



CORE

FOUNDATION

2024 Impact Report

501(c)(3) Nonprofit EIN: 20-5997764



A Message from the Founder & Executive Director



“We want our legacy to be this: anyone who sees a need and wants to help—and be the change they see in the world—knows that they can contact us, and they are not alone. They discover a CORE Village, mentors, and a 501(c)(3) home. They receive clear guidance, have willing supporters, and are part of an organization that wants them to succeed. We turn intent into action and action into impact.” #liveworkplayserve

-Doug Bushée, Founder

“At CORE Foundation, we live, work, play, and serve purposefully—because real impact begins when we lean into our communities with heart, grit, and compassion. Every dollar raised, every hour volunteered, and every dream empowered through our CORE Causes creates a ripple effect of hope and healing. I am honored to walk alongside servant leaders who turn passion into action and challenges into change. Together, we are building something greater than ourselves—and this is only the beginning.”



-Megan Murphy, Executive Director

2024 Overview

CORE Foundation was built on a vision of social entrepreneurship, sparked by Doug Bushée and BJ Silvey. Their idea began with a simple but powerful goal: to unite the Reston, Virginia community through a multisport event that would also raise funds for those in need. That vision came to life on May 20, 2007, when 231 athletes participated in the inaugural Reston Sprint Triathlon, raising \$8,500 for Reston Interfaith.



Seventeen years later, that single triathlon has grown into Racing in Reston Series, a dynamic series of multisport events that now draws thousands of athletes annually. Participants of all ages and abilities compete in the Reston Sprint Triathlon, Reston Youth Triathlon, Reston Triathlon, and the Women's Training Festival 5K. These inclusive events promote health, wellness, and community connection, while expanding access for youth and para-athletes, thanks in part to CORE Foundation's commitment to eliminating financial and logistical barriers.

Today, CORE Foundation operates as a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor for more than 20 community-based programs, known as CORE Causes, across

Reston and Northern Virginia. These initiatives address urgent community needs in areas such as healthcare access, food security, youth development, the fine arts, and education.

In 2024, CORE Causes made a remarkable impact across the community. More than 5,000 therapeutic play kits were delivered to hospitalized children, offering comfort and moments of joy during difficult times. Children facing food insecurity received weekend meal bags. They took part in enrichment programs that supported their academic growth and overall well-being. Additionally, scholarships funded by dedicated community fundraisers provided students with opportunities to pursue their goals and continue their educational journeys.



These examples offer a glimpse into the powerful impact CORE Causes are making—transforming lives and strengthening communities across Northern Virginia. In this Impact Report, we celebrate the passionate leaders, volunteers, and changemakers who made it all possible in 2024.

2024 Impact by the Numbers

Together, we transformed generosity into lasting impact. Behind every number lies a story of connection, compassion, and community. Each volunteer hour, scholarship awarded, and partnership formed represents lives changed and hope restored. These achievements reflect our shared belief that when people unite in service, impact becomes transformation.



\$141,912

**Charitable
Contributions**



37,418

People Impacted



27,100

**Meals & Kits
Delivered**



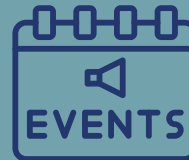
2,270

Volunteers



202

**Organizations
Impacted**



127

Impact Events



41

**Youth
Scholarships**



1,693

Athletes Engaged

Make an Impact



CORE Cause Focus Areas

- Cancer Research & Support
- Commitment to Inclusion
- Empowering Youth
- Food Insecurity
- Health & Wellness
- Homelessness
- Para-Athletes
- Performing Arts
- Preserving Culture
- Veteran Support



2024 CORE Cause Highlights

Stronger communities begin with CORE Causes

Helping Hungry Kids



22,000+
Weekend
food bags



650
Volunteers



Achievement
Expanded program
to serve summer
school students



7

Volunteer
coaches



**Falcons Varsity
Team**

3rd Place Eastern
Conference
Championship



8

Tournaments
across six
states



25

Athletes
ages
6 to 18

Friends of Fairfax Falcons



*"**Friends of Fairfax Falcons** has positively impacted the lives of countless people and has spread important awareness on inclusion and the benefits of adaptive sports and fitness."*

- Anonymous

Yuniverse Foundation



40

Volunteers



850

Community
members
impacted



Achievement

Created peer
mentorship and
leadership
opportunities for
teens



6 youth-led events:

- 2 clothing drives
- 2 basketball tournaments
- Summer cookout
- Yunifest event

Reston Stars



35

Volunteers



200

People served through performing arts



15

Performing arts scholarships awarded to middle school students



4

Organized events:

- Summer Lovin' Cabaret
- Pumpkin Spice Cabaret
- Jingle on Lake Anne
- Giving Gala Performance



"Reston Stars has been a true gift to our family. The scholarship for voice lessons allowed my child to explore their passion in the performing arts—something that would not have been possible otherwise. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in them and for making such a positive difference in their life."

