For the love of our city, our people and our promise.

The Columbus Blue Jackets and the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation have one simple goal. For you, beside you and because of you, our goal is to support meaningful change—right here in central Ohio.

Since 2000, we’ve made a powerful commitment to youth health and wellness:

TEACHING OUR YOUTH
CHAMPIONING CARE
SHARING OUR TIME
MARCHING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Cheer us on, and we’ll discover many more ways to move forward—as one—because we’re passionate about marching with the community that marches with us.
600 ORGANIZATIONS supported last season

$850,000 GRANTS given to 24 local nonprofits last year

56,000 YOUTH served in central Ohio

$434,635 TICKETS donated to Columbus Blue Jackets games

2,600 HOURS volunteered by fans, players, Lady Jackets and staff

7,002 SMILES for kids at 44 schools who received KidSMILES dental education

$142,000 DONATED in equipment, supplies and skating passes to schools

900 YOUTH participated in the Character Hat Trick program

$1,843,038 COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT
BELIEF
The Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation is dedicated to
the health and wellness of children in central Ohio.

COMMITMENT
We dedicate time, resources and financial support
to organizations making a difference in the areas of
pediatric cancer, reading, fitness through play and the
growth and development of amateur hockey.

IMPACT
We’ve provided more than $7.1 million to our
community since the team’s inception in 2000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John P. McConnell
Chairman Emeritus
Cathy Lyttle
Board Chair
Diana Davidson
Board Member
Amy McConnell
Board Member
T.J. LaMondia
Treasurer
Nathan Wymer
Board Member
Greg Kirstein
Secretary
Kathryn Dobbs
Executive Director

The Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation is a registered nonprofit organization.
Growing up, Akeem Adesoji had one true passion: hockey. But the expense of equipment almost kept him from his dream. Lucky for Akeem, the Columbus Ice Hockey Club (CIHC) was there for him.

"If not for the CIHC," his mother said, "I don’t think he would’ve played hockey." The initial investment of hundreds of dollars in equipment seemed far beyond the family’s budget until CIHC helped fund it.

PAY IT FORWARD

Now—after years of training, playing in high school and even returning to CIHC to mentor younger skaters—Akeem’s efforts are paying off. Last year, he received one of our foundation’s highest honors: the $10,000 High School Hockey Scholarship, which has helped this 4.1 GPA student-athlete on his way to Allegheny College. He also received the prestigious NMAA Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

"Columbus Ice Hockey Club is able to lower the cost of playing for the kids who can’t afford it. Without help from the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation and other organizations, it wouldn’t be possible."

AKEEM ADESJO
STINGER’S POWER PLAY CHALLENGE

We call our school assembly program Stinger’s Power Play Challenge. The interactive, multimedia presentation designed for 3rd- and 4th-graders encourages kids to get 60 minutes of active play each day.

4,000 students took the challenge

CHARACTER HAT TRICK

In local summer day camps, we introduced elementary-aged campers to the Blue Jackets through a hockey clinic. In our popular interactive program, we focused on three areas—teamwork, respect and responsibility—or, as we call it, the Character Hat Trick.

900+ campers served

STUDENT ACHIEVERS

We believe in motivation, hard work and reward. Through our Student Achievers program, we offered up to four free game tickets for students who earn straight A’s or those who improved a full letter grade in a subject in a grading period.

1,000+ tickets given to recognize student achievements

BOOK JACKETS

Our no-cost reading incentive program, Book Jackets, offers K-8 teachers a way to encourage and reward reading outside the class. Last year, more than 2,100 participants read a total of 1.5 million minutes.

1.5 MILLION minutes read

TIMEOUT TO READ

At local YMCAs, preschoolers joined the three-week Timeout to Read program, sponsored by PNC. Last year’s program welcomed 365 pre-K kids from 30 classrooms, 82% from low-income families. By encouraging reading to and with preschoolers for at least 30 minutes a day, the program builds imagination, family time and literacy.

