



2024

FIGHT FOR CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT



ADVANCING EQUITY IN YOUTH SPORTS

Fight For Children believes in the transformative power of sports to create opportunity, strengthen communities, and help young people reach their full potential. The work reflected in this report demonstrates what is possible when nonprofits, professional sports organizations, and community partners come together to expand access to high-quality sports experiences for youth.

Through the leadership of **37 nonprofit partners**, our Youth Development Institute network reached **44,553 youth** through **35 sports programs** across the region. Importantly, **100% of our partners provide free or low-cost programming**, ensuring that financial barriers never prevent young people from participating.

This impact is driven by collaboration and community. Milestones such as the launch of the **Fight For Children Leadership Council**, the continued success of **Youth Sports Day**, partnerships like the **#SoKidsCan equipment drive** supporting **Volo Kids**, and the development of programs such as **Early Access to Sports** all reflect our shared commitment to expanding opportunities for youth.

At the same time, the **Fight For Children Sports Medicine Center**, in partnership with **Children's National Hospital**, continues to provide critical injury prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and mental health resources to support young athletes.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and community champions. Together, we are ensuring that more young people have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and discover their potential through the power of sports.

Sincerely,

James Kallusky
President
Fight For Children

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Fight For Children has been a pillar in the DC philanthropic community for more than 30 years. Founded in 1990 by the late Joseph E. Robert, Jr. with the mission of improving the lives of underserved children in the nation's capital, we have rallied leaders in business, education, government, and philanthropy to achieve significant improvements in healthcare, education, and policy reform. Our work over the years has impacted more than 500,000 young people throughout the metropolitan Washington, DC area.

Our Mission

All young people have access to high-quality sports and youth development programs.



Our Vision

Leverage the transformational power of sports to champion positive change in young people's lives and communities.

"We believe that sport has the power to rewrite what's possible for young people and communities"

STAFF & GOVERNANCE

OUR LEADERSHIP



David Fensterheim
Chairman & Interim CEO
Fight For Children



Michela English
Board Member
Fight For Children



Keith Gordon
President & CEO
Workhouse Arts Center



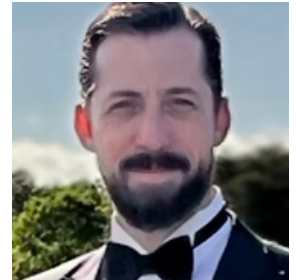
Ernie Jarvis
Vice Chair
Savills North America



Dr. Kurt Neuman
President Emeritus at Children's
National Hospital



Daniel J. Radeck
President
First Washington Realty



Joseph E. Robert III
Founder & Chairman
Black Feather Foundation

STAFF



James Kallusky, EdD
President & Chief Program Officer



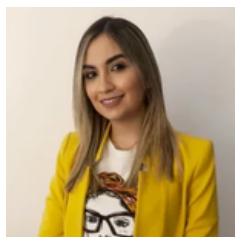
Gabe Albornoz
Senior Advisor



Liz Warnecki
Operations Manager



Andrea Hernandez
Controller



Laura Chaparro
Marketing & Communications Manager



Marc Shapiro
Program Coordinator

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Early Access To Sports Program (E.A.T.S)

Throughout 2024, extensive planning and partnership building took place to lay the groundwork for a strong start to Early Access to Sports, a free afterschool sports sampling program developed in collaboration with 2-4-1 CARE and DC Public Schools (DCPS). This effort culminated in the program's official launch in February 2025. Piloted at Garfield Elementary School in Ward 8, the program provides 1st and 2nd graders with a fun, safe, and supportive environment to explore various sports.

Led by our Fight For Children Youth Development Institute member organizations, E.A.T.S. introduces young students to a variety of sports. Special thanks to WINNERS Lacrosse, Flag Star Football, and SOUL for leading our first sessions!

With a focus on social-emotional learning and nutrition education, E.A.T.S. helps kids build confidence, develop healthy habits, and grow through play—removing financial and accessibility barriers along the way.



Fight For Children Sports Medicine Center



The Fight For Children Sports Medicine Center, created in partnership with Children's National Hospital, continues to be a vital resource for young athletes—offering injury prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and mental health support. Focused on equity, the Center ensures that underserved youth can safely return to play and continue growing through sports.

In 2024, the Center deepened its impact by expanding community partnerships, enhancing care navigation, and introducing bilingual materials to better serve Spanish-speaking families. It also strengthened its focus on integrated mental health services, reinforcing a commitment to whole-child care.

Looking ahead, the Center has begun laying the groundwork to track long-term outcomes, helping guide future innovation. As it grows, we remain committed to delivering high-quality, accessible care to the youth who need it most.

