

BUILDING A MOVEMENT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP





Dear Friends,

Every student has a story. At Kids' Chance of America, those stories begin with hardship no child should ever have to endure — the serious injury or loss of a parent in a workplace accident. But through the support of Kids' Chance, they also become stories of resilience, determination and hope.

For nearly 40 years, Kids' Chance has helped students pursue their educational dreams and build brighter futures. What began as a single state scholarship program has grown into a national movement driven by one shared belief: that a workplace tragedy should never define or limit a child's future.

Today, that movement reaches across all 50 states, connecting students, families, volunteers, donors, employers and advocates in a powerful community of support. Yet the true strength of this movement is not found in numbers alone. It is found in the voices of the young people we serve.

More and more, our students are stepping forward not only as scholarship recipients, but as leaders, ambassadors and advocates for this mission. They are sharing their experiences, encouraging one another, inspiring supporters and helping us reach families who may not yet know help exists. Their voices remind us why this work matters—and where this movement is headed.

Kids' Chance is committed to doing more than helping students access education. We are building connections that last beyond the

scholarship itself through mentorship, career exploration, workforce readiness initiatives and opportunities for students and alumni to remain engaged in the Kids' Chance community long after graduation. As this movement grows, so does our responsibility to listen to and learn from the students at its center. Their experiences shape our vision. Their achievements inspire our mission. And their futures are the reason we continue working every day to expand awareness, strengthen partnerships and reach more families nationwide.

This year, together, we celebrated meaningful milestones: 769 scholarships awarded and nearly 4 million invested in educational opportunities for students across America. But perhaps our greatest accomplishment is something less measurable — the growing sense of connection, belonging and possibility being created for young people who once felt alone.

To everyone who makes this mission possible—our volunteers, donors, partners and supporters—thank you. You are helping build more than scholarships. You are helping build confidence, opportunity, community and hope.

Bob Wilson
Board Chair
Kids' Chance of America

Chris Letsos
Chief Executive Officer
Kids' Chance of America





OUR MISSION

At Kids' Chance, we believe every child deserves the chance to pursue their dreams—even in the face of loss.

Through collaboration, innovation and shared purpose, we are building a movement that not only expands access to education but also elevates the voices and experiences of the students we serve. By investing in awareness, partnerships, mentorship and long-term student success, we are helping more young people pursue their goals and realize their potential.

2026 By the Numbers

The Kids' Chance scholarship program continues to grow nationally.



**Since 1988, Kids' Chance organizations
have awarded more than 12,000 scholarships
totaling more than \$46 million.**

2025-2026



Number of scholarships

769



Funds allocated

\$3,946,266



ELEVATING YOUTH VOICES



Over the past year, Kids' Chance of America has made a meaningful and intentional commitment to elevating the voices of the students at the heart of our mission.

From our National Ambassador program to student speakers featured at events and conferences across the country, scholarship recipients are playing an increasingly visible role in shaping and strengthening the Kids' Chance movement. Last fall, National Ambassador Annie White took the stage at The Institutes' National Comp Conference in Nashville, sharing her story with a key audience of workers' compensation industry leaders. Annie's story and those of countless other Kids' Chance scholars are helping raise awareness, inspire supporters and connect more families to the resources and opportunities available through Kids' Chance.

This year also marked an important step forward with the creation of the Kids' Chance Alumni Advisory Council—a new initiative bringing together former scholarship recipients from across the country to help guide the future of our organization. These exceptional young leaders offer invaluable perspective rooted in lived experience and will play an important role

in helping Kids' Chance better understand and respond to the evolving needs of the students we serve.

As our movement continues to grow, so does our commitment to supporting the whole student—not only helping meet financial and educational needs but also recognizing the emotional and mental health challenges many students face following a parent's serious workplace injury or death. Through deeper student engagement, mentorship opportunities and ongoing dialogue with alumni and ambassadors, Kids' Chance is working to ensure students feel supported, connected and empowered throughout their journey.

By elevating youth voices and creating opportunities for students and alumni to lead, advocate and remain engaged, we are building a stronger, more compassionate movement—one shaped not only for students, but increasingly by them.





FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The past year marked an important period of growth through the formation of several transformative partnerships designed to expand both our reach and our impact. These collaborations reflect a growing recognition that supporting students requires more than financial assistance alone. By joining forces with organizations that share our commitment to healing, opportunity and long-term success, Kids' Chance is helping ensure students and families have access to a broader network of educational, emotional and career-focused support.

Career Exploration Support



One of the year's most significant milestones was the launch

of **Kids' Chance WORKS** in partnership with the Workers' Compensation Institute. Backed by a \$100,000 investment from WCI, this initiative expands the Kids' Chance mission beyond scholarships by introducing career exploration, workforce readiness and mentorship opportunities for students impacted by a parent's workplace injury or death. Designed to support both scholarship recipients and students in our Planning for the Future pipeline, Kids' Chance WORKS helps young people identify meaningful career pathways, build professional connections and graduate with greater confidence, direction and purpose.

Mental Health Support



This year also saw the creation of a new partnership with the **National Alliance for Children's Grief**,

connecting Kids' Chance students and families with a nationwide network of grief support resources and local service providers. Through access to more than 1,700 grief support locations and an extensive online resource library, this collaboration helps ensure students receive not only educational assistance, but also compassionate emotional support as they navigate loss and healing.

Scholarship Support



Kids' Chance also welcomed **The MEMIC Group** as

a new national scholarship partner through the Harvey Picker Horizon Scholarship Program. Administered by Kids' Chance, the scholarship will provide meaningful long-term educational support to a student whose parent was critically or fatally injured on the job, continuing MEMIC's longstanding commitment to helping families rebuild and move forward after tragedy.

Together, these partnerships represent far more than collaboration. They reflect the continued evolution of Kids' Chance into a truly national movement—one committed not only to opening doors to education, but also to surrounding students and families with the resources, relationships and support systems they need to heal, grow and thrive.

National initiatives continue to play a critical role in bringing the Kids' Chance community together as one unified movement. Through signature programs and events that connect states, elevate student voices and strengthen national visibility, KCOA is fostering deeper collaboration and a stronger sense of shared purpose across the country.

From Kids' Chance Week and the National Ambassador Program to the annual National Conference, these efforts create opportunities for states to learn from one another, celebrate collective achievements and rally around a common mission. By amplifying awareness, strengthening relationships and showcasing the transformative impact of our work, these national activities help unite volunteers, partners, donors, alumni and supporters in ways that extend far beyond state lines.

Together, these initiatives are helping transform Kids' Chance from a network of independent organizations into a connected national movement dedicated to creating brighter futures for students and families nationwide.

STRENGTHENING THE MOVEMENT NATIONWIDE

Kids' Chance Week

Each fall, Kids' Chance Week serves as a nationwide celebration of our mission and the students whose lives are being transformed through education. In 2025, supporters across the country rallied around the theme *Stronger Together*, using coordinated outreach, storytelling and community engagement to raise awareness and inspire new advocates for the Kids' Chance mission.



National Ambassador Program

The Kids' Chance National Ambassador Program continues to be one of the most powerful ways we share the real-life impact of our work. In 2026, National Ambassadors Bailey, Tailah and Nayeli brought authenticity, passion and inspiration to the National Conference in San Diego, sharing deeply personal stories of perseverance, resilience and healing. Their voices reminded attendees that behind every scholarship is a student whose future has been forever changed through the support of the Kids' Chance community.



Bailey



Tailah



Nayeli

Levels of Excellence



Our Levels of Excellence program sets the standard for operational excellence—providing a roadmap for state organizations to grow with integrity, impact and sustainability.

This year, we recognized another 20 Kids' Chance state organizations for achieving Gold Level status—a major milestone in nonprofit performance. Each state received a Gold Badge, a commemorative plaque and a \$2,500 grant to fuel their continued success.

2026 Gold-Level states include:

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Virginia.



