HOW MUCH KINDNESS CAN WE CREATE IN A YEAR?

85 events + 1700 kid participants' worth—that's how much.

SEEDS of CARING

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear friends:

If you would have told me a little more than two years ago when Seeds of Caring began that it would be thriving like it is today, I think I actually *would* have believed you. After all, at the one or two events per month that we hosted then, I heard over and over again from parents: "This is what we've been looking for. This is the outlet we needed to make service a key part of our family's life."

As it turns out, hundreds of local families feel the same way. In 2018, we offered 80+ service, social action, and community-building events for 1,700+ child participants ages 2-12 and their families in the Columbus area. Many of these events benefited the causes of reputable nonprofits and community organizations doing important work for the good of others in and around our city. And at every one of these events, we planted seeds—of kindness, of inspiration, of motivation—in the hearts and minds of our community's youngest citizens, who will undoubtedly be the ones to effect positive change in years to come.

For as much as we've grown since our humble beginnings, I know that we have incredible potential to do more. To host more events designed specifically to help kids understand key community issues and take action. To engage more families than ever before. To partner with more community organizations whose causes merit our support. To plant more seeds of caring within the generation that will be our community's next set of leaders.

So here's to our future. Here's to growing as an organization as we grow kindness in the most promising way we can imagine: through our kids.

Warmly,

Brandy Jemczura, MSW, LSW
Executive Director and Founder

Board of Directors

Claire Patterson
The Ohio State University

Sarah Pirtle
Branding Consultant

Julie Porr
Community Educator

Kristen N. Rost
Nationwide

Emily Sandman
Cardinal Health

IMPACT

80+ service, social action, and community-building events
that bring families together for a common purpose

$103,500 in volunteer value
to the community

1,775+ child participants
empowered to create a kinder community with their hearts, hands, and minds

900+ meals and smiles
delivered to older adults and chronically ill persons through Meals on Wheels

4,100+ service hours
provided to the Columbus area

1,900+ sack lunches
assembled to nourish the hungry

1,000+ snack packs
made to brighten days at Ronald McDonald House
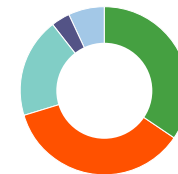
FINANCIALS

Total income:
$44,340.76

Total expenses:
$14,340.76

Net income:
$30,074.45

Revenues ($44,340.76)

- CORPORATE DONATIONS............$5,699.70
- EVENT FEES $2,501.52
- FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS.................$11,700
- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS ..$23,725.27
- OTHER $714.27

Expenses ($14,266.31)

- PERSONNEL EXPENSES*: $4,935.98
- PROGRAM SUPPLIES:.. $5,114.51
- GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES: ...$2,724.89
- FUNDRAISING SUPPLIES:....................................$527.84
- OTHER $963.09

Seeds of Caring was an all-volunteer led organization until October 2018. "Other" includes t-shirt sales and miscellaneous revenue and expenses.

Thanks to our (volunteer) dream team

Every Seeds of Caring service, social action, and community-building event is led by one of 20+ talented, dedicated volunteer event leaders. Using the standard value for volunteer time in 2018 (as calculated by Independent Sector), Seeds of Caring event leaders provided a volunteer value of $52,021.83, significantly reducing our program expenses in FY2018. Thank you, event leaders!

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Donors

HEART SHAPERS ($1,000)
The Fullenkamp Family
Justin & Amy Thomas

KINDNESS CREATORS ($500)
The Beiting Family
Cindy & Kevin Hackett
The Louters Family
Douglas & Sarah Pirtle
The Rost Family

KID EMPOWERERS ($250)
Fred & Melanie Collier
Julie Robbins & Jerry Friedman
Sarah & Jeremy Jorgenson
The King Family
The Littleton Family
Jeff Mahler, Realtor

Community & Corporate Sponsors

Norwex Foundation FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The Schumacher Group
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

COMBUSTION BREWERY TAPROOM

epic
empowering young professionals in columbus

erin brown photography

Pete DeLois' recreations outlet WE BUILD FUN!

Joanie Calem

SETTING THE EXAMPLE
Mackenzie, age 12, dropped in to Seeds of Caring's MLK Day of Service event at King Arts Complex, noted the compassion kits being made for homeless neighbors, and asked if she could take some of them with her to her next volunteer task of the day at a local shelter. The founder of her own nonprofit, she's offered to speak to Seeds of Caring kids at an upcoming event about being a young change-maker.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT
Building bridges across generations

What happens when you bring Columbus' youngest and oldest residents together in one room? In our experience: magic.

Seeds of Caring's intergenerational programs range from mornings filled with song and dance led by a seasoned music educator to afternoons spent playing board games at the senior center to carnivals created just for seniors to be able to join in joyful play with Seeds of Caring kids. It is every thoughtfully designed element of these events that makes them buzz with positive energy, as two groups of people who otherwise might not have the opportunity to be in each other's company forge truly authentic connections.

