



JUST

IMAGINE.

*What could happen if every child
in our city chose kindness every day?*



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Dear friends:

Our work inspires me — and thousands of people and families across Central Ohio — for a myriad of reasons, but none more important than this: Quite simply, Seeds of Caring affords us

a glimpse of a better world. It's a world where kids choose kindness, lead with empathy, and develop self-confidence that they truly can be the change they wish to see in our world.

When I see a small-but-mighty three-year-old pushing her box of canned goods through a neighborhood food drive, or hear about the six-year-old boy who inspired his entire school to collect pop tabs for The Ronald McDonald House, I feel hope. And I find myself imagining what our community, our country, our world could look like if more kids had these experiences. The good news is, we're about to find out.

In 2019 Seeds of Caring engaged more than 3,000 kids in service, social action, and community building. We carried out 105 events, furthering the causes of so many valuable nonprofits doing important work in and around our city. Most importantly, we inspired children to realize how essential their voices are, and empowered them to see how their actions impact their world. The seeds of caring, kindness, and compassion we plant today will help these kids grow well into the future. But we're not stopping there.

2020 is already shaping up to be our largest growth year to date. As volunteers, funders, families, and community leaders rally around our mission and invest in future generations, we're hard at work growing our capacity with a strategic plan, a thriving team, and thousands of kind kids all across Columbus.

Thank you for believing with us that today's youth can change our tomorrow. For trusting that thoughtfully designed, developmentally appropriate opportunities will help them to do so. And for imagining what can happen in a city full of children choosing kindness.

Warmly,

Brandy Jemczura, MSW, LSW
Founder & Executive Director

2019 Board of Directors

- Claire Friedman,** OSU Wexner Medical Center
- Joe Fullenkamp,** Encova Insurance
- Rob Littleton,** CoverMyMeds
- Sarah Pirtle,** Branding Consultant
- Julie Porr,** Community Educator
- Kristen Rost,** Nationwide
- Emily Sandman,** Cardinal Health
- Torie Selhorst,** Nationwide
- Kurt Thomas,** MedTronic Plc.
- Todd Walter,** The Joseph Group

Executive Leadership Team:

- Brandy Jemczura,** Founder and Executive Director
- Noelle Juday,** Program Director



Thanks to our volunteer dream team

More than 60 volunteers stepped up to lead our Seeds of Caring service, social action, and community-building events in 2019. This talented, tireless team delivered a volunteer value of

IMPACT



105 service, social action, and community-building events

that bring families together for a common purpose



2,100+ sack lunches assembled to nourish the hungry



180 welcome gifts created to provide hope and encouragement for New Americans



3,001 child participants empowered to create a kinder community with their hearts, hands, and minds



6,245 service hours provided to 41 non-profit partner organizations



\$158,810 in volunteer value to the community



3,555 comfort care items collected and packaged for first night foster youth

FINANCIALS



Expenses (\$66,809)

● PROGRAM SERVICES:.....	\$46,359
● ADMINISTRATION:.....	\$10,105
● FUNDRAISING:.....	\$10,345



Revenues (\$233,913)

● CORPORATE DONATIONS.....	\$23,087
● EVENT FEES.....	\$6,568
● FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS.....	\$59,809
● INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS*.....	\$142,510
● OTHER.....	\$1,939

*Seeds of Caring was fortunate to receive a large one-time gift in 2019. A strategic action plan is in place to put this to good use in the coming 3 years in order to grow our programs and impact.

\$61,540 (as calculated by Independent Sector), significantly reducing our program expenses. To each of you: We could not do what we do — or dare to imagine what we can do next — without you. Thank you.



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Donors

HEART SHAPERS (\$1,000+)

Brenda Tobey
Emily Sandman
Justin & Amy Thomas
The Bayne Foundation
The Fullenkamp Family
The Littleton Family
The Meyer Family
The Sullivan Family
Carrie Hay

KINDNESS CREATORS (\$500+)

Cindy & Kevin Hacket
Fidel Forde
Jennie St. Angelo
Jetpubs
Julie & Adam Porr
Melanie & Ben Moon
Nancy & Jonathan Willis
Robert J. Kovey
Sandy Pond
Shawna Holland
Sheila L. Radcliff
Sunny Munn & Demetrius Thomas
The King Family
The Jorgenson Family
The Pirtle Family

Community & Corporate Sponsors



A big thanks to our 2019 Kindness Coalition members, each of whom raised \$1,000+ to pave the way for growing Seeds of Caring's impact and programs.

Jill Bisping	Jessica King
Erin Brown	Jennifer Meyer
Gida Castro	Melanie Bryan Moon
Colleen Davis	Claire Patterson
Jen Diamond	Sarah Pirtle
Lyndsey Dudley	Julie Porr
Jerry Friedman	Sheila Radcliff
Leigh Fullenkamp	Kristen Rost
Danielle Hunter	Annie Schuller
Erin Johnson	Jennie St. Angelo
Noelle Juday	Nancy Willis



PERFECT HARMONY:

Seeds Of Caring and Goodwill

As Seeds of Caring works toward engaging hundreds of local families in creating a more compassionate Columbus, there's one thing we know for sure: We can't do it alone. We're so proud of, and grateful for, our ongoing partnership with dozens of local non-profits, including Goodwill Columbus.

