



**athletes  
for hope**

# Impact Report

June 2024–December 2025

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## Dear AFH Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

It is an honor to share Athletes for Hope's Impact Report for June 2024 – December 2025—a period marked by extraordinary growth and impact for our organization. Our network of athletes, community members, partners, and supporters has reached new heights, demonstrating that the platform of sport is one of the most powerful tools for social good.

Our flagship CHAMPS program continues to expand, reaching over 1,300 schools nationwide and equipping over 318,000 underserved young people with essential tools for mental health, wellbeing, and leadership development. Teachers and school partners consistently praise the program, and we are thrilled to welcome Olympic Champion Gabby Thomas as our newest Athlete Leadership Council member and CHAMPS Lead Ambassador, ensuring an inspiring voice drives the program forward.

We've elevated our commitment to mental health this year with the launch of the Center for Wellbeing—a premier, athlete-led hub offering expert-verified mental health resources through our Wellbeing program. The Center connects athletes, coaches, and parents with trusted resources, cutting-edge science, and proven tools to help athletes and communities thrive—both in sport and in life.

Our commitment to service continued to soar through AFH University, enabling collegiate athletes across the country to deliver meaningful service and inspiration to more communities than ever before, while our High School Leadership Academy empowered young leaders to grow through similar philanthropic education opportunities and hands-on community engagement. This expansion, including a new West Coast chapter, ensures we are cultivating the next generation of community leaders.

Our success is fueled by your generosity, including through a record-breaking Play for Good Gala and Putt for Passion Golf Tournament. None of this would be possible without our donors, partners, and athletes—your belief in our mission drives everything we do.

As we look ahead to 2026—and celebrate 20 years of athletes stepping up to change the world—we remain committed to a future where every athlete can harness their voice, platform, and resources to create meaningful, lasting change. Thank you for standing with us and believing in the power of athletes to do just that.

With gratitude,



**Jason Belinkie**  
CEO, Athletes for Hope



# About Us

## Mission

AFH is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit that aims to educate, encourage, and assist athletes in their efforts to engage with community and charitable causes, to increase public awareness of and support for those efforts, and to inspire others to do the same. AFH empowers professional, Olympic, Paralympic, collegiate and high school athletes to channel their energy for a common goal: to make the world a better place.

## Vision

The athletic spirit is a powerful thing. Whether they're professional or amateur, young or old, all athletes have an innate desire to push the limits. They strive to achieve their full potential, elevate their sport and inspire others.

Along with our Founders and Athlete Leadership Council, we are breaking down barriers and bringing people together. Through our work, we see a world where all athletes recognize their untapped potential to make a positive impact on the world and follow through by giving their time and energy to supporting the causes they care about.



# Founding Athletes



## Athlete Leadership Council

Launched in 2024, the AFH Athlete Leadership Council is spearheaded by esteemed athletes. Each member is committed to continuing the legacy of AFH's Founding Athletes and inspiring the next generation of sports leaders through their commitment to making the world a better place.



# Board of Directors

**Lori Bertman**

Bertman and Associates

**Ivan Blumberg**

Founding CEO of Athletes for Hope

**Shari Ciapka**

Find Fitness & Lifestyle Coaching

**George Cohen**

Bredhoff & Kaiser (retired)

**Gabe Feldman**

Tulane University

**Benita Fitzgerald Mosley**

U.S. Center for SafeSport

**Julie Foudy**

Olympian, Author & Broadcaster

**Allen Furst**

ASF Consulting, LTD

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ICF

**Matt Grant**

GSix Consulting

**Mark Levinstein**

Chair, Williams & Connolly LLP

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The Kennedy/Marshall Company

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NFP | The Meltzer Group

**Kathleen Purtill**

Deloitte Consulting LLP

**Gunlek Ruder**

S. Martinelli & Company

**Shooter Starr**

Brown Advisory

**Doug Ulman**

Pelotonia

**Steve Whisnant**

Whisnant Strategies, LLC

# Advisory Board Members

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Tiger Athletic Foundation

**Christin Blyumin**

Max Fitness and Wellness

**Tyler Buchholz**

Blank Rome LLP

**Brook Choulet**

The Performance Psychiatrist™

**Robb Dehney**

Bain & Company

**John Dragelin**

Jones Lang Lasalle IP, Inc.

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Carl M. Freeman Companies

**Annie Gleason**

PNC

**Tommy Goodman**

SOMEBODY Advisors

**Alayah Hightower**

Deloitte Consulting

**Max Levitt**

Founding Executive Director of Leveling the Playing Field

**Max Meltzer**

Wealthspire Advisors

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American College Athletics Administrator (retired)

