

What is a Dream Builder?

At PTM, our monthly donors are better known as Dream Builders. These partners advance the mission of the ministry year-round through automated, recurring donations. Sound easy enough? It is!

These monthly gifts give us a head start on budgeting, dreaming up new goals for expansion, and advancing our mission to serve more students and families around Nashville. If spreading your financial support throughout the year feels beneficial to you, we would love to invite you to become a monthly donor through Dream Builders.

When donating through our website (at www.prestontaylorministries.org/donate) just select "Make this a recurring donation" to set up your automated payment plan! As a Dream Builder, you play an integral role in allowing PTM students to develop a love for learning, build joy-filled friendships, and discover their God-inspired dreams.

Thank you to our new 2020 Dream Builders:

DeeDee and Steve Brickner
Jenny and Chris Camp
Jonathan Conley
Logan Guy
Madi Hatfield
Ashley and Jacob Higgins
Laurel Krodel
Adam Litowsky
Bri and Jon McClung

Catherine and Patrick Moore
Robyn and Derek Moore
Warren Norman
Allison and Richard Roberts
Abigail and Josh Rodriguez
Beth and David Smith
Debbie and Trey Wince
Mariah and Christopher Williams



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PTM POST

WINTER 2021

2021-2022

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Chan Sheppard, *Executive Director*

Letter from the Executive Director

On Wednesday mornings at 9:00, Bruce reports to his volunteer assignment at the Wilson Center. He picks up PTM's debit card, five keys, and puts gas in five of PTM's vehicles. Through Bruce's unusual volunteer commitment, we can see a few signs of the times.

One, we have a host of creative volunteers looking for ways to give during a pandemic. I am thankful for the offering of time, reflective of a generous community and a heartfelt desire to do anything to help.

Two, we have a lot of vehicles that are employed on a daily basis. With school happening virtually, we have been picking up students at home rather than school. Also, we have worked to keep our buses at less than half capacity to promote social distancing. I am thankful for a consistent and compassionate crew of drivers that are sincerely an extension of PTM's ministry. We have students riding on our vehicles seven days a week. Of the eight vehicles that PTM owns, five of those have been donated, further pointing to a generous base of support (the other three provided by significant financial gifts from donors).

Three, the in-person opportunities for learning, playing sports, and going on field trips are critical for our youth. Not only for academic development, but for social-emotional learning, peer group formation, and opportunities for hope. I am thankful that with your help we can continue to provide "touches" for the youth we serve.

I hope you will enjoy reading in this newsletter ways that PTM continues to strive towards helping our youth grow in connectedness. I cannot say "thank you" enough for the ways you help make PTM possible.

With a grateful heart,

Chan



Recruit a LEAPER

Collin Spindle

Since 2014, 25 LEAPers have started a journey at PTM. Each LEAPER is given a unique full-time position at PTM. LEAPers are each given one or two formal titles to reflect their role, such as, Theatre Director, Sports Director, Volunteer Associate, Assistant Site Director, Assistant High School Director, Resource Coordinator, Assistant Development Director, Student Enterprise Director and more. During their LEAP year, we commit to helping him or her grow professionally as they move on from PTM.

Here are some LEAP stats:

- 22 were women and 3 were men
- 10 were Tennesseans
- 1 was engaged during his LEAP year
- All 25 worked with students in at least one part of their job
- 9 went on to work part time or full time for PTM
- Over 100 people have applied for the LEAP year program

Our next cohort begins July 2021 and lasts until May 2022. Would you help us find the next cohort of LEAPers?

Here is what you need to know. LEAPers (age 18-28) are paid \$750/mo and live for free in PTM's LEAP house.

The three pillars of the LEAP program are urban ministry training, professional development, and community. Overall, we desire LEAPers to grow spiritually in and through their relationship with Christ.



If you have ever worked with a LEAPER, you will know how special they are. If you haven't worked with a LEAPER, trust that so much of the good work happening at PTM is due to LEAPers' commitment to God's calling.

Please check out our website to learn more or reach out to Collin (collin@prestontaylorministries.org) for a link to the application.

Next Steps

Jaakan Thompson

In the fall, we began a new program for PTM juniors and seniors called Next Steps. This program is designed to help this group of students process, plan, and prepare for their next steps after high school. We are so excited to have 10 students participating in this program during its first year and are excited to see how it continues to grow and help our high school students navigate their futures.

We have a wonderful cast of volunteers that include board members and long-time PTM supporters; they truly are the Dream Team! Each student is paired with a mentor whose role is to help develop action steps that allow them to be held accountable for achieving their goals.

One of the big highlights from Next Steps thus far was seeing one of our volunteers gift a student a car, which allows them to get to work and school, impacting them well beyond the length of this program.

Beyond that, former PTM students have returned to speak to our current students about the importance of focusing on and preparing for the future. Our hope is that students would see the benefit of their work, be impacted by the relationships built, and want to pour into others.

Students in Next Steps are learning the importance of planning for the future. They are getting a chance to not only dream, but see what it takes to make dreams happen. Most importantly they are not doing this alone. They have someone who is committed to their dream

every step of the way. That is probably my favorite part. Each student has a mentor who cares about them and stands beside them as they take their *Next Step*

Life and Basketball

Seany Deason and Anselie Pascall

Each year, I find myself looking forward to basketball season at PTM. Being able to coach our Middle School Girls' team has been such a highlight in the midst of a crazy time. I get a kick out of coaching the team because I never know if I am just teaching basketball or if what they are learning will translate into the hard lessons of life. The girls have worked so hard considering the current climate of racial injustice and COVID-19 restrictions. Mentally, these girls are pushing through a lot of barriers in order to be the absolute best versions of themselves.

These girls have taught me what it means to give something your all, no matter what and to keep moving, even when the odds are stacked against you. At the end of an exciting win or a disappointing loss, they are shouting out what they saw great in one another and looking ahead to what can be better next game.

I am so proud to be a part of a team and a coaching staff who empowers girls to be strong women of God and the best athletes they can be.



Christmas morning through PTM's Nativity Store. Sixteen of our students and their families came together to produce PTM's first ever Christmas play that premiered for family and friends via Zoom. To top it all off, staff, students and volunteers picked up 725 Christmas trees this year, raising over \$20,000 to provide enriching experiences for PTM students.

Despite the chaos and uncertainty of what is going on around us, we at PTM have been continually reminded that we are not alone in our mission and that there are so many people rallying around our community.

Thank you for your support in 2020. We are excited for what is to come in 2021!

PRAY



Please pray that the Lord would continue to use PTM to bring our students into the hope of a relationship with Him.

GIVE



You can give online or by mailing a check to our P.O. Box. 90442 Nashville, TN 37209

VOLUNTEER



Check out prestontaylorministries.org/volunteer to get plugged in!

2020 Holiday Round-Up

In the midst of an atypical holiday season, we were still able to experience joy in community alongside PTM students and their families. The highlights? Another successful year of Nativity Store, our very first (virtual) Christmas Play, and a record-breaking year for Christmas Tree Pick-Up.

With your help, 63 families shopped for gifts to open on

Check out our 2020 Annual Donor Report on our website: www.prestontaylorministries.org

Jeffrey, 3rd grade

My favorite thing about PTM is: getting to hang out with my friends!

My favorite snack is: chips and candy!



Keyonna, Kindergarten

When I grow up, I want to be a: Teacher

At PTM, I like to: make crafts and read stories!

Carter, 1st grade

My favorite snack is: Goldfish

When I grow up, I want to be a: Firefighter



Amirah, 2nd grade

At PTM, I like to: play games and eat snacks!

If I could travel anywhere, I would go to: Hawaii