15,500+ minutes read
STINGER’S READING TEAM
Through a partnership with Columbus Metropolitan Library, we invited kids to join Stinger’s Reading Team. The incentive-based program encourages students who use any of the library’s 22 homework help centers to spend their extra time reading. Prizes were awarded for every three books read.

1,767 students participated by tracking their extra reading

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT
We help local kids get a start in understanding how businesses work through the Junior Achievement Biz Town program. Last year, our grant supported the program and the Blue Jackets storefront.

10,331 students learned basic economic concepts

HOCKEY SCHOLARS
To help K-8 students advance in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), we offer an online program called Hockey Scholars. It uses hockey to teach each subject in a supportive and fun way. More than 150 schools participated thanks to a partnership with the NHL, the NHL Players’ Association and the online education company EverFi.

THE COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS FOUNDATION ANNually AWARDS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS OF $10,000 EACH. THESE GIFTS ARE FOR STUDENTS WHO SHOW EXCEPTIONAL QUALITIES BOTH ON AND OFF THE ICE.

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY SCHOLARSHIP
For one outstanding high school senior, we grant the High School Hockey Scholarship. Last year’s recipient was Akeem Adesiji, who played locally with the Northeast Storm.

JOHN H. McCONNELL SCHOLARSHIP
The Blue Jackets also want to reward those who embrace community service, as did our late team founder, John H. McConnell. Last spring, we gave the John H. McConnell Scholarship to Andrew Price of Grove City.
In central Ohio, we have children who desperately need dental care but have no access. The expense of a visit to the dentist is sometimes more than a family can budget—especially a family with limited or no dental insurance.

DENTAL CARE FOR EVERYONE

Through a grant request in 2011, we learned that more than 60,000 local kids needed dental care. The request matched our foundation’s commitment to youth health and wellness, so we stepped up to fill the need. And the KidsMILES program was born.

For parents who may be between jobs or have no dental insurance, it’s gratifying to see children benefiting from the whole spectrum of dental care: exams, cleanings, x-rays and fillings. Hundreds of dollars of care, all made possible for one affordable $10 payment.

The Lady Jackets helped bring the facility to life by giving it an imaginative design to welcome young visitors.

We also fund an outreach program that provides dental education in our local schools.

“We had a dream. We’re going to solve dental problems for kids. Well, no one wants to be the first person to fund you because you haven’t been proven. We sat down with the Blue Jackets Foundation—and they were the first ones to believe in the dream.”

Dr. Jim and Julie Homan
Co-Founders of KidsMILES
PHOTOS OF HOPE

A nonprofit organization called Flashes of Hope arranges professional photo shoots for kids with cancer so they can see themselves and their changing appearance in a new and positive way. Flashes’ photographers use their expertise to capture images of courage, beauty, strength, hope and dignity—while also raising funds for research. The Blue Jackets Foundation is the sole funder of the local chapter of Flashes of Hope.

RONALD MCDONALD

HOSPITAL

When pediatric patients need an overnight stay, it’s not always easy or affordable for parents to use a hotel. The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) offer a place they can stay for free.

600+ nights supported by CBJ last season

FLYING HORSE FARMS

Our grant to Flying Horse Farms, a camp thoughtfully adapted for children with serious illnesses, supported a two-week-long hematology and oncology camp.

126 kids sent to camp

MAKE-A-WISH

Thanks to our grant partnership, we funded the travel needed to fulfill the wishes of 10 children battling life-threatening illnesses.

A KID AGAIN

Our grant allowed 510 ill children and family members to enjoy a Columbus Blue Jackets Adventure, including tickets, parking, meal and souvenirs during their trip to Nationwide Arena.

HATS FOR HEROES

Through a partnership with the Fraternal Order of Police, we generate funds to support the fight against pediatric cancer by selling hats that are specifically branded Hats for Heroes and Columbus Blue Jackets.

