



BUILD CHARACTER ▪ EDUCATE THE MIND ▪ TRANSFORM LIVES

MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

“... has nurtured generations” *The Wall Street Journal*.

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In its April 30, 2010 issue *The Wall Street Journal* reported that:

*“Manhattan Christian Academy, tucked in a Dominican neighborhood in upper Washington Heights, has nurtured generations of poor, immigrant children, turning out many high-school graduates and career professionals.”**

Here are more quotes for your consideration:

- “I don’t think people will ever realize how encouraging their gifts are to us. They enable us to visit family, buy Christmas presents and pay bills!” Christie Collver, Middle School Science.



- “God used you to help us care for our family so we can nurture these children. I am grateful for you. God bless you.” Jay Faith Gilbert, MCA Physical Education Teacher and Athletic Director .
- “This bonus allowed us to fix our roof,” Maria Ortiz, Lower School.
- “Thank you for allowing God to work through you to ease my financial burden and allow me to pay my rent,” Teacher, Lower School.
- “Working at MCA is a ministry of compassion and love. The gift I received is an awesome blessing, unexpected and greatly appreciated.” Elizabeth Suggs, Lower School.

**The Wall Street Journal*, April 30, 2010, “Dobbs Eyeing Political Run, Woos Tough Audience” by Peter Wallsten.



We are thankful for these comments but especially for your kindness in sustaining Manhattan Christian Academy (MCA) to make all this happen as we begin our thirty-fourth season. We are delighted to report that our Trustees authorized a \$93,000 distribution from the Fairness Fund (described below) for our teachers and reflected in the quotes. Together, we have worked together to advance the success of an authentic place.

Here are some milestones to share with you:



- 2010-2011 enrollment is 328 students, up from 290 at the beginning of last year and the largest student body since 9-11.
- Unrestricted donations increased last year by 115%, and total donations at \$520,000 were a record.
- MCA students won the New York State title in a national nutrition and exercise contest sponsored by the NFL and the National Dairy Council.
- MCA Middle School History Teacher Bethany Campbell won the coveted Ignatius Educators Award from New York City's Jesuit Xavier High School based on students' essays.
- MCA's Girls Varsity Basketball Team won its league championship under fifteen year veteran Middle School Coach and Science Teacher Christie Collver.

We ask you to review the following opportunities and help to advance MCA this year.

MCA 'HOUR' INFO SESSIONS: *Plan to Attend/Invite Friends*

Recent 'Hour' attendees said it "warms your heart to see kids lives transformed", "truly moving, what a nurturing outpost in the desert," "best info session, ever, for a small school", and "you have truly touched me." Please invite your friends and/or make plans to attend. 'Hours' are scheduled on the third Tuesday of every month during the school year. We will work around your schedule should you have a group which would like to come at another time.



2010-11: THREE FINANCIAL APPEALS:

1. **MCA OPERATING FUND, *Covering the Mission Cost Between Tuition Income and Expenses***
MCA Operating Fund donations pay the costs for MCA which tuition and fees do not cover. Our average revenue per student last year was \$3,500. The average cost per student was \$6,000. The projected budget gap for 2010-11 is \$350,000.

2. **MCA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING, *an Opportunity for the Deserving***
For Scholarship and Tuition Assistance funding, please consider a gift to the Josephine T. Robertson Fund or the Grace Fund. These two funds offer MCA access to the most needy and worthy.
 - *THE JOSEPHINE TUCKER ROBERTSON FUND FOR URBAN CHILDREN*, founded by her friend and MCA Advisor Judith Biggs in June, 2010 in memory of Josie's life and service, is dedicated to fund MCA's need based scholarships. Over 60% of MCA students receive some sort of tuition assistance, and contributions to this fund help in that regard. The 2010-2011 Goal for the Robertson Fund is \$250,000.

 - *THE GRACE FUND* allows children whose parents do not have the ability, for whatever reason, to bring them to MCA. This fund has the benefit of lifting a child to a better place with the recognition of a community leader's nomination. Sponsoring a child with a donation to the Grace Fund covers the full expense of his or her MCA education. That cost is \$6,000 and you can consider it notionally a gift of \$3,500 to the family and \$2,500 to the MCA Operating Fund. Our goal is to have 25 Grace Scholars at MCA by the beginning of the 2011 School year.

Also on dedicated scholarship funding, the Bowery Mission's Kids With a Promise Young Scholars Program doubled its size from six to thirteen students serving the poorest of the poor. These children attend MCA and also receive tutoring, camp visits, and other benefits from the Bowery Mission. The Bowery Mission is renown in New York City and recognized as a leading faith-based charity having significant impact in the City.

3. **THE FAIRNESS FUND, *Helping MCA Faculty to 'Afford' to Do This Work***
The Fairness Fund was established in 2007 with a matching gift from the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation of New York (PJSF). PJSF learned that MCA teachers earn approximately 45% of the New York City Department of Education starting pay scale. It established this fund with a four to one or 25% match to allow MCA to raise funds to address this issue.

MCA was able to earn the full matching gift by raising over \$400,000 for the fund. We have made two distributions with the first in 2008 as a \$5000 teacher bonus totaling \$100,000 and the second this month referenced above of \$93,000 in bonuses and merit pay raises: Seven faculty members with an average service tenure of 9.42 years received \$49,256 or 53% of the award. The balance went to the remaining fourteen teachers also as bonuses and merit pay raises.



We ask donors to consider assisting us in replenishing this year's \$93,000 distribution. We have the objective of raising our starting salary from \$21,000 to \$35,000. This would allow our faculty to afford to live nearby and meet financial obligations such as repaying student loans. The New York City Department of Education starting salary is \$45,530.

Regarding our governance and boards, Russ Reynolds is beginning his second year as a Trustee and Dave Bechtel became a Trustee during the summer. We are most appreciative for this group's oversight and keen sense of duty to our mission. Pastor Bill Devlin of the Manhattan Bible Church, with which MCA shares facilities, is convening a Pastor's Board and nominees from churches in our area and from external constituents' congregations are welcome.

Working together, we hope to have a year which will advance our mission once more and live up to the *Wall Street Journal's* observation of MCA's nurturing generations . . . *for many more generations.*

On behalf of the students, parents, faculty & staff,



2010-11 Gifts may be made by charging a Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card as well as by check. We are able to charge bank cards monthly or quarterly.

Please call me at any time to review these and other options.

The MCA DVD enclosed is the gift of MCA Advisor Malcolm Pray. Please share it!