

OPPORTUNITY **4** Kids

Giving AZ Kids the Opportunities They Deserve!

ANNUAL

REPORT

2022

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INTRODUCTION

Approximately 48% of Arizona youth live in a household that falls within 150% of the poverty line. These are the children we help!

*Annie E. Casey Foundation

Opportunity4Kids provides Scholarships to at-risk youth in Arizona. We provide the necessary fees, equipment, and uniforms to participate in extracurricular activities they otherwise would not be able to afford.

Extracurricular activities have a huge impact on the development of children. Participation in extracurriculars:

- Improves academic performance
- Enhances social skills
- Strengthens self-esteem and self-confidence
- Increases physical fitness
- Provides stress relief

Extracurricular activities can play a valuable role in a young person's development, helping them grow academically, socially, and personally.

Our founder, Kevin Van Norman, established Opportunity4Kids with his brother Jeff after witnessing a lack of opportunities for kids. Kevin, who was an athlete and coach, saw the benefits of extracurricular activities in his own life, including structure, goal-orientation, and strong friendships. He also noticed that many families couldn't afford these activities for their children.

Kevin began personally sponsoring underprivileged kids but wanted to do more. He found that while there were some non-profit organizations for sports, he wanted to allow kids to play the sport of their choice. He and Jeff started Equipment4Kids to collect donations for kids to join a sport and provide equipment. They later expanded the cause to include all extracurricular activities, leading to the formation of Opportunity4Kids. The organization has grown yearly and provides resources to hundreds of Arizona youth.

Ten years later, Opportunity4Kids has impacted over **3,000 Arizona children** with various programs focused on extracurricular participation.



OUR STORY SO FAR



OUR MISSION

Opportunity4Kids believes that no child should be deprived of the opportunity to participate in any out-of-school time activity solely on the basis of their financial status.

Some Scholarships we have granted:

- Sports
 - Soccer
 - Football
 - Basketball
 - BMX Racing
 - Volleyball
 - Gymnastics
 - Dance
 - Taekwondo
 - Cheer
 - Softball
 - Ninja Warrior
 - Horseback Riding
 - AND MORE!
- Summer Camps
- Marching Band/Music Lessons
- School-Sponsored After-School Programs
 - Run Club
 - Art Club
 - Chess Club

Families come to Opportunity4Kids with an activity in mind, and we work with the families to coordinate the fees, equipment, and uniform required for their children to participate in the activity of their choice. We encourage families to think outside the box when choosing activities for their children!

OUR PURPOSE

Opportunity4Kids is organized to change the lives of children; to foster sporting and extracurricular participation; to promote healthy and active lifestyles; to further mental and social development; and allow equal opportunities for all children.

We raise funds to provide necessary fees, equipment and uniforms to underprivileged AZ youth. Help us level the playing field and give these kids the opportunities they deserve!

48%
**OF ARIZONA YOUTH
QUALIFY FOR
SCHOLARSHIP AT
OPPORTUNITY4KIDS**

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Families interested in enrolling their children in an activity with the help of Opportunity4Kids Scholarship program must meet certain criteria. First, the family must complete the Scholarship Application on our website. Additionally, we require documentation to verify information on the child's enrollment status in K-12 and income verification documents for the child's household.

1

The child requesting Scholarship funds must be enrolled in K-12 within the state of Arizona.

Opportunity4Kids requires all youth interested in Scholarships to be enrolled in K-12 within Arizona. Families requesting Scholarships must send documentation verifying their child's enrollment status in K-12.

Documentation Accepted:

- Most recent report card
- Screenshot of the online parent portal
- Note from school on letterhead
- School ID card

2

The extracurricular activity must take place within the borders of Arizona.

While we cover fees, equipment, and uniforms for sports/school-sponsored activities, we encourage families to think outside the box when requesting activities for their children!

Opportunity4Kids will cover the necessary fees, uniforms, and equipment for any activity our Scholarship Committee deems beneficial to a child's development.

3

The family of the child requesting Scholarship must fall within 150% of the poverty line.

Poverty guidelines are set by the Department of Health and Human Services. Annually, the HHS sets guidelines for the poverty line based on household size.

Opportunity4Kids takes these guidelines and uses annual income presented in the matrix released by HHS multiplied by 1.5x (150%).

Example: In 2023, a family of four must make \$45,000 or less to qualify for Scholarship.

4

If the child's household has no proof of income we also accept proof of government assistance as a qualifying factor.

If no pay stubs or tax documents are available to send to verify income we can also qualify families based on being enrolled in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Nutrition Assistance, Cash Assistance, Disability, or other government assistance programs.

2022 REFLECTION

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our organization and its mission. Today, we would like to take a moment to reflect on our recent accomplishments and successes, and to share some of the exciting developments that have taken place over the past year.

We are proud to report that this year, our organization was able to provide 187 scholarships totaling nearly \$56,000 (\$55,727.04) to at-risk youth in the state of Arizona. This would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated team, and the generosity of our supporters, like you. Your contributions have made a tangible impact in the lives of young people in need, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

As we are aware, data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows that 25% of children in Arizona, equating to roughly 430,000 children, were living in poverty in 2019. When considering a broader measure of economic hardship, the percentage of children living in households with incomes below 150% of the poverty line, which is the Opportunity4Kids' income threshold, is even higher at 48% or roughly 840,000 children.

