



More Than A School: DePaul Cristo Rey Fosters Belonging and Purpose





Rey of Light
DePaul Cristo Rey High School

Please Save the Date
April 25, 2026



**DePaul Cristo Rey
Student Center**

Call Lisa Muething to sponsor,
donate an auction item, or volunteer

513.861.0600



*"A vibrant school
community is part of our
mission as a Catholic school.
We want this to be a
place where students are safe,
known, loved, and valued;
a place where families
feel welcome."*

– Jim Schurrer,
Principal

Read the story on page 4.



From the President



Dear Friends of DePaul Cristo Rey:

I was aware of the Cristo Rey model several years before Cincinnati became home to DePaul Cristo Rey. So, when a friend asked if I would be on the Advancement Committee in 2011, the first year DPCR enrolled students, I said yes! Since then, I have served on the Board of Directors, three years as Board Chair, and have continued serving on committees.

Siobhan Taylor was an excellent president and, as shared this past fall, she has moved on to discover her next professional challenge. Her vision and the execution of that vision paved the way for a smooth transition as I have stepped in as interim president. Since my early involvement, I have seen monumental improvements in our students' academic achievements and have felt the culture among faculty, staff and students grow in spirituality, warmth toward each other, and dedicated hard work. This is due to very strong executive and academic leaders who I have joined to continue Siobhan's vision and love for DePaul Cristo Rey.

While we still face challenges securing Corporate Work Study positions and raising funds to continue our mission, our students' proven successes and compelling stories touch the hearts and inspire the generosity of friends like you, our local businesses, and the Cincinnati community. With your support we will meet our challenges and our mission will continue to flourish.

In January, the Board of Directors launched a search for our third president, enlisting the help of **Gilman Partners**, an executive search firm which has successfully helped us in the past. The goal is to have the next president in place by July 1, 2026. Please keep the Search Committee and Gilman Partners in your prayers as we embark upon this journey. The new president will step into the enviable leadership role of a school which is a joy and a blessing to our students, our families, our faculty and staff, and our special friends. If you know someone who would be a good candidate, please send them to depaulcristorey.org for the job description.

I thank our Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity and I thank all of you for your continued and wonderful support!

Gratefully,
Patricia Robertson
Patricia Robertson
Interim President

15 Years Strong: Partners, Purpose, and the Power of Work

What began as a bold investment in opportunity was celebrated in full on February 3, as Corporate Partners, supervisors, and DPCR leaders marked 15 years of the Corporate Work Study Program at the annual Leadership Breakfast. Guest speakers included **Kelvin Hanger**, president and COO of 15-year Partner **Good Samaritan Hospital**, and **Tim Strayer**, vice president and senior HR business partner-consumer lending at 10-year Partner **Fifth Third Bank**. CWS Vice President **Shermirah Smith** recognized 5, 10 and 15-year Partners and thanked all who participate in the program. "Your dedication, generosity, and long-term investment in this work make an extraordinary impact. Because of your commitment, opportunities are created, lives are changed, and our mission continues to move forward in meaningful ways."



▲ *Madeline '26 presented the Partner of the Year Award to Angie Herloga and Kevin Cheek of Mazak.*



▲ *CWS Relationship Manager Carol Jackson presented the Nonprofit Partner of the Year Award to Lucienne Drieaus of Saint Joe's (formerly St. Joseph Home).*



▲ *Representing 10-Year Partners (left to right): Denise Banasiak, City of Cincinnati Law Department; Donial Curry and Azaria Pittman-Carter, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative; Rainie Moody and Felicia Sullivan of HER Cincinnati; Abby Boger and Tim Strayer, Fifth Third Bank; and Scott Hess, Cintas Corporation.*



▲ *Representing 15-Year Partners (left to right): Destinee Nowak, Western & Southern Financial Group; Niki Krebs, Messer Construction; Nancy Witschger and Cheryl Pannabecker, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; Abby Kump, Macy Inc.; Joey Saylor and Steven Almquist, Mount St. Joseph University; Kenneth James, Mercy Health; Joi Lindlau and Kelvin Hanger of Good Samaritan Hospital. Not pictured are 15-Year Partners: Bayley, CISE, Corporex, KMK Law, St. Vincent de Paul, and Xavier University.*

Phillip Hawkins represented 5-Year Partner The Christ Hospital. Recognized but not pictured are 5-Year Partners: Anchor Fluid Power, Corryville Catholic Elementary School, ThompsonHine LLC, and United Coalition for Animals.



