



# Sports Games for Kids

## Quarterly Newsletter

A THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE!

MODEST BEGINNINGS, GREAT ASPIRATIONS

## Our Story Thus Far

by Tom Grabo

It's been an amazing first year! A lot of time and effort went into making Sports Games for Kids an official, and successful, 501(c)(3) charity. Many great memories and countless young smiles have been made in our short existence. There are so many stories we would like to share with all of our generous supporters. We hope to convey, through words and pictures, the joy your donations have helped create.

### Our Mission:

Throughout the U.S. there are children facing numerous hardships in their lives such as neglect, abuse, loss of their parents, poverty and mental or physical illness. Our mission is to give with these disadvantaged children a happy, meaningful memory to hold onto as they fight their battles. We intend to share the joy of a day at the ballpark/stadium with as many children as we are able, providing them with snacks, drinks and a special souvenir to remember the day by.



### This is only the beginning...

From its inception, Sports Games for Kids was meant to grow into something big. This is the reason for our naming and structuring. Sports Games for Kids was chosen as our official company name so that we may remain flexible in the events we attend. We are structured so that each team or organization whose games we attend will be designated its own division. The primary purpose of this divisional divide is so that fans of each team may support both their team and our organization. In this way, we will be able to take children to professional or collegiate level games across the country with the help of fans of every team! We already have two operating divisions: Reds Games for Kids and Bearcats Games for Kids. We hope to find connections within organizations whose games we will attend so as to expedite our growth as a charity, while still keeping manageable expenses. An example of this would be the sponsorship by the University of Cincinnati. By completely covering the cost of tickets and parking for the families, we were able to bring 21 children and their chaperones to the October 24th game against UConn. We hope that other organizations will be so generous in the future, so that we can one day ensure that every kid facing adversity may experience the joy of a day at the ballpark or stadium.



### Our Growth, by the Numbers!

Take a peek into our development as shown by the books!

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### Stories of Events Past

Read some of the heartwarming stories from past events as told by the Cincy Super Fan himself!

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GOING TO THE REDS BALLGAME!

Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo  
Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo

Going to the Reds Ballgame,  
Gonna watch them bring the pain,  
On our foes until it shows,  
That we are number one!

Great American Ballpark,  
Is where we make our awesome  
start,  
Winning games and taking names,  
As we fight for first place!

Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo  
Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo

Swing the bats & hit the balls,  
Out beyond the furthest walls,  
Make some plays in awesome ways,  
So we can get the win!

Cheering loud and having fun  
Every time we score a run  
Cross the plate, we know our fate  
The Reds will not be beat!

Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo  
Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo

Gather up all of your friends,  
Cheer aloud 'til the game ends,  
Sing our song and cheer along,  
The Reds will win this game!

Stomp your feet and clap your  
hands,  
We're the fans that rock the stands,  
Make some noise, support our boys,  
Because we love the Reds!

Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo  
Yo-ho-ho-hoo Yo-ho-ho-hoo



## Songs & Cheers

by Tom Grabo

As a Power-Stack Pack member, cheers were like second nature to me. My voice almost defaults to shouting level while inside any stadium. The cheers were fun, but we needed our own theme song too! Being that I lack virtually any rhythm and I possess the singing voice of a wounded animal, singing was not my original strategy for capturing the attention of a large group of kids, especially in a public setting. Yet, after taking a few days trying to string together rhymes and setting them to a little tune I had heard, I was ready to give it a try. A few days before the game I visited the Children's Home of Cincinnati to meet the kids and hand out their T-shirts. I took this chance to teach them our new song. They loved it! A simple refrain with a simple tune allowed them to join in and sing along, while I sang the harder verses.

The kids enjoyed it so much we sang it at the top of our lungs as we made our way through the stadium.

