

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

CHARITABLE VV FOUNDATION



2021

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OUR IMPACT

The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation is ever-present in the community, constantly working to achieve our mission to make a positive and measurable impact in the lives of children that need it most, but we can't do it alone. With your help, we can continue our mission to make a positive and measurable impact on kids in the greater Washington, DC region.



in support of community and charitable programs



books distributed to educate youth on diversity, equity, and inclusion



in grants awarded to our High School Coach of the Weeks **2,250**

Families impacted in D.C., MD, & VA through drive-thru & in-person events

120,000

pounds of food distributed to families during the holidays



events hosted virtually and in-person



students who participated in Washington Charitable Foundation virtual in-school programs



school districts reached in D.C., MD, & VA by the Charitable Foundation's virtual in-school programming







CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECT

During Commanders' Training Camp in July, the Charitable Foundation made a \$75k contribution to the City of Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities in support of the renovation of Hotchkiss Field Community Center which provides a variety of programs for children and young adults in the area. Later that day we were able to surprise one of the organizations that utilizes the facility, RVA League for Safer Streets, whose mission is to utilize basketball to unify families and reduce crime in the RVA community. We were able to gift them with around \$15,000 in brand new sports equipment ahead of their upcoming season and Washington Commanders Team President, Jason Wright & Alumni, Gary Clark, Chris Baker, and Tim Hightower met with the players and offered words of wisdom in a character-building workshop.















As a part of the NFL's Inspire Change initiative, designed for players, owners, and the league to work together to create positive change in communities across America, the Washington Commanders continue to engage and support these efforts across our region.





EVERFI 306 + BGC PARTNERSHIP

With Washington players leading the charge, along with help from alumnus Doug Williams, the Charitable Foundation partnered with EverFi and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington to bring an African American History program (known as Everfi306) to students in the DC metro area. The goal of the partnership, and our \$50,000 donation towards this program, was to educate and encourage kids and teens of all races and backgrounds to have difficult conversations and use their voices to create positive change. During this year's Program Kickoff, Washington Alumni, Tim Hightower and Joshua Morgan, provided insight to the students about how a program like Everfi306 helps to change a limiting narrative and expand the dreams of those in young Black communities.

DIGITAL DIVIDE GRANT

As part of the National Football League's Inspire Change initiative to reduce barriers to opportunity, the Washington Commanders awarded two grants -- in the amount of \$15,000 apiece -- to two critical organizations, Horton's Kids and Prince George's County Memorial Library System, in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County, Maryland that are working to bridge the digital divide. Inspiring change begins with a commitment to equity in all forms, and these organizations are demonstrating a determined approach to breaking down barriers in technology access. The Washington Commanders and the National Football League are proud to serve the community through these two farreaching organizations.



SEASON OF GIVING

























BURGUNDY, GOLD & PINK T-SHIRT SALE

All month, fans had the opportunity to purchase our annual unique and limitededition Washington Football Burgundy, Gold & Pink T-shirt. 100% of proceeds from the t-shirt benefit the Brem Foundation and the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) Foundation.

The Brem Foundation maximizes every woman's chance of finding early, curable breast cancer through education, access, and advocacy.

By spreading the message of breast cancer education and awareness, the ZTA foundation is determined to diminish this disease. ZTA has been an instrumental partner in launching and expanding the NFL's THINK PINK® and "Crucial Catch" initiatives in the decades since Tanya Snyder launched the inaugural THINK PINK® event.





On Oct. 12, we hosted the 13th annual All-Star Survivors Celebration, an event focused on supporting and celebrating 30 All-Star Survivors, women whose lives have been affected by breast cancer, and their families. During the event, the breast cancer survivors, or "All-Stars", were treated to lunch, makeup consultation, and massages, and they received new jeans donated by Gap Inc., custom Color Bar jewelry donated by Kendra Scott, spa services courtesy of Lansdowne Resort and Spa, wigs and scarves provided by the American Cancer Society, and a Washington Commanders gift bag. Attention to the little details played a big role in the mission to make these women feel special. That extra level of awareness left an impression on JJ Jackson. "Just coming in and seeing the football with my name on it, you know, and a gift bag, it was just like, 'Oh my God. They really care," JJ said.

