just a private thing. Our annual Serve-A-Thon is the most significant community-wide endeavor we take on each year in terms of participation, logistics, and funds. It is a vital public expression of who we are and our witness to Wilkinsburg of what God is like.

We believe in a **partner-with-your-people-with-your-hands-in-the-dirt kind of God.** So, let's come ready to show that on Friday, May 8th and in the weeks of fundraising leading up to it, beginning Wednesday, March 25.

Serve-A-Thon is our great opportunity to partner. We offer neighbors our work - hands in the dirt planting, (gloved) hands in the dirt picking up the things that collect in the corners when humans do life. We offer neighbors near and far the chance to partner with us in this work of love, sharing their funds to keep our community whole and able to pursue its God-given mission of education and service. We partner with community businesses allowing them to show their commitment to this town and its people alongside us. We partner with family members who share the love, too!

**This year our goal is \$75,000.** Think of each dollar as a contribution of love enabling us to pursue our mission of love, formed and strengthened by the vision of Beloved Community at 809 Center St., across Wilkinsburg and throughout the world.

We'll need every family active to achieve our goal.

**Let's Get It!**

*Dave*

Dave Swanson, Interim Executive Director

# ***The Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon***

**\*In a Nutshell\***

## **Fundraise Now - March 25 to May 8, 2026**

Every PUCS student fundraises now, striving to raise as much as possible and at least \$400, per student. Broken down: 16 donations of \$25, or 40 donations of \$10.

Our families have excelled year after year - and we are happy to help you succeed too! We have plenty of suggestions and tools for you to utilize. See the fundraising section below on how to set up your GiveButter webpage, write letters, and other helpful tips and tricks.

The PUCS Advancement team is also working hard to raise additional funds from corporate sponsors!

***We can do this together!***

## **Serve Later: Friday, May 8, 2026**

Students, staff, parent volunteers, and Community Partners will gather at PUCS for a morning of service. We are dedicated to creation care: collecting trash before it enters our waterways and caring for our neighbors through public gardens and beautiful community spaces. We will finish with a celebration picnic!



# Goals & Rewards

## Goals



Our goal is **100% participation at \$400**. Every student makes a difference!

Our combined goal is **\$75,000**.

We ask each student to set a personal goal of **\$400**.

That may sound like a lot but ***we know you can do it!***

Can you raise \$1,000?...\$5,000! The record for the most a single student has ever raised is \$7,000. Can you beat them? **Shoot for the moon!**

## Rewards



★ Each student who reaches their **\$400 goal** will receive a **Kennywood or Sandcastle ticket**.

★ **Super-Duper Prize Circle** Families who raise \$1,200 or more will earn a [Baby Loves Tacos Dinner Kit](#) along with their theme park ticket.

## ★ **GRAND PRIZE** ★

The family or team raising the most money earns up to

**ONE WEEK's stay at "My Dad's House" near Hidden Valley**

**Highlights:** Sleeps up to 25 people, hot tub, trampoline, pool table, ping pong, foosball, and 8 acres of woods & trails.



## NEXT STEPS

1. Set up your [GiveButter](#) website. [Here](#) is the campaign page.
2. Brainstorm your “pitch” and list of contacts.
3. Go fundraise!
4. Parent Volunteers: Fill out the [Volunteer form!](#) **Clearances are required.** Please email them to [office@pucs.org](mailto:office@pucs.org).



### Schedule for May 8th

- Everyone arrives at PUCS wearing your *PUCS T-Shirt (Don't have one? We got you!)*
- Parent volunteer orientation at 8:15 AM in the Sanctuary
- Form teams of students, teachers, parent volunteers & community partners and serve
- Celebration Picnic Lunch following for Kids & grown-ups at the school
- Clean-up volunteer team to store supplies etc.

## Fundraising Strategies

### “It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3”

1. After you set up a personal fundraising page at [Givebutter](#): encourage donations via the website.
2. Brainstorm a list of friends, family, and neighbors to contact.
3. *Reach out!* A personal ask is always best.
  - Call family and friends directly or try a video chat. See [link](#) for details.
  - Mail blast your loved ones, near & far. (See the [fundraising letter](#) example.)
  - Do you prefer old-fashioned pen & paper? Contact the Serve-A-Thon team for a return envelope.
  - **Ask a corporation or business to sponsor you.** Contact Fairlight Lower for Sponsorship Packet.
  - Host a Mini-Fundraiser: Our families are so creative! In the past, families have held bake sales, car washes, dog washes or lemonade stands in their neighborhoods or churches.

### Tracking / Turning In Donations - START HERE

- All donations using [Givebutter](#) will be tracked automatically!
- **For cash & checks:**
- Record all cash and check donations on the [sponsor donation sheet](#).
- **Checks must have the Team/Family Name on the Note line.**
- Total checks and cash, verifying and initialing each sheet to indicate money donated matches the amounts listed. sponsor donation sheet.
- Take a clear picture of your donation sheet, email it **each Monday** to [serve-a-thon@pucs.org](mailto:serve-a-thon@pucs.org).

\*\*\*The PUCS Advancement Team needs each donor’s address, phone number and email, if they mail a check or cash. Please be prepared to provide.

## **Receipts and Thank-Yous**

Personal thank yous are always best! Set aside time after May 8th to thank each donor and let them know about this year's community service! It makes them happy to participate again next year.

Donations **under \$250** do not require a formal acknowledgment from PUCS to deduct their gifts on their tax return. PUCS is therefore only sending formal gift receipts to individuals who give more than \$250.

---

**Are you still stumped?** Reach out to the Serve-A-Thon team at PUCS!!

**Got some ideas or success?** Share your fundraising strategy with your classmates & the Serve-A-Thon team so we can all succeed together!

**Thank you** in advance for doing your part to make our Great PUCS Serve-A-Thon an outstanding success!

**We can do this!**

### **Your Serve-A-Thon Team**

Fairlight Lower [fairlight.lower@pucs.org](mailto:fairlight.lower@pucs.org)

Rebecca Yulfo at [serve-a-thon@pucs.org](mailto:serve-a-thon@pucs.org)

*Director of Advancement*

*Serve-A-Thon Coordinator*