



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018



[dreamsforkidsdc.org](http://dreamsforkidsdc.org)

## DEAR DFKDC FRIENDS AND FAMILIES,

2018 brought some exciting new DFKDC clinics, including our first ever jewelry making and STEM clinics. We also saw the second installment of our mentor program "Your Path To Success", and proud to report that two of our YPTS graduates have found gainful employment. We are grateful to all of our families, volunteers, and participants for elevating DFKDC year after year. Thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors, Parents Committee, and Ambassadors - we have seen success in bettering our programs to benefit our participant's and volunteer's experience. We could not have held 11 adaptive clinics, 1 Holiday Celebration, and 1 YPTS curriculum in 2018 without the afore-mentioned groups guiding us every step of the way.

Our 2018 Giving Tuesday campaign raised a goal-breaking \$10,777 (\$4,000 more than 2017) to provide DFKDC with funds to sustain programming for 2019. As we look toward 2019, we have 14 clinics scheduled, along with another curriculum of YPTS and our annual Holiday Celebration. We are excited to hold our very first DFKDC Talent Show in fall 2019, showcasing the various affinities and skills of our incredible DFKDC participants. I am extremely excited to see what the future brings and as always, we are here as a resource to all of you. Thank you so much for another successful year and I hope to see you in 2019! Best wishes, Glenda



Glenda Fu Smith,  
Executive Director

## DEAR DFKDC COMMUNITY,

When I look back at DFKDC in 2018, three memories come to mind. I think about the excitement and amazing self confidence displayed by three participants when they arrived at the DFKDC Prom. They strutted up the side-walk and onto the red-carpet to pose for photos wearing beautiful dresses and huge smiles, no doubt ready to party. Then a hilarious memory from the DFKDC Football clinic with the Washington Redskins. I could not stop laughing while watching a game of flag football between some of our younger participants and Redskin Rookies. The DFKDC participants were out maneuvering the rookies, and winning, because they were so much smaller. They kids would zip in between players, crawl through their legs, and toss the ball so low it was out of the players' reach. It was amazing to see the kids play together, and of course, beat professional football players. The final memory conjured is of the last board meeting of 2018. Glenda announced that we not only surpassed our 2018 Giving Tuesday fundraising goal, but we ended the year with a surplus. The entire board began clapping, displaying their pride in the organization and for Glenda. We were also clapping in tribute and thanks to all of the donors and sponsors who helped us reach these milestones. These memories not only remind me of why we do what we do, but of how far we have come as an organization over the past few years. These successes are not only the board's and Glenda's. They belong to the DFKDC community of participants, families, volunteers, donors, sponsors and partners. Without your support and feedback, we couldn't continue to provide opportunities to make your children smile.



Rachel Merritt,  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors

## OUR MISSION

Dreams For Kids DC  
provides life-changing activities  
that empower children with physical  
and developmental disabilities to unite  
with their peers and realize their potential.

## OUR VALUES

Our core values inspire us every day to achieve our mission to:

Build an inclusive community


Foster personal empowerment

Embrace new challenges



*Our 2018 Your Path To Success mentors and mentees with speaker and WUSA9 anchor Debra Alfarone.  
After learning about how to "defy labels" they showed their love for themselves and each other.*





Too often children with disabilities are isolated without adequate opportunities to participate in physical activities that other children experience daily. DFKDC holds monthly adaptive clinics for children with disabilities aged 4 - 24, in the Greater Washington DC area. The empowerment and self confidence gained through participating in DFKDC clinics allows each child to realize that their disability will not prevent them from fulfilling their dreams.







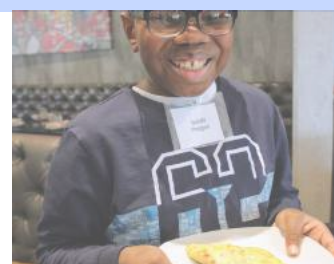
# 2018 CLINICS & PROGRAMS



January  
Yoga & Fitness



January  
Ice Hockey



March  
Cooking



April  
Prom



May  
Arts: Jewelry Making



June  
Football



July  
Water Sports



September  
Golf



October  
Soccer



November  
Baseball



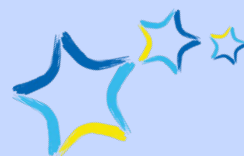
November  
STEM



December  
Holiday Celebration







# 2018 CLINICS & PROGRAMS



*YPTS mentors and mentees in a group outing in February 2018.*



## *Your Path To Success*

### Spring 2018 Statistics & Goals Accomplished

- 9 mentees (participants)
- 9 mentors (volunteers)
- 8 on site meetings
- 2 off-site networking events
- 1 - 2 off-site interviews per mentee
- Develop a relationship between mentors and mentees
- Increase communication skills (verbal, digital)
- Increase networking skills and social engagement
- Create professional resume
- Apply to two jobs



*Mentee Gregory Shaw interviewing at Dawson's Market on April 24th, 2018 at the end of the program.*



*Sam Cordell with mentor Will Cole assembling sandwiches for homeless and low income families.*



"I really think you all deserve so much kudos for [Your Path To Success]. So many with developmental disabilities find it so hard to work after leaving school." - DFKDC dad David Cordell, his son Sam Cordell regularly attends DFKDC clinics and was a mentee (participant) in the 2018 YPTS curriculum.

# PARTICIPANT JOURNEY: JADA



Jada at the 2012 Basketball Clinic with the Washington Mystics.

*"Your Path To Success helped me with my self-esteem"*

*--Jada Williams*

*"...she's definitely made gains with being more social and [Your Path To Success] really boosted her confidence a lot."*

*--Alicia Smith, Jada's mom*

Jada began participating in Dreams For Kids DC in 2012, at the age of 16. She showed her skills across an array of clinics from ice hockey to dance to basketball. Although very friendly, she was shy and closed off at first. But with the continuous support of DFKDC's volunteers and engaging with her peers at DFKDC clinics, Jada started exhibiting increases in confidence.

Over the next few years, Jada attended an average of 5 clinics per year—building relationships with DFKDC's team and volunteers. She would perk up whenever someone chatted with her about makeup and jewelry. She has an affinity for the arts, which was displayed in her participation at DFKDC's cooking and dance clinics; but also enjoyed our physical clinics, such as soccer, baseball, football & basketball. In 2016, Jada was honored as a DFKDC participant of the year at the 2016 DFKDC Holiday Celebration. As a participant of the year, Jada became an advocate for the organization, which helped her become more vocal. She was a special guest judge at the 2017 DFKDC Wing Bowl fundraiser, which is one of DFKDC's largest annual fundraisers. Furthermore, Jada attended the Wing Bowl without knowing any other guests but as donors came up to greet her, she opened up and struck up conversations with her fellow attendees.

Jada's top shining moments came during her time in DFKDC's 2017 Your Path To Success (YPTS) program—where ten participant mentees are paired with a mentor to learn communication, leadership, and vocational skills. Through the three month curriculum, Jada built relationships with her mentors Rachel and Ellen, along with the other nine mentees who shared the journey with her. During the first few sessions, Jada was soft spoken, internalizing all of the information that was being given to her. Toward the final weeks of YPTS, Jada began enthusiastically answering questions and volunteering herself for group demonstrations.

Jada showed a great knack for digital communication skills, which helped in creating her resume. During a job site walk-through at Target, Jada demonstrated her interest in securing a job by asking the Human Resources Business Partner many questions about the position and workplace. As the program drew to a close, Jada was constantly seen laughing alongside her fellow mentees Richard Brown and Jerry Carroll. The three had formed a bond with their respective mentors and all became more confident in themselves. In 2018, Jada landed a job with Project SEARCH Smithsonian Institution. As a gainfully employed individual, she felt more confident and ready to move into the workforce despite her disabilities because her vocational and daily living skills were being utilized. Through her time with DFKDC, Jada has never let her disability prevent her from reaching her goals. Jada's growth from an introverted teen to an accomplished professional young lady is one of the many examples of how DFKDC empowers its participants to realize their potential.



Jada at the 2016 Prom.



Above: Jada at a YPTS mock interview.  
Left: Jada with YPTS friends and facilitators.





## PARTICIPANT & SIBLING JOURNEY: JACKSON & JULIA



Jackson at the 2012 DFKDC Football Clinic with the Washington Redskins.

*"We spend 5 hours a week on services (outside of school) with my son. We go once a month to a DFKDC event, and I can say after 10 years with a child with special needs, the DFKDC events bring him more joy and confidence than his services. Both are important, obviously, but he is happy, more self-expressed (talks for days about his experience), and his typically developing sister also feels encouraged and appreciated."*

*--Jennifer Renne, Jackson & Julia's mom*

Jackson joined the Dreams For Kids DC family in 2012, alongside his typically developing sister, Julia. As one of our youngest participants at age 5, Jackson was quite shy at first. Julia is only 3 years younger and the two would attach to each other instead of their volunteers at the first few clinics. During the first two years of participating with DFKDC, it was hard to get Jackson and Julia to come out of their shells, but gradually, as the two started regularly coming to DFKDC's monthly clinics, they began to build a bond with the DFKDC team and volunteers.

What began as budding social interactions gave way to flourishes of confidence and engagement. Jackson and Julia would both get excited to come to clinics to pair up with their volunteers and discuss their lives with them. In October 2015, Jackson rallied for an hour at our soccer clinic to enthusiastically participate and kick that soccer ball around with the excellent volunteers, despite running a fever. As his mom Jennifer stated, "...it is a true testament to the impact of DFKDC and its programs." That same year, Jackson was honored as a 2015 DFKDC Participant of The Year. When Jackson found out he was winning an award, he started excitedly dancing and celebrating with his sister. What makes Jackson's story unique is the addition of his sister Julia – who has also been positively affected by DFKDC. Few programs in the area give siblings of those with disabilities the same opportunity to socially engage and participate in the same activity. Normally, Julia would have to find another program to be a part of while Jackson is at events specifically designed for children with disabilities, but DFKDC's commitment to inclusivity allows for Julia to learn and grow alongside her brother.



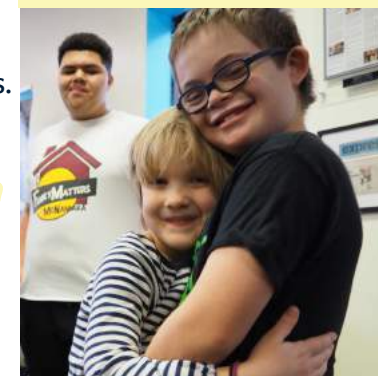
Jackson at the 2016 Water Sports clinic. He was nervous at first, but was coaxed on by the encouraging boat volunteers. He laughed the whole time.

Jackson and Julia have now been with DFKDC for seven years. Seeing them grow over the years – both physically and emotionally – has been a thrill for the DFKDC community. Both have become more outspoken and driven to accomplish the goals set forth at our clinics. The two have been to a total of 22 clinics since 2012 and made countless friendships with volunteers and other participants. Through upgrading programming to better serve its families, DFKDC learns and evolves from its participants as well.

*The DFKDC experience is one that supports the entire family—of fering respite to parents, inclusion to siblings, and empowerment to participants.*



Jackson receiving his 2015 Participant of the Year award from MLB's Gio Gonzalez.



Jackson and Julia at the 2017 Yoga & Fitness Clinic.



# VOLUNTEER JOURNEY: BRITTANI

## 8 Year Volunteer



Brittani with DFKDC participant Jake at the 2018 DFKDC Holiday Celebration.

Brittani has been a Dreams For Kids DC volunteer since 2012, when the organization partnered with Annandale High School's DECA program dedicated to community service and career development. During her sophomore year, Brittani's marketing teacher led a group of students in a semester long community service project, which included gathering hundreds of gifts for the DFKDC Holiday Celebration. Furthermore, she volunteered at 2012 and 2013 clinics--spending more time bonding with participants. DFKDC has had a huge impact on Brittani's life since 2012. Throughout 8 years of volunteering, she has collected countless toys for the DFKDC Holiday Celebration, brought in new volunteers to help out at clinics, and made life-long friendships with DFKDC participants and family members.



Brittani volunteering at the 2019 Supreme Court Tour.



Brittani at the 2017 Holiday Celebration.

*"Seeing all the participants with bright smiling faces is the greatest feeling knowing that they can enjoy themselves during the events and that I was involved with it. Dreams For Kids DC is an uplifting and empowering organization that I am happy to say that I have been involved with over the last 8 years. Watching the participants accomplish things they believed they weren't able to has been a rewarding thing to witness. DFKDC is a wonderful organization and I can't wait for future events."*

*--Brittani Gonzales*

# DFKDC AMBASSADORS

DFKDC Ambassadors are role models for our participants and the community. Their support and involvement at clinics and fundraisers helps raise awareness of DFKDC and broaden our reach.

"In 2018, I had the opportunity to lead Dreams For Kids DC soccer clinic. It was an honor and pleasure to have such an active role within the organization that is so dear to me. From the time I started as an ambassador a few years ago, the growth I've seen is amazing. It's not only great to see so many kids turn up this year, but also to see the number of volunteers increase. This is a testament to the hard work Glenda and the other board members have put in over the years. I'm excited to see the continued growth of Dream For Kids DC."

*-DFKDC Ambassador Kofi Opare (in photo with DFKDC participant turned volunteer Michael Rivera at 2018 Soccer).*



"Being a DFKDC Ambassador over the years has provided me with an immense level of appreciation for the work that parents do. Even more so for parents of children with disabilities--and the hope they seek daily for their child. While leading the DFKDC Football clinic in 2018, it allowed me to watch intently to the smiles on many families faces. All having a sense of relief and pure joy for their loved one(s) participating in a one-of-a-kind experience that DFKDC provides to our community."

