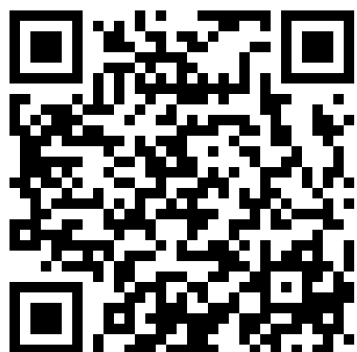




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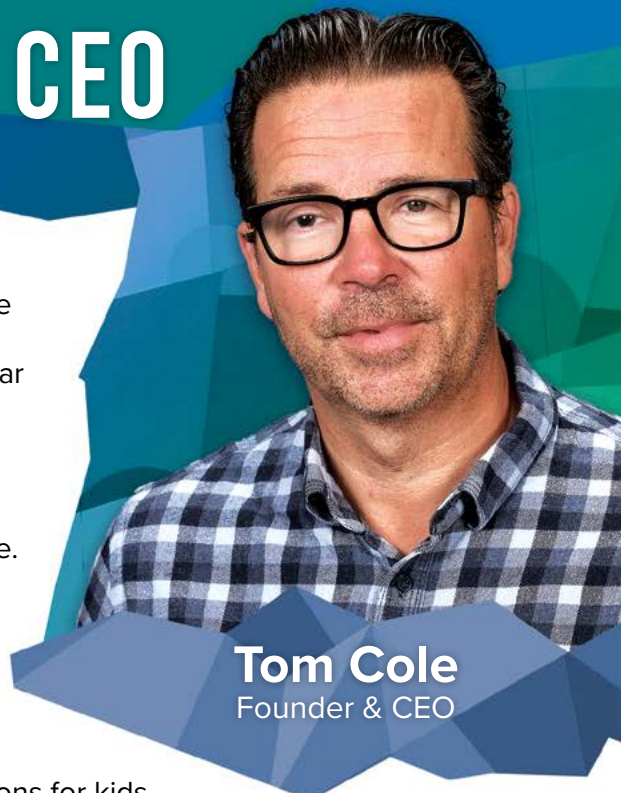
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Tom Cole
Founder & CEO

First and foremost, thank you for believing in Kids Unlimited! It is with the utmost gratitude that we celebrate our achievements. Everything we do makes impacts beyond our organization, and our successes this past year are a credit to all of you who believe in and support the Kids Unlimited mission.

As we approach Kids Unlimited's 25th anniversary, it is a privilege to reflect on the past year's triumphs and challenges with eyes to the future. It's incredibly inspiring to see our multigenerational influence over a quarter century, and I am truly honored to share and celebrate all that was the Unlimited in 2022.

It's been an unbelievable journey of growth since Kids Unlimited's 1998 inception as a grassroots afterschool program with fewer than 50 participants. None of it would be possible without the countless champions for kids with whom we've collaborated throughout the years. Whether it's been as a volunteer, staff member or donor, you have made the Unlimited possible.

Today, our work is impacting the lives of over 2,000 children, most representing vulnerable communities. I'm often asked if I ever imagined Kids Unlimited would look like this when we were just starting out. Without hesitation, the answer is a resounding no — with a chuckle, of course.

While I am humbled by our impact, I am most proud of Kids Unlimited's commitment to listening, learning and evolving. There has never been a prescribed path for the future, only the reality that who we are and what we do reflects what our kids and the community need. With so much change evident in our daily lives, the precedent for everything is clearly changing — and with it, so must we.

We are navigating one of society's most interesting times. The list of norms and standards for literally everything is shifting so rapidly that our work — like everything in society — faces immense challenges. The core of who we are has always come through our relationships. And this year — more than any time in Kids Unlimited's history — that core identity has been tested like never before.

Creating change is hard, and it comes with adversity. While the challenges we face are different, the commitment to providing stability for kids continues to be the rudder that steers our course. The waters may be rough and often unpredictable, but there is strength and reassurance in our mission: empowerment through opportunity.

Among 2022's tremendous hardships, none was more difficult than losing long-tenured board member Chuck Martinez, one of my best friends and one of the most influential people in the history of our work. After Chuck's death, it felt unfair and incredibly hard to rejuvenate. The work on behalf of kids and society in this post-pandemic reality was as complex and trying as any time in our organization's history.

Through all our trials, the voice and spirit of Chuck spoke clearly: "Stay true to the purpose, and never forget the responsibility we have. Imagine what our kids would have without Kids Unlimited."

That sentiment — more than any — has helped to strengthen our resolve against hardships and our dedication to kids as we move into our 25th year of service.



KIDS UNLIMITED 2022 Annual Report

2022 CHALLENGES TO CHANGE

The needs of children have informed Kids Unlimited programs and services since our organization's inception. While those programs continue to expand, the purpose of empowering the lives of our children through opportunities in education remains our core commitment.

