



SPORTS4KIDS



ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible support that fuels our mission at Sports4Kids. My name is Arden Pala, and I'm honored to be the Founder and CEO of an organization dedicated to ensuring every kid, regardless of background, has the opportunity to play sports and develop lifelong skills. Beyond athletics, we address critical challenges like childhood hunger and homelessness, striving to make a meaningful impact in our community.

What started four years ago as a small coaching session has grown into a movement. This year, we achieved remarkable milestones:

- Raised over \$350,000 to support our mission.
- Positively impacted 7,500 lives.
- Introduced 1,500 homeless children to 20+ hours of team sports.
- Distributed 25,000 pounds of food.
- Mobilized 750 volunteers who contributed over 10,000 service hours.

These accomplishments reflect the transformative power of coming together to create change. Thank you for believing in our mission and joining us in building a brighter future for all children.

With gratitude,

Arden Pala
Founder and CEO, Sports4Kids



Our Programs

Bond & Play

We provide free sports clinics in schools that have a high homeless student population. We involve youth volunteers in games and sports, promoting teamwork and play for every kid.

Gear Up Initiative

The GearUp Initiative by Sports4Kids is a nationwide call to action for middle and high school students to make a real difference in the lives of their peers in low-income communities by collecting and donating sports equipment.

Community Connect

We offer community events for kids of all ages to volunteer and support our homeless youth community. These events provide a platform for young volunteers to make a real difference in the lives of their peers in need.



SPORTS4KIDS

Why it Matters

Homelessness among kids is a growing issue that often goes unnoticed, yet its impact is profound. In San Diego County alone, over 16,658 students were identified as homeless in the 2022-2023 school year.

At Sports4Kids, we believe every child deserves opportunities to thrive, no matter their circumstances. Through programs like Bond & Play Clinics, which have introduced over 1,500 homeless kids to team sports alongside inspirational athletes like Harlem Globetrotters player Saul 'Flip' White Jr., and the Gear Up Initiative, which has empowered youth to donate essential sports equipment, we create pathways for success. Our Community Events, which include distributing 25,000 pounds of food and mobilizing 750 volunteers to serve 10,000 hours, bring joy and support through backpacks, meals, and holiday gifts.

These efforts not only address immediate needs but also inspire hope and belonging. By providing resources and fostering connections, we are lifting up children and families in need. Together, we can ensure every child has the chance to grow, play, and succeed, proving that when we invest in the happiness and well-being of others, we truly transform lives.



Bond & Play

In San Diego County, over 130 of the approximately 180 schools receive Title I funding to support low-income students. However, many of these schools lack dedicated physical education (PE) teachers, limiting students' access to structured physical activity and the associated benefits.

Sports4Kids addresses this gap by providing sports and fitness clinics in Title I schools across San Diego, with plans to expand throughout California.

Our Bond & Play Clinics bring trained adult volunteer instructors, youth volunteers, and inspirational athletes—such as Harlem Globetrotters player Saul 'Flip' White Jr. and former NBA player Larry Krystkowiak—to work alongside elementary-aged students. These clinics promote teamwork and ensure every child has the opportunity to participate actively, learning both hard and soft skills essential for sports and life.

We foster an inclusive environment where kids from low-income communities can develop physical fitness, confidence, and essential life skills.

Our commitment to expanding our reach aims to provide these vital opportunities to more students across California, empowering them to lead healthier and more active lives.



Gear Up Initiative

The GearUp Initiative by Sports4Kids is a nationwide call to action for middle and high school students to make a real difference in the lives of their peers in low-income communities by collecting and donating sports equipment. This program is designed to empower you to lead and organize donation drives at your school or community, ensuring that every kid has the gear they need to participate in sports.

Sports are vital for youth development but are less accessible in lower-income areas, where only 52% of children participate—significantly lower than the 66% in wealthier families. The high costs of sports pose a barrier, preventing 42% of lower-income families from involving their children and underscoring the need for supportive initiatives.

Through **the Gear Up Program**, we aim to bridge the gap in sports participation by ensuring that all children, regardless of economic background, have access to the necessary gear. Each donation drive directly supports youth in low-income communities, helping to foster a more inclusive environment where every child has the chance to engage in sports and enjoy the associated benefits.



Community Connect

We provide community events, where kids of all ages can volunteer. We want to help children and their families give back to their communities in a meaningful way.

When kids are taught from an early age about the benefits of charitable work, they will carry that forward into their teen and adult lives. Not only does it benefit the charities they work with, it benefits the children themselves as they transition into young adults.

Bi Monthly Smaller Group Events

We organize bimonthly events, including serving food at soup kitchens, cooking breakfast at youth shelters, and decorating shelters for the holidays, among other activities. These programs cater to a smaller group of volunteers and fill up quickly.

Annual Larger Events

We host two major annual events:

Back2School (August): Where we bring hundreds of volunteers together to fill backpacks filled with school supplies. These are then distributed to homeless families in our county.

Bags of Hopes (December): Where we bring hundreds of volunteers together to fill backpacks filled with school supplies. These are then distributed to homeless families in our county.



A year in Review



**Raised over
\$350,000 to
support our
mission.**

**Introduced
1,500
homeless
children to
team
sports.**

**Mobilized 750 volunteers who
contributed over 10,000
service hours.**

**Distributed
25,000
pounds of
food.**



**Positively
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Our Supporters

