

FIGHT FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST CLASS OF FELLOWS

Longtime DC-Based Nonprofit Awards \$100,000 to Four Organizations to Advance the Professional Development of Young Adults from Underrepresented Groups

Recipients of Fellowship Award Include Dreams for Kids DC, DC SCORES, The Washington Ballet & Girls on the Run DC

WASHINGTON, DC – April 29, 2021 - Fight For Children, a pillar in the DC philanthropic community for more than 30 years, today announced the inaugural recipients of the **Fight For Children Fellowship Award**. Four organizations were selected to receive \$25,000 to recruit and hire promising young adults to launch their career in the field of Sports-Based Youth Development (SBYD).

“Congratulations to all the recipients of the inaugural Fight For Children Fellowship,” said **Dr. James Kallusky, Chief Program Officer of Fight For Children**. “These organizations demonstrated their commitment to diversify the sector and build a strong pipeline for young adults interested in pursuing a career in this field.”

The award is part of Fight For Children’s broader effort to stabilize and strengthen SBYD organizations throughout the DC Metropolitan area. **The Fight For Children Institute**, launched in 2020, is the region’s first and only youth sports collaborative, providing capacity building, training, technical assistance and financial support to SBYD nonprofits providing out-of-school programming to more than 20,000 youth throughout the area.

The inaugural class of Fellows includes **Moya Chang, Chanel R. Dews, Carlos Granados** and **Asia Rodgers**. Bios can be found at <https://www.fightforchildren.org/news-and-resources-2/>.

“These organizations were among the hardest hit by the pandemic,” said **Keith Gordon, President and CEO of Fight For Children**. “By investing in high-quality talent, we’re really investing in the long-term growth of the SBYD sector.”

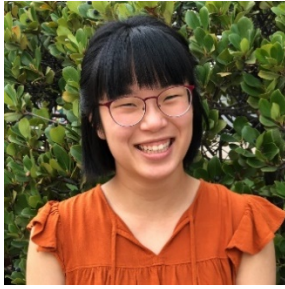
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About Fight For Children

Fight For Children has been a pillar in the DC philanthropic community more than 30 years. Founded in 1990 by the late Joseph E. Robert Jr. with the mission of improving the lives of children in the nation’s capital, Fight For Children has rallied leaders in business, education, government, and philanthropy to achieve significant improvements in healthcare, education, and policy reform. Through a combination of direct service programming, capacity-building and financial support, Fight For Children has impacted the lives of more than 400,000 children. The fight continues today with a mission to help individuals, organizations, and communities harness the power of sports for social change. For more information visit www.fightforchildren.org.

For media inquiries contact Keith Gordon, President & CEO at keith.gordon@fightforchildren.org.

Biographical Information: Inaugural Class of Fight For Children Fellows



Moya Chang, Dreams for Kids DC

Moya is a 21-year-old who is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Psychology at California State University Fullerton, with a personal focus on how recreational activities can positively influence the mental health of kids. She has been working with youth ages 7-18 in educational, sports, and artistic capacities for the past 6 years; past jobs include Youth Rock Climbing Coach, Community College Tutor, Afterschool Programs Teacher, and Substitute Teacher.

During her time as an intern for Dreams For Kids DC (DFKDC), she coordinated 15 virtual collaborations with local and global disability-focused organizations, taught 5 DFKDC Digital Zoom Clinics, and achieved 600 followers on the DFKDC Los Angeles Branch Instagram in less than 5 months. As a Fight For Children Fellow, she is most excited to expand the reach of DFKDC's mission to Los Angeles and beyond. Moya consistently strives to create ability- inclusive environments, in person and digitally, so kids have a safe space to achieve their personal goals. The "special magic" that can be felt when she witnesses young people growing and believing in themselves is why it has been so rewarding for her to work with youth for all these years.



Chanel R. Dews, The Washington Ballet

Chanel is a native of Prince George's County Maryland. She is an alum of Suitland High School where she majored in Dance in the Visual and Performing Arts Program. Following high school, Chanel enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where she majored in Dance and Choreography. She has also received rigorous ballet and pointe training with The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus at THEARC and Paula Brown's Performing Arts Center.

Since returning to the DMV, Chanel has performed professionally with local artist, Brave Williams, Capitol Movement Inc., and Monica Warr's Adult Company. Chanel teaches dance classes for outreach programs in the Washington, DC area and for Paula Brown Performing Arts Center. Chanel has returned The Washington School of Ballet as a Fight For Children Fellow and Pre-Ballet Division faculty member for the 2020-21 school year. During her Fellowship, Chanel will serve as both trainer and mentor to talented students studying ballet. Activities will include: mentoring young people from an underserved community and delivery of ballet training based on proven curriculum and appropriate pedagogy.



Carlos Granados, DC SCORES

Carlos holds a BS in biology from the University of the District of Columbia. He has received training from Manchester City's Young Leaders Training Cohort, the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Urban Soccer Symposium, NSCAA Diplomas, and is currently working on his U.S. Soccer Federation D-License.

Carlos is a DC SCORES Coach-Mentor at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School in SW DC, and a paraprofessional staffer at Bancroft Elementary School. He loves having the opportunity to work with kids and give back to the community he grew up in, went to school in, and still lives in. He believes every child should have access to the game, no matter their race, gender, religion, or socio-economic status, and his ultimate goal is to bring free programs and teams to every major city in the country. As a Fight For Children Fellow, Carlos will develop a sustainable structure at DC SCORES for authentic, meaningful feedback and engagement from youth, families, and coaches on strategic, operational, and programmatic issues, and he will engage with members of the Board and Advisory Council as part of the Racial Equity Task Force.



Asia Rodgers, Girls on the Run DC

Asia Rodgers is an active member of the Junior League of Dallas and a delegate for the Commission on the Status of Women with the United Nations. In addition, she is a part of the inaugural class of the Lyndon B. Johnson Women's Campaign School at The University of Texas and board member of the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. Asia received a Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights from Southern Methodist University.

Asia brings comprehensive knowledge of social issues and systems affecting marginalized communities and is passionate about developing and facilitating programs to empower communities in need. In her role as a Fight For Children Fellow, she will focus on resource development at Girls on the Run-DC. Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, writing, reading, exploring the art scene, yoga, and spending time with her family.