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S

HOSPITAL

At Nationwide Children’s Hospital, we support the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation Family Resource Center. It’s a warm, welcoming space that provides families using the hospital with at-home amenities like washing machines, computers and televisions and offers a place for music, art therapy or one-on-one nurse guidance.

6,000 patients and families visited

BOICH COMPANIES IS THE PRESENTING SPONSOR OF BLUE JACKETS COURAGE KITS

OHIODEATH PRESENTED HOCKEY FIGHTS CANCER

CHAMPIONING CARE
COMMUNITY SHELTER BOARD
When a family enters a homeless shelter, it can be especially hard on kids. Thanks to our grant and the hard work of CBJ staff, players and volunteers, we funded and built a play space at the Van Buren shelter.

BICYCLE SAFETY
Through our partnership with Nationwide Children’s Hospital, we take a leadership role in promoting bicycle safety. Annually, we provide free bike helmets and a proper fitting for children in Columbus.

CHILDHOOD LEAGUE
Our foundation partnered with the Childhood League to support the purchase of therapeutic mats and play equipment for children with special needs.

RED CROSS
Each year, the Columbus Blue Jackets and OhioHealth team up with the American Red Cross during September to make a goal to help save lives. “Hockey: It’s in Your Blood!” is a monthlong partnership to recruit blood donors.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS CHEER
Through a joint partnership, the Blue Jackets supported the Big 10TV Toy Drive to collect toys for the Salvation Army’s Christmas Cheer program, which makes holiday gifts possible for families in need. We held an in-game toy drive and offered our time as Blue Jackets staff, and Lady Jackets volunteered at Cheer’s toy distribution.

686 families enjoyed the new playground last year

14,282 pints of blood donated

5,800+ toys collected

5,000+ free bike helmets provided to Columbus youth

150 children served
The Avondale Adopt-A-School program has made a powerful difference in the lives of students at one local elementary school. Many families in this west side neighborhood work hard to make ends meet. The Blue Jackets wanted to reach out over the long term to create a lasting relationship with this special school and its kids.

With visits, games, fundraisers and even a pen pal program, we let the students know they are important. Avondale students who had perfect attendance were rewarded with a Parent Honor Dinner served by the Lady Jackets, and CBJ season ticket holders even helped landscape the school grounds to beautify the area and build school pride.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

According to Allesia Gillsan of the Columbus City Schools, “When you think about the relationships that Avondale students and the Columbus Blue Jackets have, we are providing belief. Belief in our young people. Many times, in an urban setting, believing in our young people is all they need to succeed.”

“Columbus is pretty passionate about our sports. But we also have an expectation in this community that folks that are in these incredible leadership roles give back.”

ANDREW GINThER
MAYOR OF COLUMBUS
BEAUTIFICATION DAY
Columbus Blue Jackets season ticket holders, staff and volunteers from Republic Services partnered with Keep Columbus Beautiful to host a volunteer-driven clean-up day on the city’s west side.

CLARKY’S CLUBHOUSE
At home games, CBJ forward David Clarkson gave local kids and families a memorable experience by hosting them in his Nationwide Arena suite. Thanks to his dedication to community stewardship, Clarkson was our 2016 Community MVP. In his honor, our foundation made a donation to the charity of his choice.

PLAYER DAY OF SERVICE
Last year, our players participated in service visits to Mid-Ohio Foodbank and the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio.

HOSPITAL VISITS
Blue Jackets players, team personalities and Stinger often give their time, attention and care when making special trips to visit hospitalized kids.

SLED HOCKEY
With support from our foundation, Ohio Sled Hockey enabled 50 children with disabilities to learn and play hockey using special equipment. Our grant funded ice time and equipment for our home team, the Columbus Blades, and helped send them on their way to winning the national title in the NHL Sled Hockey Classic.

