

Youth Giving Back

The inaugural Holiday Youth Ambassadors program engaged 13 middle and high school age students from 10 schools to support the Sack-it for Santa program. Together, they raised approximately \$5,700 in financial and in-kind donations, completed five volunteer sessions, and helped pack 2,200 hygiene kits. Each ambassador also created and led a personal project, ranging from pickleball tournaments to bake sales, to collect financial donations or themed gifts to be given to peers in need. These ambassadors joined other youth from Kind Craft, the Shawnee Mission South National Honor Society and the local home school community to make a difference during the holidays.



With Gratitude

A special thank you to the Seva Dance Youth Board and Founders for selecting the Love Fund for Children as the charitable beneficiary of their INfusion 2025 Bollywood Showcase. Seva Dance's commitment to culture and community has made a difference by providing holiday cheer, medically recommended items and services, as well as basic necessities for Kansas City area young people.



A Letter From Our Executive Director

Greetings!

2025 was a tough year for families in crisis. Thankfully, because of a generous Kansas City community, the Love Fund helped 10,115 children while also engaging the next generation of philanthropists.

As the organization steps into its 45th year of service, our purpose is clear, our commitment is unwavering, and our impact is profound. Together, with agency partners, donors, and volunteers, you help to ensure our youngest neighbors have everything they need today to build the future they desire. We appreciate your partnership and investment!

Thank you,

Dionne

Dionne M. Pleasant



Impact Report

2025



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The Love Fund for Children bridges the gap for youth by partnering with advocates to fulfill the unique or unmet needs of children across Kansas City.

Impact Highlights

Mercy is a strong-willed and determined girl who faces multiple medical challenges, including legal blindness, ADHD, and musculoskeletal issues. Mercy’s family requested assistance with adaptive martial arts training classes. Martial arts can significantly benefit blind students by enhancing body awareness, spatial orientation, balance, and coordination, key skills that are essential for Mercy’s continued growth.

In addition to improving her physical fitness, participation in adaptive martial arts will help build her self-esteem, self-discipline, and self-defense abilities in a way that’s both empowering and enjoyable.



Video graciously provided by Fox 4

Want to meet more children served? Watch this video to see how Pharoah and Gabrielle’s lives were enhanced.



Educational Impact

Summer Enrichment

In June, nearly 50 third-grade students from University Academy enjoyed a field trip to Science City. With the support of volunteers, students explored interactive exhibits, shared pizza, and experienced the excitement of learning beyond the classroom. Each child also received new uniforms and school supplies. Thank you to the SelectQuote Foundation for making this Summer Enrichment experience possible.

“Many families in Kansas City face the "summer slide"— a period where access to nutrition, safety, and academic engagement can drop. The Love Fund provides the resources (buses, supplies, and experiences) that allow schools to provide a safe, high-quality haven for children. This support stabilizes families and ensures that a child's zip code does not determine their level of summer opportunity.”

- Debra Foster Payne, Dean of Students, University Academy

School Supply Drive

In partnership with Kansas City Public Schools, the Love Fund for Children provided 5,000 students with the school supplies they need to be prepared on the first day of class. In addition, through our own Youth Advocate network, an additional 1,710 children in other districts around the metropolitan area also received much needed resources.

“The program strengthens educational equity by ensuring all students have access to basic learning materials. It also brings the community together to support families, reinforcing a shared commitment to student success and a stronger future for Kansas City. Our kids know that Kansas City is behind them and supporting their academic success.”

- Jonathan Hile, Executive Director, Kansas City Public School Education Foundation



10,115

CHILDREN SERVED

2,480

SACK-IT FOR SANTA GIFT BAGS

788

CHILDREN RECEIVED BASIC NECESSITIES TAILORED TO THEM

6,710

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS DISTRIBUTED

158

YOUTH ADVOCATE REFERRAL PARTNERS

Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual Thanksgiving event at Davidson Elementary allowed 55 children and their families to enjoy a festive evening filled with food, games, toys and winter warmth gifts, and the main attraction, Santa. The event brought families together to celebrate the season, share joy, and create meaningful memories in a welcoming and fun atmosphere.

"I wasn't expecting to shed so many tears of joy throughout this process! These are the kind of things that reduce barriers and allow our students to come to school warm, fed, and happy. The Love Fund programs are so impactful to the KC community because they meet people's needs with such grace and compassion."

- Katie McCoy, School Counselor, Davidson Elementary School, NKC