But now a precedent had been set! We needed new cheers for each of our teams! The University of Cincinnati Bearcats were the first sports organization to sponsor Sports Games for Kids by providing us with tickets and parking completely free of charge! We couldn't let our team down! A new stadium, a new cheer! The kids all arrived early, eager to have some fun tossing a football around before the game started. We took a quick break to practice our new cheer. The kids had a lot of fun learning it and we were ready to cheer our hearts out before the game had started. We yelled the cheer constantly throughout the game, and if I wasn't leading the cheer, then I was being asked to start one again! Fortunately the kids were kind enough to give me short breaks to catch my breath again!



### BEARCATS PRIDE

I don't know what I've been told,  
Those [Huskies] must be pretty bold,  
To think they're gonna beat us here,  
Well soon the Bearcats name they'll fear!  
Sound off  
\*RED - BLACK\*  
Sound off  
\*RED - BLACK\*  
Bring it on down!  
\*LET'S GO! BEARCATS!\*

First downs are nice and we don't mind,  
But TOUCH-downs are our favorite kind!  
Every time the Bearcats score,  
We'll let them hear our mighty roar!  
Sound off  
\*RED - BLACK\*  
Sound off  
\*RED - BLACK\*  
Bring it on down!  
\*LET'S GO! BEARCATS!\*



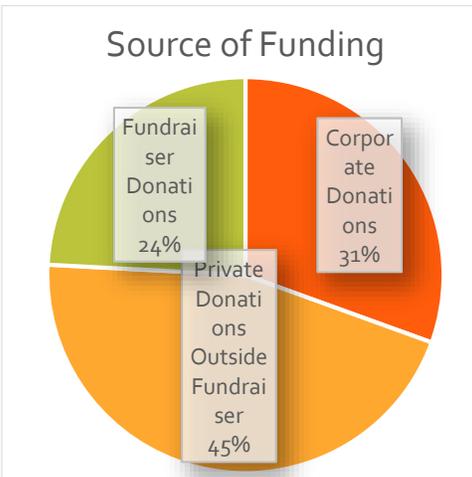
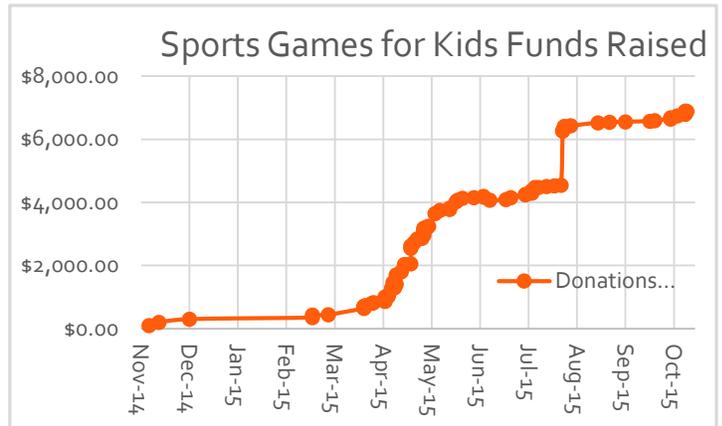
# Our Growth By Numbers!

by Tom Grabo



## Made possible by... You!

We are merely the intermediary for these endeavors! Without your gracious support we would never be able to share this joy with the children. When we first began in the winter of 2013-2014, we kept our fundraiser mostly private, asking only friends, family and co-workers. In this way, we were able to raise \$765.00, which allowed us to purchase 85 tickets for the Children's Home of Cincinnati! We have come a long way in this short time and have grown the amount of donations received by over 942%! These extra funds not only allowed us to purchase souvenir T-Shirts for the kids, but also to purchase hotdogs for them while they watched the game, further improving their game day experience! The T-shirts served another purpose as well! The backs of our T-shirts proudly display the corporate sponsors who have chosen to support our cause, and hopefully attract more companies to join them! At this time over 30% of the funds we have raised were donated by local companies! All corporate sponsors are featured in each newsletter, so please consider contacting these companies if you are in need of their services. Corporate sponsors aren't our only source of funding, however! Indeed, over 40% of the donations we receive are from private donations of people who have learned about our charity. Every donations counts, so thank you very much to all of our generous sponsors!

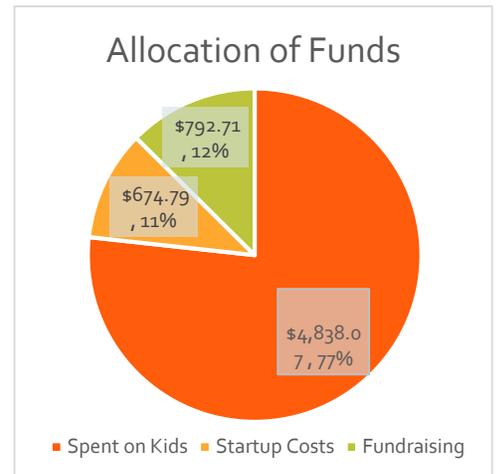


So where are these funds going? Over 77% of Sports Games for Kid's expenses have been spent directly

	Tickets Purchased	Donations Raised	T-Shirts Given	Hotdogs Purchased
2014	85	\$765.00	0	0
2015	215	\$6,880.11	192	192

on the children. These funds purchase snacks, water, hotdogs, shirts, hats and most importantly tickets. On average, we spend approximately \$25.00 to \$30.00 on every child that we take to a game. Unfortunately, starting a 501(c)(3) charity isn't free! The startup costs for Sports Games for Kids accounts for approximately 11% of our expenses in 2015. This includes the fees for filing documents with the IRS, and programs needed to operate. Since every member of Sports Games for Kids works strictly as a volunteer, no one has ever been paid for their work for Sports Games for Kids, and our current Payroll is \$0.00. Regrettably, we can't raise these funds out of thin air! Therefore, to date,

approximately 12% of our expenses were spent on fundraising materials. This includes the costs of the Summer Fundraiser and marketing materials. As we grow, our efficiency in expenditures should improve. For instance, our startup costs will not be recurring, and our promotional expenses should diminish as we explore new marketing avenues and develop our fundraiser budgeting and planning. We have grown by leaps and bounds in only one short year, and we plan to continue this growth for many years to come! Thank you for being a part of our development and for continuing to support us as we try to improve the lives of children!





# Magnificent Memories Made



Short Stories to Warm Your Heart...

by Tom Grabo

## Red and White Souvenirs

One of my favorite memories so far chaperoning a Reds Games for Kids event happened at the end of the game in 2014. As the children from the Children's Home of Cincinnati were leaving, I stood at the exit giving the kids high-fives. One little boy walked up to me and shyly asked, "Hey, can I

have some of your paint?" I kicked myself for not bringing my backpack of paint to the game as I normally do and regretfully told him, "I'm sorry buddy, I didn't bring any of my paint to the game." He replied, "No, no, no. Hold out your arm!" Still somewhat confused I held out my right arm, and he quickly dragged his arm across the white paint. He then turned around, held up his

arm as if displaying some great prize and proudly yelled, "I GOT HIS PAINT!" The next thing I knew, I was surrounded by a group of kids all wanting a red or white souvenir to take home on their arm. I held out both arms as the kids excitedly got their own red or white souvenir. The smiles on their faces as they left Great American Ball Park that day are something I will truly never forget.



## Strike Outs and Fire and Pizza, Oh My!

Another special memory I hold from our 4<sup>th</sup> Reds Games for Kids event of 2015 was with many foster children from the Light House Youth Services foster care program. These kids were absolutely adorable and so well behaved throughout the game. Just before the game a B-1 Bomber made a flyover Great American Ballpark, which, needless to say was, "the coolest thing ever!" Already pumped into a frenzy, the kids cheered even louder for the Reds. To start the game Reds pitcher, Anthony DeSclafani, struck out the side in the first inning, elating the kids with streams of fire shooting from the Power-Stacks. This invoked a short baseball

