



Greetings *from Christopher 2X*



*Chris and Future Healers Got Zoo Buddies kids
with a giant tortoise at the Louisville Zoo*

There's joy and therapeutic value for kids being around animals and learning about their emotions and health, and I've seen that first-hand with kids in our Future Healers, Zoo Buddies, and Planet Savers programs.

I am grateful to our partners and volunteers who are helping these kids, age 4-13, learn and heal from the devastating impact of gun violence on their families, friends, and communities.

The images in this newsletter tell much of the story but it's special to witness our kids in a nurturing environment with mentors who open a world of possibility to them.

Unfortunately, gun violence in Louisville continues at unacceptable and near record levels and the number of kids in need grows. More than 1,000 kids are now part of our programs. They deserve our help so they can learn, heal and have hope for the future.

In all my years advocating against violence and for justice, the FBI has been a supportive partner. FBI leadership recognizes the importance of our work to help break a cycle of community violence. I was deeply grateful to receive the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award in September, the FBI's highest civilian honor.

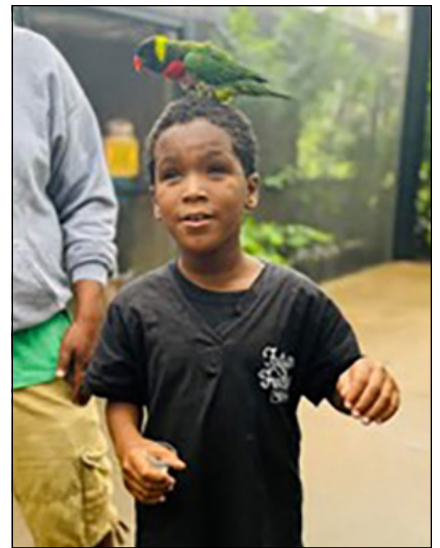
Thank you for your support, and best wishes for a wonderful fall season.

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

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE ZOO

Malakai Roberts, 6, blinded by senseless gunfire when he was five, having fun at the Louisville Zoo with Chris, other Future Healers Got Zoo Buddies kids and Zoo staff.

Malakai wondered if the giant tortoise could get out of its shell, enjoyed time with a tropical bird who perched on his head, and visited a southern rhinoceros.



Thanks to Ann Thomas, a Zoo docent, for sharing a wounded hawk with our Zoo Buddies kids. The red-tailed hawk, she explained, had lost a wing, and now resides safely at the Zoo.

The kids also learned about wart hogs and their feeding habits. They were amazed to watch wart hogs run around their space and use their snouts to find and devour a variety of foods.

WITH THE ASSIST, UOFL CARDS HERCY MILLER AND FABIO BASILI

We're grateful to UofL basketball player Hercy Miller, a Christopher 2X Game Changers Youth Ambassador, and his teammate, Fabio Basili, who were at the Zoo to mentor and work with Zoo Buddies kids. The two freshmen basketball guards and the kids carved



pumpkins, then they helped the kids and Zoo staff feed the pumpkin pulp to animals. Learning about animals, the environment and being around nature is a key focus for the Zoo Buddies who meet monthly at the Zoo.

LEARNING ABOUT THE BRAIN FROM UOFL DOCS AND MED STUDENTS

Future Healers, who learn about healthcare from UofL doctors, medical students, and staff when they meet monthly, were taught about the brain in their most recent session.

They learned how parts of the brain function and then labeled ball caps with the frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital lobes.



CHRIS RECEIVES FBI'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR



Chris was honored in September to receive the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award, the agency's highest civilian honor.

FBI Louisville Special Agent in Charge Jodi Cohen presented the award at the FBI's Louisville headquarters.

The award states, "In recognition of your outstanding contributions to our nation's communities through unselfish dedication and leadership."

Cohen told WDRB News, "I was really impressed by what he does with children, because I think children are so important, to really get to them at a young age, so we have some influences on their thought processes and how they grow up."

She said the award recognizes the community and its leaders, not just for partnering with the FBI, but for "trying to do what's right and trying to change, make change in areas that maybe it's harder to do."

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT FUTURE HEALERS



Flanked by Future Healers banners, Chris explained how the Future Healers program is helping kids impacted by gun violence to participants in this year's Leadership Kentucky class when they met at UofL Cardinal Stadium. At right, UofL trauma surgeon Dr. Keith Miller with Chris and UofL medical students. In sessions over two days, Dr. Miller and

Chris taught the students about the devastating impact of gun violence on kids who lose someone close or know someone injured, and how the Future Healers program helps them learn, heal and see a world of hope and possibility.