

## Protect The Hersheys' Children, Inc.

PO Box 153, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 • 717-298-0105 • [info@protecthersheychildren.org](mailto:info@protecthersheychildren.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**October 12, 2010**

**Contact: Protect The Hersheys' Children, Inc.**

**Phone: 717-298-0150**

**Email: [info@protecthersheychildren.org](mailto:info@protecthersheychildren.org)**

**Web: [www.protecthersheychildren.org](http://www.protecthersheychildren.org)**

# PROTECT THE HERSHEY'S CHILDREN BLASTS CORBETT FOR FAILURE TO PUT NEEDY CHILDREN ABOVE POLITICS

**HARRISBURG:** Protect The Hersheys' Children, Inc. (PHC) bashed Republican gubernatorial nominee Tom Corbett today for putting his own political agenda ahead of the well-being of children. PHC, a nonpartisan watchdog group seeking reform of the Hershey Trust, was reacting to the announcement that Corbett had launched a belated investigation into the Hersey Trust and their use of charity funds to purchase a golf course.

“The Milton Hershey School has been plagued by problems for years, and we have been bringing these problems to the attention of Tom Corbett to no avail,” said PHC. “Corbett has ignored us time and time again until now, when he finds it politically advantageous to launch an investigation to generate positive headlines while running for Governor.”

Recent articles have questioned the motives and raised conflicts of interest relating to Corbett's investigation:

- At the center of the abuses by the Hershey Trust is a golf course which was purchased and used to make money for trust members. “The expenditure of \$17 million on a golf course and clubhouse by the trustees of the Hershey School ... has resulted in an investigation.” [Philadelphia *Inquirer*, 10/8/10]
- The [HE&R] PAC attached to the Hershey School, a for-profit subsidiary “...contributed \$4,150 to the Friends of Tom Corbett ...” [Philadelphia *Inquirer*, 10/8/10]

-- more --

## **Protect The Hersheys' Children, Inc.**

PO Box 153, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 • 717-298-0105 • [info@protecthersheychildren.org](mailto:info@protecthersheychildren.org)

- Close political allies of Tom Corbett are heavily involved on the Board of Directors of the Hershey School, such as former Attorney General LeRoy Zimmerman, “The investigation also creates a political tension .... the head of the Hershey Trust is a statewide Republican power broker. Several other prominent Republicans, among them former Gov. Tom ridge, sit on Hershey-related boards.” [Philadelphia *Inquirer*, 10/8/10]

As Attorney General, Corbett has responsibility for the oversight of Pennsylvania’s charities. Corbett has ignored the requests of the PHC to investigate the Hershey Trust for six years, turning a blind eye to the abuses happening there.

“The timing of Tom Corbett’s announcement that he is investigating the Hershey Trust is laughable,” said PHC. “For six years, Corbett belittled our group, ignored our concerns and refused to meet with the parents of expelled children to discuss their concerns. Now that it could benefit him to launch an investigation, he decides the time is right. I hope all voters see this as the flimsy political ruse it truly is.”

For more information, please visit [www.protecthersheychildren.org](http://www.protecthersheychildren.org).

# # #