For these women and their loved ones, the event provided a cherished opportunity to connect with other survivors and create joyful memories in the midst of hardship. Each All-Star carried a unique story into the resort's ballroom at the All-Star Survivors Celebration. Some had relatives who also had breast cancer, while others had no family history of the disease whatsoever. Washington's deep and authentic care towards this cause stems from a very personal place. Washington alumnus and former All-Pro tight end Chris Cooley launched this annual tradition with the team in 2008 after his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. He saw how the family struggled to cope, how she fought to beat this disease, and the toll that a double mastectomy and radiation treatments imposed.

Additionally, we welcomed the All-Star Survivors to our Crucial Catch game to honor and recognize them.







MY CAUSE, MY CLEATS

As part of the NFL's My Cause, My Cleats campaign, more than 70 Washington Commanders players and coaches created custom cleats to raise awareness for initiatives and causes they are passionate about. Players revealed their passions beyond the game and wore their hearts on their feet in Week 13 of the 2021 season. The Charitable Foundation then auctioned off select players' and coaches' game-worn cleats, raising more than \$30,000 in the initiative's seventh year, to support their chosen non-profit organizations.

Logan Thomas

The loss of his beloved grandma to a disease that is considered one of the largest health problems in the world ultimately motivated Logan to select the American Cancer Society as his cause for this year's "My Cause, My Cleats" campaign. Honoring his grandma and the millions affected by cancer, Thomas said, "Being able to put [these] on my feet and play for all those who've had cancer, I don't take it lightly."

Coach Ron Rivera

Washington Commanders head coach Ron Rivera knows the effects of proton therapy more intimately than most. After all, it's why he's cancer-free. Rivera said they were fortunate because of the insurance, but he also knows that many people don't have that luxury. That's why he and Stephanie donated \$100,000 to the charity in April of 2021 to make sure the treatment is more available to children in need. "This is something that is personal to me," Rivera said. "I lost my brother five years ago to cancer, and proton therapy is something that might have helped. So, what we wanted to do was we wanted to help out with research, help out with making sure that the kids are able to get this kind of treatment."



Taylor Heinicke

Washington quarterback, Taylor Heinicke, is dedicated to honoring those who have died in service of their country and the families that will never be fully whole again. That's why choosing Children of Fallen Patriots was a choice for his charity as part of the NFL's "My Cause, My Cleats" campaign. "I know it's a rough time for those kids. I just want to honor those patriots that have fallen and the families that are suffering through that" Heinicke said.

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- Jonathan Allen Impact 22
- Kyle Allen Jessie Rees Foundation: NEGU
- Troy Apke Wolf Trap Animal Rescue
- David Bada One World Charity
- John Bates Smile Train
- Dyami Brown American Cancer Society, Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation, & National Museum of African American History and Culture
- DeAndre Carter Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF International)
- Camaron Cheeseman BREM Foundation
- · Sam Cosmi Autism Society of America
- Kam Curl National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Jamin Davis National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Deshazor Everett Mental Health America
- · Ereck Flowers American Cancer Society
- Darrick Forrest St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Cristian Garcia Mother's Against Drunk Driving
- Antonio Gibson BREM Foundation
- Chris Harris The Foundation Fighting Blindness
- Taylor Heinicke Children of the Fallen Patriots Foundation
- Cole Holcomb Thumbs Up Mission (The Keaton Franklin Coker Foundation)
- Khaleke Hudson Stop Handgun Violence
- Adam Humphries Uplifting Athletes
- · Matt Ioannidis Show Your Soft Side
- · Keith Ismael City Year