**Jermar Rountree**

Center City Public Charter School

**Tyler Rudy**

Deloitte Consulting

**Brandon Sanchez**

Mountain Philanthropies

**Jess Smith**

NASCAR

**Awvee Storey**

Chicago Sky

# Staff Team

**Jason Belinkie**

Chief Executive Officer

**Chris Wyttenbach**

Chief Program Officer

**Mena Mirhom, MD, FAPA**

Chief Wellbeing Officer

**Diana Venezia**

Director of Development

**Kylie Barlowe**

Director of Partnerships & Digital Strategy

**Sara Keane**

Director, AFH University

**Joy Le Couteur**

Director of Athlete Engagement

**Jasmine Moore**

Senior Manager, Digital Media

**Kenya Warren-Hollins, MPA**

Program Manager, AFH University

**Kendra (Chambers) Coleman**

CHAMPS Program Manager

**Rachel Gearhart**

AFH Wellbeing Program Manager

**Stephanie Griffith**

Development Manager

**Marta Ribeiro**

Graphic Design Consultant

**Jon Jacobson**

Multimedia Production Consultant

**YY Yiljep**

American University Campus Consultant

**Ryan Harris**

Davidson College Campus Liaison

**Anna Gill**

Georgetown University Campus Liaison

**Kelis Armstrong**

Howard University Campus Liaison

**Ashante' Gatlin**

Athlete Engagement Coordinator

**Sophia Brewer**

Partnerships Intern

**Kimberly Douglas**

CHAMPS Program Coordinator

**Ellen Haile**

Development Volunteer



# Impact Scorecard

## 2024-2025

AFH Athletes went above and beyond over the past year. Whether they mobilized their platforms through AFH programming, powerful Causeway connections, or high-reach social media campaigns, their commitment translated into extraordinary, measurable change in the community. See highlights of their impact below.



**318,000+**

**Under-resourced young people positively impacted each month**

Reaching more than 1,300 schools nationwide, AFH's athlete-led programming strengthens students' physical health, builds leadership skills, and supports mental wellbeing.



**4,510,335**

**Digital reach (180% year-over-year growth)**

Expanding awareness, education, and engagement around mental health and service nationwide.



**4,000+**

**Athlete-led volunteer and advocacy opportunities**

Mobilizing athletes of all levels to serve and empower communities across the country, collectively impacting hundreds of thousands of individuals nationwide.



**200+**

**Athlete Mental Health Alliance Members**

The largest convening body led by AFH and dedicated to athlete mental health—advancing conversations and reducing stigma in communities beyond sport.



**1,700+**

**Athletes activated through AFH University**

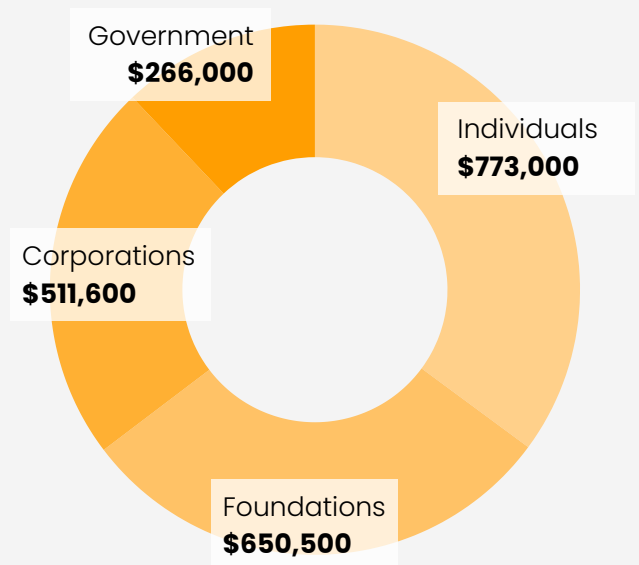
Equipping collegiate athletes to lead and serve in their own local communities.

## Revenue (2025)

**92%** of AFH Funding goes directly to AFH Programs.

**Total Revenue: \$2,201,100**

27% year-over-year growth



# AFH Programs

## Year in Review and Impact

This year marked a period of profound success across all AFH initiatives, demonstrating the powerful and measurable impact created by connecting athletes with meaningful causes. Our four core programs saw historic growth, delivering character-building curricula, vital community service, and essential mental wellness support across the full spectrum of youth development—from elementary school to the collegiate level.



## Olympic Champion Gabby Thomas Joins CHAMPS to Kick Off 2025–2026!

In October 2025, three-time Olympic gold medalist Gabby Thomas joined Athletes for Hope CHAMPS as Lead Ambassador for the 2025–2026 school year! To ignite the year, Gabby recorded a powerful and inspiring [welcome video](#) for every student and teacher, encouraging them to start with unmatched motivation and purpose. Her message is a direct testament to perseverance, leadership, and mental resilience—perfectly aligned with the CHAMPS pillars and setting the tone for a strong start to the school year.





**athletes**  
**for hope**  
champs

## Program Overview

The CHAMPS program is AFH’s flagship youth development initiative, built on a decade of experience to serve children from all backgrounds. This dynamic program integrates mental health into its curriculum, emphasizing the powerful connection between physical activity and emotional well-being. Led by facilitators, CHAMPS weaves in critical character-building lessons, using athlete-centered pillars to help young people develop resilience, confidence, and leadership.

The 2024–2025 year marked a period of significant growth and profound success. We dramatically expanded our reach to serve 318,000 students on a monthly basis across over 1,300 schools spanning 46 states, D.C., and Canada. This profound scale ensures that the essential lessons of physical and mental health are accessible to hundreds of thousands of youth nationwide.