lesson on what exactly "Striking-Out-The-Side" means, which the kids picked up quickly. This conversation was followed by a question, "So," I asked, "who knows what happens when we get 11 strike-outs in just one game!?" The answers ranged from "we win" to "they need new batters?" I shook my head at each answer and finally told them slowly "We... All... Get... Freeeee... PIZZZZAAAA!" I'm pretty sure at that moment even fans in the outfield looked up in curiosity at the screaming yellow-green section in the view level behind home plate. The kids cheered for every pitch at the top of their lungs, as if each one was the final pitch of the World Series. It was an exciting game, and even though we lost in the end, that 11<sup>th</sup> strikeout felt like a win.



## Scoreboard Assured

As the Cincy Super Fan, I have had quite a bit of face-time on the jumbo-tron. Going into each Sports Games for Kids even I always cross my fingers that the kids get their own time on the big screen. The bright green shirts are not only great souvenirs, good advertising for our sponsors, and an excellent way to keep track of small children in a crowd, they are also an easy target for the camera operators of Great American Ballpark! Going into this game I made a little bit of a gamble. As we played in the Fan-zone before the game a few of the children asked me if we could get on the jumbo-tron. I knew I shouldn't make promises, but I was confident, so I told them "well guys, I know the guy who works one of the cameras, and I told him to look for bright green shirts, so maybe if he finds us, we'll get on the jumbo-tron!" They were so excited. I also told them that if we all practiced dancing we would have an even better chance! As the game went on we had fun cheering for the Reds, but break after break we missed our moment of fame. Finally, late in the game, bright green shirts appeared on the jumbo-tron, the kids went crazy! It was like all their little dreams came true. For the rest of the game we all talked about how many people saw them! Of course, the fireworks for the homeruns added to their enjoyment, and they loved the game-winning fireworks. All in all, we couldn't have designed a better game if we tried.



## Black and Red, White and Blue?

What happens when you cross a University of Cincinnati Bearcats Football game with a great group of kids and Captain America? An excellent photo op of course! This story begins long before the game even started. The game took place on October 24<sup>th</sup>, which happened to also be the day of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Therefore, my usual black and red outfit was exchanged for black and pink. After completing the walk, I stopped at the end and cheered for the other walkers who were finishing. At one point a man wearing a full Captain America outfit (complete with a metal



shield) came to talk with me. He told me he would be going to the Bearcats game later and asked if I would be going as well, and I told him I would be there with many kids from foster care for our first Bearcats Games for Kids event. I told him our story and said the kids would love to see him if he had time to stop by. He was very kind and told me he would make sure he came to see us. And so during the second quarter of the game he came down to say hi to the kids, who were all so very excited to see their hero! He gave all the kids high-fives and then took a nice souvenir photo for them. They are all now firm believers in Super-Hero Networking; my application to the Avengers is still pending.

# Sports Games For Kids

## Quarterly Newsletter

# Thank you to all of our sponsors!




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### A Fun Fundraising Fundraiser:

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Sports Games for Kids held its first official large scale fundraiser. The group really came together to put on a fundraiser that was very entertaining. A total of over 110 people attended our first event at Madtree Brewery! Thirteen baskets were raffled off to the many people who attended, as well as some who purchased tickets ahead of time, but were unable to be present at the event. Excellent door prizes were given away while the guests enjoyed Madtree's unique adult beverages and the hot pizzas served at Catch-a-fire Café. A fun Split-the-Pot raffle climbed to a total of \$652.00 by the end of the fundraiser, and the winner walked home with \$326.00! It was a wonderful time and we are eternally grateful to everyone who came out to support us. We hope to see you all again at our winter fundraiser, which will take place in February! Please remember to check in regularly on our website or social media sites listed below for updates on Sports Games for Kids including fundraising events and photos of games with the kids. If you would like to join our mailing list you may do so by either filling out the contact form on our website or emailing us directly at [RedsGamesForKids@Gmail.com](mailto:RedsGamesForKids@Gmail.com). From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all!



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