- · Danny Johnson BREM Foundation
- Randy Jordan BREM Foundation
- Jennifer King Women's Sports Foundation (Scott Pioli Fund)
- · Jordan Kunaszyk Compassion International
- Tyler Larsen TACA The Autism Community in Action
- Charles Leno Jr. Beyond the Entertainer / The Hogfarmers
- Cornelius Lucas Convoy of Hope
- · David Mayo Pat Tillman Foundation
- Bobby McCain 20/20 Vision
- J.D. McKissic National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Jared Norris National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Jaret Patterson National Parkinson's Foundation
- Daron Payne Alabama Kidney Foundation & Lupus Foundation of America
- Vincent Rivera St. Francis Center in Los Angeles
- Ron Rivera St. Jude Children's Research Hospital - Red Frog Proton Therapy
- Chase Roullier Hogfarmers Inc. Charitable Foundation
- · Steve Russ Wounded Warrior Project
- Curtis Samuel STOMP Out Bullying
- Brandon Scherff Aiming for a Cure Foundation
- Wes Schweitzer 19 for Life
- Tim Settle Northern Virginia Family Services
- Kyle Shurmur Turner's Heroes
- Cam Sims Impact 22
- James Smith-Williams Set The Expectation















HISPANIC HERITAGE

On September 28, the Washington Football Charitable kicked off the 2021-2022 Washington Reads Program with a virtual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration with 200+ students across DC, Maryland and Virginia. Washington Football tight end and 1st Chilean NFL Player, Sammis Reyes, surprised students with a reading of the book La Frontera, shared his journey to the NFL, talked about his heritage, and concluded the event with a Q&A with students.

WASHINGTON READS PROGRAM KICKOFF: HISPANIC HERTIAGE

The Washington Reads Program, which focuses on a playbook for students to study the X's and O's of reading offers The Reads Playbook, which provides monthly prompts for students to analyze a book(s) of their choice. This supplemental learning tool incentivizes 4th and 5th grade students to read and develop a joy for it. This year we had 215+ schools across DC, Maryland, and Virginia participate in the Reads program.











Washington Alumnus, Joshua Morgan!





As a part of Salute to Service week, we hosted five Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) families for a special practice viewing at Inova Sports and Performance Center in Ashburn, Virginia. After practice, alongside current players, Washington Legend Doug Williams, and Head Coach Ron Rivera, the families were told that Washington players would be wearing helmets with the initials of their loved ones in Sunday's game against Tampa Bay. For Washington personnel and TAPS, marking players' helmets with the initials of troops who have passed is a sacred and personal gesture that embodies and furthers a commitment Washington has forged to recognize the sacrifice and service of these families. In 2015, Washington became the first NFL team to partner with TAPS. Since then, nurturing that relationship and spotlighting the important work TAPS spearheads has been a top priority for Washington.





During the Coach of the Week selection process, the committee considered how each nominee demonstrates the importance of player health and safety, which includes their philosophies on teaching the fundamentals of the game, proper tackling techniques, concussion management practices, and adherence to heat and hydration guidelines. Additionally, each coach chosen throughout the high school football season received a \$2,000 donation from the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation to their football program to provide additional resources and training to recipients and their coaching staff and were honored in-game with an on-field moment in January.

COACH OF THE WEEK

The High School Coach of the Week program is a league-wide initiative, recognizing area high school football coaches who continuously demonstrate hard work and dedication to their football programs by creating successful football teams and players both on and off the field.