"This year, we had an amazing Olympic athlete come and visit... and the students were so engaged and they were fascinated by her and her story."

## Vision for the Future

This success is reinforced by strategic collaborations that set the stage for continued growth, including a foundational grant from **ESPN** and partnerships with **Deloitte** and the **Spartan Kids Foundation**. Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we are excited to drive momentum with new initiatives like the introduction of Spanish versions of our curriculum for greater accessibility.



## Impact

The program's profound effect is supported by overwhelmingly positive results and hard data gathered from our annual teacher survey. This year, we achieved **221 athlete-led connections** and reached **over 23,000 new students**.

# 100%

of teachers reported they would recommend CHAMPS to a colleague.

# 94%

of teachers reported students developed strategies to manage stress and anxiety.

# 92%

of teachers noted the program positively influenced students' attitudes toward discussing mental health openly and without stigma.

# 96%

of teachers confirmed that CHAMPS increases student motivation for physical activity.



# athletes for hope high school

## Program Overview

The High School Leadership Academy (HSLA) is a semester-long virtual educational program in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles. It is specifically designed to empower high school athletes to become the next generation of philanthropic leaders. The curriculum centers on the intersection of sports and community service, enabling students to gain a deeper understanding of sports philanthropy, identify meaningful causes, and begin leading charitable efforts in their own communities.

**“Thank you Athletes for Hope for facilitating and creating this amazing program! Each and every speaker gave me so much insight and knowledge into how I can become a better athlete and person, and I couldn’t be more grateful for this whole experience.”**  
– Jordyn, HSLA Graduate

The program's goal is simple yet profound: to bring together a community of high school athletes and instill the values of leadership and lifelong community impact. Year Two of the HSLA was a success, building on our pilot year with expansion into Los Angeles, and nominating exceptional student-athletes for national awards.





**“Athletes for Hope combined the best parts of me: my sport and my acts of service. It is inspiring to engage with other like-minded athletes.”** – Hunter, HSLA Graduate

## Vision for the Future

The success of our first two years has laid a solid foundation in both curriculum and program structure, giving us the confidence to grow strategically while maintaining the meaningful connections that define the HSLA experience. We are mindful not to scale too quickly, as we understand the importance of the personal relationships that our participants value most.

Our top priority remains scaling the HSLA community by reaching more student-athletes and strengthening our alumni networks in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles.

## Impact

The success of the HSLA is defined by its growth and the positive impact that the program had on the participants. Students participated in monthly virtual educational sessions featuring professional and Olympic athletes, including an inspiring kickoff with Olympic champion Katie Ledecky!

# 100%

feel more empowered to be a community leader as a result of participating in the program.

# 100%

agree that HSLA increased their knowledge about identifying their charitable passions.

# 100%

agree that HSLA increased their knowledge about using their platform to make a positive impact.

# 4.8/5

Overall Program Rating



## Program Overview

The AFH University (AFH U) program serves as the critical pipeline for cultivating the next generation of professional leaders within the collegiate setting. AFH U inspires and connects student-athletes as leaders throughout their communities. AFH U provides them with the structure, resources, and educational workshops they need to lead organized community service efforts, fostering a culture of giving back that lasts long after their final game.

AFH U ensures that the commitment to service continues at the collegiate level, empowering these influential young men and women to use their unique platform for measurable social good on campus and in their local communities.

**"There's something special about students seeing athletes... right in their own building—talking with them, sharing their stories, and showing up as real, relatable people. It makes the idea of dreaming big feel a little more possible."**  
– D.C. Public Schools



## Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, our vision is to deepen and broaden the AFH U network, expanding our university partnerships to **over 100 college teams nationwide**. By investing in AFH U, you are not simply funding service events; you are investing in a sustainable legacy of leadership, mentoring, and community advocacy that will shape the next generation of givers for decades to come.

**“The AFH U student-athletes brought joy and comfort to hospital patients. Their compassion and energy created uplifting, lasting impressions.”**

– Our Lady of the Lakes Children's Hospital

**“We benefited from their consistency, teamwork, and willingness to take on physically demanding and leadership roles with minimal direction.”**

– The Walls Project

**“Their efficiency, teamwork, and positive attitude helped us prepare materials quickly, saving staff time and supporting a high-quality program.”** – Girls on the Run

## Impact

The 2024–2025 academic year was one of **historic growth** for AFH U, demonstrating the increasing desire among young athletes to make a tangible difference. This scale proves the AFH U model is highly effective in channeling the passion of student-athletes into measurable social good.

### Teams & Athletes

We expanded significantly, increasing the number of active teams by **44% to a total of 73**, and bringing the number of participating student-athletes to **1,898** (a 15% increase).

### Service Delivered

Our student leaders delivered over **6,000 hours of service**—a **42% increase** from the previous year—through **290 community visits** (a 25% increase).

### Lives Touched

Most importantly, this combined effort positively impacted **40,901 people** in their communities, marking a **118% increase** in lives touched.