New Partners and Sponsors Join CWSP

The Corporate Work Study Program welcomed 11 new businesses and organizations to the program this school year. They are the following:

- Benken
- Cincinnati Savings and Loan
- Crayons to Computers
- Feed The Soul
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
- Meals on Wheels
- OKI Regional Council of Governments
- pep promotions
- UC Health
- Visit Cincy



More Than a School: DePaul Cristo Rey Fosters Belonging and Purpose

There’s a lot of joyous commotion outside of DePaul Cristo Rey on the first day of school every August. Teachers, staff, and school leaders line up to clap, cheer and give high-fives as each student walks in the building. It sets the tone for the rest of the year where inclusion, support and fun go hand-in-hand with learning and working to give students a well-rounded high school experience.

“Vibrant is a good word to describe our school community,” says **Preston ’26**. “We all have a common goal to get to and through college, and that unites us. It creates bonds we carry outside of classes.” He loves the wide range of extracurricular and leadership opportunities available to DPCR students and has taken advantage of many of them including Game Club, Jesus Club, basketball, and track and field. He is president of Student Council and has helped plan and lead pep rallies, the annual talent show, and Black History Month activities. “One of my favorite events is the fall Multicultural Festival. I love the different food, games, costumes, and music,” he says.



Students model Quinceañera dresses during the annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Building Community



DPCR HAS:

26
Clubs

9
Athletic
Teams

FAVORITE TRADITIONS:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Spirit Week and Homecoming
- Talent Show
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- Multicultural Festival
- Catholic Schools Week
- Black History Month
- Pep Rallies
- Prom

Principal **Jim Schurrer** and Assistant Principal **Cathryn Wynn**



Students’ willingness to try new activities, take on leadership roles, and support one another is rooted in the culture of care that begins on day one and continues throughout the year. “What sets us apart from many other schools is that students feel safe and loved here,” says Assistant Principal

Cathryn Wynn. “With a small student body, we can get to know them individually. There is not a student in this building who isn’t known by name by one of the four academic leaders.”

Extracurricular options and student involvement have grown over the past few years. “We’ve seen more activities emerge because students are taking a greater role in shaping what they want to experience at school,” says Cathryn. “Additionally, the growth in students’ faith over their four years here impacts their desire to get involved and serve others.” Principal **Jim Schurrer** adds, “We ask all students to participate in events including service, and then their vibrancy spills out of this building to impact the greater community.”

DPCR’s culture of care extends to families as well. In November, DPCR hosted a community meal inviting parents and guardians. “We wanted to show our families how much they matter to us,” Cathryn explains. “This is more than a school building — it’s a community.”

“This is how you build a strong high school,” adds Jim. “We make students love coming to school and they, and their families, are proud to be part of our DPCR community.”

Graduate Success Program is a Lifeline of Support That Follows Alumni to College

Long after DePaul Cristo Rey students cross the commencement stage, a steady source of support walks with them into college life. The Graduate Success Program’s goal is that DPCR alumni make it to their college graduation. The program launched with the first graduating class in 2015, and Graduate Success Director **Brittany Ranz** has built it into a constant presence in the lives of DPCR alumni. “I want our alumni to know we will continue showing up for them,” Brittany says. “The support doesn’t stop at graduation.”

Brittany shares the program’s many resources as she acts as a built-in college advisor. She also travels to meet alumni face-to-face at their colleges. She has visited 31 colleges across the country, from the **University of Cincinnati** to **Georgetown University** in Washington, D.C. Even when only one or two alumni attend a particular school, she visits to ensure DPCR’s long-term commitment to every student.

There are four DPCR grads attending **North Carolina Central University** which she visited in October, including **Jamarion Williams ’25**. “Since I’ve started college, Mrs. Ranz has been especially encouraging and always checks in to make sure I’m doing well. Her visit to see us while we’re away at school meant a lot and reminded us that we’re supported every step of the way,” he says.

When meeting with students, Brittany always starts with a simple question: how are you? “I want them to feel seen and valued; it’s a hangout, not a meeting,” she says. Her goal is for alumni to feel comfortable leaning on the DPCR community.

Brittany supports students through everything from academic advising to emotional challenges. She has helped alumni navigate housing problems, roommate issues, financial aid complications, homesickness, and connecting with campus resources. Every Monday, she texts all alumni currently enrolled in college. The messages range from academic to-do lists tied to the college calendar to motivational tips and encouraging words. The texts also serve as an open invitation for alumni to reach out if they need help.

