



Children's Health Fund

Newsletter

Hope for the Future Took Overcoming Homelessness, Dangerous Disease

The first thing you notice about LaPorsha Bourne is that she is practically bursting with positive energy. You would never guess the depth of the challenges she has faced, including being a foster child as a toddler, enduring abuse, and being homeless with a child.



LaPorsha Bourne

LaPorsha pursued a college education after high school, but her plans were derailed when she became ill with a painful and dangerous autoimmune disease that causes excessive blood clotting. "I went from being ambitious and vivacious to a young person doomed with physical limitations," says LaPorsha.

Disabled with an infant and living in a dangerous home, LaPorsha sought safety at a domestic violence shelter in the South Bronx. That's where she and her son came aboard our New York program's mobile medical clinic. There, Dr. Ikeda connected her to the hematology department at our South Bronx Health Center, "so I always have someone checking my blood and making sure I am on top of my health."

She credits the psychologist she sees weekly at the center with where she is today. "Having gone through so much trauma, I had no idea how to go about starting. I am extremely grateful for her. She's very down to earth, and easily relatable: she was adopted and I grew up orphaned."

The staff there also helped her son get health insurance, and he continues to be seen by his health care practitioner for regular check-ups. "He's a healthy boy," LaPorsha beams. And now that they have moved from the shelter to supportive housing, she is able to cook proper meals to ensure he stays that way.

LaPorsha and her son are defying the odds with your help. With the ongoing medical care she receives through our programs, she is successfully managing her condition and healing from heartbreaking trauma endured throughout her life. This has fueled her determination and today she is pursuing life goals like becoming a holistic health coach, from a permanent home with her son by her side.

The New York Children's Health Project receives generous support from the Deerfield Foundation, Helmsley Charitable Trust, Walmart Foundation, Dreyfus Foundation, and Comic Relief.

A Word from CEO Dennis Walto

The time is always right, to do what's right," said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. more than 50 years ago, and we meet that challenge every day thanks to your support. Our mission to ensure access to healthcare for children living in poverty has never been more critical, and we have been able to provide more services, to more kids, in more places, knowing that we have your support. Because of you, no child is ever turned away from our care. As you read through our newsletter, you will see what we have accomplished together. Thank you for making such a positive difference in the lives of children!

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Thousands of Children Learn About Oral Health

About one in five children aged five to 11 years have at least one untreated decayed tooth, and children with cavities miss more school and receive lower grades than children with good oral health.

In our quest to reduce health barriers to learning, we have partnered with Guardian Life Insurance Company of America on *Guardians of the Smile*, a program designed to teach children across the country about proper oral hygiene. The mascot of the program is the Tooth Guardian—a character who teaches kids how to care for their teeth in fun and interactive ways. This partnership funds work in 12 of our programs across the country, including our Healthy and Ready to Learn school sites in New York City.

One component of *Guardians of the Smile* are oral health materials for children in grades K-3, created by Children's Health Fund and Guardian in conjunction with Scholastic, Inc. The materials were unveiled in May in classrooms in Pennsylvania where thousands of teachers received kits equipped with a teacher's guide, activities for the students and a take-home sheet for parents. These materials can be downloaded for free at www.scholastic.com/guardiansofthesmile





DONOR FEATURE

Kids Share Love for Music to Help Less Fortunate Children

Music Kids for Charity (MKC) is a group of forty kids aged 6 to 15, formed in 2018, to express their musical talents and help their community. Their spring concert was a great success and after a lot of research, MKC decided to donate the event's proceeds to Children's Health Fund. Andrew Chen, the ensemble's young founder said, "CHF really resonated with the group. We wouldn't have become musicians or great students without the support of our parents and teachers. And we want to give back to help children in need." Musician Sandi Shao said, "The community raised us and we should give back." The group raised \$2,650 in donations. We wish them continued success!



Amirah Vann with the children of 112th Street Academy in Watts, CA.

EVENTS

Southern Hospitality for Children

Through the leadership of our Advisory Board Member and New York Times Best-Selling Author Louise Parsley, over 150 people came together on March 25th at Tootsies in Houston to learn more about Children's Health Fund and how they can support our work.



CHF CEO Dennis Walto, CBS Sunday Morning Host Jane Pauley and husband Garry Trudeau, Louise Parsley, Tootsie Owners Donna and Norman Lewis

"We've been blessed with the means to provide for our children and their health. And, we've seen first hand how essential Children's Health Fund has been to help children recover from the trauma of Hurricane Harvey. It's essential that these resources grow for less fortunate children," shared Louise.

Tootsies, a shop for women's designer clothing, stepped up to donate a percentage of the proceeds from sales. Guests met long-time CHF supporter Jane Pauley and her husband Garry Trudeau.

Building supporters across the country is key to deepening the services we provide for children. We are thankful to Louise for her passion to inspire others in Texas to support our work!

We Took the Voice of Children to D.C.

Did you know that children represent 23% of our country's population but receive less than 8% of our nation's federal budget? We are not giving children the priority they deserve. That's why every year we make sure the voices of children echo powerfully in Washington D.C. through our Spring Advocacy Conference. This April over 40 medical providers who serve these children participated in over 80 meetings with our nation's elected officials.



