



JPA Welcomes Derrick Buckingham

Welcome New Director of Development, Derrick Buckingham

Derrick Buckingham comes to JPA after a long and successful career in executive search. In fact, he was leading JPA's search for a new development director when Karen Foley popped the question: **"Why not you?"**

At first, Derrick was taken aback. It hadn't been on his mind to change jobs, much less careers. He'd originally been intrigued enough by JPA to ask Karen about serving on the Board or volunteering. But her question put a whole new spin on things. As he thought about it, though, several things became clear. "I've had many conversations with friends and family about the situation in Chicago," he recalled. They would talk about how "somebody has to jump in" and help kids exposed to guns, gangs, and domestic violence.

As he learned more about JPA, Karen's question gave him pause. JPA's mission was compelling. "It's what grabbed me. If I don't do it, who will?" Having a nine-year old of his own had him "thinking about other kids who don't have a support system. They don't have access to the schools my daughter goes to." After talking with his wife, they agreed being at JPA would be a great opportunity to help Chicago's most vulnerable population.

Personable, open, and with a great sense of humor, Derrick looks forward to enabling JPA to help those kids he worries about. He's inspired by the opportunity to have a direct impact on the lives of so many who lack the advantages we often take for granted. And he's eager to get to know the JPA family in the process.

Some quick facts about Derrick

- I was born and raised in Gary, IN. (No...I did not know Michael Jackson!)
- I've been married to my wife Cheryl for almost 15 years.
- I have a 9-year old daughter, Alexandra.
- I am a graduate of Purdue University. Boiler Up!
- I enjoy music very much and my hobby is playing guitar, mainly electric. I own seven guitars. (Yes, seven...my wife is still in disbelief.)

To have a conversation or make an appointment with Derrick, drop him an email at derrickb@jpachicago.org or give him a call at 312-698-6937.