Obiyanna Staley ’25, a pre-nursing major at the University of Cincinnati, notices the contrast between DPCR alumni and her peers. “I see a lot of people dropping out because they don’t have the motivation or support DPCR gave me,” she says. “Some of my friends struggle to stay on track. Having this connection helps a lot.”



At North Carolina Central University **Brittany Ranz** (in back) connected with (left to right) **Jazmin Tubbs ’25**, **Jamarion Williams ’25**, and **Nyeemah Pickens ’25**.

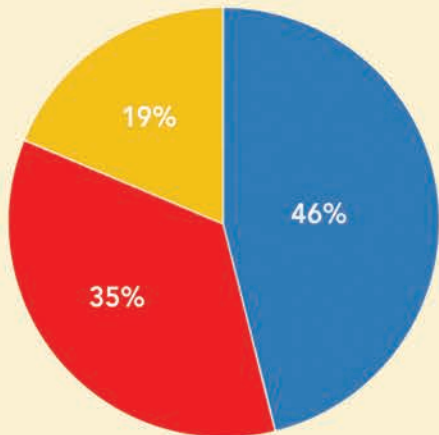
Microgrants Keep Grads in College

A single unexpected expense can derail a student’s college journey. When the Graduate Success Program launched, DPCR created the Graduate Success Fund to make sure that didn’t happen to our alumni.

Thanks to generous donors and endowed named scholarships, the fund provides microgrants for expenses ranging from textbooks to tuition gaps. Almost \$700,000 in microgrants has been awarded since 2015, helping hundreds of DPCR graduates persist to college completion.

Your support can be the reason a student stays enrolled and graduates. To learn how you can invest in student success through the Graduate Success Fund, please contact Vice President of Advancement **Sparkle Worley** at sparkle.worley@dpccr.net or 513.861.0600.

Microgrant Recipients
from 2017-Present
(By Application)



- Graduated
- Currently Enrolled
- No Longer Enrolled

Inside a Bruin School Year

Class of 2026 Sets School Record

The Class of 2026 has outdone all previous classes by becoming the earliest in DePaul Cristo Rey history to achieve 100 percent college acceptance. In a surprise November assembly, the entire school community celebrated the seniors for this accomplishment. They carry on a tradition set by the very first class, the Class of 2015, of every senior, every year earning college acceptance. There are 63 seniors in this graduating class; commencement is May 26.



Students “Lead with Love, Serve with Purpose”

Through service projects on and off campus, DPCR students have embraced this year’s schoolwide theme to “Lead with Love, Serve with Purpose.” Students and Campus Minister **Nikki DeWard** joined members of the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**, students from other local schools, and volunteers with the organization, **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, to build 40 beds for local children at the **Sisters of Charity Motherhouse** last fall (pictured at left). **Venus ‘26** led a September schoolwide service project to honor the legacy of 9/11 first responders. Students wrote heartfelt thank-you letters given with snacks to local firefighters and police officers. In December, the National Honor Society and Student Council teamed up to lead a schoolwide drive to collect canned goods, snacks, winter accessories, and school supplies for families at **Bethany House**, a shelter for women and children.

Sam Hubbard, Volunteers Create Action-Packed Afternoon for Freshmen

DPCR freshmen were challenged to use their critical thinking and professional skills in an action-packed afternoon hosted by volunteers from Corporate Work Study Partner **North American Properties (NAP)** and the **Sam Hubbard Foundation**. During NAP Cares Day in November, the students participated in an escape room, administrative Olympics, and a mock interview game show with former Cincinnati Bengal **Sam Hubbard** as one of the judges. He’s pictured center right with **Matt Kittell**, executive director of the **Sam Hubbard Foundation**.



Talent Show is Well-Loved Tradition

Bruins have many gifts inside and outside of the classroom and the DPCR Talent Show held this fall showcased the talents of students and staff. **Preston ‘26** and **Syberiah ‘26** served as MCs introducing the acts which included singers, dancers, actors, musicians, and a pre-prom fashion show in partnership with community organization, **Kenzie’s Closet**. Pictured are dancers (left to right): **Rut ‘29**, **Naziah ‘29** and **Jasmi ‘29**.



Please Save the Date
April 25, 2026

Event Aims to Raise \$1 Million

Rey of Light Chairs
Ed and Betty Stenger



Rey of Light is the premiere fundraising event at DePaul Cristo Rey and each year since its start in 2012, this scholarship benefit for students has exceeded its goal. With the generous support of new and returning event sponsors and DPCR friends, the goal this year is to raise \$1 million for the first time in the event’s history. Rey of Light 2026 will take place on April 25 at DPCR.

