

Reach Beyond

“Prep was my family,” Kevin Wherry '74 stresses. “The school and the football team became my foundation. You were there for each other and didn’t leave anyone behind. When [classmate] Celso Tolman’s mother died our senior year, he was a pallbearer. Members of the football team got permission from football coach and Vice Principal Mr. Winters to attend the funeral.” Wherry says, “When Celso turned and saw us, he almost dropped the casket. That love touches me to this day. Supporting him was more important than what we would have learned in class that day.”



*Jim McCutchan '74 and
Kevin Wherry '74*

This is the type of compassion that Jesuit education embodies again and again. It’s about reaching beyond yourself to give of your time, talents, and treasure.

Rob Lowery '74 remembers choir director Mr. Hasslinger’s faith in his students. As the Prep Glee Club assembled nervously for a performance at the 1974 World Expo in Spokane, Mr. Hasslinger stepped up to direct and opened his jacket to reveal a red papier-mâché heart. “Everyone laughed and we gave a tremendous performance!” Lowery shares. “We were in it together as a performance group and as a Prep family.”

“God gave me the teaching gene, but Fr. John Foster, S.J. motivated me to become a teacher,” Wherry ruminates. “I still have a letter he sent me after I graduated from Stanford, telling me to throw everything I learned out the window. ‘You won’t learn how to teach from a book. You need to relate to students in order to get the best out of them. With that trust, encourage them to find their voice.’”

Prep Health and Exercise Science teacher, Director of Diversity, and head track coach Deino Scott '74 remembers driving several cars full of food to one woman’s house. “Every single cupboard was empty. We filled all of them, plus the fridge. She was in shock. I remember driving away thinking, ‘At least someone’s going to have something to eat tonight.’”

Jesuit education asks us to be people for others. Service projects give students an opportunity to put this into action. This year at Prep’s annual Day of Service event 760 students and 65 faculty and staff worked at 26 different sites in

Seattle, from homeless shelters to low-income housing. It’s a continuation of what the Class of 1974 took to heart when they delivered food to families.

Scott continues, “My mom said you should help others because you never know when you may need it. Growing up in Houston and Washington, D.C., I saw serious poverty that I wouldn’t wish on anyone! A lot of my motivation now is driven by those memories.”

Today Prep’s Magis Christian Service Program requires 58 hours of service from each student before they graduate. Many do much more. It’s a lesson that the Class of 1974 remembers well.

“Service projects taught us to give back,” Wherry said. “There was more to life than ourselves and our needs. We had to meet the needs of others, too. It taught us to be grateful for what we had. I took that lesson to heart and have done service ever since.”

Several classmates cite “Johnny” McKay '74 as an exemplary model of service, and he continues to volunteer at Prep in leadership capacities as well as working with students and teachers.

“Going to Prep was the best mistake I ever made,” says Jim McCutchan '74. “I went to play sports and left with an education.” Jim earned his way through Prep with a paper route. “My first year, tuition was \$900. My parents didn’t have the money, but they said I could go to Prep if I could pay for it and find my own ride, so I did.”

Today, Jim runs Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital, one of the premier large and small vet hospitals in the country. He says, “Four years of Latin, math and English prepared me for college. Fr. Falsetto, S.J., and the Jesuits made learning fun. The skills I used to network and develop lifetime relationships with teachers and peers were the same skills I used to build a business.”

A scholarship helped David McCambridge '74 attend Prep. “With two boys already at Prep, my parents couldn’t afford it. I give now as a way to pay it back.”

Scott heard about a well-known Seattle tech billionaire who made a sizable gift to support scholarships at his high school alma mater, with the conviction that no qualified student should be turned away because of an inability to pay tuition. “My wildest dream is that we can say that at Prep too,” Scott says. “I wish I was a billionaire, but if you can help one kid...”

President Kent Hickey concurs. “It’s a challenging goal

Class of 1974 Challenge

An anonymous member of the Class of 1974 has challenged his classmates to join him in giving to the Class of '74 Endowment **and will match all endowment gifts made by December 31, 2018** (up to \$20,000). "There are so many people who helped me in life: Jesuits at Prep, college professors, family members, and others. This is our opportunity to pay it forward. Don't hold back!"



SENIOR LETTERMEN'S CLUB - Kneeling, Left to Right: Tom Maloney, Mark Sullivan, Jerry Mahoney, Joe Myers, Tim Carney, "Rocky" Marino, Mick Knight, Casey Sullivan, Jim Fitzsimmons, Kevin Jordan, Squatting: Steve Jewett, Dave Cantu, Dan Coleman, Kevin Wherry, Karl Hoover, Tod Smith, Bill Small, Standing: Brian Terry, Celso Tolman, Mark Bishop, Mike McCloskey, Sean O'Leary, Bill Stapleton, Dana Papasadero, John Budinich, Jim McCutchan, Craig Parietti, Tom Baker, Charles Gill, Dave Strecker, Deino Scott, Paul Hardy, Dick Whitaker, John Biondi, Mr. Arndt.

The 1973-74 Seattle Prep Lettermen's Club was one of the largest clubs at the time and consisted of a broad cross-section of the student body. Celso Tolman '74 was club president. The club collected over 12,000 pounds of food and \$600, which they distributed to 60 families at Christmas.

for every qualified applicant to attend Prep regardless of financial ability, but not an impossible one. Generous alumni and the Prep community allow us to accomplish many things."

With Prep tuition at nearly \$20,000, the demand for financial assistance has risen dramatically in the last decade. This year, Prep awarded over \$2.6M in tuition assistance to 28 percent of its student body, with awards ranging from \$2,500 to full tuition. Funds raised through the Annual Appeal help, but endowment earnings are a more stable source of revenue, especially in a robust economy.

Scott says, "I heard about other classes starting endowments and found out that no '70s class had done so. In disbelief he mailed a letter last fall to everyone, in what he affectionately calls the "Last Great Class," inviting them to start a class endowment.

'After last year's graduation," he wrote, "I was overwhelmed with the gratitude our graduates and their parents expressed to the faculty. It makes me proud to be a Panther!

"It is the needs of these incredibly deserving young people that tugs at my heart. For many students, a little financial help enables them to pursue their dream of a Jesuit education. These kids are the reason I'm here. I'd like to think that 40 years ago there were alumni looking out for us, too."

McCutchan was one of the first to respond. He provided a significant seed gift to the endowment. "Prep taught me to give back. It's the St. Ignatius thing. Whether you're rich in spiritual gifts or knowledge, giving back is how you do the work."

The Class of '74 Endowment has received over \$30,000 in gifts, well on its way to the \$50,000 required for full funding. When it reaches its goal, the endowment will generate an annual \$2,375 scholarship – in perpetuity.

Scott says, "When I talk to kids and parents who want to attend Prep, I tell them we will do everything we can to help them succeed. I think a lot of my classmates feel the same way." 🌞

For information about class endowments, visit our website and contact Katrina Freeburg, Director of Individual Giving at kfreeburg@seaprep.org or 206-577-2237.