



Pope John Paul II HIGH SCHOOL

5608 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503 - (360) 438-7600
www.popejp2hs.org

Dear Friends,

My name is Spencer Humberd, and I am a 16-year-old junior at Pope John Paul II High School.



"A family is a relationship between people who love each other and put each other's needs above their own."

I became a part of my family through the foster program and ended up with the greatest mother I could ever ask for. My mom is a teacher at Mountain View Early Learning Center. Together we adopted my two-year-old brother, Wesley. Our baby sister is 15 months old. When people ask me what it's like to be adopted, I ask them, "What is it like to be a part of any family?" because to me there is no difference. **A family is a relationship between people who love each other and put each other's needs above their own.**

Halfway through the second semester of my freshman year, I transferred from Olympia High School because it wasn't a good fit for me. I was always in trouble with teachers. I talked back a lot, skipped classes, and even got into fights. I didn't have any ambition or plans for my future.

The only thing I had going for me was sports. At the time, I played club soccer year round, and I loved it. When I play soccer, I feel free. I feel like it's more than just a game, it's an art. Every canvas, every play is different, and I can contribute to each play and every single goal. On a team, everyone is considered a part of the play. No matter what happens, we can always feel good because we are there for each other. It's like a family.

It was a teammate of mine who told me about Pope John Paul II High School. Two days later I found myself shadowing Joe Oczkewicz and really enjoying the school. Four days later I was enrolled and had set a course to turn my life around.

At JP II I was welcomed by everyone, something I wasn't expecting. All of the teachers gave me extra focus and got me caught up in each of my classes. It was easy to tell that the teachers all genuinely enjoyed their jobs, because they always made sure everyone in class was involved in the lesson. I could see the difference on my very first day, and it just continued.



Spencer (right) and teammates enjoy soccer and sightseeing in Spain.



"Today, I am happier than I have ever been."

Last year, I met with Mrs. Allin to talk about special accommodations because I have ADHD. She went to all my teachers individually to talk about what was going on with me. She helped them understand that I might need extra help in certain areas, and as a result, they give me extra time for assignments when I need it. That was impressive to me! They were already giving extra attention to everyone else in the class, because that's the way they are, but they found time to give me even more.

Every student at JP II benefits from this same individualized care. Just a few weeks ago, I was sitting in Spanish class when I heard Mrs. Antles yell, "Call 9-1-1!" One of my fellow students in another classroom had a medical emergency. Everyone stopped what they were doing to help the student in crisis. Senior Emily White got on the phone to call for

emergency support. I went back and forth from the classroom to the front desk to keep them up to date. All of the teachers were out of their classrooms, checking on the situation and also checking on their classes. When the emergency crew arrived, students and teachers were there to answer their questions. Those who didn't have a specific task prayed. **Everyone came together to help the one person who was most in need at the time. Like a team. Like a family.**

Today, I am happier than I ever have been. I enjoy going to school. I enjoy interacting with the teachers and students. I enjoy learning. Because of my own experience being new and being welcomed, I am more able to connect with new people who come to JP II. I have learned how to have fun and still get my work done. I'm doing better academically than before, even though I'm involved in more activities in and out of school. I play on three soccer teams outside of JP II. I play baseball and basketball for the school, and both teams qualified for districts last year! I am also a member of JP II's choir and new baking club.

In the future, I would like to go into the military to work in the military police. Before I came to JP II, I was thinking about being a mechanic or combat engineer. I'm still interested, but I am open to other ideas as well. A lot of colleges and scholarship programs visit JP II, and that exposure has opened up a bunch of opportunities for me and expanded my horizons.

JP II gave me individualized care when I needed it the most and allowed me to become an important part of something much bigger than a school, something more like a family. **I invite you to become a part of our JP II family, too, by making a contribution to the JP II scholarship fund and helping another student like me.**



"Choir is just like a team sport, you are a part of something bigger than yourself."

In gratitude,

Spencer Humberd
Class of 2021

2019 ANNUAL APPEAL

GOAL:
\$160,000

\$105,000
Raised Once
the Matching
Challenge is
Met

\$45,000
Raised
to Date

\$143,000
Raised In 2018

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF JP11

The Annual Appeal is a family affair. Spencer worked tirelessly to craft an honest and compelling letter. Senior Lauryn Johnson designed the beautiful graphics. Friends and staff members stepped forward to help them edit and refine. At the same time, our Board of Directors pledged the first dollars to this fundraising effort. With 100% participation, they have already raised \$45,000 among themselves. And now you have an important role to play.

We must increase dollars raised for scholarships so we can continue to welcome students from all backgrounds as our enrollment grows. That means we must encourage new donors to step forward and staunch supporters to increase their gifts. This year's matching challenge is designed to do just that. If you are a new donor, your gift will be matched. If you have given in the past, but not last year, your gift will be matched. If you are making a bigger gift than you did in 2018, the increase will be matched. Help us ensure that students like Spencer will always be a part of the JP11 family. Answer the challenge today!

Peace,



Ron Edwards, President



Need-based scholarships supported by the Annual Appeal are so important to the diversity of the JP11 community.

“Another difference I noticed right away was the diversity of the students, especially considering the size of the school. That diversity keeps me in touch with other backgrounds.”

- Spencer

OUR AMAZING STUDENTS

- 100%** of four-year students give 80 hours of community service
- 62%** of students receive financial aid
- 32%** of students come from diverse backgrounds
- 87%** of students are involved in athletics
- 59%** of students are involved in the arts
- 60%** graduate with honors

MATCHING CHALLENGE

- Benefactor** (\$10,000+)
- Patron** (\$5,000-9,999)
- Principal** (\$2,500-4,999)
- Faculty** (\$1,000-2,499)
- Eagle** (\$500-999)

*Are you a new donor to JP11?
Have you given in the past, but not recently?
Are you making a bigger gift than you did last year?*

Your donation could have TWICE the impact! We are grateful to Dr. Jay & Carla Rudd and Dr. Bruce & Carol Cooper who have pledged to match each of these gifts up to \$30,000.

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED HELPS PROVIDE A NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP!

Yes! I want to help students get the quality education they need to follow their dreams, and lead our communities into the future.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MY EMPLOYER WILL MATCH MY GIFT!

Employer: _____

Please contact me to discuss the process for transferring a gift of appreciated stock or other securities

GIVING AMOUNT

- I'd like to become a JP11 Leadership Circle Donor at the following level:
 - Benefactor (\$10,000+) Patron (\$5,000-9,999) Principal (\$2,500-4,999)
 - Faculty (\$1,000-2,499) Eagle (\$500-999)
- I'd like to make 8 monthly gifts of: \$ _____ Nov '19 - Jun '20 (Reminders will be sent.)
- I'd like to contribute to the JP11 Annual Appeal today with a single gift of:
 - \$400 \$300 \$200 \$100 \$50 Other: \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD

- Bill my:   Card #: _____
Expires: _____
3-Digit Code: _____ Signature: _____
- I'd like to pay by check. (Please make checks payable to JP11 High School.)

Pope John Paul II High School is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.