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wellbeing

## Program Overview

AFH Wellbeing (formerly AFH Whole Being Athlete) is AFH's initiative dedicated to protecting, supporting, and promoting mental wellbeing in sports. The program empowers athletes to speak openly about mental health while connecting them and their communities to trusted resources. Through national campaigns, expert-led conversations, athlete-driven storytelling, and growing delivery capacity, AFH Wellbeing is transforming sport culture—making wellbeing a shared priority on every team and campus.

This year, AFH Wellbeing set a new standard for mental health in sports by launching the **Center for Wellbeing**, a premier hub for support and training. We also established the **Athlete Mental Health Research Fellowship**, uniting 15 clinical experts to create evidence-based content for all initiatives. These milestones, along with national media features, have cemented AFH as a trusted authority in athlete advocacy.

We translated this expertise into direct impact through groundbreaking programming: the **Hope Heroes Podcast** connecting pro athletes and clinicians, a revamped **Mind of the Game** workshop for collegiate pilots, and an expanded **CDC "Free Mind" partnership** reaching schools across several regions. From leading conversations with our partners at the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, to mentoring students, our Athlete Ambassadors are redefining performance, reducing stigma, and shaping the future of mental health culture.





## Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, AFH Wellbeing is poised to scale our work from a series of initiatives into a nationwide movement. We are strengthening our foundation by expanding the Center for Wellbeing’s crisis and support services, while deepening our Johns Hopkins partnership to benchmark athlete health data across the U.S.

To amplify this impact, we will continue to add new athlete ambassadors and expand **Athlete Mental Health Week** to drive national awareness. Simultaneously, we will continue to seek opportunities to expand our CDC collaboration, ensuring our curriculum reaches more schools and empowers the next generation of students.

AFH Wellbeing is building a future where every athlete has the knowledge, support, and community to care for their wellbeing.



## Impact

This year laid a strong national foundation and showed high demand for athlete-led mental health advocacy.

6

educational seminars, panels, and keynotes

160,458

national digital/media impressions

260

youth reached in live school wellbeing sessions

10

mental health partner organizations engaged

26,024

listeners reached through the *Hope Heroes Podcast*

212

members/organizations in the Athlete Mental Health Alliance

# Highlights from the Year

Beyond our programs, AFH engages with teams, leagues, and governing bodies to help athletes of all levels learn how to use their platforms for good, and then connects them with opportunities to give back. Check out these highlights from the past year!

## International Women's Day Celebration with ESPN & ACC

In March 2025, ESPN invested in the CHAMPS program, enabling AFH to expand its reach to more youth nationwide.

Through our partnership, ESPN and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) invited female students from CHAMPS schools to attend the ACC Women's Basketball Tournament in celebration of International Women's Day on March 8. The day was filled with excitement and inspiration as students participated in Fan Fest's "Chalk Talk", featuring insights from basketball legends Muffet McGraw and Ivory Latta. Throughout the experience, students had an incredible time and proudly embodied CHAMPS' core values.



Additionally, over the summer, we expanded our impact through a new pilot initiative—Summer CHAMPS. Partnering with six youth-focused community organizations and schools, the program ran from June through August and featured a condensed, updated version of the CHAMPS curriculum. A highlight of the program was the Summer CHAMPS Challenge, designed to engage every participating student. Summer CHAMPS addresses a critical need by providing opportunities for students to stay active, build leadership skills, and develop healthy habits during summer camps and summer school programs—times when educators and program leaders often need additional support. To celebrate their commitment and achievements, each student who completed the challenge was awarded a gold medal.

# HSLA Alumnae Spotlight: Cultivating Philanthropic Leaders

The High School Leadership Academy (HSLA) is designed to transform high school athletes into the next generation of philanthropic leaders, and the success of its alums shows the model works.



**HSLA alumna Sydney**, for example, co-founded **Pass with Purpose**, a nonprofit that collects gently used soccer uniforms for donation worldwide—a vision that earned her a prestigious Regional Winner for the ESPN Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award.



Similarly, alumna Eve, a high school runner, created a successful personal Action Plan to educate female athletes about running safety and self-defense, leading clinics that are now expanding across the greater Washington, D.C. area. These achievements underscore AFH's commitment to instilling the values of lifelong community advocacy.

# Celebration of Champions

Olympic Silver Medalist in BMX, Perris Benegas, and USA Waterpolo Olympic Development player, Quade Kelley, attended the Celebration of Champions to honor and uplift young cancer warriors in San Diego. [Read more here.](#)



# Champions of Comfort

Between 2024 and 2025, AFH members seized the opportunity to bring joy and hope to those who need it most, more than doubling athlete connections from the year prior.

This surge in support included dedicated LSU and Southern athletes making consistent hospital visits in Baton Rouge, while others reached out through personalized virtual activities, video messages, and handwritten cards. In total, **451 connections** were made **across 60 hospital and community partners nationwide**, deepening the impact on children and families far beyond the hospital walls.



# Event Highlights

## Play for Good Gala

### 2024 & 2025

Over the past two years, the Play for Good Gala has served as AFH's premier annual celebration, bringing together athletes, partners, and supporters to harness the power of sport to advance youth mental health and social good. In 2025, Thrivent joined as Presenting Partner, deepening the events' impact.

