



MASKS FOR KIDS BRINGS IN 262,000 FACE MASKS FOR JCPS STUDENTS



We are so grateful to everyone who donated to the Christopher 2X Game Changers "Mask for Kids" campaign, a huge success with 262,000 face masks donated for Jefferson County Public Schools children.

With kids returning to classroom learning, the need for facemasks to keep everyone safe was critical. JCPS sent thanks to us for the support including on social media.

Chris saw a need for donated masks for kids after his granddaughter had a Covid scare, and he realized many young kids were not wearing masks.

The campaign primarily used social media and 30-second public service announcements with Chris, his young grandchildren and University of Louisville doctors and medical students proclaiming, "Wear a Mask!" to spread the word. The messages were also educational, explaining why masks are important to fight Covid, and other tips to stay healthy during the pandemic.

The day after the campaign kicked off in late January, David White and his company, Kyana Packaging Solution, unloaded 132,000 masks, 3,000 small bottles and 200 refill bottles of hand sanitizer for JCPS. Kosair Charities donated another 100,000 masks and UofL pediatric doctors and students collected another 2,000. Norton Commons Development was another major contributor. In addition, 22,000 masks were donated at YMCA of Greater Louisville locations which served as mask drop off sites for the public.

Supporting the campaign were JCPS, YMCA of Greater Louisville, the UofL Medical School and Louisville Metro.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND ADVISORY TEAMS ANNOUNCED

We are honored to have three new board members, a deputy director, and a team of volunteer advisors, joining Christopher 2X Game Changers.

Russell Coleman, with Frost Brown Todd law firm, former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of KY joined the board in February. Also, in February, Christie Welch, a 2019 graduate of UofL and a peace and justice advocate who had volunteered for Christopher 2X Game Changers, was appointed deputy director.

In March, Lee Zimmerman, CEO of The Kidz Club, and Rich Gimmel, former CEO of Atlas Machine and Supply, Inc., became board members.

"These additions greatly enhance Chris's important work for social justice through education and non-violence," said Board Chairman David Nicklies.

"I'm honored to have a great team helping us build a movement for social justice through education and non-violence, with a focus on early childhood," Chris said.

Volunteer advisors are: Jerron Jones, a behavioral therapist who will work with kids traumatized by gun violence; JaQuaz Terrell, a UofL Dental School student who works with kids in the before and after school program at the Chestnut Street YMCA, and will focus on engagement of children from kindergarten through 8th grade; and Dr. Keith Miller, a UofL Hospital Trauma Team surgeon, who will advise the Future Healers program of UofL medical students who develop and teach a curriculum for children primarily from underserved neighborhoods.

A team of young African American women will serve as a Youth Advisory Board. The members are: Kendra Ford, a supplier citizenship program manager with GE who has a bachelor's in chemical engineering and a minor in criminal justice and mathematics from UofL; Alexa Wilson, a UofL graduate who is working on a master's degree in forensic psychology at Grand Canyon University and has experience working with young children at Home of the Innocents; and Zion Bonds, a Tennessee State University student from Louisville who is majoring in mass communications.

CHRIS IS COMMUNITY CONNECTION'S "MAN OF THE YEAR 2020"



Chris was honored as the Community Connections Group's "Man of the Year 2020" for outstanding community service. The award was presented at a media ceremony at The Galt House in February. Among those presenting the award were CCG's President James Linton and UofL Hospital Trauma Surgeon Keith Miller, who spoke about Chris always being present when there is a need and his work to bring comfort to families impacted by gun violence.

Linton said in a news release that Chris "has been on the front line for over 20 years and has become an ally for the city, the state and this country. He is the only person I know that reaches across all racial lines and will work with any group to find peace and justice.

"He has been a spoke person against racism (Michael Newby and others) that exist in this city. He also works with gun violence/murder victims and their families who have been impacted by providing them with hope and love. He is a heavy advocate for early childhood education and also received a Presidential pardon in December 2020 for his outstanding work. He was highlighted for his example of showing redemption and second chances."

GIVING VOICE TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE



Voices of Survivors is a community outreach program by Christopher 2X Game Changers that creates a therapeutic space for coping and community among the victims and survivors of gun violence. This is a small but underserved community that struggles to cope with

unspeakable loss and pain so having support and mutual understanding is so important to their wellbeing.

The group is also an advocate to the community for change by reinforcing the sanctity of human life and coming up with ways for involving the public, in honor of the lives of their lost loved ones and to keep their legacies alive. The Galt House is a partner in this program and has generously allowed the use of its meeting space for gatherings. Also partnering in the effort is The Future Healers program of UofL Medical School students who interact with children, allowing them to see different avenues in life that are open for them, giving their imaginations the power of expansion.

COMMUNITY FOOD GIVEAWAY WITH GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS



On the weekend anniversary of Breonna Taylor's death, we partnered with Until Freedom and Community Connections Group to distribute fresh produce to hundreds in a "Community Food Giveaway" in the Portland neighborhood.



Hundreds lined up on a dreary, rainy day, greeted by Chris and the volunteers working the event including members of 11 families who lost loved ones to gun violence. Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, was among those giving out bags of fruits and vegetables. The food was donated by ROC Nation, hip-hop mogul Jay-Z's charity.

THE FIRST KELSIE SMALL FUTURE HEALER AWARD IS PRESENTED AND FUTURE HEALERS PROGRAM LAUNCHES TO HELP KIDS IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE



She was just 19, a Central High School graduate and nursing student at Northern Kentucky University, when she lost her life on May 9 to senseless gun violence.

In her honor, Chris developed the "Kelsie Small Future Healer Award," and, teaming up with University of Louisville doctors and medical students, helped launch the Future Healers Program of medical students who work with kids impacted in their neighborhoods by violence.

The annual award will honor a skilled, compassionate health care worker in the future. UofL medical students in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) are active in the Future Healers program and were on hand when the first award was presented on Feb. 23 to Small's mother, Delisa Love.

Future Healers has developed an educational, fun curriculum to engage preschool through middle school kids about general anatomy and surgery. In February, about 50 preschool and middle school children at the Chestnut Street YMCA participated in a pilot program class. A "doctor's bag" with masks, gloves, and modeling clay for creating anatomy models was provided to each child. Future Healers plans regularly scheduled sessions with youth at the Chestnut Street YMCA and an expansion of the program to more young people in Louisville.

“VIOLENCE-IMPACT ON CHILDREN LEARNING” REPORT RECOGNITION FOR CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ENTRY



At a ceremony on March 19, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul presented Chris with an official copy of the entry he made in the Congressional Record of our report, “Violence-Impact on Children Learning.”

The report, inspired by Chris, provided moving testimonials about the trauma and difficulty learning in school facing children impacted by gun violence which continues surging at record levels in Louisville. Their stories and data about homicides and non-fatal shootings shed light on a community need to address the devastating impacts of gun violence on children.

Paul also met with Chris, board members Russell Coleman, Josh Crawford, and others to discuss gun violence, its impacts and the Group Violence Intervention program, a new approach to curbing gun violence that was inspired by the report.