Picture this for a moment. Ten kids dressed in holiday-wear knock on the door of a senior's apartment. The 93-year-old resident opens the door slowly and her face transforms as she sees the children. The kids sing a Christmas carol, eyes bright and smiles wide. Afterward, the senior says, "This was the highlight of my week, maybe even my whole year!" That's exactly what happened at a Seeds of Caring holiday event focused on bringing smiles to senior neighbors.

These moments are the results of simple acts of kindness, yet the impact is far-reaching. In fact, research shows that intergenerational programming reduces seniors' social isolation, offers both kids and seniors a renewed sense of purpose and an opportunity to learn new skills, and alleviates fears children may have of older adults.

Seven-year-old program participant Aggie says it best about why Seeds of Caring pursued this type of community-building effort in 2018: "We can't exactly change everyone's life completely, but we can do small things to make their day a little bit better."

"We can't exactly change everyone's life completely, but we can do small things to make their day a little bit better."
—Aggie, age 7

SERVED 300+ SENIORS through intergenerational programs

Provided bags of **PET FOOD TO 515 SENIORS** through LifeCare Alliance Senior PetCare program

Delivered Meals on Wheels to **900+ SENIORS AND HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS**

Assembled **180 CARE KITS** for Honor Flight Columbus

INSPIRING ACTION
Seven-year-old Violet was so moved by a Seeds of Caring event about the needs of kids in foster care that she was inspired to suggest a new event concept, where participant families would make worry dolls for kids entering foster care to be able to share their worries with during a difficult transition.

Helping neighbors faced with hunger

Imagining what it would feel like to go to bed hungry is something our kid participants seem to really *get*. It strikes a chord with them—the presence or absence of nutrition is real, tangible, and relevant to their own everyday lives. That's why Seeds of Caring's hunger-focused events are some of the organization's most-requested by families.

Whether families are making sandwiches to be included in lunches for The Open Shelter, packing Buddy Boxes to be distributed by The Family Mentor Foundation to school-age kids who face hunger insecurity over weekends at home, or sorting and stocking shelves at a local food pantry, each Seeds of Caring hunger-focused event includes educational exercises that encourage kids to think critically about the issue of hunger and what they can do to effect change.

Patrick, age 10, shared his thoughts about exactly that after one event: "We made over 300 lunches for the hungry. I was surprised that such a small number of kids could make such a huge amount of lunches! Just because we're kids doesn't mean we can't make a difference!"

At each of these events in 2018, we saw evidence that a fire was sparked within our participant kids, as they realized that there are people all around them struggling with a basic human need, and that they have the power to help.

> *"Just because we're kids doesn't mean we can't make a difference!"*
> —Patrick, age 10

500 HOLIDAY TREAT KITS packed for Broad Street Food Pantry

1,909 SACK LUNCHES packed for The Open Shelter

345 BUDDY BOXES packed for The Family Mentor Foundation

1,145 LBS OF FOOD COLLECTED through kids' neighborhood food drives for WARM

HOW YOU CAN HELP

ATTEND AN EVENT
Want to help your kids realize their potential to make an impact? Register your family with kid(s) age 2-12 for a service, social action, or community-building event.

PARTNER WITH US
Are you a nonprofit with a mission you think Seeds of Caring participant families would feel passionate about supporting? Let us know!

SHARE YOUR SKILLS
Interested in becoming a volunteer event leader or in contributing your talents in social media, technology, or another valuable skill? Contact us.

MAKE A DONATION
Help us grow our capacity to empower thousands of kids each year to create a kinder community by making a generous donation, including us in your planned giving strategy, or providing an in-kind gift.

Visit www.seedsofcaring.org for more information on how to get involved with Seeds of Caring in any of these ways.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING

After attending several Seeds of Caring events focused on helping the homeless, five-year-old Natalie shared a big idea with her family when she eyed a Frozen play-hut while shopping: "We could buy this for the homeless for shelter!" In the months that followed, Natalie's mom—a Seeds of Caring volunteer event leader—worked with Natalie to design a service event that included a tent collection drive and education on other ways to help homeless neighbors.

TAKING IT OUTSIDE

Molly and Emmy, age 6, joined Seeds of Caring for an environmental education and litter cleanup event and haven't seen their outdoor surroundings the same way since. At their request, their mom Jamie now keeps gloves and a trash bag on hand so they can help clean up trash when they see it. The girls may not yet fully understand the complexities of our environmental challenges, but they know an animal can get sick because a plastic straw gets into our rivers, and they want to reduce the likelihood that will happen.

BRINGING IT HOME

Four-year-old Frank learned through Seeds of Caring about the critical needs his homeless neighbors face on a daily basis, and how they can be particularly challenging in winter. He wanted to find a way to help, and asked his mom to help him conduct a coat drive around the neighborhood. They took 50 coats to a local shelter to be donated just two weeks later.

LEARN MORE AT
www.seedsofcaring.org

SEEDS of CARING

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