We are also thankful for the partnerships we have formed with local organizations and other community members, which have helped us reach and support even more young people in need. With your support, we will be able to continue our efforts to provide extracurricular opportunities for at-risk youth in Arizona. Our only limitations are financial, and with your help, we are slowly closing that gap.

We encourage you to make a QCO tax credit donation to support our scholarship program. These donations allow Arizona taxpayers to redirect a portion of their state taxes to organizations like ours, supporting our mission to provide educational opportunities for at-risk youth. Your generosity will not only make a difference in the lives of young people, but it can also provide you with a charitable tax credit on your state taxes. If you have any questions about how to make a tax credit donation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are always here to help.

Thank you again for your support and commitment to our organization and its mission. We look forward to continuing to work together to make a positive impact in the lives of young people in need.

Sincerely,
Opportunity4Kids

187

SCHOLARSHIPS
GRANTED

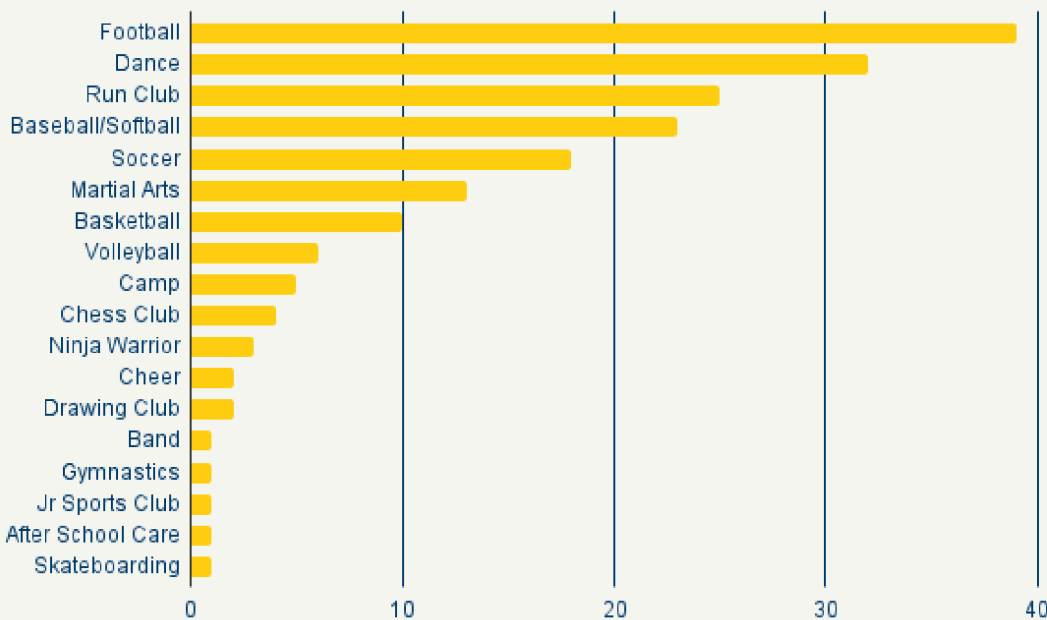
\$55,727.04

in activity fees, equipment, and uniforms!



Many families in Arizona are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022 Opportunity4Kids saw a dramatic increase in Scholarship Requests. Our organization successfully acomodated these requests with increased funding from our loyal supporters and community partners. We expect this increase in demand to persist throughout 2023 and look forward to your continued support in leveling the playing field for AZ youth!

SCHOLARSHIP BREAKDOWN 2022



187

Scholarships Granted
in 2022

335

Scholarships
Requested in 2022

55.8%

approval for
Scholarship Requests

In 2022, Opportunity4Kids awarded 187 scholarships, totaling \$55,727.04, to support various activities such as football, dance, run club, baseball/softball, soccer, martial arts, volleyball, camp, chess, and others.

While we strive to fulfill all requests, some applications were not approved due to incompleteness of documentation, exceeding financial guidelines, or exceeding the budget allocation. Our goal is to provide scholarships to all deserving youth, and we are actively seeking additional funding to increase our impact.

We encourage our community to support our organization and help us make a difference in the lives of Arizona youth in need.

168 UNIQUE YOUTH SERVED



OPPORTUNITY4KIDS IS A QUALIFYING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION (QCO)!

What is a QCO?

In Arizona, a Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO) is a non-profit organization that is certified by the Arizona Department of Revenue to receive donations that qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit allows Arizona taxpayers to make a donation to a QCO and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on their state income tax return.

Maximum contribution for QCO tax credit?

The tax credit has increased for 2023, the QCO tax credit can be claimed on **\$421 (single filing) and \$841 (joint filing)**!

Visit our website at www.Opportunity4Kids.org/donate to make your QCO donations! ***One QCO Donation can provide up to FIVE children with extracurricular opportunities*** their families otherwise would not be able to afford!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Opportunity4Kids would only exist with the support we receive from the community. We want to thank our major donors:

SRPMIC

Phoenix Suns Charities

Legacy Cares

Mesa Hohokam Foundation

Individual Major Donors:

- Mia Suchoski
- Feliciano Family
- Rhorer Family
- Johnson Family

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**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAM**