

Dannheiser Shoes News

NEWSLETTER OF THE DANNHEISER FUND FOR KIDS

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We are 100% a volunteer based organization. \$1 out of every \$1 raised goes directly towards our mission!

You can help too by giving through our website:

dhfundforkids.com

or on our Facebook page.

We especially thank our sponsors such as:



SOUTHERN STAR®

CENTRAL GAS PIPELINE

2026 Organization Update

It's natural at times to be overwhelmed by the outside world, the problems, the opportunities, the chaos and wonder to ourselves: "What difference can I make when I'm just one person?" Over the course of this newsletter, we want to help you understand that one person, one act of kindness, one idea can be all it takes to make a huge impact in this world. Several years ago, we encountered one young boy in Owensboro that spoke words that broke our hearts and gave us the idea for our charity.

"I don't have any shoes."

That first pair of shoes for Shawn (the child who made the statement) sparked an idea, a passion and a mission to try to help as many children and families that may see back-to-school not as an exciting time, but possibly a burden with a list of needs they may

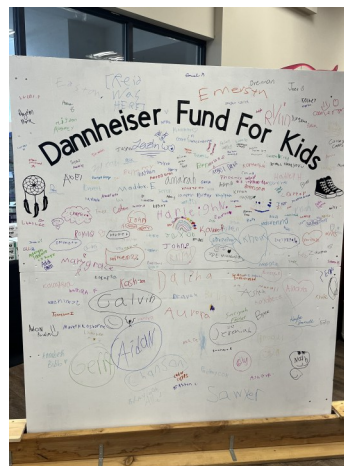
not be able to meet.

Our first year we were able to have 5 kids complete a program. The next few years it went from 29, to 20, to 66, to 172, to 243 and finally this year grew to 399 pairs of shoes!

We hear so many good stories from the families about how happy they are with the shoes and it was a much-

needed blessing in their lives, but we also want to make sure you are aware that it is much more than just shoes. We are giving these kids a quality educational program each summer that they complete to qualify for the reward. The children get to make new strides in brand new shoes with a smile, but we also try to help them take a step in the right direction educationally with our classes.

We have information on page 7 on how you could specifically help our organization reach our goals in the future, but for now we just want to encourage you to stay positive and know you can make a difference. Whether it is with The Dannheiser Fund for Kids, another organization or maybe one you will start one day, we hope our story can help inspire you to realize you can have a positive impact in this world!



**This year we had 399
program attendees!**

Who we are: The Dannheiser Fund for Kids is a 501 (c) (3) organization that was founded in 2019 and is approaching our 8th fiscal year of making an impact in our community with kids and families in need.



It is our goal to show each kid we work with that they have the ability to become successful, can overcome any barriers they face and dream big dreams.

L.E.A.P.

This past summer with our group at The Cliff Hagan Boys & Girls Club we titled our program: LEAP. We held four classes: one each about Learning, Empathy, Active and Positive and the kids loved them!

"I Like how they tell us about helping others and exercising." One child stated.

Each lesson starts with a coloring sheet as we check the children in and they get insight to what the lesson will be about. Once all the children arrive, we give a brief intro and review before leaping (pun intended) into our activity.

Our goal in our classes is to show the kids that we can have fun while exercising and being active so they can see ways to continue moving in a healthy way even when they are not at a summer program. We really emphasize the importance of an active lifestyle to our attendees in hopes that they continue to be active throughout the rest of the year. This is why we also hosted an entire class about this in our LEAP program.

One class we were especially excited to teach this year was about empathy. It is a hard concept for younger ones to grasp but our teachers were able to tie it into our program by emphasizing to think about it like putting yourself in someone else's shoes to see how they would feel. The kids shared ways they have been hurt or happy in the past as the other members comforted them and asked questions to learn more.

Our favorite class is one of the staples of our program in how to stay positive. Each year we speak to the groups and help them understand that each of us have positive traits and have reasons to believe in ourselves and be happy, even on the bad days. We spend an entire class teaching the kids how to see the good in themselves and also write down at least four qualities or interest they have that makes them unique and special. We inevitably have one or more kids a year who look at our volunteers and stammer the words, "I don't like anything about myself." Our helpers are happy to work with those kids to help them understand and see things they like and by the end of the lesson they have their four things!

LEAP into a great future!



