



1600 FEDEX WAY, LANDOVER, MD 20785

## WASHINGTON COMMANDERS AND THE WASHINGTON COMMANDERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CELEBRATE MILESTONE YEAR OF CHARITABLE GIVING

*Since its founding, The Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation have surpassed \$31 million in giving through the 2022 NFL season, supporting thousands of families & individuals across the region*

LANDOVER, Md., January 25, 2023 – The Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation today marked another historic year of charitable giving that improved the lives of children and families throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) and advanced issues of equity, health, and wellness throughout our community. This year of service builds on the Commanders’ decades-long commitment to the region.

“This has been an incredible year of progress for our team. While I am beyond proud of what we’ve accomplished on the field, I am most inspired by the incredible generosity and kindness of the Commanders community off the field,” said Tanya Snyder, Co-Owner and Co-CEO of the Washington Commanders. “Our fans and community are the lifeblood of this team, and we’re thrilled to work with long-standing partners to give back.”

Throughout the year, the Washington Commanders and the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation executed a series of initiatives and activations to address the needs of the broader DMV community. Examples of the team’s recent impact include:

**Assisting Local Families:** Throughout the year, the Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation supported local families, especially working to brighten the holidays last Fall. In partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank, the Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation held its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest Feast in November that distributed food baskets, turkeys, and beverages to over 2,500 Prince George’s County residents. Since the event began in 2003, approximately 1.7 million pounds of packaged and fresh food and more than 650,000 pounds of turkey have been distributed to local families in need.

To close out the year, the Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation and the U.S. Marine Corps teamed up with Toys for Tots to distribute more than 2,000 toys and team gifts to area youth at a special event hosted at FedExField. In tandem, at the team’s most recent game against the New York Giants, more than 50 local U.S. Marines were on-hand to help collect toy donations from fans. Over the last ten years, the Foundation has raised nearly \$280,000 for the Toys for Tots initiative.

**Supporting the Military Community:** The Washington Commanders family regularly pays homage to our nation's service members, veterans, and their families. Throughout November, Commanders players and Team Dog Mando visited Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, distributing care packages on behalf of The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, ahead of the team's Salute to Service-themed game versus the Minnesota Vikings, the team hosted five families representing TAPS, an organization devoted to families who sacrificed their lives for our country. Later that month, Commanders staff assembled care packages for troops getting ready to deploy overseas, continuing a 15-year partnership between the Washington franchise and USO. The Washington Commanders also donated \$300,000 to four organizations working to support the ongoing crisis in Ukraine: USO, DC-based World Central Kitchen, International Rescue Committee, and Save the Children.

**Public Health Awareness:** The Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation continued to champion Breast Cancer Awareness through events to promote early detection and support education on potential cures. During the Team's Breast Cancer Awareness-themed game on October 9<sup>th</sup>, Tanya Snyder and The Washington Charitable Foundation welcomed 30 All-Star Survivors, all of whom were honored at halftime with an on-field ceremony. The team also welcomed over 500 former All-Star Survivors as guests in the lower bowl area of the stadium.

THINK PINK® activations included a first-of-its-kind Breast Cancer Awareness panel dedicated to healthcare equity and an event with a mobile mammogram van to support access to screenings for members of the community. At the end of the month-long call to action, the Commanders hosted their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Star Survivors Celebration at Firefly Cellar Vineyards. In honor of their triumph over breast cancer, the 30 women in attendance were treated to lunch, gifts, visits by surprise guests, spa treatments, and more.

In partnership with other local teams, the Commanders also advocated for gun violence prevention. On National Gun Violence Awareness Day and in coordination with the D.C. sports community, the Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation raised \$100,000 for Everytown Gun Safety's Community Safety Fund, which provides direct investment, peer convenings, and capacity building to local violence intervention programs.

As a result of this campaign, two area nonprofits focused on supporting gun violence victims and ending gun violence – the TraRon Center and YAAY ME – were awarded grants to continue their important work. Also this year, as part of the NFL's My Cause, My Cleats initiative, several Commanders players sported cleats representing gun violence prevention charities to raise awareness of the impact of gun violence on local communities.

**Education:** The Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation hosted their 8<sup>th</sup> annual Back to School Fair on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at FedExField. The event served over 1,000 children between the ages of six to eleven (first grade through

fifth grade). Participating children received books, bookbags, and a variety of school supplies and could access free onsite dental and vision exams.

Since 2015, this event has provided more than 7,000 brand new backpacks, school supply kits, and additional resources to students across the region. This single-day event deploys Commanders staff as they package and prepare the items with the goal of providing disadvantaged children and their families a centralized place to receive the information and supplies they need to be prepared for the upcoming school year.

During the team's annual Alumni Homecoming weekend last Fall, the Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation partnered with OutTeach, a nonprofit that builds learning labs in underserved communities, to create a vibrant outdoor garden learning space for the students of Rocketship Legacy Prep elementary school in Southeast D.C. Students at the school now enjoy the ability to connect STEM and language arts education to the world with an interactive outdoor learning lab.

Throughout the year, the Washington Commanders have also collaborated with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to help identify and empower the next generation of Black business leaders. In November, HBCU students from Shaw University, Delaware State University, Bowie State University, Hampton University, Morgan State University, and Howard University were invited for a behind-the-scenes look into the ticket sales department for the Washington Commanders. Over the course of the day, students engaged in trainings from ticketing leadership, a networking event with the Black Engagement Network (B.E.N.), and a fireside chat with Team President Jason Wright. Several job offers to join the Inside Sales team were made on-the-spot to participating students.

**Youth Football:** In August, in collaboration with the NFL's Play Football Initiative and Nike, the Washington Commanders and The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation hosted a girls' flag football practice and scrimmage at Armstrong High School in Richmond, VA in partnership with Richmond Public Schools. Co-Owner and Co-CEO Tanya Snyder, Commanders players, Head Coach Ron Rivera, and Team President Jason Wright were in attendance and gave each participating school a \$10,000 check on behalf of The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation.

For more information on The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation's programs and events or to donate, visit [commanders.com/community/](https://commanders.com/community/) or follow the Foundation on Twitter or Instagram at @CommandersCR.

**– Washington Commanders est. 1932 –**

**ABOUT THE WASHINGTON COMMANDERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:** The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation is ever-present in the community, constantly working to achieve our mission to make a positive and measurable impact in the lives of children that need it most. Since Washington Commanders owners Dan and Tanya Snyder created the Foundation in 2000, the Foundation has given back more than \$31M to the community and currently provides support and services to thousands of individuals (mostly children) annually,

focusing on supporting education, children's health and wellness, and preparing them for their future. For more information on The Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation's programs and events or to donate, visit [commanders.com/community/](https://commanders.com/community/) or follow the Foundation on Twitter or Instagram at @CommandersCR.