Together, the 2024 and 2025 Play for Good Galas raised more than \$1.26 million, including over \$565,000 in 2024 and more than \$700,000 in 2025. This remarkable generosity fueled the continued expansion of CHAMPS, AFH's flagship athlete-led youth mental health and leadership initiative, enabling the organization to reach hundreds of thousands of young people, particularly those from underserved communities, with critical tools to build emotional resilience, leadership skills, and lifelong healthy habits.

Across both events, AFH honored extraordinary individuals and organizations whose commitment to service extends far beyond sport."

### 2024 Honorees

- **Jackie Joyner-Kersey** — Mia Hamm Founders Award
- **Elena Delle Donne** — Community Hero Award
- **Michelle Freeman** — Gordon & Llura Gund Lifetime Hero Award
- **Deloitte** — Corporate Community Impact Award

### 2025 Honorees

- **Alonzo Mourning** — Mia Hamm Service Award
- **John Riggins** — Inaugural Morty Gudelsky Community Hero Award
- **Tim Shriver** — Gordon & Llura Gund Lifetime Hero Award
- **Under Armour** — Corporate Community Impact Award





Together, these two impactful evenings reflect the strength of AFH’s growing network and the collective commitment of the sports community to champion youth mental health and leadership development.

Looking ahead, the 2026 Play for Good Gala presented by Thrivent will mark a major milestone as AFH celebrates its 20th Anniversary. This landmark event will be the biggest Play for Good Gala yet, honoring two decades of athlete-driven impact while setting the stage for the next generation of leadership, service, and hope.



# Event Highlights

## Putt for Passion Golf Tournament – 2025



The 3rd Annual Putt for Passion Golf Tournament presented by Thrivent brought together an inspiring community of athletes, supporters, and advocates for a memorable day in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Together, we successfully raised \$140,000 to support AFH’s mental health programming, AFH Wellbeing and CHAMPS.





The funds raised at this year's event supported AFH's critical mental health work while also marking several exciting milestones. We welcomed 26 golfer foursomes—the largest participation in the event's history—and featured a spirited Celebrity Putting Competition won by AFH Board Member and Olympic Gold Medalist Benita Fitzgerald Mosley. We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, contributed, and championed our mission to advance athlete mental wellbeing through sport.



# Partnerships & Case Studies

## Supporting Mental Health and Leadership in Schools

Thanks to the generous support of ESPN, AFH's CHAMPS program continues to reach underserved elementary schools across the country.

ESPN's partnership has enabled AFH to bring athlete-led CHAMPS sessions to over 130 new schools, where children in grades 2–5 build confidence, learn teamwork, and practice healthy coping skills—all through the joy of movement.

By supporting CHAMPS, ESPN is helping to make early mental health education accessible, engaging, and stigma-free. The partnership also amplifies athlete voices to inspire kids to take care of their minds and bodies.

**“Thanks to AFH and ESPN, my kids got an experience today that they will never forget.”**

– Coach Mary Shelton, Huntsville Elementary School

Together, AFH and ESPN are creating a generation of confident, empathetic, and resilient young leaders—one school at a time.



## Impact

**30,000+**

of students reached through CHAMPS sessions funded by ESPN.

**100+**

athlete participants.



# Partnerships & Case Studies



## Honoring AFH Youth

**GameChanger** supported AFH through its Stay and Play Champions program, recognizing AFH HSLA alum Sydney Mednick as an exceptional student-athlete who actively encourages youth participation in sports.



Sydney, a competitive soccer player, co-founded Pass with Purpose, a nonprofit that has donated more than 1,000 uniforms and hundreds of socks to children in Zambia. Nominated by AFH, Sydney was named a GameChanger Stay and Play Champion and later a Regional Winner of the Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award for her impact.

## Impact

**1 of 5**

national GameChanger Stay and Play Champions.

**100**

youth reached through community soccer clinics.

**1,000+**

uniforms donated globally.



# Partnerships & Case Studies

## Empowering Athletes to Lead with Purpose

In 2025, AFH and **Thrivent** teamed up to expand the reach and impact of the AFH U program, empowering college athletes to become community leaders through service and purpose-driven action.

With Thrivent's support, AFH U launched new programming in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., engaging student-athletes in volunteer projects that address local needs, such as food insecurity. This partnership is helping athletes see that their leadership extends far beyond their sport—and that giving back can be a lifelong habit.

**“I have never been a part of a service event that was this big. I really loved being able to be around my team while at the same time making a difference.”**

– Howard University, Track and Field athlete.

As part of this partnership, AFH and Thrivent will collaborate on financial literacy education, offering athletes practical tools to align their values, resources, and impact. **The series** premiered in October 2025 and will continue in 2026. Together, AFH and Thrivent are building a generation of athletes who lead with purpose, give with intention, and strengthen the communities they call home.

# thrivent®

## Impact

# 3 New

AFH U campuses launched.

# 564

AFH U athletes engaged across Los Angeles and D.C.

# 1,227

volunteer hours completed.

# 10k+

individuals positively impacted.