Today how we educate, what we educate and ultimately how we prepare young people for life is far more complex than just academics. The "what" and "why" are never-ending, and the need for opportunities has never been greater.

Unmasking the coronavirus pandemic in 2022 became both a literal and figurative process. Although the pandemic was incredibly challenging for everyone, its impact on the lives of our children is yet to be truly understood. It is clear, however, that deficiencies in education and socialization have been profound.

Understanding how to reintegrate, play and learn has come with tremendous challenges and barriers, many of which were not present prior to the pandemic. The impacts of economy, politics, social movements and social media have completely transformed our culture of schools and communities alike.

Amid so much change, belief and historical resolve have helped Kids Unlimited navigate the unknowns. No one could have imagined nearly 25 years ago that an afterschool program, designed to ensure vulnerable children would have a place to help them become better students, would someday grow into one of the largest youth development organizations in our state, serving over 2,000 students each week.

Despite decades of changes, the mission of empowerment through opportunity has remained the foundation. Kids Unlimited was just as committed in 2022 to ensuring we can provide opportunities for children to better themselves while bettering their communities. Our programs grew to include serving more kids and more families in new ways.



KU YEAR AT A GLANCE

KU PRESCHOOL WHITE CITY	36 students
KU PRESCHOOL MEDFORD	72 students
KU ACADEMY WHITE CITY	150 students
GRADUATES in TRANSITION PROGRAMS	412 graduates
KU ACADEMY MEDFORD	520 students
KU AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER	517 participants
PARENT PARTICIPATION	1,812 volunteers
CLOTHING ITEMS DISTRIBUTED	14,961 garments



New recording/podcast studio opens.
Read more on page 10.



Southern Oregon Open basketball tournament returns.



Preschool in White City opens.
Read more on page 8.



KU awarded Medford Chamber
Excellence in Business.



Golf academy debuts in 2022.

IN MEMORIAM: CHUCK MARTINEZ



Chuck Martinez
1951 - 2022

A fighter and a champion to the end, our dear friend lost his battle with cancer on a summer afternoon. After a grueling 10-month struggle, Kids Unlimited board president Charles Martinez died July 28, 2022.

Raised in the very neighborhoods that surround Kids Unlimited some 60-plus years ago, Chuck understood the importance of an opportunity. Growing up with the last name Martinez in a community that wasn't very diverse expanded his lens for the equity — or inequities — of life.

Living in poverty, often with only a single parent, Chuck also knew how difficult it was to participate because of factors he couldn't control as a kid. He recognized at an early age how important an opportunity could be, and through his relentless work ethic, Chuck seized his opportunities and offered them to others.

As a volunteer board member of Kids Unlimited for nearly 15 years, Chuck's influence was transformational. He was our board chairman during a tenure that witnessed some of our most impactful accomplishments, including the beginning of KU Academies in Medford and White City, as well as the oversight of our campus expansions.

Chuck's professional credibility matched his kindness. His expertise in commercial real estate combined with his passion for serving our kids were incredible gifts to our organization. While professionally his contributions were invaluable, his personal dedication to our kids was extraordinary.

For more than 15 years, Chuck built personal relationships with our kids. Whether it was through mentoring young people by supporting their education and career goals, or his commitment every summer to coaching girls basketball teams, Chuck's dedication was undeniable.

Logging thousands of miles from D.C. to Southern California, Louisville to Arizona and everywhere between, Chuck loved being involved and always made sure the trips were unforgettable. His generosity with time and money was humbling. He used to say: "If this trip gives them a perspective of the world they could only imagine by seeing it, then the effort was worth it." This was Chuck, and he was incredibly proud of all the successes of the kids he invested in.

Losing Chuck was one of the hardest things I've experienced. While there have been many who have helped, his personal friendship and unwavering commitment to our kids were inspiring. His love for what we do echoes daily in our promise to him — and others we've lost like him — that what he stood for and believed in would never be forgotten. The memory of Chuck celebrates the difference someone can make in the lives of others.

As board president, Chuck knew the differences we make today are imperative to what we can expect tomorrow. His reverence for Kids Unlimited's responsibility was humbling.

Chuck's legacy is an indicator of how one person's belief and passion can effect change. His love and conviction for our children is a standard embedded into the character of who we have been and who we will become.

— Tom Cole, Kids Unlimited founder and CEO

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



The nourishment of body is food, while the nourishment of the soul is feeding others.

- IMAM ALI

Serving thousands of meals — cooked daily from scratch — is one of our greatest responsibilities. We know food furnished by Kids Unlimited not only provides daily sustenance and nutrition; it shapes the long-term health and wellness outlook for our kids, as well as their future families.