CHF CEO Dennis Walto, Nevada Senator Jackie Rosen, Nevada Health Centers CEO Walter Davis and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ali Shahin

Actress Amirah Vann Visits Los Angeles Program

Amirah doesn't just get away with murder, she kills 'em with kindness! This May, the star of "How to Get Away With Murder," visited one of our LA program school sites in Watts, California. She read a book about Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to a group of children and also sat down with a group of girls to share her journey. As she reflected about this visit, she had this to say:

"Children's Health Fund fills me with hope. That mobile clinic was filled with skilled, smiling, welcoming faces. They know the community, they know their faces, they know their trauma, and their boo-boos."

These are the children cared for by the Children's Health Fund, our future poets, doctors, entrepreneurs, actors. They are disadvantaged, vulnerable, extraordinary. And so deserving of growing up healthy in mind, body, and spirit."

The Los Angeles Children's Health Project receives generous support from Comic Relief, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, and Your Mom Cares.



Champions for Children Awardees Olympian Allyson Felix and Gymnast Katelyn Ohashi



CHF CEO Dennis Walto, Former Comic Relief CEO Janet Scardino, CBS Sunday Morning Host Jane Pauley, Comic Relief SVP Rick Scott



Founders Award Recipient CHF Vice Chair Paul Metselaar, Co-Founders Karen and Irwin Redlener

ANNUAL BENEFIT 2019

A Night of Champions

We were blown away by the tremendous demonstration of care and support on display at our annual benefit, which took place on June 5 in New York City. Over 400 people came together to learn more about our work and pay tribute to our honorees, collectively raising nearly \$1 million! Athletic all-stars **Allyson Felix, Katelyn Ohashi, John Starks**, and **Bernie Williams** were recognized as Champions for Children for sharing their hearts, voices and financial support to ensure children's well-being.

Also recognized for their tireless advocacy were:

- Our board Vice Chair **Paul Metselaar**, founder, chairman and CEO of Ovation Travel Group, who received the prestigious Founders Award;
- **Comic Relief USA**, American Heroes for Children Award recipient;
- **Kim Mukerjee, MD, MPH**, medical director of the New Orleans Children's Health Project, who received the Irwin Redlener Award for Innovation and Advocacy.

As Bernie Williams said at our event, "I believe in giving our kids all the opportunities that they deserve and they are our biggest resource. If we don't take care of them, who will?"



John Starks



Bernie Williams

RED NOSE DAY

The Power of a Red Nose

With the generous support of millions of Americans, dozens of celebrities, and corporate and foundation partners, Red Nose Day has raised over \$190 million since launching in the U.S. in 2015!

These funds have positively impacted hundreds of thousands of children in our national network, spanning 26 communities across 16 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. As a core partner of Red Nose Day USA since the beginning, we were honored to highlight their important work at our Annual Benefit.

Our own program in Las Vegas was powerfully featured on the Red Nose Day TV special seen by millions of viewers on May 23 through a story about Pam, our nurse who helped identify a rare disease that was stunting the growth of a bright-eyed toddler named Evra.

Also featured were the lifesaving interventions for children experiencing asthma, like Colton. His mother Stacy expressed the challenge faced by many families we help, "We are working people but we just don't have enough to make it work. And that's hard to say."

As we work with organizations like Comic Relief to help children living in poverty, we know while we have no silver bullet, we do have the red nose and its power shines through the healthy and strong children that are touched by it.



Children from New Orleans

Why I Give

"I give to Children's Health Fund each month because I feel the MOST important way I can give back after a 45-year career in education is to provide healthcare, food, and books to children. I want to nourish bodies and minds!"

-Denise Levine

Books from our Annual Book Drive help children feel more at ease during their examinations and serve as an opportunity to talk about the importance of reading and school.





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PLANNED GIVING

Have You Thought About Your Legacy?

Q&A WITH BRANDI HORTON, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, INDIVIDUAL GIFTS & DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS

Laser-focused on the future needs of the children we serve, Children's Health Fund has created the **Legacy Society** through our robust planned giving program to ensure our work continues for every child in need. And for some who may be unfamiliar with this term, or have limited knowledge about the topic, Brandi Horton, AVP of Individual Giving and Development Operations will help you with this quick overview.

Q: What is planned giving?

A planned gift is simply a gift that is arranged in the present and allocated at a future date. Planned giving is a wonderful way to carry forward your legacy of compassion and commitment to quality healthcare for future generations of children.

Q: Why is this important?

If you are reading this, I know you care about helping children and you are deeply invested in their future. The Legacy Society is a testament to your belief in the mission of Children's Health Fund. You can make a difference as part of a devoted community that supports the future of our organization and ensure America's most vulnerable kids receive the healthcare they need and deserve.

Q: What do you need to get it going?

There are many elements of planned giving that include active participation in the present as well as leaving a lasting mark on children's lives through bequests. Contact me and your account custodian or financial advisor to get started today!

Get informed at <https://chfund.plannedgiving.org>, and you can also contact us at **212-535-9400 ext 280**, bhorton@chfund.org.



Brandi Horton