



NEWSLETTER



Fostering Stronger Relationships for Student Success

The Office of Community Partnerships plays a critical role in fostering relationships between Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and external stakeholders, including businesses, community organizations, faith-based groups, and volunteers. Under the new leadership of Dr Meri Robinson, our team has focused on increasing the effectiveness, transparency, and engagement of our partnerships to better serve our schools and students.

This newsletter outlines the Office's status since the new leadership transition and the initiatives we have implemented during the first 7 months of SY2025.

Key Accomplishments During the First 7 Months of SY2025

1. Enhancing Community Engagement & Partnerships

- **Annual Drive and Dash:** Distributed over 11,500 backpacks to students in need.
- **Secured Discounted Supplies:** Partnered with vendors to provide significant discounts on school supplies.
- **Secured a \$5 million in-kind donation** to renovate 47 school libraries. One of the largest private donations in PGCPS history.
- **Raised over \$57,000 in in-kind donations** from 11 community partners for schools and students, including couches, LEGO sets, socks, and supplies impacting over 100 schools.
- **Launched the Community Partnership Outreach & Donation Form** to formally track contributions and engagements.
- **Attended 8 Community Events**

2. Strengthening Volunteer Engagement

- **Organized the First-Ever Volunteer Site Coordinator Training**, covering:
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Administrative Procedures & Board Policies
 - Partnering with Community Organizations
 - SMS System Training
- **Increased Strategic Partnership Site Visits:** Required the Strategic Partnership Specialist to conduct site visits to assess and strengthen partner programs.

3. Digital & Website Enhancements

- **Website Redesign:** Developed a comprehensive website plan to improve transparency and accessibility.
- **Implemented the Inquiry Form:** Received 70 potential partner inquiries, leading to 8 new District Partners and 10 new or extended MOUs.
- **Created a Volunteer Site Coordinator Resource Hub:** Supports over 200 coordinators with training materials, best practices, and process guidelines.
- **Launched the Partnership Spotlight:** A monthly feature highlighting outstanding partners. Currently producing 4 videos, with the first video scheduled for release the week of March 3rd.

4. Professional Development & Strategic Growth

- **National Assembly for Family Engagement in Education Conference:** Attended to bring back best practices in community engagement.
- **Grant Writing Training:** Strengthened the team's ability to seek external funding.
- **Quarterly Strategy & Innovation Workshops:** Two-day planning and training sessions that:
 - Reflect on past quarter's progress
 - Set priorities for upcoming quarters
 - Strengthen relationships by hosting meetings in partner spaces
 - Book Study on 'Backable': Focused on teaching team members how to present ideas persuasively to secure buy-in.

5. Collaboration with Other Departments

- **Addressing Absenteeism:** Partnered with multiple departments to support schools struggling with chronic absenteeism.
- **Expanding Faith-Based Partnerships:** Engaged faith-based organizations in a tutoring campaign to support students.

The Office of Community Partnerships remains committed to fostering stronger relationships, increasing engagement, and maximizing resources to support PGCPS students and schools.

As we continue to build on these successes, we invite new partners, volunteers, and stakeholders to join us in making an impact.

*Stay connected and involved
—your partnership makes a difference!*

Office of Community Partnership Team

Dr Meri Robinson, Supervisor

Mrs Retha Carr, Administrative Coordinator

Mrs Janice Cook, Volunteer & Community Outreach Specialist

Mr Ronald Wilson, Strategic Partnerships Specialist