L - Learning



E - Empathy



A - Active



P - Positive



Teen program review

In a world where some worry about our youth around the teen years we know there is one group that is destined to do great things in their future and that is the group at The Cliff Hagan Boys & Girls Club. These classes tend to be a little smaller but the focus the children show helps make a big impact. This past year we taught a program you will see about on the next page SWAP to our teen group, but we also want to emphasize the great work they did in the summer of 2025 with their college exploration class.

opportunities locally for higher education as well as scholarship requirements and opportunities

When all the tours were finished, we created a fictional profile for each child showing their grades, financial aid packages and other factors and let them weigh in on which college choice would be best in that made up situation. In all we had 36 children complete this course and 35 of them were able to create a guide for their future with steps, goals and a plan

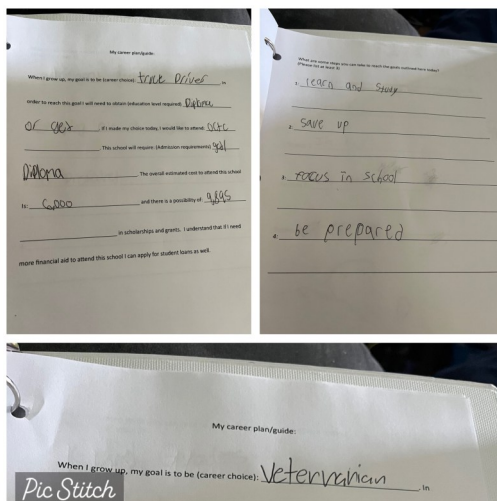
on how to accomplish them.

It is important at a young age for these children to understand that they can be successful and see the steps it takes to get there. This program was able to show each child that there is a pathway to a college degree, career and successful life all available to them right here in Owensboro if they decide that is the route they want to take.



The teen group was able to visit Brescia University and Kentucky Wesleyan College as a part of the program before receiving their shoes!

This class was one of the most productive and fun ones we have done in our years as an organization. Representatives from OCTC and Western Kentucky-Owensboro campus came to the Cliff Hagan Boys & Girls Club and spoke to the children and answered questions. KWC and Brescia University hosted our group for campus tours in which they learned all about the op-



Check us out on Facebook or our website: www.dhfundforkids.com

Any gift goes 100% towards our mission and supporting local kids!



***We do a one day
program for these
families to ensure
they receive the
learning and
receive their
award!***



New Year, New Partners!

As we have grown more successful in our annual fundraising, we have been able to expand our programming to work with more non-profits who serve lower income families and at-risk youth. It is imperative that we continue to work hard on that front and receive continued support so we can keep impacting the people and children we have met this past summer at Girls Inc. of Owensboro and for the last two summers, Fresh Start for Women.

Healthy Habits

We met Cindy from Fresh Start for women at a Grant competition at Southern Star a few years ago. The passion she showed shined so bright when she discussed her charity and it warmed the room with the way you could just tell she felt strongly about their mission and the importance of its success. Fresh Start for Women provides a safe, affordable transitional housing environment for single women who have completed an addiction recovery program or are facing other life challenges to transform them into the women they were destined to be.

A good number of the residents have children and are working very hard to provide a better life for them and this organization certainly helps with that. Our goals as an organization align very well with theirs and we love the opportunity to make a savings impact for these families during back-to-school time where their children are allowed to get a brand-new pair of shoes for no cost. This allows the families to focus their funds on other needs such as clothing or school supplies, but as you've seen so far, our program is more than just that.

Last summer the kids at Fresh Start for Women took part in our Healthy Habits initiative and this summer they were able to enjoy our LEAP program. One of the parents said they were really looking forward to the activity again this year and hoped it was a race again.... It was! The children answered questions, participated, had a healthy snack and an activity for the classes.

Fresh Start for Women is pivotal in helping women get back on their feet, while our organization focuses on helping the next generation get started off on the right foot. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnership with them as we see the difference they are making in the community and we want to be a small part of that for them.



Girls Inc. addition

Years ago, our Executive Director worked very closely with Girls Inc. of Owensboro as he spent many years at The Cliff Hagan Boys & Girls Club and the two interacted frequently. In those days it was very clear the impact both Tish and Courtney, (two long time executives at Girls Inc.) had on the girls they worked with and in the community. We knew that if the day ever came that we could afford to, this was the next partner we wanted to have. After a great year in 2024-2025 we started off the 2025-2026 campaign with that goal in mind and we were able to reach it!

This summer we worked with around 160 girls who completed our Healthy Habits class and received their pair of shoes! The children at Girls Inc. showed us so much respect and were willing learners throughout the entire summer. We were impressed with their daily art in the coloring sheets we provided as well as how engaged they were for both the activities and the learning portions of the class.

One parent told us when they picked up the shoes, "It makes sense you all talked about healthy habits because one day, she came home talking about how she wanted to start eating healthy foods."

Another parent said they really liked the aspect of our "What I Like about Me page," because it was something her daughter really struggled with to see positive things in herself.

That will always be the biggest goal of any program we run, to help these kids see good things in themselves and understand that they can be successful in this world. We were very excited about this partnership and are hoping and praying this coming year allows us to raise enough funds to continue it.



The girls were excited to sign our board after receiving their shoes!



Each child who completed the class received a certificate and pledged to continue focusing on healthy habits during the school year!





The trinket box class was favorite of the kids this summer!