# Partnerships & Case Studies

## Free Mind Campaign

In partnership with the **CDC's Free Mind campaign**, AFH hosted school-based conversations that helped students explore the connection between mental health and substance use.

**“Mental health is really important for middle school students, and hearing real experiences directly from role models is a great opportunity for them.”**

– Mr. Chris Harris, Principal at St. Clare School.

Events in Phoenix, Portland, and Washington, D.C. brought together more than 210 middle school students for open discussions with AFH Chief Wellbeing Officer Dr. Mena Mirhom, and athletes including Shannon Boxx, Jenny Sichel, and Chasity Melvin. Each event provided Free Mind resources and encouraged students to care for their minds and bodies.



## Impact

# 3 Events

across Phoenix, Portland, and Washington, D.C.

# 210

students reached.

# 160,458

combined social and media impressions.



# Partnerships & Case Studies

## Fueling Leadership and Community Impact Through Sport

**Under Armour** continues to be a key supporter of AFH's mission to connect, educate, and inspire athletes to give back. Since 2022, Under Armour has supported AFH's work at Davidson College, bringing athlete-led service, leadership training, and mental health programming to its student-athletes.

This support helped AFH reach over 300 student-athletes at Davidson, empowering them to take action in their communities through service projects, leadership workshops, and mental health awareness initiatives.

In August, Under Armour also partnered with AFH to launch the Kelsey Plum Foundation, a new initiative designed to equip young women and girls with access to mentorship, mental health resources, and leadership programming through sports. AFH helped bring the foundation's mission to life by providing its community framework, athlete education model, and program delivery expertise through CHAMPS.

Through these collaborations, Under Armour and AFH are using the power of sport to build confidence, community, and purpose for the next generation.



## Impact

**4,435**

volunteer hours completed.

**17,369**

individuals positively impacted.

**300+**

student-athletes engaged.



# Our Partners & Supporters

Because of our supporters and partners, we can sustain impactful programming that our AFH Athletes leverage every day to give back to communities across the country.

An enormous thank you to every donor and our partners who made everything that's included in this report possible!

To join our support network, please consider making a donation to AFH today!

[Donate](#)

## \$100,000+

Bender Foundation  
ESPN  
Gordon & Llura Gund Foundation  
Thrivent

## \$50,000-\$99,999

American Psychiatric Association Foundation  
Andre Agassi Foundation for Education  
Deloitte  
NFL Foundation  
Pennington Foundation  
The Wertheimer Foundation  
Under Armour

## \$10,000-\$49,999

Alan & Amy Meltzer  
Allen Furst  
Blake Real Estate  
Carl M. Freeman Foundation / Michelle Freeman  
David Chakola  
Frank Marshall & Kathleen Kennedy  
George Cohen  
Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation  
Jen Stiebel  
John O'Connell  
Joseph E. Robert Jr. Charitable Trust  
Julie and David Silver  
Kathleen & Neil Purtill  
Kim Yong Hwan Foundation  
Lauren & Todd Barber  
Lerner Foundation

Mallory & Nik DeBenedetto  
Mark & Kim Levinstein  
Mary Huston  
Meghan Gudelsky  
Picket Family Foundation  
Susan Miller / Caneel Family  
Foundation  
Tara & Wes Blankinship  
Zac Plantz Foundation

## \$2,500-\$9,999

Alex Stein  
Ali Chakola  
Bob Sanders  
Brook Choulet  
Cherian & Katie Thomas  
Christin & Mike Blyumin  
Dan Levy  
Daniel Goldman  
Daniel Rosenthal  
David Watson  
Devorah Berman  
Elder Family Fund  
Emily Rogers  
Eric & Amy Forseter  
Gainbridge Assists  
GameChanger Media  
Harry Ching  
Jason & Michelle Belinkie  
Jeffrey Slavin  
Jena Riley  
Jennifer Meltzer  
Jill Bikoff  
Karl Holler  
Kelly Sanders  
Kevin Berman  
LLH Healthcare  
Marc & Tracey Noe  
Matt Grant  
Matthew Marcy  
Max Meltzer  
Meagan Soszynski  
Michael & Susan Lynch  
Northwestern Mutual  
Rachel Godino  
Randolph Shingler  
Ruth Firsching Haile

Senior Bowl Charities  
Shooter Starr  
Spencer Ebach  
Stash Graham  
Stephen & Elizabeth Whisnant  
Teresa Carlson  
The Embassy of the United Arab  
Emirates  
Tony Korson  
Tyler Buchholz  
Vivian & Raymond Bass

## \$500-\$2,499

Adam Hordell  
Adirondack Community College  
Alexis Patel  
Alison Burnside  
Allison Meringoff  
Alyssa Farris  
Andrew Lynch  
Annie Gleason  
Ben Gruenspecht  
Ben Ratner  
Benita Fitzgerald-Mosley & Ron Mosley  
Beth Meagher  
Bijal Rock  
Blake Andersen  
Brett Stallings  
Brian Orzechowski  
Brooke Weddle and Miguel Payan  
Bryan Keating  
Caitlin White  
Catherine Chakola-Thomas  
Catherine and Matt McGill  
Chandler Fox  
Cheryl Cecchetto  
Chris Eagan  
Chris Larson  
Christopher Barr  
Christopher Rolf  
Christopher Weiner  
Corinne Goldman  
Dan Geldon  
Darlene Smith  
Daryl Brewster  
David & Carol Bindeman Family Foundation  
David & Rachel Federowicz  
David & Rachel Roscow

