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Festival of Children Foundation
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Fact Sheet

Background

Festival of Children Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Founded in 2003 by Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, a leading business professional and children's advocate who saw an opportunity to bring charities together to collaborate.

Our organization fosters collaboration within a network of charities, companies, organizations and individuals.

100% of administrative costs are covered by committed funding allowing donations to go further in direct support of our programs that are offered at no cost to our member charities so they can dedicate more funds to directly improving and enriching the lives of youth and families.

Our Mission

Festival of Children Foundation works to improve the lives of children by fostering collaboration within a network of charities, companies, organizations and individuals.

We Raise Awareness

We shine a spotlight on the most critical issues facing children today and help our members to better address them by engaging the general public.

We Strengthen the Network

The power of our organization lies in our ability to bring charities, companies, organizations and individuals together and use the strength of our numbers to effect change.

We Provide Financial Support

We connect those with the vision to improve the lives of children to those with the resources to make it happen. We identify, fund and follow initiatives that have the greatest impact – with an eye that brings charities together collaboratively.

Our Focus

We serve charities across the United States who are diverse in mission, thought, geography and size. Yet they all share a common goal—to improve the lives of children.

The charities we support are divided into five focus areas:

- Arts & Culture
- Health & Wellness
- Education & Development
- Environmental Education
- Social Services

Our Impact

The charities in our network impact **37 million children** or 50% of our nation's kids.

We help charities become well-funded, well-marketed, and efficient organizations. Their ability to succeed in these areas translates directly into their ability to help children.

We shine a spotlight on charities

48 million people introduced to children's charities through Festival of Children

5.5 million people engaged through the NCAM Talent Challenge campaign

We invest in the success of charities

5,824 hours of free continued education given to non-profit staff through live seminars

900 charities executives have received online training through our educational podcasts

We fund the dreams of charities

\$6.5 million distributed to charities across the country

252 high-impact programs identified and funded

Our Programs

National Child Awareness Month is celebrated each September to raise awareness and focus America's attention on our greatest asset – our children.

Festival of Children® is a month-long celebration of childhood that offers free activities, celebrity appearances and live performances that delight children and adults alike while showcasing youth-serving organizations that proudly serve children in the community.

The Carousel of Possible Dreams is a unique opportunity designed to give charities an exciting and innovative way to raise funds and cultivate new donors. As a team, supporters of the organization rush onto a carousel – going around and around 50 times!

Kids in Focus offers professionally produced videos to our member charities to help them connect to a new and wider audience.

Executive Training Seminars deliver knowledge-building and skills sets that are vital for non-profit leadership to meet the challenges of a volatile economy and an evolving fundraising landscape.

Sharing the Spirit are holiday parties for children without permanent housing that also provide a hands-on opportunity for youth to volunteer and give back.

Milestones

- September 2002:** First Festival of Children event at South Coast Plaza to give children's charities a free opportunity to educate the community about the important work they are doing, conduct donor outreach, recruit volunteers and seek collaborative opportunities with likeminded organizations and individuals
- April 2003:** Festival of Children Foundation established as 501(c)(3)
- March 2004:** Festival of Children Foundation reaches 100 member organizations
- September 2007:** National expansion includes Festival of Children event in North Carolina
- November 2007:** The Possible Dream launched with The Orange County Register
- September 2008:** The US Senate designates September 2008 National Child Awareness Month
- September 2009:** First Carousel of Possible Dreams held at South Coast Plaza and at Central Park in New York City
- December 2011:** First Sharing the Spirit Holiday Party at South Coast Plaza with Miley Cyrus
- April 2012:** 10th Anniversary of Festival of Children Foundation
- June 2012:** Member Organizations in all 50 states
- August 2012:** First Carousel of Possible Dreams held in Chicago
- September 2012:** NCAM Youth Ambassador Program launched in Washington D.C.
- November 2013:** First Carousel of Possible Dreams at Disneyland Resort
- April 2014:** Over \$1MM in grants given to member organizations
- November 2015:** Expert Panel with USC Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy
- September 2016:** 15th Festival of Children at South Coast Plaza
- September 2017:** 10th consecutive year of National Child Awareness Month

- February 2018:** Festival of Children Foundation expands The Carousel of Possible Dreams fundraiser to San Francisco – supporting 32 rare disease charities from around the country
- April 2018:** Festival of Children Foundation celebrates its 15th anniversary
- May 2019:** Fundraising dinner in Washington DC featuring celebrity chef Bryan Voltaggio with special guest Ryan Kerrigan benefiting No Kid Hungry
- July 2020:** Festival of Children Foundation launched “Let’s Pony Up for the Kids” – a national fundraising campaign to support charities that suffered negative economic impact during the COVID-19 pandemic
- September 2021:** The 20th Festival of Children® was held at South Coast Plaza and gave 70 children’s charities a free opportunity to educate the community about the important work they are doing, conduct donor outreach, recruit volunteers and seek collaborative opportunities with likeminded organizations and individuals
- August 2022:** 15th consecutive year of National Child Awareness Month
- September 2022:** After a two-year hiatus, The Carousel of Possible Dreams returned to Chicago and raised \$250,000 for six Chicagoland children’s charities
- August 2023:** The inaugural Festival of Children KARA (Karing And Really Achieving) Award was presented to its namesake Kara Nguyen for her outstanding contribution to the community, compassionate nature, and dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others.
- August 2023:** Our partnership with Hyundai Hope on Wheels results in \$850,000 of support for CHOC’s ongoing pediatric cancer research and treatment
- September 2023:** The Carousel of Possible Dreams Chicago raises a record \$300,000 for five Chicagoland children’s charities
- September 2024:** \$7MM was raised by children’s charities in a coordinated National Child Awareness Month campaign with Festival of Children Foundation and Funraise
- August 2025:** \$1MM raised for City of Refuge at a fundraiser featuring Amy Grant and Vince Gill, in partnership with Gold Pacific Studios Nashville.
- September 2025:** Inaugural Give it Forward campaign united children’s charities nationwide during National Child Awareness Month to amplify awareness & celebrate their life-changing work