CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM UPDATE

Dear Parents/Guardians, December 1, 2011

Below is information regarding upcoming service opportunities. Please review it with your son(s) and encourage him/them to participate whenever possible. Information about service projects is announced at lunch, at morning meetings, in the daily announcements, and through flyers posted on the service bulletin board on the second floor of Cornwells Hall. If your son(s) has already completed service applicable to this school year, please ensure that your son(s) has obtained a service verification form, completed it, and remitted it to me. **Verification forms are available on the Service page of the school’s website –** [**www.holyghostprep.org**](http://www.holyghostprep.org) **- along with the Program’s Brochure and a listing of approved volunteer agencies and internet links to some.**

**Upcoming Service Opportunities**

**1) Saint Francis Inn**

HGP will send 4 students to this Philadelphia soup kitchen to help serve the evening meal on the first and third Tuesdays of most months. A van will leave HGP at 3:40 and return @ 7 PM. Students who are interested in this service project should sign up with Mr. Fitzpatrick. Spots remain open for the December 6 and December 20th trips.

2) **Holy Family Regional School**

HGP will send students to this Levittown School on Thursday, December 15th to assist with the after-school CARES program. Van transportation will leave HGP @2:50 and return circa 5:30. See Mr. Fitzpatrick to sign-up and obtain a permission form.

3) **Libertae Half-Way House**

Twice a month, HGP will send volunteers to this Bensalem agency which assists women who are overcoming addictions. Volunteers will assist with light maintenance/groundskeeping as well as work in programs designed for the benefit of the children who live with their mothers at this facility. Those interested should sign up with Mr. Fitz. The next trip will occur December 13th.

4) **Christmas Blessings Project**

Each year, the HGP Fathers’ Association sponsors this food and gift donation program for the benefit of local families who are in need. The Fathers’ Association will need the assistance of students and their fathers on Sunday, December 18th between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM to deliver food and gifts. Students interested in volunteering should sign up with Mr. Fitzpatrick. More information about this program can be found at <http://www.hgpfathers.com>

5) **St. John’s Hospice**

On Monday, December 19th, HGP will deliver care packages donated by the Mothers’ Guild to St. John Hospice in Center City Philadelphia. Approximately 5 students are needed to help with this effort. A van will leave HGP circa 3 and return circa 4:45 PM. Any student interested should sign up with Mr. Ryan, Campus Minister.

On the Horizon…

1) Mr. Jim Stewart, HGP Athletic Director, is exploring the possibilities of having sports teams work with an agency known as Athletes Helping Athletes, a program designed to provide sporting opportunities for those with special needs. More information about any service opportunities which might be offered through this partnership will be shared with students by their coaches.

2) Each January-March, St. Charles Borromeo Parish is Bensalem invites HGP students to volunteer as “buddies” for special-needs children and teens as they play basketball in St. Charles’ gym. No basketball experience is necessary on the part of volunteers, just kindness and a willingness to have fun. Students may begin signing up to volunteer at these games (usually played on Sunday nights from 5-7 PM) with Mr. Fitzpatrick in mid-December.

Keep up the good work!...

1) Thanks to all the students who represented us so well in Harlem, at the Craft Show, and at the Bucks County Housing Group’s Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution!

2) Thanks to all the students who will be performing in concerts at local nursing homes and care facilities this Holiday Season!

3) Thanks to all the students involved in Ghost around the World who are continuing to minister to the needs of our brother school in Tanzania!

4) Thanks to the National Art Honor Society for collecting socks for the homeless served by Face to Face in the Germantown section of Philadelphia!

5) Thanks for the Peer Ministers working diligently to make the Charity Ball a success for the benefit of Hope for Nigeria!

6) Thanks to HGP Families for their generous donations to the Christmas Blessings Project and to St. John Hospice this Advent!

7) Thanks to all the students who will wrap and deliver presents for Operation Santa Claus this year!

*NB* – Sometimes, HGP learns of service projects in the interim between publications of this monthly bulletin. So, it is important that students listen to announcements and check the PowerPoint presentation in the dining hall for additional service opportunities.

Thank you for your attention to this update. If you have any questions about the Service Program, please contact me via e-mail me at [jfitzpatrick@holyghostprep.org](mailto:jfitzpatrick@holyghostprep.org)

Respectfully,

Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Eckerle