“Our \$1 million goal is a big reach but we’re going to do everything we can to get there,” says **Ed Stenger**, a DPCR Board member who is chairing this year’s Rey of Light with his wife, **Betty**. It’s the second year in a row the Stengers are leading the planning. “It’s the students who brought us back to do this,” says Ed. “They’re getting opportunities here they wouldn’t have anyplace else. We attended graduation last year and the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the students and families really impacted me. That’s why we’re back.”

Planning for Rey of Light started shortly after the school year began and Ed is quick to point out that it takes a lot of work by an entire committee of volunteers to execute the fun-filled night. “The planning committee does so much work behind the scenes, they deserve all the credit,” he says.

Rey of Light will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction bidding, followed by dinner and a live auction. You can help us reach the \$1 million goal by becoming a sponsor, donating a silent or live auction gift, or joining us and bringing your friends that night. Contact **Lisa Muething** at 513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net to learn more.

Five New Members Join Board of Directors

Five community leaders have joined the school’s Board of Directors. They are (pictured left to right): **Stephen Langenkamp**, chief operating officer at **MSA Design**; **Stephen Robertson**, retired executive and community volunteer; **Danielle D’Addesa**, associate general counsel at **Western & Southern Financial Group**; **Frederic (Fritz) Shadley**, attorney and partner at **UB Greensfelder LLP**; and **Todd Foley**, retired **Kroger** executive and community volunteer.



Golf Outing is Best Yet

The 14th annual DPCR Golf Classic was the best yet. The September outing at the **Western Hills Country Club** was a sellout with 128 golfers. It raised over \$110,000 for student academic and enrichment programs including the needs of the school's new golf team. **Dave Lockard**, coach of DPCR's golf team, was the Golf Outing chair and members of the team joined other volunteers supporting the event. **Cintas** was the presenting sponsor. Pictured at the event are (left to right): DPCR Board Member **Steve Robertson**, supporters **Susie and John Lane**, former Board Chair **Tim Stautberg**, and DPCR Assistant Director of Advancement **Lisa Muething**.



Sponsors, Students Build Bonds Over Lunch



Moments like this capture the heart of the Sponsor A Student program. At a fall luncheon, **Serenity '26** and her sponsors, **Harry Kangis** and **Julia Hawgood**, reconnected to share stories and life updates. Through this program, sponsors annually fund scholarships for specific students with opportunities to follow their growth, celebrate their achievements, and see the impact of their gift face-to-face at events like the fall luncheon. If you would like to learn more about sponsoring a student, contact **Lisa Muething** at lisa.muething@dpcr.net or 513.861.0600.

Spotlight on Those Who Lead and Serve

Across our campus, teachers, staff and leaders use their gifts in service to students and each other while carrying out the school mission, often quietly behind the scenes. Meet two of our unsung heroes.

DEBRA SELLERS



Director of Student Training for the Corporate Work Study Program
Joined DPCR in 2022

What is your favorite thing about working at DPCR?
Everything! I enjoy my team, the students, and the culture of DPCR.

What one word would you use to describe DPCR?
Joyful

What is your proudest accomplishment at DPCR?
My proudest accomplishment is having the freshmen award four grants to support local nonprofit organizations. The students researched and presented about the organizations in front of their peers, school leaders, and the nonprofits' leaders. This happened last spring through a collaboration with **Magnified Giving**.

Which of DPCR's value statements do you think best describes what you see every day?
"Embracing Belonging and Strengthening Community."
Understanding the value of belonging to a community of faith believers provides me with a strong sense of connectedness to God and family. These are two values that have been instilled in me since childhood. God is the head of my life and family is next. Keeping those values will sustain me as I move forward in life.

What do you wish more people knew about DPCR?
I wish more people knew the love, care and compassion that we pour into our students to ensure they have the best transition into the next phase of their young adult lives.

What do you do outside of DPCR?
I am the proud grandmother of two little ladies, Daviona and Dream. I am a youth ministry member at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Glendale. I enjoy my family, sports of all sorts, and reading.

CATHRYN WYNN



Assistant Principal
Joined DPCR in 2023

What is your favorite thing about working at DPCR?
The culture and community we have built over the years.

What one word would you use to describe DPCR?
Growing

What is your proudest accomplishment at DPCR?
My proudest recent moment was the community meal we hosted for our families this past November. It was an intentional decision to celebrate our families and provide a space for fellowship and service within our school community. I was truly pleased with how the event came together and grateful for the opportunity to support and uplift our families in a meaningful way.