GLIDING STARS
Our grant supported hardship grants for the Gliding Stars of Findlay, an adaptive skating program for children with disabilities.

CCYHA GIRLS HOCKEY
With help from CBJ Foundation funding, the Columbus Chill Youth Hockey Association runs the CCYHA Girls Hockey program. Our goal is to help local girls receive the resources they need to learn the sport, receive skills training and enjoy the game.

480 hours volunteered
$5,000 donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus in honor of Clarky
19 tables assembled for local families
1,800 pounds of food to benefit hundreds of food pantry sites

COLUMBUS ICE HOCKEY CLUB
COLUMBUS CHILL YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
CAPITAL AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
EASTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
NEWARK ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
ATHENS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
OHIO AAA BLUE JACKETS

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH HOCKEY RUNS DEEP. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO PLAY, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING YOUTH HOCKEY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT WITH TRAINING AND ICE TIME:
HOCKEY WEEKEND ACROSS AMERICA

In keeping with our goal to grow the game, we hosted multiple clinics at Blue Jackets Winter Park presented by Worthington Industries, including a “try hockey free” session. CBJ alumni lent a hand to offer hands-on instruction for the kids while CBJ coaches led an adult clinic.

DONATED STREET HOCKEY GEAR

The Columbus Blue Jackets donated street hockey equipment to local schools, rec centers and other community groups. We also provided instructional clinics and guidance to groups on how to manage their own street hockey program.

70+ sites up and running

SPECIAL HOCKEY

Thanks to support from our foundation, the Columbus Chill Youth Hockey Association partnered with the American Special Hockey Association and USA Hockey to provide custom equipment, scholarships and travel support to kids with developmental disabilities.

36 children enrolled in the program

YMCA SKILLS AND DRILLS

Our grant allowed local YMCA branches to conduct the annual Skills and Drills to learn street hockey. The 5-week program included 180 kids, with 59% needing financial help to participate. The Blue Jackets also hosted a finale event where the kids demonstrated what they learned.

SKATE INTO SCOUTING

The foundation supported a Skate Into Scouting recruitment program with the Simon Kenton Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The program offered free skating to all Scouts and encouraged them to earn fitness-related achievements.

4,206 Boy Scouts joined the program

ANNUAL EQUIPMENT SWAP

In an effort to eliminate barriers to playing hockey, the Blue Jackets Foundation coordinates an annual equipment swap at an OhioHealth Chiller Ice Rink to offer pre-owned equipment at affordable prices. Items for sale include $10 helmets and gloves and skates for $20. Proceeds are then reinvested in the local youth hockey community.
Blue Jackets Winter Park presented by Worthington Industries grew out of a desire to share with the community our passion for hockey, winter sports and the winter season.

An NHL-size outdoor rink was the centerpiece of the wintry campus, which attracted 16,000 skating participants. The outdoor ice was a rink of dreams for hockey players of all ages and skill levels, including our own Blue Jackets and alumni. Families, friends and community members also soaked up the outdoor experience during open skating sessions.

**WE TURN WINTER INTO AN EVENT**

It all took place for an entire month at McFerson Commons Park, right across from our home ice at Nationwide Arena. So, yes, you could call Winter Park a destination. But it’s more than that; it’s a place to gather, bond, play, learn and dream.

“Magic happens at Winter Park, like when a pro player skates over and presents his hockey stick to your slack-jawed 5-year-old son. He was stunned... They put on a great event for the fans to come out and enjoy.”

MIKE FOLSON
WINTER PARK VISITOR
ROAD RACES
Runners and spectators at the OhioHealth Cap City Half Marathon couldn’t miss the Blue Jackets presence as team captain Nick Foligno served as honorary race director and Stinger presided over our signature cannon firing to signal the start.

Last year, we also invited our fans to join us for the “5th Line 5K presented by OhioHealth.” The late January run coincided with the opening weekend of Winter Park and celebrated winter fitness and sport. About 2,000 runners and walkers crossed the finish line at center ice of Nationwide Arena.