2021 WASHINGTON FOOTBALL HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE WEEK AWARD NOMINEES

- Week 1: Jeremy Pruitt Armstrong High School (Richmond, VA)
- Week 2: Rashad Cook Western Branch High School (Chesapeake, VA)
- Week 3: Alex Fruth Goochland High School (Goochland, VA)
- Week 4: Cortez Whiting Osbourn High School (Manassas, VA)
- Week 5: Charlie Porterfield Kettle Run High School (Nokesville, VA)
- Week 6: Michael Nesmith Paint Branch School (Burtonsville, MD)
- Week 7: Kenneth Brown Ballou High School (Washington, DC)
- Week 8: Joe Cockerham Heritage High School (Leesburg, VA)
- Week 9: Dustin Jeter Springbrook High School (Silver Spring, MD)
- Week 10: Pat Ward St. John's College High School (Washington, DC)



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE

Prior to each game, we invite a local high school football team to participate in a unique gameday experience. We welcome one area high school football team to come onto the field, watch both teams warm up, and hold the American flag on the 50-yard line of the field as our national anthem is played for the crowd.

Schools who participated:

- Walter Johnson High School (Bethesda, MD)
- Tuscarora High School (Leesburg, VA)
- Fairmont Heights High School (Landover, MD)
- Justice High School (Falls Church, VA)
- Wakefield High School (Arlington, VA)
- Roosevelt High School (Washington, DC)
- Kettle Run High School (Nokesville, VA)
- Paint Branch High School (Burtonsville, MD)



WALTER PAYTON MAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE: JONATHAN ALLEN

Our nominee this year for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Presented by Nationwide, was Jonathan Allen. Considered one of the league's most prestigious honors, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service activities off the field, as well as excellence on the field. All 32 nominees receive up to a \$40,000 donation in their name to their charity of choice, of which Jonathan selected the Sasha Bruce Youthwork.





commitment to the DMV community. Throughout his time with Washington, he has participated in a number of events hosted by the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation. He guided students from Dreams for Kids DC through football drills, packaged weekend bags for Prince George's County Elementary School students at the Capital Area Food Bank and welcomed 200 elementary school kids into the Washington locker room at FedExField to meet Santa and take home toys for Christmas. Throughout his five years on the team, Jonathan has looked for ways to support and improve the lives of children in the community where he was raised.

Jonathan Allen and his wife Hannah announced that they are pledging to donate \$3 million dollars to local area charities over the course of Jonathan's playing career with the Washington Commanders.

In November, Jonathan organized a Thanksgiving event where they, along with Grace Covenant Church, distributed canned goods and gift cards to Sasha Bruce Youthwork families to ensure the families would enjoy Thanksgiving meals. Additionally, they sponsored a holiday wish lists for families from the Sasha Bruce House, purchasing and gift-wrapping presents to distribute during a dinner the Allen's hosted for the families.



JONATHAN AND THE SASHA BRUCE YOUTHWORK TIMELINE:

- 2019 Allen began working with Sasha Bruce Youthwork (SBY): Sasha Bruce Youthwork is a nonprofit organization in Washington, DC that helps homeless youth find safe homes, achieve and maintain good physical and mental health, create and strengthen supportive and stable families, and explore opportunities in education and careers. Jonathan and Hannah have made significant time and financial contributions to Sasha Bruce Youthwork. including unveiling an Innovation Lounge. The Jonathan and Hannah Allen Innovation Lounge is a multidisciplinary space designed by and for youth and is located in the Bruce House, which is D.C.'s only homeless youth shelter for minors. The lounge offers a fun and innovative space to inspire creativity, open-mindedness and an entrepreneurial spirit among homeless and runaway youth.
- 2020 Allen contributed \$45,000 to the Sasha Bruce Rapid Response funding initiative. Jonathan and Hannah Allen also served on the planning committee for the annual Sasha Bruce gala.
- 2021 Holiday Events: Over the Thanksgiving holiday, Jonathan and Hannah donated meals to more than 85 families within the Sasha Bruce community and also sponsored the holiday wish lists for all the kids staying at the Sasha Bruce House during the holiday season.

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THANK YOU

The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation would like to give thanks to the many individuals who have made our work possible this past year, especially to our donors, corporate sponsors, and volunteers! Thank you for your time, commitment, and continued support for the more than 179,000 children and families in our community we were able to impact in 2021.

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