Which of DPCR's value statements do you think best describes what you see every day?
The value I witness daily is "leading with love and serving with purpose." Our students come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds, yet within our school community, I consistently see God's love reflected through them. Whether they are supporting a fellow classmate, serving the surrounding communities through service projects, or assisting throughout the building, their actions speak volumes. It has truly been an honor to witness their growth and compassion in action.

What do you wish more people knew about DPCR?
I wish more people knew that DePaul Cristo Rey is more than a school – it is a community built on purpose, faith and opportunity. Our students come from all walks of life and show up each day with resilience and determination. DPCR is a place where students are known, supported, held to high expectations, and where faith and values are lived out daily, truly changing the trajectory of lives.

What do you do outside of DPCR?
I am a mother of five, a grandmother of two, a cheer coach, and a woman of God. I enjoy spending time with my family and getting lost in a good book. When I'm not with my family, I'm running my custom apparel business where I create and design personalized clothing. I also love to travel whenever I can—my goal is to see the world.

A Snapshot of Bruin Graduates: Where Are They Now?



Theresa Bruns
Class of 2015

With a 4.0 GPA, Theresa received her master's degree in social work from the **University of Kentucky** in December. She is a 2019 graduate of **Berea College** and works at the **Kentucky Cabinet For Health and Family Services**. Her next goal is to pass the Licensed Clinical Social Worker Exam.



Erika Serafina Hernandez
Class of 2015

Erika achieved her bachelor's degree in criminal justice this past December from **Miami University**. She is now pursuing her master's degree at the **University of Cincinnati**. She also recently became a United States citizen.



Destini Pace
Class of 2017

Destini is a graphic design major at **Cincinnati State Technical and Community College** and expects to graduate in 2027. She is a student stylist at the Cincinnati State Career Closet and for Title magazine. She is also a vocalist for Blacklight Productions.



Dayna Bernardo Mendes
Class of 2022

A **Northern Kentucky University** student, Dayna expects to graduate in December 2026 with a major in social work and a minor in social justice. She holds leadership positions with Theta Phi Alpha Sorority, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and the Latinos Avanzando Mentorship Program (LAMP).



Trinity Clide
Class of 2023

Trinity is an active student at the **University of Cincinnati** where she majors in Interdisciplinary Studies: Law and Society. She expects to graduate in May 2027. She is involved with the McNair Scholars Program, University Honors Program, Future Black Leaders Inc, and as a college ambassador. She has interned with the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court.



Mohamed Barry
Class of 2024

Mohamed is a two-time scholarship award winner at **Central State University**. He is majoring in computer science.



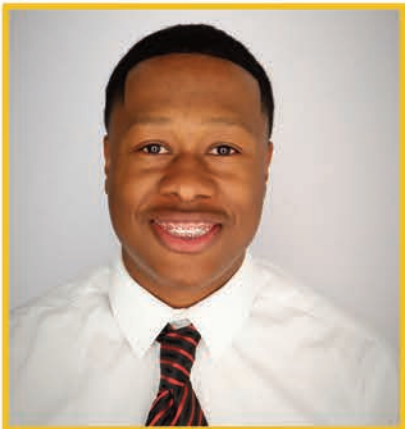
Shannon (Drew) Mills
Class of 2019

Congratulations to Shannon on her recent marriage! She works as a transaction processor at **Fidelity Investments**. She is a graduate of **Cincinnati State Technical and Community College** and holds an associate's degree in pastry arts technology.



Cherie Applebury
Class of 2020

Cherie completed her bachelor's degree in educational studies from **Mount St. Joseph University** in December where she is now pursuing her master's degree." At the Mount she serves as the diversity coordinator for Mirror of the Minority and has been honored with the Dave Scharfenberger Service Award and the Leadership in Diversity and Inclusion Award.



Avi Hocker
Class of 2021

Avi expects to graduate this spring from the **University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business** where he is a finance major. He works at **JP Morgan Chase** as an associate banker, and is interning at **Northwestern Mutual** as a financial planner.



Yerdley Zeledon Orozco
Class of 2024

An electrical engineering major at the **University of Dayton**, Yerdley completed a study abroad program in Costa Rica. He is an ambassador for the Multiethnic Engineers Program and the Multiethnic Education Center.



Yahya Tall
Class of 2025

Yahya is studying business administration at the **University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business**. He is involved with the UC Business Fellows and Bearcat Buddies. He is also a volunteer at the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative's Saturday Hoops program.



Aaliyah Collins
Class of 2025

An exercise science/pre-physical therapy major at **Bellarmine University**, Aaliyah is the manager for the women's basketball team and involved with the Pioneer Scholars program for first-generation students.