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT
The Columbus Blue Jackets salute those who have served or are currently serving in the nation’s armed forces during the club’s annual Military Appreciation Night. As a way to show support and gratitude for all active and retired service members, the Blue Jackets players wear specially designed camouflage-style jerseys during pregame warm-ups. In addition to this special evening, a member of our military is recognized at every home game.

1,586
tickets donated to military vets, personnel and their families

TICKETS FROM SEASON TICKET HOLDERS
As a gesture of thanks to veterans and military families, our season ticket holders gifted a total of 357 free tickets to Blue Jackets games last season.

SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY
CBJ forward #13 Cam Atkinson, who co-founded Force Network Fund to support military members and first responders, paid a special visit to the local USO where he made some new friends and left a $5,013 donation.

50/50 RAFFLE PRESENTED BY COLDWELL BANKER KING THOMPSON
Every home game, we held a 50/50 raffle as a fundraising vehicle for multiple central Ohio nonprofit organizations.

$100,000+
granted to the community

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
DELAWARE NORTH COMPANY
made an in-kind donation of food and beverage.

YUENGLING
hosted bar-night player appearances, where proceeds benefited our foundation.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH
hosted bar-night player appearances, where proceeds benefited our foundation.

PAPA JOHN’S
made a $15,215 donation to the Janis Foligno Foundation.

THIRTY-ONE GIFTS
donated in-kind product to Stinger’s Power Play Challenge.

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
sponsored equipment donations for the Boys & Girls Clubs.

FOX SPORTS OHIO
donated transportation for the players to make hospital visits.

WORTHINGTON INDUSTRIES PRESENTED WINTER PARK

16,000
SKATING PARTICIPANTS AT WINTER PARK
MARCHING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

GOLF CLASSIC
One of the Foundation’s largest annual fundraisers, the Golf Classic benefits the mission of supporting youth health and wellness.

Last year’s event took place at Double Eagle Club, where each foursome enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime round of golf with a Blue Jackets player, an exclusive Blue Jackets gift package, a lunch program to draft the foursome’s celebrity golfer and a dinner program where winners are announced and presented the Foundation Cup.

ALL YEAR LONG, OUR FOUNDATION GIVES DONORS A CHANCE TO CHANGE LIVES ONE CHILD AT A TIME. THEN COMES ONE SPECIAL DAY TO JOIN EFFORTS AND CHANGE HUNDREDS OF LIVES—FOR GOOD.

CORPORATE PARTNERS
NetJets
D.A. International Casting Company
Plante Moran
National Center for the Middle Market
Southern Wine & Spirits of Ohio
Halo Branded Solutions
Bud Light
Double Eagle Meyers Jewelers
Miller Lite
Tom James
LaBatt Blue
CANNONBALL

Hundreds of kids at the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation’s annual fundraising event. The community-building bash benefited ongoing support of youth health and wellness in central Ohio. Guests interacted with Blue Jackets players, management and club personalities, while also getting a chance to hear about the team’s ongoing community involvement and future efforts. With a challenge match of $100,000 by John P. McConnell, our community responded by helping us raise more than $420,000.

ENSURING HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR OUR KIDS IS A PASSION FOR OUR BLUE JACKETS AND OUR SUPPORTERS, SO, WHEN WE LIGHT THE FUSE, WE GET EXPLOSIVE RESULTS.
THANK YOU, COLUMBUS!

$1,843,038

community impact during the 2015/2016 season
I’m ready to march.

When you join our ongoing efforts to make our world a little better, you’ll sense something bigger than just giving.

You’ll also feel a part of:
TEACHING OUR YOUTH
CHAMPIONING CARE
SHARING OUR TIME
MARCHING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

THE MARCH STARTS HERE.
Reach out today and see all the many ways you can march with us.

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MARCH WITH US