David Baker  
David Ruben  
Donald Dell  
Doug Ulman  
EDCare  
Edward & Karen Shea  
Edward Lenkin  
EJ Vesey  
Elizabeth Crocker & Brian Greenberg  
Emily Carr  
Epstein Family Charitable Trust  
Erin Heath  
Frederick Wellman  
Gabe Feldman  
Geoff Stewart  
Gerald Goldman  
Glenn Stewart  
Gray Wolf  
Greg McDonough  
Heidi and RJ Narang  
Helene & Alan Goldberg  
Howard & Susan Gruenspecht  
Jana Sharp  
Jennifer Cogswell  
Jeremy Sharp  
Jessica Lilienkamp  
Jim Stunkle  
Johanna Lawler  
John & Amy Gilliland  
John Dragelin  
John Groopman  
Joseph Terry  
Josh Knight  
Julie Foudy  
Karen Gail Battista  
Kathryn Kayali  
Kathryne Love  
Keira Guthrie  
Keith Scott  
Laura Multz  
Lauren and Andrew Kerr  
Lindsay & Drew Carr  
Lisa Mandell  
Mack McNair  
Marcus Grauer  
Marilyn Tobin  
Max Levitt  
Megan Englehart  
Megan Sweeney

Michael Vaughan  
Michael Young  
Miranda and Andy Vesey  
New York Key Club Foundation  
Nora Shuler  
Patricia Silver  
Rachael Fineberg  
Rachel Henderson Eliff  
Robert Dehney  
Russell Fisher  
Russell Granik  
Sanjeev Udhani  
Seth Krasilovsky  
Stephen Marks  
Suma Kulkarni and John Redmond  
Susie Wertheimer  
Talia Moutzalias  
Tisbest Philanthropy  
Tyree Jones  
Wilson Family Charitable Fund

**\$1-\$499**

Aaron Holley  
ACNB Insurance  
Adam Shreiner  
Alana & Greg Aronin  
Alayah Hightower  
Alexander Amir  
Alice Miller  
Allison Cohn  
Amanda Cronin  
Amanda Romeo  
Ana & Michael Hadad  
Andrita Andreas  
Angela DiSalvo  
Angela Kehler  
Anne Reid  
Anthony Roth  
Arlene & Bert Spilker  
Ashley Corpuel  
Avery Eagan  
Awvee Storey  
Barb Held  
Be Tam  
Benjamin Schauer  
Blaine Scully  
Blair White  
Blake Davage

Bob Buchholz  
Brandon Fitzgerald  
Brandon Sanchez  
Brenda Seidel  
Brian Madden  
Brian Misterek  
Brianna Barker  
Bridget Olson  
Carol & Gary Berman  
Carolyn Swords  
Cathleen Rocklin  
Chasity Melvin  
Cheta Emba  
Chidera Chukwumerije  
Chris Guertin  
Christina Daniel  
Christina Haciski  
Clerc Bertrand  
Colin Kirk  
Colleen Cunningham  
Colleen Ishwar  
Colleen Tucker  
Connor Haaland  
Craig & Lana Marr  
Dan Chappell  
Dan Lynch  
Dana & Hershel Wancjer  
Dana Zobs  
Danielle Benson  
David Roach  
David Spero  
Debbie Ellinghaus  
Debbie Gargan  
Deborah Bruskin  
Diana Venezia & Tim Reilly  
Doug Smith  
Dustin Youngstrom  
Eileen Kolev  
Elizabeth Carroll  
Ellen Carroll  
Ellie Reinertson  
Emily Cook Lauer  
Emmah Kronenbitter  
Eric Suissa  
Francesca Bove  
George Grayson  
Gina Gallucci  
Gisi Stewart  
Gloria Bramley

Grady Bombaci  
Haley Armand  
Hali VanGilder  
Harris Belinkie  
Harrison Rubin  
Heidi & Sandy Sinick  
Holly & Todd Deckelbaum  
Howard & Jennifer Weitzner  
Howard Goldberg  
Hunter Fagan  
Intentional Philanthropy  
Ivan & Pam Blumberg  
Ivey Castleberry  
James Salerno  
Jan & Larry Gandal  
Janette Pepper  
Janice Lee  
Janine Lossing  
Jasmine & David Eisler  
Jean & Charlie Waterman  
Jill & Tim Tobin  
Jill McCloskey  
Jillian Maisano  
Jimmy Best  
Jocelyn Ottinger  
Jodi Fisher  
John Bokel  
John Forsythe  
Jon Stiebel  
Jonathan Redburn  
Joseph Hutcherson III  
Juan Carlos Escudero  
Judy Cohen  
Julia Shea  
Justin Ellis  
Karen Caroscio  
Karen Policar  
Kate Octavio  
Kate Profet  
Katherine Atkinson  
Kathleen Kovarik  
Kathleen Madden  
Katie Buchholz  
Katie Fanaroff  
Katy Greenberg  
Kimberley David  
Kimberly Lorini  
Kristin Madden  
Krysten Coulter