KCOA National Conference

The 2026 conference in San Diego placed a special spotlight on the heart of the Kids' Chance mission: our students and alumni. Attendees heard moving and deeply personal stories from National Ambassadors Bailey Burchett, Tailah Jeanty and Nayeli Roman; along with former ambassador Annie White and Kids' Chance of California scholarship recipient Faith Bravo, whose experiences underscored the life-changing impact of educational support and community connection. The conference also introduced new leaders of the Alumni Advisory initiative—Brianna Flynn, Jayden Lapin and Mason Snider—whose passion and engagement highlighted the growing strength of the Kids' Chance alumni network and the lasting impact of our work long after graduation.



Complementing these powerful student-centered moments were dynamic sessions focused on fundraising strategy, donor engagement, storytelling and practical operational tools designed to help state organizations expand their reach and deepen their impact. More than ever, the conference reflected the power of coming together as one national movement united in creating brighter futures for Kids' Chance students and families nationwide.



Planning for the Future

The Planning for the Future program is designed to identify and support children impacted by a parent's workplace injury or death long before they reach college age—ensuring they know that resources and opportunity will be waiting for them when the time comes.

By connecting with families earlier in their journey, Planning for the Future helps build lasting relationships and creates a pathway of encouragement, guidance and support for students as they prepare for their futures. This year, Planning for the Future received **410** total submissions—a **106%** increase over the previous year.

As our national movement continues to grow, Planning for the Future remains a critical part of our commitment to ensuring that no eligible child goes unseen, unsupported or unaware that Kids' Chance is here for them.



Planning for the Future Program Participation

Figures as of	6/30/25	6/30/26	Increase (%)
Total Student Referrals	1,507	1,917	27.2%
Total Referrals 15 and under	489	690	29.1%
Total Referrals 16 and over	1,018	1,227	17%
Scholarships awarded	144	171	15.8%

Growing Individual Giving

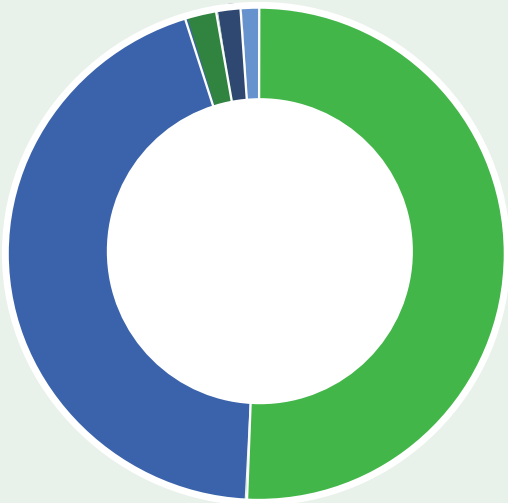
The continued growth and success of Kids' Chance is made possible through the generosity and commitment of donors who believe in the power of education to transform lives. This year, that support reached new heights thanks to the leadership and vision of former Paradigm Chair Jim Hudak, who established a \$250,000 challenge grant to inspire others to invest in our mission.

The response was immediate and inspiring. Within just one week of launching the campaign, a reception hosted by longtime supporter Vonesa Wenzel gave guest Tom Mastri the chance to hear from past scholarship recipient Oliva Wilms. So inspired was Tom by Olivia's story that he stepped forward to match the entire \$250,000 challenge grant—allowing us not only to meet the challenge, but to raise the campaign goal even higher.

Moments like these demonstrate the extraordinary impact of philanthropic leadership and the momentum that can be created when supporters rally around a shared purpose. Every contribution helps expand educational opportunities for students and strengthens the future of Kids' Chance.

As Kids' Chance approaches its 40th anniversary, we have also launched our “\$40 for 40” monthly giving program, encouraging supporters across the country to make a sustained investment in the next generation of students. Together, these efforts are helping build a stronger foundation for the future and ensuring that Kids' Chance can continue changing lives for decades to come.

Total Operating Revenue:
\$1,890,758



- Corporate Giving: \$1,183,863
- Individual Contributions: \$663,423
- Membership Dues: \$22,500
- Other Revenue: \$272,799
- Organizations/Small Business: \$6,628

For the period of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026





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