

N 2X GAME CHANGERS NEWSLETTER

April-June 2022



Future Healers in their medical scrubs with Chris and health care workers at UofL Hospital

Greetings from Christopher 2X

I have been filled with joy these past three months seeing kids who have suffered because of violence experience healing, learning and laughter in our Future Healers programs. You can learn about their latest achievements, and more in this newsletter.

Future Healers parents and caregivers have told me how excited they are for their kids to be in new, nurturing environments and around inspiring mentors. These kids feel the love from everyone at the Louisville Zoo, and the University of Louisville's doctors, medical students and health care workers, our amazing partners.

The needs are great, with more kids traumatized by homicides and shootings, and families suffering financial and mental health challenges. We are committed to help these kids learn to be compassionate and empathetic, and to find their way to a hopeful, safe, bright future free of violence.

Thank you for your support, and best wishes for a happy, safe summer.

Christopher 2X • Executive Director • Christopher 2X Game Changers

NATIONAL FBI TRAINING SESSION FOCUSES ON 2X GAME CHANGERS PROGRAMS THAT HELP KIDS



UofL medical student Karen Udoh, surgeons Drs. Keith Miller and Chris Jones, Chris, and the Louisville Zoo's Kim Allgeier and Kyle Shepherd in DC for a national FBI training session

Christopher 2X Game Changers programs were the focus of an FBI leadership training session in Washington DC on June 21 to show how communities can creatively and effectively help families and kids impacted by gun violence.

Future Healers, a partnership of 2X Game Changers, UofL Hospital, doctors and medical students and the Louisville Zoo, is helping more than 100 kids aged 4-13, heal and learn.

They're around accomplished mentors every month as they engage in fun, learning experiences with our partners at UofL's Hospital and Medical School and the Louisville Zoo.

In a letter inviting 2X to participate, James Robert Brown, Jr., assistant director of the FBI's Operational Technology Division, said, "The work that Christopher 2X Game Changers is doing for the community is inspiring."

"The impact trauma has on children is heavy, and the way your team incorporates different ways of healing is impactful. Engaging young children with nature and animal preservation is a unique way to instill empathy and other great character traits in the next generation." He complimented exposing kids affected by violence to medical professionals so they can "learn more about STEM careers and helping others."

Chris, along with UofL surgeons Drs. Keith Miller and Chris Jones, UofL medical student Karen Udoh, and the Zoo's Education Curator Kim Allgeier participated in the session which was recorded and made available to FBI offices throughout the country. Jodi Cohen, FBI agent in charge in Louisville, also participated.



CHRIS TO RECEIVE FBI DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

At a ceremony later this year in Louisville, Chris is to receive the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award, the agency's highest civilian honor. While in DC, FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate presented a medal and certificate to Chris in recognition of "outstanding service to the community and enduring contributions to the advancement of justice."

FUTURE HEALERS LEARN ABOUT MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In the past three months, Future Healers have practiced medical skills with doctors and students and learned about mental health awareness and how to relax and cope if they feel stressed or angry.

At a Surgery Olympics Day at UofL Hospital, teams of doctors, students and health care workers guided the Future Healers through a series of medical procedures. They worked on dummies to stop the bleed and stitch up wounds and practiced how to pin an EKG on a heart, all while wearing their own surgical scrubs. In another session, mental health awareness was the focus, with Future Healers participating in relaxation exercises and learning how to recognize and address stress and anger.

The program provided certificates of completion for 110 Future Healers who participated in monthly sessions during the past year.

Future Healers Surgery Olympics Day

DEDICATED TO THE FULL RECOVERY OF 1-YR-OLD OCEAN ROBERTSON



**SATURDAY
MAY 14**

UofL Hospital
Trauma Center
U of L Health





A Future Healer receives instructions on how to sew sutures



Transplant surgeon Dr. Chris Jones shows a Future Healer how to apply a tourniquet

CONNECTING WITH ANIMALS AND NATURE



BUSY BUILDING BEEHIVES

The Zoo Buddies, who meet monthly, have been active learning about animal care and nature. During National Pollinator Week in June, they spent a Friday morning making and decorating beehives at the Zoo which they placed among the Zoo's locations designed to attract pollinators.

They learned from Jamie Huber, the Zoo's veterinarian manager and beekeeper, about the importance of pollinators, such as honeybees, for our ecosystem.

UP CLOSE WITH WALLABIES

The Zoo Buddies also came in close contact with Zoo animals including a wallaby.

They learned about its habitat, care and had the opportunity to feed her. They also saw a baby wallaby in its mother's pouch.



GRAMMY WINNER PERCY "MASTER P" MILLER CHAMPIONS FUTURE HEALERS AND CELEBRATES A 2-YEAR-OLD GUNSHOT VICTIM



Above: At her birthday party, gunshot victim Ocean Robertson shown with "Princess Tiana," Hercy Miller, Percy "Master P" Miller and a UofL Cardinal Bird mascot | At Right: Ocean with her siblings



Grammy winner and philanthropist Percy "Master P" Miller and his son Hercy Miller, a future UofL basketball player, are inspiring Future Healers kids, and took the time on June 30 to give young gunshot victim Ocean Robertson a spectacular birthday party at the Louisville Zoo.

Master P, who has worked with Chris for a dozen years on positive youth development activities, said more praise is needed for kids who are "doing things right." Ocean's progress, he said, "is a blessing" and her birthday and days to come "are about winning."

Ocean, who was five months old when she was left permanently disabled from gunshot wounds to the head, enjoyed a Princess and the Frog themed party that included a model dressed like Princess Tiana, a UofL Cardinal Bird mascot, and opportunities to pet Zoo animals. Ocean, in a fancy pink dress, had a cake worthy of royalty with an image of Princess Tiana on top.



Ocean's birthday cake

Ocean's mother did not survive the shooting, and Ocean and her three young siblings are in the care of her grandmother who all attended the party, organized by Chris and 2X Game Changers.



Master P, with Chris and Future Healers at UofL Hospital, holding Malakai Roberts, 6, who was left blind from random gunfire shot into his home in Dec. 2020 as he slept in his bed