Kylie & Trevor Barlowe  
Lane Willis  
Larry & Amy Banker  
LaShawne Pryor  
Lauren Grunley  
Laurie Lane  
Leah Katzelnick  
Lee Boyle  
Lenka Hennessy Crudo  
Lesley & Michael Vandergrift  
Logan Bratter  
Lori Coulter  
Lou DiFilippo  
Lynn C French  
Marc Crudo  
Marcie Howard  
Marilyn Wilkins  
Marnie Abramson  
Marsha Solomon Dickson  
Mary Lou Levey  
Maryanne Gibbs  
Matt Felts  
Matt Wilson  
Megan Kimmins  
Megan Weil Latshaw  
Melanie Bielski  
Meredith Heltzer  
Michael & Ann Venezia  
Michael Meehan  
Mike Asbacher  
Milnicha Uthsakornphan

Nancy Messina  
Natalie Eatedali  
Nicolas Guerrero  
Nicole Nicholson  
Nikola Topich  
Owen Billman  
Paige Tuccinardi  
Pamela Nopulos  
Pat Lynch  
Patrice Berchtenbreiter  
Paul Barbieri  
Paul Byrd  
Paula Pinha  
Pauline Lubin  
Peter Jang  
Phyllis Clark  
Rachel Gerstein  
Rachel, Adriane, Penni, and Mat Levine  
Randy & Harriet Tritell  
Rebecca Trent  
Rebecca Weigle  
RheaAnna Rhodes  
Richard Margolis  
Rick & Janet Brendel  
Rob Bindeman  
Robinson Mateo  
Roger Sion  
Ronan Wilson  
Ruth Wyttenbach  
Sally Becker  
Sandra Coulter

Sanford Baklor  
Sarah Finnegan  
Sarah Moore  
Scott Smith  
Sean Anthony  
Sean McLroy  
Seth Morgan  
Seth Spergel  
Shari Ciapka  
Shaun Clair  
Stacy Rich  
Stephanie Stein  
Steve Berkowitz  
Steve Smith  
Steven & Laurie Heider  
Stu Tipograph  
Susan Brann  
Susan Myerberg  
Susan Rosenblum  
Susan Tobin  
Susan, Paul & Conny Conoby  
Sylvie Cancellier  
Taylor Lohneis  
Thomas Clark  
Thomas Goodman  
Tiia Birkenbaum  
Tom Cudahy  
Tyler Rudy  
William Simkins  
Wynn Coggins  
Zev Aaron



# Ways to Engage

We are always looking for more people to join the AFH network, and our goal is to make engagement as meaningful as possible. Choose the pathway that best aligns with your commitment:



## Lead & Guide

### Join a Committee

**Step into a strategic leadership role that directly shapes our future.** By lending your expertise to our Advisory, Development, Event, or Ad Hoc Strategy Committees, you will contribute to our organizational strategy, vision, and long-term impact.



## Connect & Advocate

### Visit or Volunteer at a Program

**Experience the mission firsthand.** Connect directly with youth through our athlete-led **CHAMPS** youth mental health and leadership program or engage with student-athletes at an **AFH U** Community Event.

### Follow Us & Subscribe

**Don't miss a moment of the action!** Stay up to date with all things AFH by following us on social media and subscribing to our Monthly Newsletter on the **Athletes for Hope website**. Your engagement online helps amplify our message.



### Raise Awareness About AFH

**Become an AFH Ambassador by sharing the mission and raising funds.** Whether you host a small gathering, share on social media, or explore company match opportunities, AFH is happy to support and customize these efforts with you.



## Invest & Partner

### Donate or Sponsor

**Fuel the movement.** The generosity of our community makes AFH's life-changing work possible. Please consider making a direct gift, leveraging your network, or sponsoring AFH's 20th Anniversary campaign.

### Join Us at Upcoming Events

In 2026, AFH will celebrate its 20th Anniversary with two special editions of our signature events—join us in honoring the power of purpose by attending or supporting these milestone fundraising celebrations:

#### Putt for Passion Golf Tournament

Monday, May 4, 2026  
Kenwood Country Club  
Bethesda, Maryland

#### Play for Good Gala

Saturday, November 14, 2026  
The Meltzer Center for Athletic Performance at American University  
Washington, D.C.



We are happy to discuss any of these options - and others - as you'd like! Feel free to contact our staff for more information and to set up an introductory conversation.

#### Diana Venezia

Director of Development

[dvenezia@athletesforhope.org](mailto:dvenezia@athletesforhope.org)

#### Kylie Barlowe

Director of Partnerships & Digital Strategy

[kbarlowe@athletesforhope.org](mailto:kbarlowe@athletesforhope.org)



# Get Involved. Be Inspired.

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[www.athletesforhope.org](http://www.athletesforhope.org)  
[contact@athletesforhope.org](mailto:contact@athletesforhope.org)