A YEAR IN REVIEW (CONT'D)

Fight For Children Leadership Council



After months of planning and reflection in 2024, the Fight For Children Leadership Council was officially launched in 2025, bringing together youth development leaders to strengthen collaboration, increase access, and address systemic barriers in youth sports. Upon launching, the team immediately set five strategic goals for the year—ranging from expanding opportunities and partnerships to improving program quality and advocacy.

To move these goals forward, five Action Teams were created, each focused on a key area: development & advocacy, networking & volunteerism, capacity & culture, membership & partnerships, and monitoring & evaluation. These teams are already advancing key initiatives, including a regional volunteer hub, collective fundraising efforts, and tools to promote inclusive, trauma-informed youth programming.

The Leadership Council will continue to engage stakeholders and grow this collective movement to ensure all youth have access to safe, supportive, and high-quality sports experiences.

A YEAR IN REVIEW (CONT'D)

Youth Sports Day 2024!

In 2024, Fight For Children hosted its second annual Youth Sports Day, bringing together over 2,000 community members and families for a day focused on youth empowerment through sports. The event featured more than 40 nonprofit organizations showcasing over 70 programs that integrate sports, education, and social-emotional learning.

All of Washington, D.C.'s professional sports teams participated, alongside more than 20 sponsors who helped make the day possible. Families enjoyed back-to-school giveaways, free food, wellness checks, and haircuts—all designed to support the holistic development of local youth.

Youth Sports Day has quickly become a signature event for Fight For Children, highlighting the power of community collaboration to expand access and opportunity for young people across the region.



Equipment Drive



On March 5, 2024, Fight For Children partnered with the #SoKidsCan initiative to deliver a memorable and impactful evening for the children of the Volo Kids Foundation. As part of our shared mission to remove barriers to play, nearly \$10,000 worth of new sports equipment—including basketballs, soccer balls, and other gear—was donated to support Volo Kids' free sports programs.

This initiative not only provided essential resources for youth in underserved communities, but also helped promote physical activity, teamwork, and confidence through play. The event was elevated by the involvement of the Washington Capitals, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, and professional athletes Tom Wilson, Martin Fehervary, and Nicklas Backstrom, whose presence and support reinforced the importance of community investment in youth development.

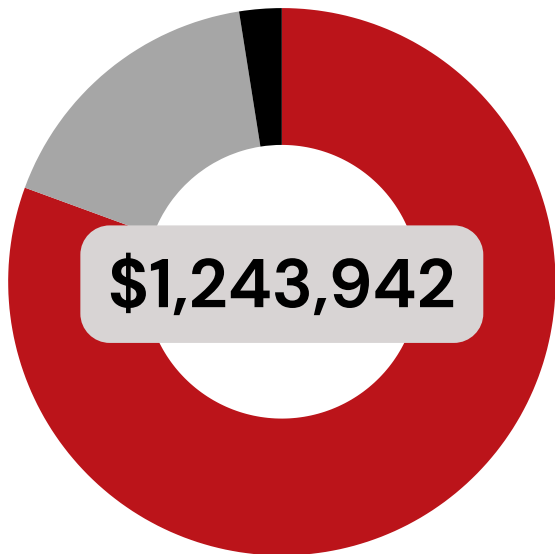
By working together with professional sports partners and local organizations, Fight For Children continues to expand opportunities for young people to stay active, healthy, and engaged through sports.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW*



REVENUE:

- **Contributions, Grants & Other** - \$1,172,880
95.8% of total revenue
- **Investment Income** - \$124,374
4.1% of total revenue.



EXPENSES

- **Programs** - \$1,001,796
80.5% of expenses
- **Operations** - \$210,219
17% of expenses
- **Fundraising** - \$31,927
2.5% of expenses

*Note: Financial data presented in this overview is derived from the organization's 2024 IRS Form 990.

2024 DONORS

\$100,000+

The Joseph E. Robert, Jr. Charitable Trust

\$50,000+

Kevin Cataldo

Joseph Robert, III

Lauren Rubenstein

\$10,000+

Don Bosco Rey High School

Congressional Sports for Charity

Enterprise Exotics

Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation

Black Feather Foundation

\$1,000+

Professional Fighters League

Gatorade

DC Grays

SOUL

Wrestling To Beat the Streets DC

Leveling the Playing Field

Monumental Sports & Entertainment

National Summer Learning Association

LeagueApps

Aspen Institute

Positive Coaching Alliance

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Sports Philanthropy
Executive Certificate





Contact

Fight For Children

1250 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 700

202-772-0400

www.fightforchildren.org 

ffc.email@fightforchildren.org 

Fight For Children 

@fightforchildren 