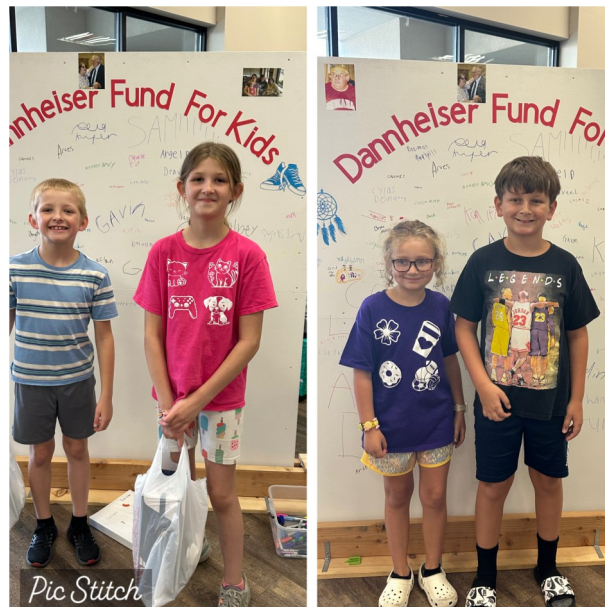


ART Class

A few years ago, one of our volunteers spoke to a child who was in our classes, she stated that she does enjoy them but it would be nice if there were other options for children who still want to learn and participate, but are not as interested in games or activities. Our board of directors took this message to heart and decided that we would like to add an art class for these children.

These classes will vary from year to year with projects, so far we have had: A self-portrait project, animal drawings/figures, create your own t-shirt day, rock painting, trinket box painting, sand art and wooden magnets.

This class was such a hit that most days our art teachers came in there were more children wanting to participate than we had in the class! As supplies allowed, we were able to facilitate other children while making sure the core class completed their scheduled days as well. With this class, just like the others we make sure to put an educational aspect into it and made sure the children completed their "what I like about me" page.



Some of the children wore the t-shirts they designed when they picked up their shoes!

How can you help?

One question that always gets asked when someone learns about the great things that we are doing in our community is, how can I help? Well, there are so many ways you can contribute. We are happy to accept any donation, we have received donations as small as \$5 and up to \$2,000 from personal gifts as well as many in between. If you are looking for a nice round number this coming year, we anticipate the cost for one child to complete our program to be around \$75. So if you would want to sponsor one child a \$75 gift would do, but if you want to ensure more can complete our classes just use that as a starting point! Here are some ways you can help:

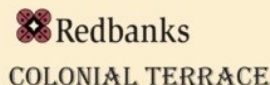
Personal contributions: We accept Venmo @Dhfundforkids, you can donate through our website: www.dhfundforkids.com, find us on Facebook and give through that, or if you are more comfortable with in-person gifts you can email us at: dhfundforkids@yahoo.com, to arrange for that option.

Company Sponsorships: Does your place of employment sponsor non-profits or events? If so we would love to be in contact with the point person on that front in order to see if we would be a good partner for them. We offer a range of opportunities and price points that offer flexibility while also making an impact on our mission.

Grants: Does your employer offer community investment grants? We research as many as we can but we certainly miss a few and some organizations offer invite only options that must be initiated by an employee. If you know of any grant possibilities we could explore please reach out to us and let us know about them!

Share our page and mission: If you are not in the position to help financially at this time, you can still make a difference! Share our page on Facebook, share our newsletter with your friends and family or just tell others about us and what we do. You never know who you are in contact with who would be able to help us reach our goals and reach our goals in the coming year!

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The Mission of The Dannheiser Fund for Kids is to break down barriers to success for local youth by focusing on physical fitness, educational awareness and emotional stability. Upon completion of our programs we strive to provide each youth with essential back-to-school attire that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

How we Operate

We are a 100% volunteer organization. We have a Board of Directors, we have an Executive Director and we also have others that help teach the program in the summer. Each of these people donate their time and expertise to our mission because they so passionately care about what we are trying to accomplish and want to be a part of it. We understand that most non-profits cannot run this way. Of course, many of the great charities in our area, such as our great partners, have paid staff, building expenses, utilities, and many other necessary items that come with serving the several thousand children they help every year. However, for us and our goals, our needs are much less. It is in fact our partnership with these other non-profits that allow us to operate this way.

In order for us to reach children and families we work with the our partners allow us to use their facilities, work with their kids and even allow us to use their national, research-based programs at times as well. This allows us to use our funds strictly for costs associated with our mission. We supply the children with a healthy snack for each session, we purchase supplies and needed equipment for our classes and of course the biggest expense is the main reward for our programs, the shoes! We do have some costs that come up, such as insurance and some associated with website domain usage, but those of course are necessary. Everything else you see is donated, even this newsletter you are reading we have someone that purchases them on their own for them to be distributed.

Another reason we are able to make such an impact is because of our great partnership with Shoe Stop in Owensboro. They epitomize the meaning of a local company. They are thoughtful, kind, helping and offer a great selection for the kids we work with. One thing we love about our program is we do not put a limit on the kids shoes. They get to decide what they want and what they are comfortable in. Shoe stop offers great prices on all their shoes that allows us to continue this policy to ensure every child gets to be special in their own way on shoe day!



Shoe Stop's philosophy is: "Service with a Servants Heart" and we can certainly attest to the fact that every employee embodies that vision in our 7 years of working with them!