Our programs focus on service, social action, and community-building. Throughout 2019, Seeds of Caring and Goodwill worked together to offer monthly events in support of those initiatives, all while furthering Goodwill's work to build independence, improve quality of life, and provide work opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers.

In our Tunes and Togetherness program, kids and individuals with disabilities enjoy music led by singer-songwriter-educator Joanie Calem, then participate in a special activity led by Goodwill friends. At our Seeing Life Differently events, kids and families learn firsthand what it's like to live with a vision impairment. They get to hear directly from Goodwill friends who belong to the visually impaired community, and to participate in simulated activities like eating and walking through a building blindfolded. Through "artivism," we connect activism and art, teaching kids about youth activists across the globe and challenging them to communicate their ideas through art, with the help of Goodwill artists.

The Seeds of Caring partnership with Goodwill brings people from all walks of life together — to learn from each other, enjoy each other, and share community. It's how we're cultivating greater understanding of, empathy for, and kindness toward each other.



"Bring those kids back again! They make our day here so happy."
—Helen, Goodwill participant



"When I first met William, he was kind and helpful and we made our projects together. Now he's my friend."
—Havyn, age 7



"This is exactly what my family has needed! An opportunity to give kindness to others with a variety of needs and understand that in the end, we really do belong to each other."
—parent participant

Opened hearts and expanded perspectives of **250+ KIDS** at Goodwill programs

Built bridges and community with **100+ INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES** and other barriers

RIPPLE EFFECTS:

Confidence and Conversations

For parents and kids anywhere, it can be tough to find common ground. Seeds of Caring aspires to spark conversations, and to meet a real need in the communities we support: the need for kid-friendly, accessible volunteer opportunities that families can experience together.

By providing both context and guidance on how to talk about various community needs, Seeds of Caring enables families to openly talk about what they're seeing and how they can help, far beyond just the time spent at an event. It warms our hearts — and gives us great purpose — to hear from parents about the impact we're having on their children. The confidence they're developing as they explore the ways they can truly make a difference. The empathy they're learning as they care for others. And the changes they're making, in themselves, their homes, their communities, and the lives of so many.

The bottom line is this: When kids know they matter, that their voices will be heard, and that they can make a difference, they feel powerful. And when they feel the real weight of their ability to contribute, they advocate more strongly for what they feel needs attention in their community. Who knows how far the ripples of their efforts will be felt?



What parents are saying about their kids' Seeds of Caring volunteer experiences:

85% said their kids have shown more **INITIATIVE IN HELPING OTHERS.**

92% said the experience **TRIGGERED IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS** within their family.

97% said volunteering made it **EASIER TO TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY NEEDS.**

100% of families said their participation in Seeds of Caring has had a **POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THEIR CHILDREN.**

"My child is still talking about the event we attended, even months later."

—Danielle, parent participant

"Seeds of Caring recognizes the humanity of children and their ability to contribute."

—Victoria, event leader

"My kids understand now that big hearts make a big impact — and they don't need to wait until they are bigger to make a difference."

—Molly, parent participant



ON THE NICE LIST.

Christmas wish lists are usually long and toy-filled. So imagine her mom's surprise when five-year-old Vivienne said what she most wanted for Christmas was to spend the day delivering meals to those who needed them most. Viv's mom has noticed a real shift in her daughter's capacity for compassion and empathy since she began participating with Seeds of Caring. Viv got her Christmas wish!

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.

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

GIVE A LITTLE, TAKE A LITTLE.

While volunteering with Seeds of Caring, many kids are learning that the issues they see in their community can happen to anyone. It's a critical lesson in empathy, and one that parents are grateful their kids are learning young. As one mom explains, "Because of Seeds of Caring, my children don't attach a stigma to needing help." Understanding that it's great to offer help — and that it's okay to ask for it, too! — is a powerful message.



SMALL HANDS, BIG HEARTS.

Eight year-old Henry has participated with Seeds of Caring for two years (that's a quarter of his life!) and says, "I've learned that kids like me can do big things with small actions." Henry lives this truth, delivering smiles and meals to seniors in our community, packing hundreds of sack lunches for homeless neighbors, and creating cheer cards for hospitalized children. Henry and thousands of other kids like him may have small hands, but they've also got big hearts and are making a real difference in our community.

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.



AN OPPORTUNITY AND A RESPONSIBILITY.

As an educator, parent participant Mike Armelie understands as well as anyone that children bring an innate sense of kindness and compassion to the table. He challenges us all to take responsibility for giving them an opportunity to serve: "We have every reason, every motivation to harness that now, when they are young, and help them see the value of those qualities. Our kids have all the potential in the world to make positive change — it's our job as parents and as a community to help them realize it. Seeds of Caring gives us that opportunity."



LEARN MORE AT
www.seedsofcaring.org



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