*-DFKDC Ambassador Kyshoen Jarrett leads participants in drills at 2018 Football.*



# DFKDC BY THE NUMBERS

## DFKDC by the numbers

*Dreams For Kids DC is a 501(c)(3) children's charity that provides life-changing activities to empower children with physical and developmental disabilities in our community to unite with their peers and realize their potential.*

**2011**

year DFKDC established

**104**

total life-changing activities

**10,355**

total attendance over eight years of DFKDC

**1**

full-time employee

**11**

average board of directors volunteers

**\$340k**

3-year average operating budget per year

## what \$10k covers in a DFKDC day

*We build deep community relationships with DC's pro sports organizations, local business, and corporate sponsors to offer over 12 life-changing programs each year. Each clinic empowers DFKDC kids to engage their community--whether by taking the field to experience the power of play or uniting with peers to practice philanthropy.*

**67%**

to give back to the community through the holiday celebration

**50%**

to ride the wake at our water sports clinic

**100%**

to hit the turf with the NFL Washington Redskins

**100%**

to skate the ice with the NHL Washington Capitals

**100%**

to field the pitch with the MLS DC United

# DFKDC BY THE NUMBERS

## our DFKDC kids

*Each adaptive clinic, social activity, and educational program DFKDC provides is specifically designed to create camaraderie, promote inclusivity, and inspire self-confidence.*

78%

kids with developmental disabilities

6%

kids with disclosed physical disabilities

16%

kids with both types of disabilities

\$95

average cost per attendee per event

\$0

cost to clinic participants and volunteers

1:1

kid-to-volunteer ratio

## DFKDC: Proven Efficacy

*Total participants served has increased over past 3 years*

- o 251 in 2016
- o 265 in 2017
- o 269 in 2018

*Total volunteers served has increased over past 3 years:*

- o 316 in 2016
- o 370 in 2017
- o 309 in 2018

*Total repeating participants served has increased over past 3 years (multiple clinics in the same year)*

- o 38% in 2016
- o 55% in 2017
- o 65% in 2018

*Total repeating volunteers served has increased over past 3 years*

- o 16% in 2016
- o 23% in 2017
- o 24% in 2018

*Ethnically diverse (of those self-identifying):*

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| o 1% Middle Eastern         | o 43% Caucasian     |
| o 8% Asian/Pacific Islander | o 6% Hispanic/Latin |
| o 36% African-American      | o 6% Unknown        |



# THANKS TO OUR SPORTS PARTNERS







Rachel Merritt  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Madison Government Solutions



Attie Poirier  
MicroStrategy



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# 2018 DONORS

Thanks to the incredible generosity of businesses, foundations and individuals, Dreams For Kids DC continues to provide all of our programs at no charge to our participants and their families.



\$20,000

**DARCARS**

\$10,000

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# 2018 DONORS

Thanks to the incredible generosity of businesses, foundations and individuals, Dreams For Kids DC continues to provide all of our programs at no charge to our participants and their families.

## \$100 - \$499 continued

Jairo Orjuela  
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Sister Stems  
Spirit Club  
The Blue Wave Media  
Tom Prather  
University of Maryland Golf Course  
Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation  
Washington Wholesale





# FINANCIALS

## Dreams For Kids DC Statement of Activities

*For the year ending 12/31/2018 (Unaudited)*

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
PROGRAMS TOTAL	80,462.15	PROGRAMS TOTAL	\$35,301.79
Corporate	52,612.70	Arts	608.64
Foundation	18,500.00	Yoga	0
Individual	9,262.00	Ice Hockey	2,126.95
Miscellaneous	87.45	Fitness	453.29
OPERATIONS TOTAL	329.26	Prom	2,649.53
FUNDRAISING TOTAL	62,926.23	Football	2,836.80
General Individual Donations	17,846.84	Baseball	2,629.25
Board Of Directors Donations	3,128.70	Water Sports	7,856.15
Foundation (General Ops)	21,750.27	Basketball	6.33
Corporate (General Ops)	2,853.23	Golf	1,125.49
Wing Bowl Event	3,080.81	Soccer	3,532.91
Rooftop Reveries Event	1,340.41	Cooking	637.59
Dream Date Event	394.44	Dance	133.15
Giving Tuesday Campaign	10,776.65	STEM	175.36
Non-DFKDC Fundraising Events	1,754.88	Holiay Celebration	8,159.66
		Your Path To Success	2,370.69
		OPERATIONS TOTAL	90,805.19
		FUNDRAISING TOTAL	3,373.24
		INSTITUTIONAL ADV. TOTAL	1,549.75
TOTAL REVENUE	\$143,717.64	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$131,029.97
TOTAL IN-KIND SUPPORT	\$107,480.01	NET INCOME	\$12,687.67

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting Dreams For Kids DC. Our EIN is 61-1716117.

Dreams For Kids DC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor for further information.



1420 N STREET NW, UNIT 812  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

FOR UPCOMING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, INCREDIBLE STORIES AND TO DONATE,  
PLEASE VISIT [DREAMSFORKIDSDC.ORG](https://dreamsforkidsdc.org)

DREAMS FOR KIDS DC IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. EIN: 61-1716117