- Mother of scholarship recipient



5

Hosted events:

- Scavenger Hunt
- Food Drive
- Bike Donation
- Stars & Stripes Golf Tournament
- Bike to Work Day



300

People served across programs and fundraisers



30

Volunteers

The Green Lizard Foundation



Roc Nasty Crew



8

Volunteers



50+

Artists supported through dance, mentorship, and community-driven events



3

Major initiatives:

- Salsa Room fundraiser
- \$500 donation to Reston Stars
- Spotlight on emerging artists



Smiles from Sarah



55

Volunteers



3,290

Therapeutic play kits, serving **5,000** hospitalized children



3

New hospital partners:

- Inova L.J. Murphy
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Richmond Children's Hospital

*I am incredibly thankful for the positive impact that **Smiles From Sarah** kits have had on my practice and the patients I have worked with.*

- Kerry Young, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



60

Vendors & organizations



4,000+

Annual Pride Festival attendees



40

Volunteers

Reston Pride



Herralink



76

Volunteers



Achievement

Piloted personality-based program to match volunteers & seniors



Achievement

Expanded intergenerational programs connecting youth & seniors

Evan's Golden Heart Foundation



30
Volunteers



500+
Toys to children
in hospitals



Achievement
Supported DIPC
families with
groceries, bills,
and gas cards



In 2024, CORE Causes positively impacted thousands of lives through initiatives focused on food security, youth empowerment, the arts, healthcare access, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, adaptive sports, intergenerational connection, and more. Their leaders transformed vision into action by delivering meals to children, providing scholarships, mentoring teens, supporting families in crisis, uplifting artists, and bringing joy to patients in hospitals.



CORE Cause Shout-Outs

“We take the hardest, scariest situations that no child or family should ever have to face, and we make it understandable, manageable, and yes, even fun, to me, that is magic. We would never be able to create these magical moments, these moments of pure joy, these smiles, without the help of **Smiles from Sarah.**”

- **Tawny R., Child Life Manager,
Children's National Hospital**



“Thanks to **Helping Hungry Kids**, students can come to school on Monday ready to focus, learn, and participate—rather than being distracted by hunger. Teachers and staff have seen firsthand how much these food bags help with students' energy, mood, and ability to learn.”

- **Anonymous**

“The **She Believes in Me** bike camp created more than smiles—it sparked conversations, curiosity, and meaningful connections, a clear sign of the positive ripple effect in the community.”

- **The Green Lizard Foundation**



CORE Foundation is honored to stand alongside these changemakers, whose compassion, creativity, and resilience strengthen the fabric of our community. Together, we celebrate their achievements and the lasting impact they continue to make across our region.

2024 Signature Events

Reston Sprint Triathlon

The season opened with the Reston Sprint Triathlon, where 990 athletes, ages 14 to 82, took on a 400-meter swim, a 12-mile bike ride, and a 5K run, cheered on by dedicated volunteers. Alongside the race, CORE Foundation's Health & Wellness Fair brought athletes, families, and neighbors together with resources in fitness, nutrition, and mindfulness, further strengthening community connection.



Reston Youth Triathlon

The Reston Youth Triathlon inspired more than 225 athletes, aged 6 to 17, to challenge themselves through age-appropriate triathlon distances or aquathon alternatives. With an inclusive and encouraging atmosphere, the event welcomed para and adaptive athletes, celebrating every finisher and ensuring that each young participant experienced the joy of achievement.



Reston Triathlon / Duathlon

The Reston Triathlon took an unexpected turn this year due to the presence of blue-green algae in Lake Audubon. For everyone's safety, the tough but necessary decision was made to convert the event to a Duathlon (run-bike-run). Our community rallied beautifully, and over 250 athletes competed with enthusiasm, cheered on by friends, families, and dedicated volunteers.

2024 Signature Events



Women's Training Festival (WTF) 5K

The Women's Training Festival empowered women of all fitness levels through an eight-week training program in partnership with REPFIT Runners. Tailored options—from walking to advanced running—prepared almost 50 participants to cross the finish line on December 1, turning the WTF 5K into a celebration of growth, strength, and community support.



Fore CORE Golf Classic

The Fore CORE Golf Classic returned to Reston National Golf Course on September 16, uniting golfers, sponsors, and community ambassadors for a day of championship play and camaraderie. Beyond the fairways, the event raised vital funds to fuel CORE Causes, blending sport, networking, and service into one powerful afternoon.



2024 Giving Gala & Impact Awards

Honoring Changemakers & Celebrating Impact

CORE Cause of the Year CORE Cause Rookie of the Year



Reston Stars



The Green Lizard Foundation

Impact Awards



*Avery McCusker
& LucyLynn Tombul*

The **2024 Giving Gala & Impact Awards** on December 8 was a night of inspiration and celebration, honoring the heart of CORE Foundation: our people. From CORE Cause leaders to community heroes, each honoree embodied service, leadership, and resilience. Their achievements remind us that when passion meets purpose, lasting change flourishes, and CORE Foundation is proud to honor and be guided by their example.

Volunteers of the Year



Teresa Keller & Dan Clarke



Presidential Volunteer Service Awards



*(From left to right): Jessica McInerney,
Teresa Keller, Raba Letteri, Jocelyn
Looney, Audrey N-M, & Liam Birch*

Together, We Made It Possible

In 2024, CORE Foundation's impact was driven by the dedication of our CORE Causes, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and partners. Together, meals reached children facing hunger, scholarships opened doors for young performers, opportunities were created for adaptive athletes, and hope was restored for families in need. This collective commitment turned generosity into action and action into lasting change, affirming that community remains at the heart of CORE Foundation.

Partners in Impact

Gartner



Cornerstones
stability • empowerment • hope



Eye Specialists & Surgeons
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

J. HILBURN



RED'S TABLE
RESTON, VIRGINIA



Wegmans