"Food that is both flavorful and visually appealing is very important for both physical and mental health. When kids receive a meal they love, it makes them happy, an experience that promotes positive thinking, better kid-to-kid relationships and may even reduce conflicts ... Fresh ingredients provide denser amounts of nutrients than processed or premade foods. To get enough nutrition into those still-developing brains and bodies, we design it to taste and look appealing. My recipe for success is: nutrition + flavor = health!" — Chef Nathan Herbold



Chef Nathan Herbold



COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION



KU Pre-K opened a new preschool program in 2022 dedicated to early learners in the White City area. This growth and development reflect not only the importance of responsiveness but also our innovation and courage to challenge traditional models of education. The highly qualified, diverse staff at KU Pre-K deliver a high level of academic programming for literacy and mathematics, kinesthetic play and active learning opportunities, quality socio-emotional learning, as well as culturally competent approaches to teaching. In addition, Pre-K — like other KU program sites — receive free, nutritious breakfasts, lunches and dinners that are freshly prepared and cooked from scratch daily.

Afterschool Programs

Afterschool programs provide 90 minutes per day of academic-focused activities at 10 of the region's highest poverty elementary schools, including our own academies. Homework assistance and practice in reading and math is the core focus. Ours are the same math curricula students use during their regular school days, which supports their academic development and performance. Afterschool program participants — numbering in the hundreds — receive snacks and supper from our award-winning food program that features free, freshly prepared meals cooked daily from scratch.



Kids Unlimited's commitment to education defined our purpose in 1998. Nearly 25 years later, it forms our organization's foundation. KU educational services range from afterschool sites and public charter schools to support networks for high school students through graduation — and beyond. Working with under-resourced kids from high-poverty areas in our region, we develop their passion for and commitment to learning. Lifting up the lives of these children illustrates the KU mission of bettering our communities.

Kids Unlimited Academy has built upon innovative strategies launched in 2021. Our new year-round school calendar, which largely defined 2022, helped to halt the traditional summer slide and, more importantly, began to remedy gaping deficiencies following the pandemic's massive interruptions. With nearly three more weeks in the academic calendar, we not only can bridge students' achievement gap but also provide more time for authentic hands-on learning opportunities, excursions and field trips. Longer school days — 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. — are designed for working families. Our calendar's consistency fosters feelings of ease among both teachers and staff, whose absences are less frequent than during a traditional school year.

Fine Arts

Media

Culinary Arts

Robotics

Theater



Beyond our origins of homework assistance for kids, KU has embraced and modeled experiential education to unlock the joy of learning in every child. We achieve this through robust programming in visual, cultural and performance arts. Kinesthetic and tactile lessons incorporate both modern technology and real-world, hands-on problem-solving. Afterschool, enrichment and summer camps at our Medford campus utilize our outdoor playing fields, culinary and science labs, dance studio and dedicated performing arts center.

SPORTS



Our game plan for creating the first sports opportunities nearly two decades ago has grown to a multitude of sports that motivate and engage students. National research shows nearly 8 out of 10 kids who live in high-poverty households don't play sports. Removing fees, transportation needs and cultural barriers, Kids Unlimited leverages a "pass to play" model that motivates students. We've seen decades of impacts from the sense of belonging that arises from being part of a team. We strive to evolve our model to reflect diverse strategies of teaching kids the value of belief in themselves, commitment and hard work.

In 2022 Kids Unlimited provided the following sports:

soccer



golf academy



boys basketball



volleyball



girls basketball



EMPOWERPRINT UNLIMITED



A hundred percent of the clothing we provide students and families comes directly from our in-house printing program. EmpowerPrint combines creativity and social entrepreneurship for middle and high school students who learn all aspects of screen printing. Using real printing jobs that come through the shop as examples, we teach everything from the costs of working up bids to sourcing garments and supplies.

Enrolling 10 middle school students per trimester year-round, the shop printed over 20,000 garments in 2022 for outside businesses, events, the school and KU organization. To help with staffing, we offer a work program to high school students who graduated from Kids Unlimited Academy. While earning some money, the students learn all aspects of the screen printing trade, gain professional references and log work experience for their resumes.



VIBES STUDIO

Debuting a digital recording studio is one of Kids Unlimited's proudest accomplishments in our ever-changing social and technological landscape. The Vibes Studio in our Kimmel Family Resource Center was designed to teach our kids audio engineering and music production. In addition to providing creative enrichment for students, the studio produces learning tools for parents in English and Spanish. Led by the newest addition to the Kids Unlimited team, longtime radio personality DJ Gemineye, the studio is an important asset for listening, learning and sharing the voices of Kids Unlimited.

- Podcasts
- DJ classes
- Video classes
- KU Academy news team
- Weekly recording studio



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

WITH YOU THE UNLIMITED IS POSSIBLE

With your help, we know we can remove barriers and provide opportunities for empowerment. Together we can make a difference!



KUA school events



Food program



Theater and arts



Outdoor education



Help us make a difference in 2023

Please send your donation by check today, or donate online at kuoregon.org/Give

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Amount I am donating today: \$ _____

Please mail donations to:
Kids Unlimited
821 N. Riverside Ave.
Medford, OR 97501



Educational field trips



Team and individual sports



Multicultural events